



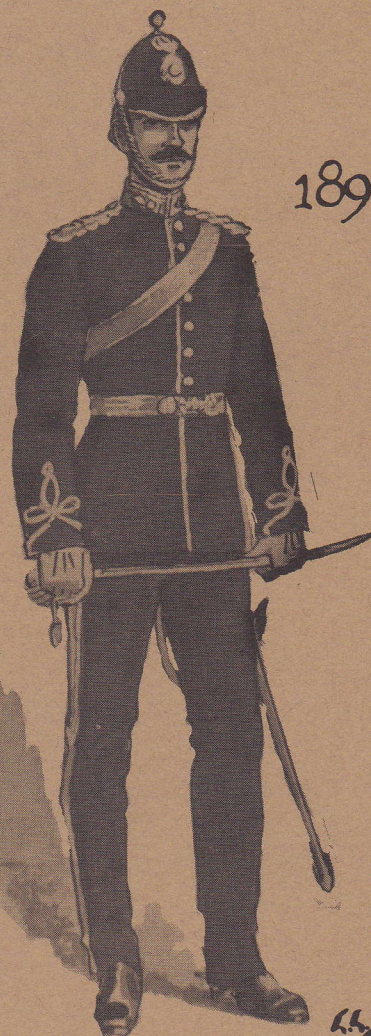
ROYAL MARINES
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



1678



1755



1890

SHEET ANCHOR

Volume VI number 3

115

*

PRESIDENT

Major General J I H Owen OBE

PAST PRESIDENTS

Colonel M Archdall CBE

Colonel F B Pym

VICE PRESIDENTS

Captain G H Hennessy RM

Major A J Donald RM

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Chairman

Colonel E Potts
Passaford Farmhouse
Passaford
SIDMOUTH
Devon
EX10 ONL

Hon Secretary

L Garrett QPM
14 Sarisbury Close
Downview Road
FELPHAM
W Sussex PO22 8JN

Hon Treasurer

P J Hayes
1 Hadrian's Close
ST ALBANS
Herts AL3 4TY

Assistant Hon Secretary

Lt Cdr R Eyre-Tanner RNR
99 Westering
ROMSEY
Hants

Hon Editor

A J Perrett
20 Brighton Avenue
GOSPORT
Hants PO12 4BX

CGRM's Representative

Major A J Donald RM
Royal Marines Eastney
Southsea
Hants PO4 9PX

Elected Members

Colonel E Potts
A E Howell
Eric Morley
J R Cullimore

THE SHEET ANCHOR

VOLUME VI NUMBER 3

WINTER 1980-1

CONTENTS

Corporal of 1845 - Dress and Equipment (Charles C Stadden)	Page 2
Badges (Editor)	Page 5
An Ode by the Rev Mr Chicken (Herbert Heather)	Page 6
Cigarette Cards (T E Kempshall)	Page 8
The Preobrajensky March (Matthew Little)	Page 10
Review of the Seventies (Editor)	Page 12
The Scotch Brigade (O D Cresswell)	Page 14
The Narrative of Major General A R Chater (Part Three)	Page 16
Compliments of the USMC (Editor)	Page 18
Royal Marines at Saundersfoot (Captain T G Stickins)	Page 20

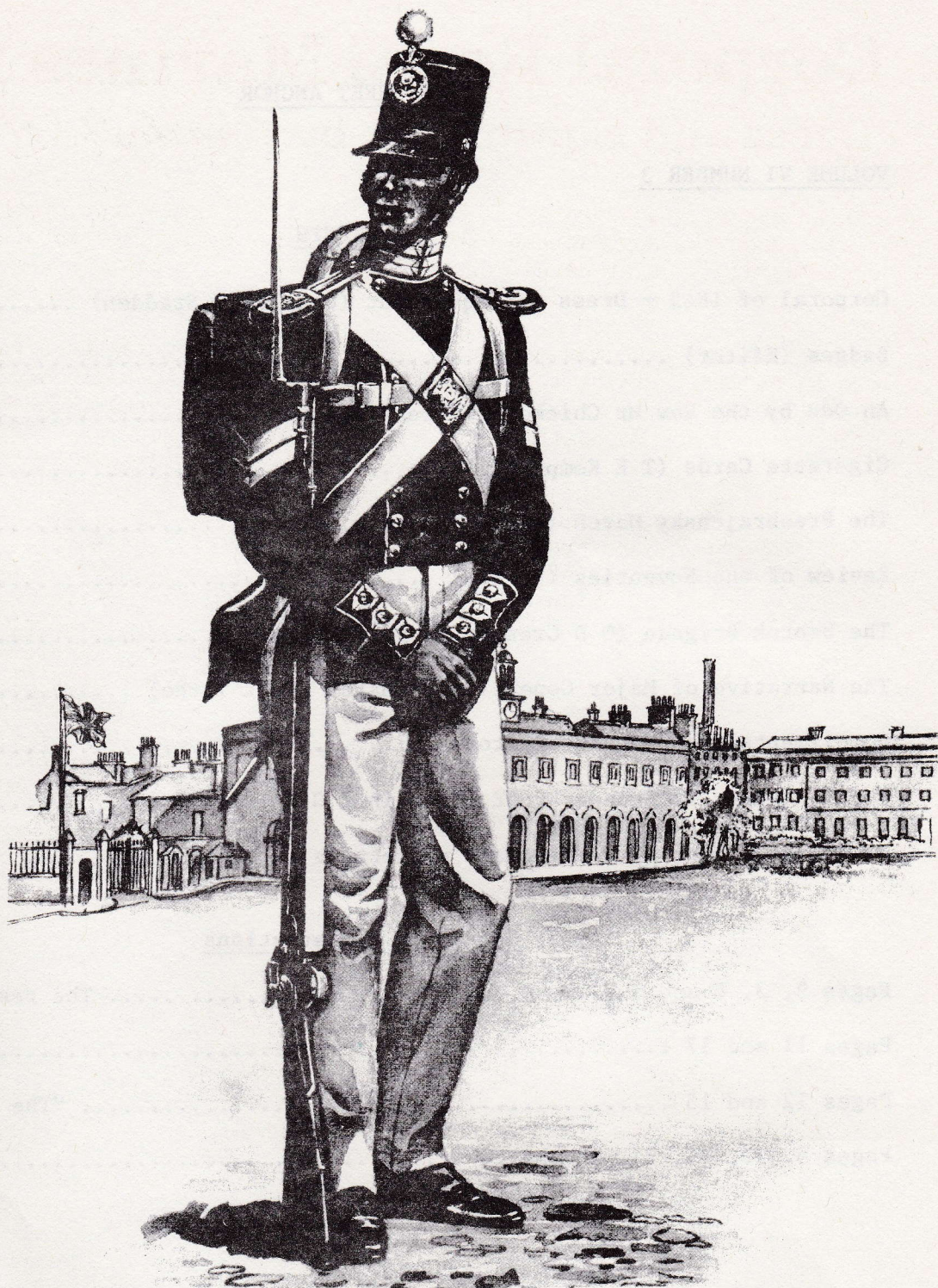
(There are no letters in this issue)

Source of Illustrations

Pages 2, 3, 8 and 9	The respective authors
Pages 11 and 17	Corps Archives
Pages 12 and 13	"The Globe & Laurel"
Pages 5, 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24	The Editor

(Whilst every effort is made by the Editorial Committee to ensure that the information contained in this publication is correct, the ultimate responsibility must lie with the individual author.)

Privately Published
by the
ROYAL MARINES HISTORICAL SOCIETY
and Printed at Eastney
Copyright RMHS 1981



Sources:

Britain's Sea Soldiers Field
 Original Sketches of the Royal Maritime Regiment
 of Foot 1852 Royal Marines Museum
 Headress Badges of the British Army Kipling & King
 Journal of the Society of Army Historical Research
 The Bulletin Military Historical Society
 British Infantry Crimean Uniforms Michael Barthorp

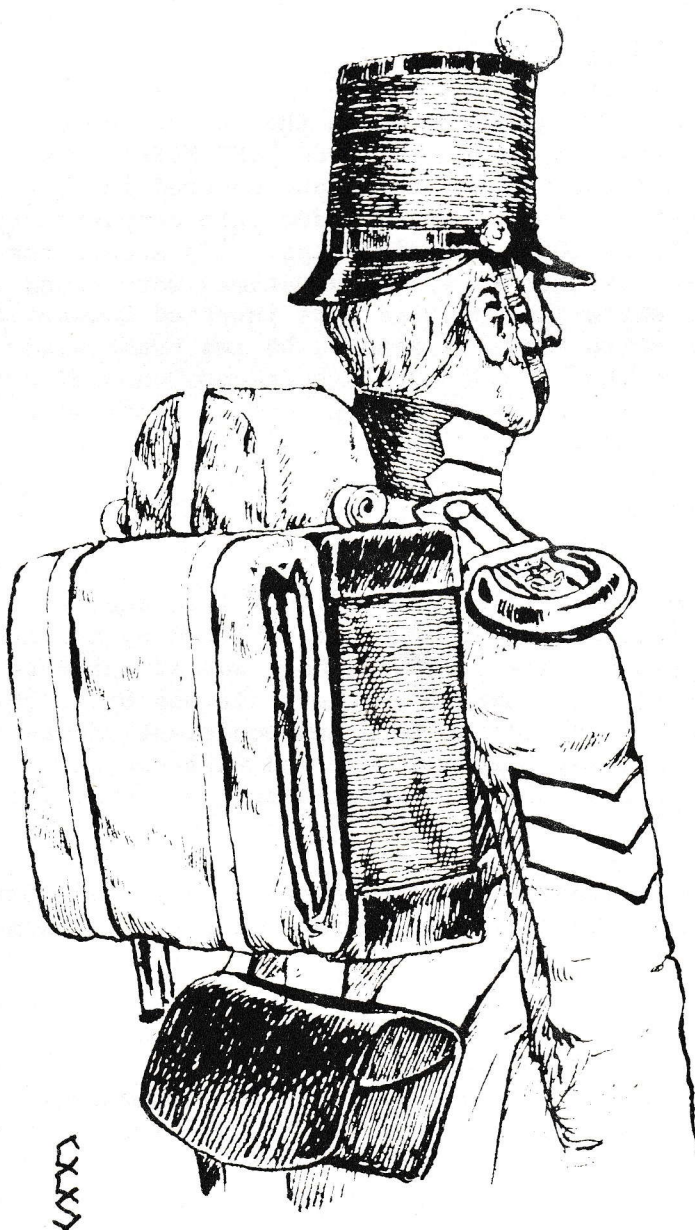
Corporal Royal Marines 1845

Dress and Equipment by *Charles C Stadden*

An order dated 23rd April 1845 directed that the Corps of Royal Marines should adopt the New Pattern Cap, that had been authorised for the Army by an Horse Guards Circular dated 4th December 1843. This Cap was generally known as the "ALBERT" Shako, named after the Prince Consort who rather favoured it.

The Men's Shako was made of stout napped felt $6\frac{3}{4}$ inches high and a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch less in diameter at the top than the bottom. The 7 inch circular flat top of black lacquered leather was turned over the edge to a breadth of $\frac{5}{8}$ inch and stitched around. Round the base, a leather band $\frac{5}{8}$ inch was double stitched with black buckle at the back. A peak of black lacquered leather at the front, $2\frac{3}{8}$ inches deep, the edge bound and stitched, the back also had a peak $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches deep, also of black lacquered leather, bound and stitched. Black leather chin-strap with buckle and brass Rose side ornaments. The Shako-plate of brass was circular with a border of oak leaves on the left and laurel on the right, surmounted by a Victorian Crown; in the centre the Globe with a scroll above

inscribed "GIBRALTAR" laurel sprays below the Globe and below this a Fouled Anchor with a scroll intertwined and inscribed "PER MARE PER TERRAM".



The Coatee was of red cloth having a blue collar, cuffs and epaulette straps; the rank badges on each arm in white tape lace on blue cloth backing. The cuffs piped in white around the top having red cloth slashes edged with white piping, on which were three white lace loops fastened by three regimental buttons on each. The collar had two white lace loops on each side and the front edge of the coatee was piped in white. All buttons were Pewter and had the design of a Fouled Anchor surmounted by a Crown, around the top inscribed "ROYAL MARINES"; and below a laurel wreath. The skirts had white cloth turnbacks fastened by a regimental button,

the pocket slashes were piped round the edge with white, having four white lace loops and regimental buttons on each. (These pocket slashes were removed by order of the Admiralty on the 4th July 1849.) The epaulettes had a brass crescent in the centre of which was a Fouled Anchor surmounted by a Crown; the blue strap was edged in $\frac{1}{2}$ inch white lace and a white lace strip ran down the centre from the button to the crescent.

The trousers were the white summer issue the same as the Army. (The Army in 1846 discarded the white trousers and adopted a lavender coloured cloth which with wear soon faded, so they finally in 1850 issued a pure indigo blue instead.) The Marines were still wearing the white trousers as late as 1852. An Admiralty order dated 4th July 1849 directed that the Marines Winter cloth trousers should have a red stripe down each outer seam.



BELT-PLATE CIRCA 1840-50

The equipment was at this time still the old Pouch and Bayonet Crossbelt; the brass belt-plate had the design of a Lion and Crown in the centre above which a scroll inscribed "GIBRALTAR" and below scrolls inscribed "PER MARE" "PER TERRAM" (FIG 2). Black leather Pouch, this was made of metal and covered in leather, it contained 60 rounds of ammunition; the inside was divided into compartments and also contained a tin magazine holding 100 percussion caps. (To secure the Pouch and Bayonet Belts, a thin whitened leather strap was sometimes worn round the waist, the two belts at the back where they crossed were inserted between the narrow belt and an extra leather strip that was secured by two brass studs to the narrow waist belt.) The Knapsack was made of black painted canvas, reinforced at the corners with leather, stiffened with wooden boards at the sides, it measured 15 inches in breadth, 13 inches in height and 3 inches in depth. Two whitened buff leather straps $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches wide passed vertically round the Knapsack which buckled underneath; the shoulder straps were fastened to the pack at the upper inside edge and to buckles attached to the straps on the underside. All buckles were of brass; the mess-tin was semi-circular in shape, 4 inches deep at its widest point, the flat surface was 6 x 4 inches which fitted against the knapsack, the whole was contained in a canvas cover and fastened by a whitened buff strap to the top of the knapsack. The Grey Greatcoat was strapped to the back of the knapsack, this would be Light Marching Order. It was by an order dated 3rd November 1851 the Marines adopted the then new equipment of waistbelt with frog for the Bayonet, this belt was 2 inches wide and fastened with a brass circular clasp. (The Army had adopted this by a Horse Guards Circular dated 22nd May 1850.)

FIG 2

The Marines were armed with the 1842 Pattern Percussion Musket and Bayonet. The weight was 10lbs, the barrel length 3ft 3 inches and Calibre .753 inches. Total length with bayonet 6ft $\frac{1}{2}$ inch.

-oOo-

HMS HOOD ROLL OF HONOUR

Since the last edition went into print this memorial roll mentioned on page 24 has been transferred from Swanmore Church to the RN Dockyard Church of St Anne, Portsmouth, and is on display.

Badges

Exhibit No 1 (Right Top)

Brought to our attention as a result of the article on 42 RM CDO PIPE BAND in the last issue, this blazer badge is of interest, and was designed in October 1967 by Bugler Alan Piner who was one of the last members of this unique little clan and currently serves with the Band of CINCPACFLT. Although approved by the CO of 42 Cdo RM this badge is 'unofficial', yet must become something of a collectors item since the demise of the band.



Exhibit No 2 (Below)

'Official' (as far as we know), but as yet unidentified, this second example bears the inscription RMIG 1927. Royal Marines Imperial Guard perhaps...RM Infantry or Irish



Guards...the possibilities are numerous!! Our Badges Experts are invited to enlighten us with the correct detail!?

One such Society Member, Allan J Woodliffe, suggests a 'Queries Corner' and leads with this poser: 'As a keen collector of medals to the RMA I have of course copied the service papers of a number of RMA Officers from those held in the PRO. Around the middle of WWI I find that for career details one is referred to 'See Field Officers packet'. Can anyone explain what exactly this is, who it was held by, and do any exist today?

'Also, many of the Royal Marines Forces or establishments were listed by code names during WWI. I have as yet never seen a full listing with explanation of what exactly they were. Perhaps it would be a worthwhile project to complete such a list while some of our older members may still remember them.' (Some examples appear on Page 11.)

ODE TO A SEA BATTLE

An extract from "Williamson's Liverpool Advertiser and Mercantile Register" for 5 May 1758, found by Mr Herbert Heather of Leicester.

An Ode, by the Rev Mr Chicken, Chaplain of the Monmouth, on her beating the Foudroyant, Feb 28, 1758.

1. As Lewis fat in regal ftate,
The monarch, infolently great,
Accenfts his crouching flaves;
"You ftubborn ifle at laft muft bend,
"For now my Foudroyant I fend,
"The terror of the waves.
2. "When once he burfts in dreadful roar,
"And vomits death from fhore to fhore,
"My glory to maintain,
"Repenting Britons then will fee,
"Their folly to contend with me,
"The Empire of the Main."
3. He fpake Th' obedient fails were fpread
And Neptune rear'd his awful head,
To view the florious fight;
The Tritons and the Nereius came,
And floated round the high built frame,
With wonder and delight.
4. When Neptune thus the Gods addrefs'd
"The fight is noble, 'tis confest,
"The ftructure we admire;
"But yet this monftrous pile fhall meet,
"With one fmall fhip from Britain's fleet
"And ftrike to Britifh fire."
5. As from his lips the fentence flew,
Behold, his fav'rite fails in view,
And fignal made to chace;
Swift as Camilla o'er the plain,
The Monmouth fkimm'd along the main,
Unrival'd in the race.
6. Clofe to her mighty foe fhe came,
Refolv'd to fink, or gain a name,
Which envy might admire;
Devouring guns tumultuous found,
Deftructive flaughter flam'd around,
And feas appear'd in fire.
7. When lo! the Godlike Gardner fell,
Shofe worth the mufe attempts to tell,
But finds her efforts vain;
Some other bard muft fing his praife,
And bold as fancy's thought muft raife
The fadly mournful ftrain.

8. Carket*, who well his place supply'd,
the mangling bolts of death defy'd,
Which furious round him rag'd;
While Hammick†, points his guns with care,
Nor fends one faithlefs shot in air,
But fkilfully engag'd.
9. Baron‡, and Winzar's§ conduct fhow'd,
Their hearts with untam'd courage glow'd,
And manly rage difplay'd;
Whilft ev'ry feaman firmly ftood,
'Midft heaps of limbs and fstreams of blood,
Undaunted, undifmay'd;
10. Auftin# and Campbell** next the mufe,
Thro' fiery deluges purfues,
Serenely calm and great;
With their's, the youthful Prefton's# name,
Muft fhine inroll'd in lifts of fame,
Above the reach of fate.
11. Hark! how deftruction's tempefts blow,
And drive to deep defpair the foe,
Who trembling fly afunder;
The Foudroyant her horror ceas'd,
And whilft the Monmouth's fire increas'd
Loft all her pow'r to thunder.
12. Now, haughty Lewis, ceafe to boaft,
The mighty Foudroyant is loft.
And muft be thine no more;
No Gafconade will now avail,
Behold he trims the new drefs'd fail,
To deck Britannia's fhore.
13. If e'er again his voice be heard,
With Britifh thunder-bolts prepar'd,
And on thy coafts appears,
His dreadful tongue fuch founds will fend.
As all the neigh'bring rocks will rend,
And fhake all France with fears.

* Firft Lieutenant of the Monmouth

† Second Lieut of the Monmouth who commanded the lower gun deck

‡ Third lieutenant of ditto

§ Fourth lieutenant of ditto

Captain of marines

**Lieutenant of foldiers

Lieutenant of marines

The officers of Marines were Joseph Austin, whose seniority as Captain was dated 3 December 1755, and George Preston, whose seniority as First-Lieutenant was dated 8 July 1756. There also seems to have been a "Lieutenant of soldiers", by the name of Campbell, present at the action. Possibly, this was an instance of the Marine detachment of one of HM Ships not being up to strength, and being supplemented by drafts from one of the Regiments of the Line.

Cigarette Cards

SILK CIGARETTE INSERTS FEATURING THE ROYAL MARINES



1. Ha 495 ANSTIE WOVEN SILKS. Issued anonymously by E & W ANSTIE of Devizes, England. The set is numbered ZS1-1, 2 and 3. The silks were woven in Coventry by Cash and Co and were issued c.1915. All are anonymous and the series dealing with REGIMENTAL BADGES is known as ZS1-2 in the World Index (World Tobacco Issues Index 1880-1956).

The silks are unbacked and the colouring is woven in continuous lengths of ribbon. The ribbons are then cut into lengths by hand and these will of course vary though the width, normally, remains fairly constant. There are wide variations in colour, length and breadth of badge and various badge details. The badge ribbons have a general width of 32mm. Not being numbered they are listed in alphabetical sequence under Ha 495 in the Part II Handbook of "British Cigarette Card Issues, 1920-1940", a London Cigarette Card Company's publication.

At No 57 appears "Royal Marine LI". (Left)

2. Ha 502-8 GODFREY PHILLIPS' "REGIMENTAL COLOURS AND CRESTS III". This mid-Great War issue of unbacked silks was issued both with "BDV Cigarettes" captions and anonymously. The silks measure 70mm x 50mm in the small size and 165mm x 120mm in the extra-large size. The subjects show colours but in the case of regiments without colours (rifles) the badges or crests are shown. One or two odd subjects are included such as "Standard of Australia". The five issues are:

A1. Small size. Colours with light irregular backgrounds. An anonymous unnumbered series of 40. The fifteenth silk in the series is "Royal Marines".

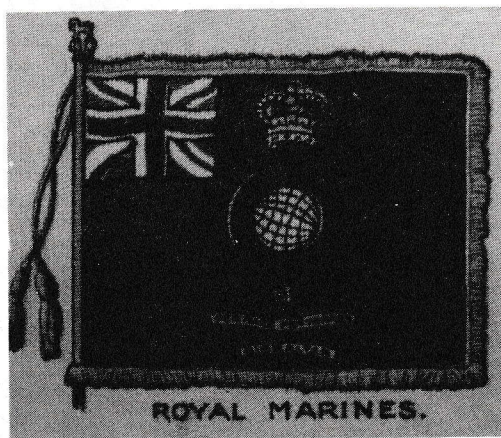
A2. Small size. No backgrounds. Anonymous issue in an unnumbered series of 120. The fifteenth silk in the series (see A3 below) is "Royal Marines".

A3. Small size. Numbered from 1 to 120 ("Royal Marines" at No 15) in light blue. "BDV Cigarettes".

B1. Extra-large size. Unnumbered. Anonymous. "Royal Marines" possibly the fifteenth silk.

B2. Extra-large size. Inscribed "BDV Cigarettes". Numbered in light blue. Some unnumbered errors. "Royal Marines" possibly at No 15.

In the World Index the "BDV Cigarettes" silks are noted under P50-184 and the Anonymous series are listed under ZS3-57 (small and large). Listed in the London Cigarette Card Company's publication as for 1.



3. and 4. Ha 504-4 BRITISH NAVAL CRESTS II. The silk issues are in two sizes

as under. The captions are in brown. The crests are as the originals in the chart issued by Gale and Polden in 1914. Numbered series of 108.

A. "BDV Cigarettes" issue (70mm x 47mm) Number and "BDV Cigarettes" in blue.

No 71 Royal Marine Artillery

No 72 Royal Marine Light Infantry

B. Anonymous issue (70mm x 51mm) Number in blue or brown. Designs vary from the "BDV" issue at Nos 1, 18 and 73.

No 71 Royal Marine Artillery

No 72 Royal Marine Light Infantry



"BDV Cigarettes" issue is listed under P50-164 in the World Index; the Anonymous issue is under ZS3-9.

An Anonymous, unnumbered issue was made on card (plain backs). It is not known which firm issued these cards. It may have been a trade issue other than tobacco, but it is covered under ZJ3-23 in the World Index.

The badges have grey backgrounds. Cards 74mm x 52mm.

The three series above are listed under Ha 504-4(A), Ha 504-4(B) and Ha 504-4(C) respectively in the London Cigarette Card Company's Part II Handbook "British Cigarette Card Issues 1920-1940".

(HMS Excellent, Gunnery School, Portsmouth appears at No 108).

.....

Other than in the above series the crests of the Royal Marines do not appear to have been represented in silk issues though the writer has not yet collected all the series Ha 502-11 REGIMENTAL COLOURS - Series 12. This "BDV" Series was issued numbered (50) and captioned by Godfrey Phillips and the writer has still to obtain Nos 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 12, 13, 14, 19, 32, 35, 36, 37, 43 and 44...it is conceivable that the Royal Marines may be shown at one of these numbers.

Researched by Mr T E Kempshall, Editor of "Cartophilic Notes and News".

The Preobrajensky March

by Matthew Little (RM Museum Librarian)

There has been much debate and conjecture, and consequently much correspondence, over the Preobrajensky March, ever since its official introduction as the regimental slow march for the Royal Marines in Tercentenary Year, 10 June 1964. Its origin is still uncertain, but its appearance in British military music is a little clearer, though there are still more 'gaps than facts' in its story.

The march was already in the Royal Naval School of Music repertoire at the end of the First World War, being used as a parade march entitled "Russian Parade". It also had a military band selection called "The Glory of Russia" in which the march appeared as the "Preobrajensky March". This was published by Hawkes & Son in the year in which the Preobrajensky Regiment was disbanded, 1917.

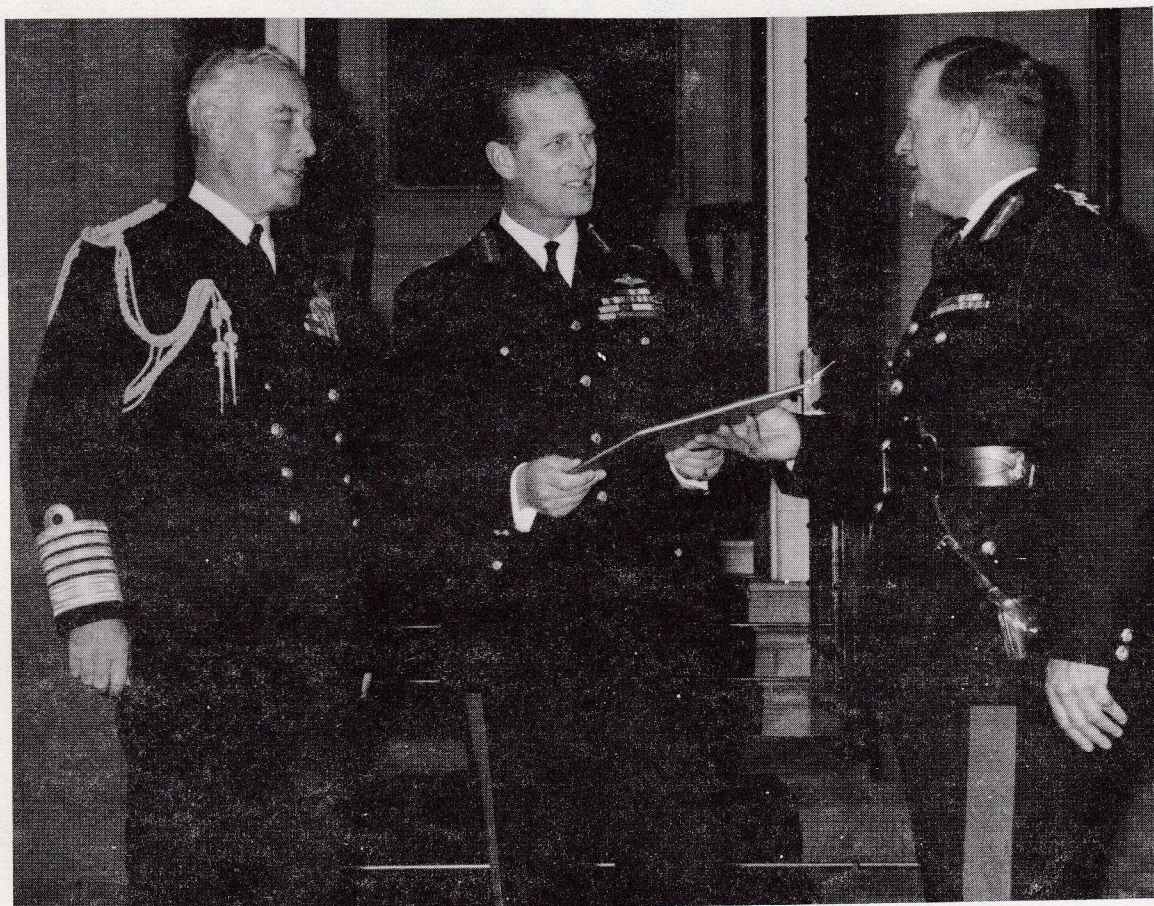
The clue to its appearance in the film "Anna Karenina", is that the Hawkes & Son edition "The Glory of Russia" is credited to Y Krein and A Lotter, arranged for military band by Frank Winterbottom, and under a US copyright. It would seem likely that this is the basis for the film arrangement. A comparison with the current Sir Vivian Dunn arrangement (as used by the Royal Marines) reveals very little difference apart from certain harmonization sequences and scoring.

As "Russian Parade", the march was featured many times during Beat Retreat performances in the 1930s by the components of the Mediterranean Fleet, in which Louis Mountbatten was, at the time, Chief Wireless Officer to HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH. In 1931 King Alfonso XIII of Spain abdicated, and not long after, became the guest of his cousin, Mountbatten, in Malta. During his stay, it is said he attended a beat retreat performance, and on hearing "Russian Parade", told his host and the attending Captain Robert Neville RM, that he had the original score. Apparently this march had been the ceremonial slow march of His Majesty's Halbadier Guards. Captain Neville stated that King Alfonso told him he'd obtained the score from the Kaiser, but how the Kaiser acquired it, if this was true, remains a mystery. Having been presented with this score, it was not until 1942 that Lord Mountbatten arranged for the first band of the Royal Marines to come under combined operations command to play it as an inspection march for guards of honour, and not until 1964 did it become the regimental slow march. During this period though, other arrangements were about: the bandmaster for HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH, Major G C Keen RM, did an arrangement just after the score had been acquired. Later, a new expanded version appeared, being played by the Royal Marine Band of HMS GLORIOUS on frequent flight deck parades (according to Captain Neville). Major Young, one time Bandmaster of the Duke of Cornwall Light Infantry, scored a version in B^b for bugles (the Hawkes edition of 1917 being in A^b) c.1934, and an arrangement by Hackenburger appeared on a recording by the German Military Staff Band of the Bundeswehr entitled "Marsch aus St Petersburg van Leib-Garde Preobraschensky-Regiment".

As regards the date of origin of the march, it is, as yet, unconfirmed. As far as the exiled survivors of the Preobrajensky Regiment are concerned, Ernst Donajowski (1845-1917) takes the credit for the 'Modern' march. It had been suggested though that the Russians had acquired the primary form of the march from the Swedish Army after the Russian Victory at Poltava 1709. Subsequent research from Swedish correspondents state though, that individual regiments of the Swedish Army of that time did not have 'Regimental Marches', so it would seem unlikely the march could have been so dramatically 'captured'. Upon researching

Swedish Military music, to find a possible ancestor to the march, the 'Bjornehorgarnas' March is said to have similarities to the Preobrajensky, and this is of Finnish extraction! But, the researchers of the 'Swedish connection' seem to point to Ferdinand Hasse, the Guard Inspector of Music in St Petersburg c.1800, as the most likely source of the Russian March.

The history of the Preobrajensky is somewhat inconclusive, but there can be little doubt that the score presented to Lord Mountbatten by Alfonso XIII, wasn't the only one!



Lord Mountbatten and Prince Philip with the Commandant General Sir Malcolm Cartwright-Taylor KCB, at the Buckingham Palace Presentation of the March, 10 June 1964.

-oOo-

Continued from Page 5

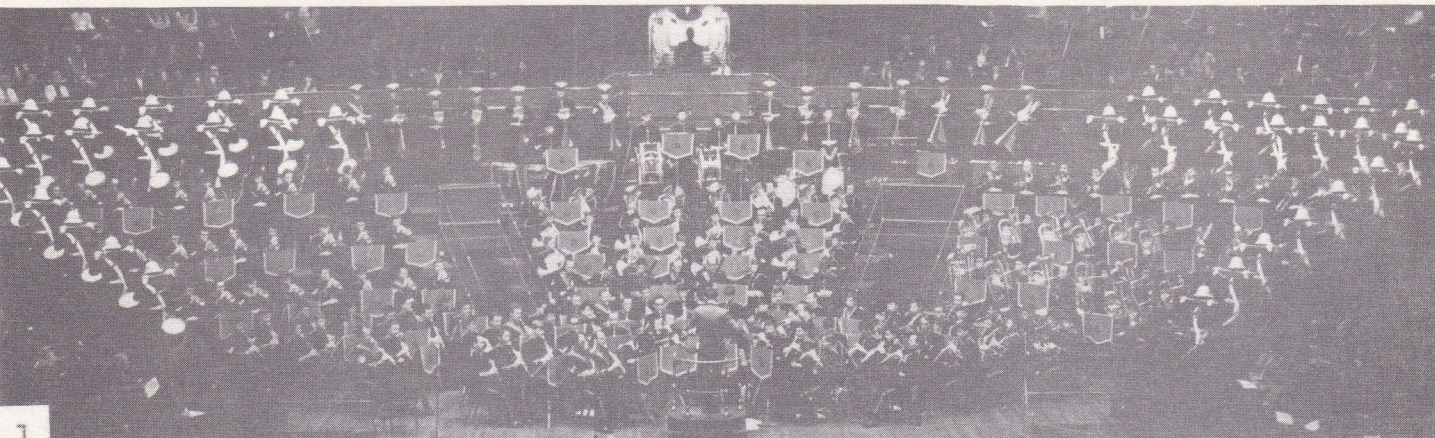
SHIPS

UNIT

PRESIDENT III	DAMS (Defensively armed merchant ships)
ATTENTIVE II	RMA Heavy Siege Train
CYCLOPS II	Hoy Base
GLORY IV	Russian Cruiser 'ASKOLD'
VICTORY II	RN Division

'Others I have seen include GLORY III, HARRIER II, EGMONT II, CRESCENT and COLUMBINE.'

The Corps in the Seventies (70's)



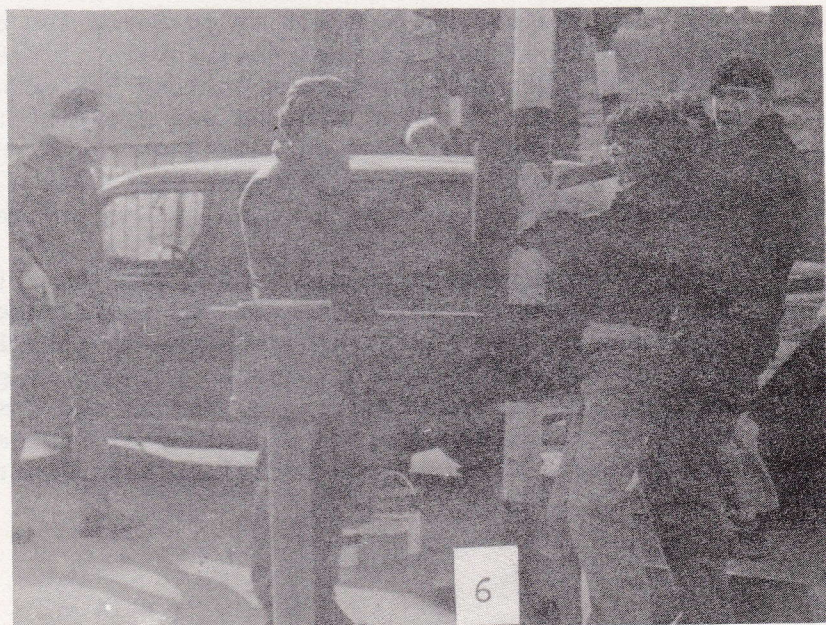
As we enter the nineteen eighties we can reflect on some of the major events which affected the Corps during the last decade. 1971 saw the re-opening of entirely rebuilt barracks at Bickleigh and ATURM Poole, with CTCRM Lympstone continuing its gradual change over from old to new right through to the mid-70s. Whilst the RM Association celebrated their 25th anniversary and the PTI Branch their centenary, others were bemoaning the withdrawal of all RM Units from Singapore.

1973 was notable for the introduction of the annual February Band Concerts at London's Royal Albert Hall (1); RMB Eastney saw its last Corps Remembrance Parade prior to 'contraction', and the town of Poole granted 'Freedom' to the Corps on 5 September that year. 1974 began with the 'RM Affiliation' to the church of St Lawrence in Jewry (London), Lord Mountbatten was appointed Lord Lieutenant of the Isle of Wight, and 41 Commando RM deployed to UNFICYP Forces in Cyprus, exchanging green berets for the light blue of United Nations troops (2).





The opening of the new Corps Museum was the principal event of 1975, whilst the following year 40 Commando RM received new colours at Plymouth and the Falkland Islands gave Naval Party 8901 the Freedom of Stanley. The city of Exeter followed suit in 1977 honouring men from CTCRM, and a Trooping the Colour ceremony was performed by 41 Commando RM for Lord Mountbatten at St Andrews Barracks, Malta (4). This Silver Jubilee year, full of various activities, culminated for the Corps with a Royal Review on Plymouth Hoe 5 August, and by Christmas 41 Commando RM had vacated their Malta home since 1971, to re-settle in RMB Deal, which had by now lost its title of 'Depot' to Lymington. The 'Winter of Discontent' that followed brought the Corps and other service branches to the rescue during the firemen's strike, while almost as warm were the celebrations of the RM Band Service as 1978 commenced, after 75 years formation, and the Captain General completed 25 years at our head. The great event of 1978 was undoubtedly the London Guard Mountings (3), the first since 1935, then the final year, 1979, saw the Medway towns bestowing their 'Freedom' on the Corps just as the last British servicemen (RMs) left the island of Malta. Tragedy followed (5) with the foul murder and spectacular funeral of our Life Honourary Colonel, Lord Mountbatten, and the year ended with 45 Commando RM providing the first RM guard mounting at Edinburgh Castle. 'The Ulster Problem' engulfed the entire decade and involved all four Commando Units (6).



THE SCOTCH BRIGADE MARINES

by
O D Cresswell

It has been said that war is the logical continuation of diplomacy, but it could be argued more reasonably that war is the logical extension of competition in trade. We have been referred to, rather contemptuously, as a nation of shopkeepers, and the bayonet can be seen as a complement of the clerk's quill. The conduct of many a campaign has been dictated by commercial considerations as much as by purely military ones, and the trader's preoccupation with his profit and loss account once sent a party of the Scotch Brigade, later numbered the 94th Foot, the 2nd Battalion of the Connaught Rangers, to serve as Marines on the waters of the Bay of Bengal.

In 1799 the shipping of the East India Company was being ravaged by a French frigate, La Forte, said to be the fastest and best armed frigate in any navy in the world. To hunt down and destroy this tiger of the seas was the allotted task of HMS SYBILLE, commanded by Captain Edward Cooke. The SYBILLE had spent several months at Calcutta in 1798 and the inevitable disease engendered by a lengthy stay in so unhealthy a position had so reduced the numbers of her crew that barely 250 men were fit for duty. Particularly heavy had been the reduction of numbers among her complement of Royal Marines that only nine remained, and to remedy this shortage of Marines a company of the Scotch Brigade, then newly arrived in India from Cape Town, was pressed into service. In the Regimental History of the Connaught Rangers, Volume II, it is stated that 5 officers and 96 NCOs and men were embarked in the SYBILLE, but it will be apparent later in this paper that these figures are inaccurate.

On the 19th February 1799, the SYBILLE put to sea and immediately cleared ship for action. In the days before aerial reconnaissance the sea was a very big place, and day followed day without contact being made with the enemy. At length the HAPPY CHANCE, a prize taken by La Forte, was encountered proceeding to Madras under a flag of truce to exchange prisoners. From her came the welcome news that La Forte was in the neighbourhood. On the evening of February 28th flashes were seen on the horizon but no sound was heard. Despite the general opinion that these flashes were caused by lightning, Captain Cooke turned the SYBILLE's head to the South East to investigate. As darkness fell the source of the flashes was discovered to be indeed La Forte. She was found in the process of putting prize crews aboard her latest two captures, the MORNINGTON and the ENDEAVOUR. Under cover of darkness the SYBILLE crept up on her prey and not until 12.30 am on March 1st did a lookout on La Forte notice her. To the French Admiral and Captain it seemed that another prize was sailing into their grasp, and without calling her crew to action stations La Forte approached her "victim". A gun was fired at the SYBILLE and when no notice was taken the awful realisation dawned on the French that they had caught a Tartar and drums hastily called the crew of La Forte to action stations to face a sterner test than had been posed by Company merchantmen.

Every advantage seemed to lie with La Forte. She mounted 58 guns, 28 of them 24-pounders, while the SYBILLE could make reply with 48 guns, 28 being 18-pounders. La Forte suffered from one result of her previous successes, so many of her men had been taken up in supplying prize crews that her complement of some 600 was reduced to 370, almost the same as the SYBILLE's. But on the decks of the SYBILLE stood a company of trained soldiers and their discipline and accurate fire was the deciding factor in the action that followed.

La Forte began the battle by firing broadsides at the SYBILLE, without any effect, as apparently no thought was given to the rapidly reducing range and the shot passed harmlessly overhead. As the SYBILLE passed the stern of La Forte the covers were stripped from the battle lanterns and a double-shotted broadside tore the length of the French ship with sickening results, eighty men falling to the deck. Taking up position alongside La Forte the SYBILLE soon mastered the enemy gunners and commenced to hammer the French ship to matchwood at twenty yards range. To the Scotch Brigade it was a wonderful opportunity to display the power of the Brown Bess as close range. Front and rear ranks took turns to fire and load, now aiming at the French gunners, now shooting down any one who showed himself on deck. About 2 o'clock in the morning of March 1st the action faltered and it was apparent that the French were attempting to set sail and escape. To pick off the sailors from the rigging was child's play to trained soldiers, and when the masts of La Forte crashed to the deck it was all over.

At dawn Lieutenant Mauger (or Manger) RN took a party of the Scotch Brigade to take possession of La Forte. The effects of sustained musketry could be seen from the comparative losses on the two ships engaged, La Forte losing 65 killed and 85 wounded, while the SYBILLE's "butcher's bill" amounted to only 6 killed and 16 wounded. Among the dead on the SYBILLE were her Commander, Captain Cooke, a Captain Davis, an aide-de-camp of Lord Mornington, serving as a volunteer, and two men of the Scotch Brigade, Pts Peter Duckett and James Mollison.

In 1848 the Naval General Service Medal with the clasp SYBILLE was issued to survivors of the action and twelve men made good their claim, Lieutenant Manger, Midshipman Lysaght and ten seamen. Not a single claim was made by a man of the Scotch Brigade Marines, perhaps none surviving or perhaps more likely none being aware that they were entitled to a medal at all. To answer this question it became necessary to trace the names of the men of the Scotch Brigade who embarked on the SYBILLE. I enlisted the aid of A Y McPeake, a former officer of the Connaught Rangers, and the muster rolls of the Scotch Brigade for the relevant period were traced. Mollison and Duckett were shown as "Dead", but no mention was made of any party detached to serve as Marines. Captain Morgan suggested a search for the Victualling List of HMS SYBILLE. A Y McPeake took up the trail again and after failing at the Public Record Office (records for this India Station not being held there) ran the quarry to earth at the India Office. Omitting the members of the crew of the SYBILLE the Victualling List gave 101 names.

Of the 94 men of the Scotch Brigade who served on the SYBILLE only one man can be represented by his medals today, Lieutenant Bogle. As a Captain in the 94th Foot he received the Gold Medal for Badajoz with a clasp for Nivelle. Later he was appointed a CB. As his name does not appear on the Military General Service Medal Roll he must have died prior to 1848. There are, however, two names on the Victualling List of HMS SYBILLE which may coincide with names on the MGS Roll. This contains a Sgt James Rickie (or Richie) and a Drummer James Miller, who may be the same men as the Sgt Richie and Pte James Miller of the Victualling List. Miller also received the Army of India Medal. To determine whether this is so would entail tracing the discharge papers of the men who served in Spain to discover the date of enlistment. Since the muster roll of the Scotch Brigade does not include NCOs (except those who had died since the previous muster was prepared), this cannot be used to shorten the task.

Although the tangible results of our search are but small the rescuing from oblivion of the names of the men of the Scotch Brigade who served so gallantly on HMS SYBILLE can be regarded as reward enough for any student of military history.

(Editor's Note: We are most grateful to the Editor of Seaby's Bulletin for permission to publish this article, which appeared in the December 1972 issue. The list of names is not included here.)

Maj Gen A R Chater CB CVO DSO OBE

PART THREE

CHATHAM

When I was eventually passed fit for duty, it was decided that I must do a number of courses, which I would have done earlier had war not been declared, and which had to be done before I could serve afloat. So the winter of 1915/1916 was spent doing Naval Gunnery at Whale Island, "doing torpedo" in the old wooden "Vernon" and an Army course of musketry at Hythe. Then to my surprise - presumably because no more senior regular officer was available - I was appointed Acting Adjutant of the Chatham Division. My immediate predecessor was an elderly dug-out Major. I provided myself with a horse, and I enjoyed six summer months at Chatham; but I realised that I could not remain there, and so was on the look-out for a ship which would suit me. The super light cruiser "Courageous" - a product of the Churchill-Fisher regime, with 15 inch guns and little armour - was completing on the Tyne, and was to be commissioned as Flagship of the Light Cruiser Force of the Grand Fleet in November. She was to carry the largest wholly Red Marine detachment afloat and was to be manned from Chatham. I went to the Royal Marine Office, and asked to be appointed as the subaltern. The Major was R D Ormsby, who had made a great reputation as the Adjutant of the Plymouth Division.

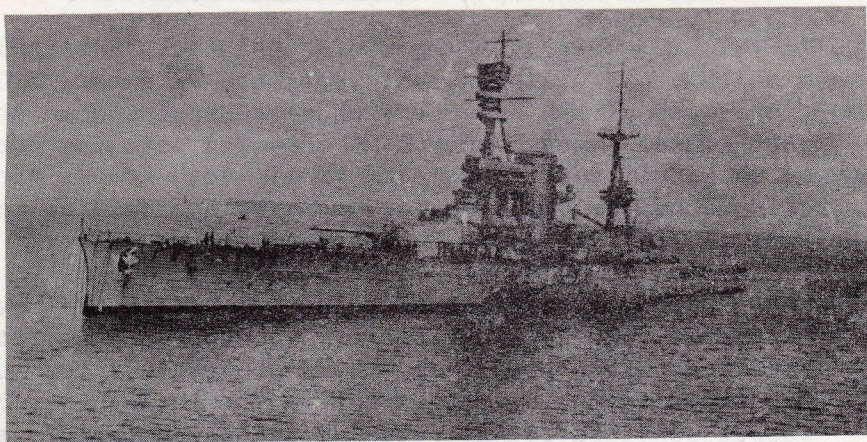
THE GRAND FLEET

I served a year in the "Courageous". Owing to trouble with her engines, and weaknesses in her hull, we spent a lot of time in dock. Though we thought we were on the point of engaging enemy ships on one or two occasions, the ship never went into action. The Captain was Arthur Bromley, and the Commander was Percy Noble, both of whom I was to be associated with many years later. My defence station by day was in the fore-top, a position in which I was sometimes very seasick. When the entire Grand Fleet was at sea, "Courageous" would be stationed behind the cruiser screen, and ahead of the nine battle cruisers, behind which came the battle squadron (28 battleships). The Fleet in this formation was an unforgettable sight, the like of which will never be seen again.

My brother Douglas was then serving in a destroyer, and paid me two unexpected visits. Once, when we were at Scapa Flow on the north shore, his ship was at Kirkwall, and he came over, officially to get some code word for his Captain, but really to see me. On the other occasion, we were in the Clyde awaiting a destroyer escort to take us to Plymouth, and by chance his ship was one of the two sent to escort us. Ormsby was on the Quarter Deck after Sunday Divisions. He called out to me "There is a boat coming alongside with your brother in it" and he was right. Douglas had been farming in New Zealand at the outbreak of the war. He helped to embark the New Zealand troops and came to England with them. He then served in a river gun-boat in the Cameroons, and in the "Flirt" a destroyer in the Dover Patrol. When on patrol one night "Flirt" heard gunfire and steamed towards it. They passed a man in the water. Douglas called away a boat, and himself jumped over the side to rescue the man. Seconds later, "Flirt" was blown out of the water by heavy German destroyers. Douglas and the boat's crew were the only men saved.

In June 1917 King George V visited the Battle Cruiser Force (of which the Light Cruisers formed part) at Rosyth. He came on board "Courageous" and we marched past him. 7th February 1917 was my twenty-first birthday, and as the year wore on I realised that my promotion to Captain was getting near. At that time promotions were made to fill vacancies. In September the RM Battalions in France were having heavy casualties. The casualty lists in the daily papers showed how close one was to promotion. One Sunday morning in November I was

HMS *Courageous* was a first class cruiser of 18,600 tons, built by Armstrong and completed 5 Dec 1916. Converted to A/C Carrier May 1928 and sunk by 'U29' in the Atlantic 17 Sept 1939. (Photo is her sister ship "*Glorious*".)

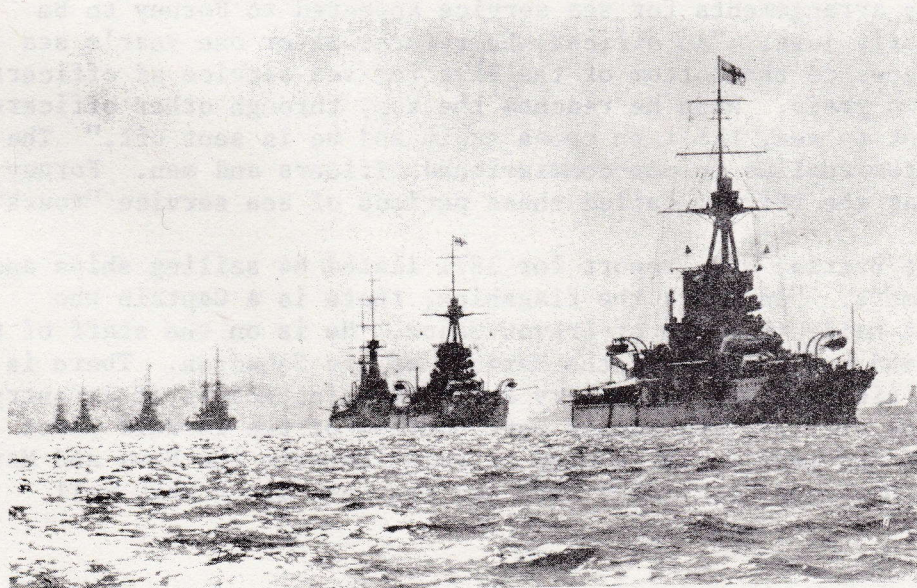


visiting another ship, and someone showed me my promotion in a Sunday paper. I was celebrating it that evening when the Fleet was suddenly ordered to sea. At the same time I was awarded the Croix de Guerre avec Palmo for my service in Gallipoli.

Early in November my relief arrived. Ormsby had left the ship a few days before, and I was not sorry to leave "*Courageous*".

I returned to Chatham. In the Mess I picked up a piece of paper which was lying on a table, and read on it that I had been awarded £149 15s 8d compensation for my 1914 wound. Although I had twice held the appointment of Adjutant, I now applied to be allowed to qualify, and to take the examination then prescribed for the appointment. This was approved, and I was sent to Deal to learn the drill, which virtually entailed knowing the drill book by heart. This I achieved with the assistance of Sergeant Major Chant, and I passed the examination on 18th January 1918.

*The Grand Fleet
at sea.*



COMPLIMENTS OF THE USMC

In Vol VIII, No 3, of the USMC Newsletter "Fortitudine", produced by the Museum and History Division last year, the Director, B Gen E H Simmons USMC (Rtd), wrote about the discovery of a report found in the National Archives, in which Bvt Lt Col James Forney USMC compiled notes on foreign marines in 1873. A copy of this full report has been kindly sent to our Archivist, whilst here we extract some of the complimentary remarks apertaining to our Corps, with gratitude to the Editor of "Fortitudine".

"Forney, whose actual rank was captain, had been sent off to Europe in July 1872 by George M Robeson, the Secretary of the Navy in President Grant's cabinet, to do a survey of the foreign marines. He came back to the United States in the late summer of 1873. His report consists of 421 pages of careful copperplate script plus a number of attachments. He also prepared a 37-page synopsis in his own handwriting. Some 335 pages of the basic report and much of the synopsis are devoted to Britain's Royal Marines about whom Forney found much to admire.

"At the time of his visit, the Royal Marines were under the command of Maj Gen George A Schomburg, CB. There were 453 officers in the Royal Marines and 14,000 enlisted men. ("They are mainly English and Scotch; few enlistments are made in Ireland and these generally in Belfast".) Eight thousand Royal Marines were afloat and 6,000 ashore. Headquarters was at Eastney. The three "divisions" (base depots rather than tactical units) of Royal Marine Light Infantry were at Chatham, Portsmouth, and Plymouth. The Royal Marine Artillery was at Fort Cumberland, Portsmouth. In all cases the barracks were large and airy and British rations "much better than ours, fresh meat instead of pork being served daily."

"Royal Marines "receive their pay weekly, a much nicer plan than paying them quarterly as with us." and they were "allowed to smoke in their quarters" and could "drink as much beer as they please at the Canteen."

"The Canteens...are nothing less than well equipped stores..." with profits therefrom going to the benefit of the men rather than into the pockets of a civilian sutler.

"The arrangements for sea service appeared to Forney to be particularly just. "An officer who returns after one year's sea service goes to the bottom of the list for sea service of officers of his own grade. When he reaches the top, through other officers being sent to sea, his turn comes again and he is sent off." The same system applied to non-commissioned officers and men. Forney noted that the British called these periods of sea service "tours".

"The British Navy report for 1871 listed 64 sailing ships and 174 steamers. "On board the flagships, there is a Captain who sometimes holds the rank of Brevet Major. He is on the staff of the Admiral and has command of the Marines of the Squadron. There is also one Lieutenant of Artillery and three Lieutenants of Infantry... The Marine artillerymen always have control of the forward pivot gun...The old feeling which used to exist between the Navy and Marine officers has apparently died out, and they get along very well together."

"Forney is sensitive on the matter of brevet rank. Brevet rank was a coveted honor in the American service, but no pay came with it and little privilege other than the custom of being addressed informally by brevet rank and the right, in Forney's case, to sign his rank after his name as "Captain Bvt Lieut Colonel USMC". His reasons, therefore, are obvious for making the point that "There are several officers holding brevet rank at this post (Chatham) who draw the pay and performed the duty of the same both in the field and garrison."

"In much less detail than for Britain's Royal Marines, Forney also reported on the marines or naval infantry of France, Spain, Portugal, Germany, Turkey, and Italy. About the German Marines, he reported, "The German Marine Corps numbers 2,000 men, commanded by a Colonel Commandant, their brigade consists of two regiments, armed with the needle gun. The uniform is of dark blue, greatly resembling ours."

"Forney also found the uniform of the Royal Marines "very fine" and he transmitted "herewith a series of water colour photographs with a full description of the uniform of the officers and men." (Unfortunately, the photographs and other listed attachments have long since disappeared from the basic report.)

"He concludes his synopsis with a list of "suggestions" for the Secretary of the Navy, not all of them directly related to his observances in Europe.

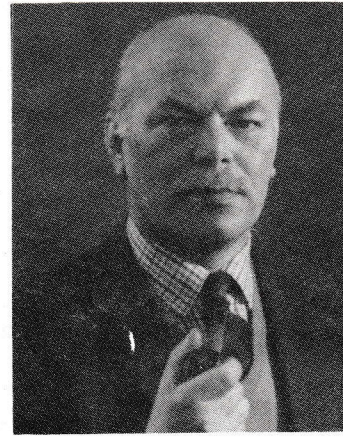
"Drawing obviously from the German Marine brigade organization, he recommends, "That the three thousand men of the United States Marine Corps be formed into a brigade with a Brigadier General, divided into three regiments..." (In numbers, Forney permits himself a little inflation; the 1871 year-end strength of the US Marine Corps was 92 officers and 2,498 enlisted.) The respective regiments and their companies would be given permanent numbers. In detailing men for duty on board ship, companies would be kept together as much as possible.

"Forney was admiring of the selection and training of both the officers and men in the Royal Marines. He observed that "Immediately upon enlistment recruits are sent to the general recruiting station at Deal" where, on arrival, "they are met by a non-commissioned officer" who proceeded to take them in hand for instruction. From this observation came the suggestion "That a general recruiting station be established, under command of a Captain, where all men recruited for the Corps are to be sent and drilled..."

Also, "Abroad, great attention is paid to instruction in musketry and continual exercise at target practice. This very important branch is almost totally neglected by us. Our men seldom understand the use of the weapon they carry, and are consequently nervous in using it at even the simple funeral ceremonies..." He recommended improved instruction and firing at a target at least twice a month, citing that enclosed with his report were numerous "excellent books on musketry practice, bayonet exercise and sword exercise.""



Wartime Saundersfoot by Captain T G Stickings RM



It is not by chance that the official guide to Saundersfoot (Pembrokeshire, South Wales) contains a reference to Royal Marines activity in that area during WW2, for it is compiled by local historian Thomas G Stickings, who was very much involved there as a Captain RM. In January of 1947 he assembled many former members of the Corps to form a branch of the RM Association at the Cambrian Hotel and was elected as their President.

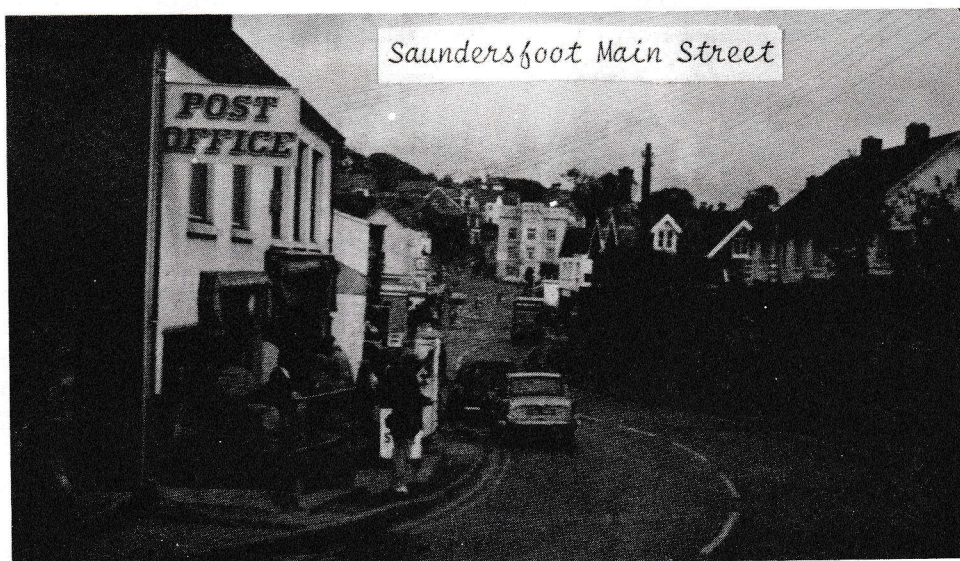
The following extract is taken from his book "The Story of Saundersfoot", published in 1970 by H G Walters Ltd, Five Arches Press, Tenby, (Dyfed), Pembrokeshire, and we are grateful to the author for permission to reproduce this text.

"In 1845 Royal Marines of the old Woolwich and Plymouth Divisions, who were initially garrisoned in the old HMS Dragon, which served as a floating barracks, moved into the new Defensible Barracks, Pembroke Dock. These 500 Marines were the barracks' first occupants. Detachments of these Royal Marines were stationed at Haverfordwest, Llechryd, Aberaeron, Lampeter, Llanybyther and Narberth in 1844 under the command of Brevet Major J Whylock, RM, before moving to Defensible Barracks.



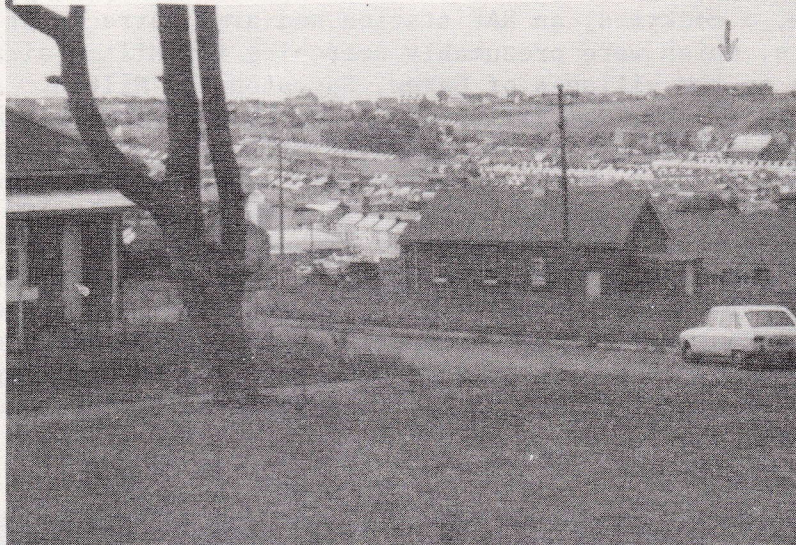
Defensible Barracks

"Throughout World War II Saundersfoot did not, fortunately, suffer from severe enemy action. Saundersfoot people were to observe the 'blitz' on Swansea, across Carmarthen Bay, at long range. During 1940-41 several air raids were made on Pembroke Dock, which possessed petrol storage tanks, a dockyard, an RAF station and army barracks at Llanion. German bombers, which were presumably searching for Milton airfield, dropped bombs on the villages of Carew, Sageston and Milton. At Sageston two local men were killed by flying bomb splinters - David Richard of Saundersfoot and Ivor Hughes of Kilgetty. During August, 1940, a number of bombs were dropped on open spaces of marshland near Tenby and Carswell. On 2nd September, 1940, approximately 100 incendiary bombs were dropped on nearby Kingsmoor Common, hayricks were set on fire at Errox Hill Farm, Saundersfoot, and at Little Kilawen, whilst between 30 and 40 incendiaries fell near Netherwood House, close by St Issell's Church. Further incendiaries fell on Saundersfoot during the night of 15th April, 1941, but these small raids appear to have been the sum total of the village's experience of enemy action.



"However, the village was to know it was involved in the war. In December, 1939, the Evelyn Coffee Tavern was commandeered by the military authorities. Many soldiers returning from Dunkirk were brought into the village with little more 'than what they stood up in', to be temporarily billeted in houses in the village. A detachment of the Home Guard was formed, mainly from World War I veterans, with its Platoon Commander, Dr D H Pennant, DSO, and Major H Allen. During October, 1949, 169 evacuees arrived, mainly from the London area, to be officially billeted in the village. A Saundersfoot branch of the Women's Voluntary Service came into being, mainly at the instigation of Mrs Salmon and Miss Nancy Thomas. Boy Scouts were collecting scrap; the Girl Guides adopted a ship of the Royal Navy, HMS Sheldrake; a 'Dig for Victory' campaign began in 1941. Early in 1940 a large NAAFI Canteen building was erected on the harbour green - to be mysteriously razed to the ground by fire on the 10th July, 1941!

Defensible Barracks viewed from Llanion Barracks



The 'Claremont' and 'Malins' hotels, which, in addition to 'Oakwood', a private residence now renamed, are grouped together across the road from the 'St Brides' hotel (wartime RM Signals School).

"Successive divisions of troops were stationed in the South Pembrokeshire area, including Saundersfoot, among them the Royal Marine Division, (the battalions of this division were ultimately to become Royal Marine Commandos), the 53rd (Welsh) Division and other units, including those of the United States Army. It was, however, the Royal Marines who made a lasting impact on the village's life. The men of the Royal Marines Brigade first moved into the Saundersfoot and Tenby area. They had come from Bisley and, on this occasion, remained for only a short period. Several battalions were stationed in the Tenby area and, in Saundersfoot, Brigade Headquarters were set up in Claremont, the Royal Marine Signals at Oakwood, and the Mobile Platoons at Malins. The Mobile Platoons were equipped with over 50 motor-cycles, complete with machine-guns, which were stored in Victor Morris' garage. In addition a machine-gun platoon was billeted at Penally.

"After only weeks, the Royal Marines Brigade moved to Pembroke Dock preparatory to embarking for Southern Ireland which, at that time, was thought to be the probable landing area of a German invading force. The Brigade eventually travelled to Plymouth and, together with the Free French forces of General De Gaulle, took part in the Dakar raid on the West African coast. On their return a year later to the United Kingdom the Royal Marine Divisional Headquarters was set up at Tenby, with one Brigade at Llanion Barracks, Pembroke Dock, a second Brigade at Big House, Cresselly, and a third in the Penally area. The Royal Marine Division quit the area some months later.

"In the spring of 1941 the Admiralty requisitioned the St Bride's Hotel and it became, for the duration of World War II, the Royal Marines School of Signalling. The School produced the communication personnel for the Corps, who were later to serve in Royal Marine Commandos and other special Royal Marine field forces, aboard ships of the Fleet and in the Royal Naval Support and Assault Squadrons. Saundersfooters were to see a continual occupation of the village by Royal Marines for the ensuing four years. After service all over the globe - Per Mare, Per Terram, is the Royal

Big House, Cresselly



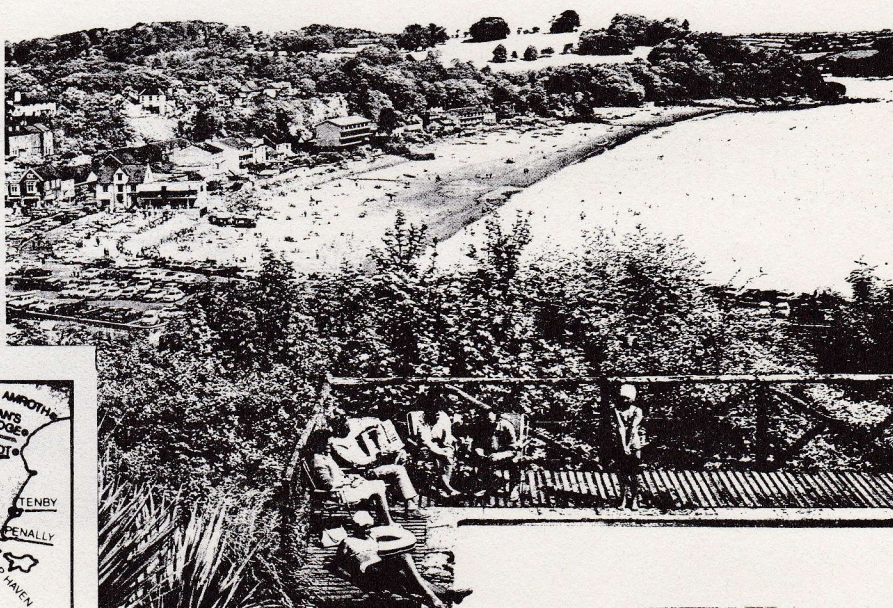
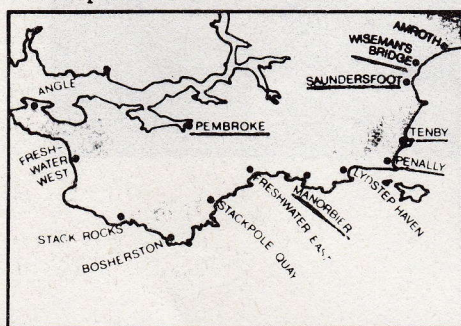
Penally Camp

Marines' motto - many of these Royal Marines were to return to the beautiful village by the sea, marry local girls, and settle, bringing new blood to the area.

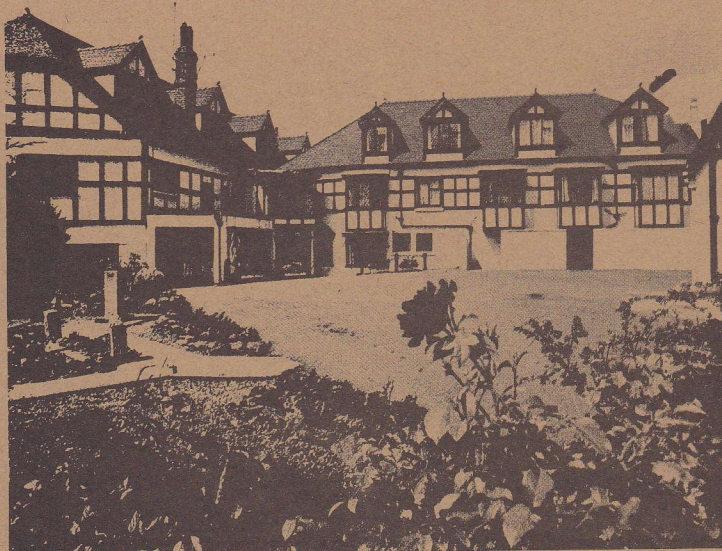
"It will be of interest to the reader to learn that Wing Commander Guy Gibson, VC, the leader of the Dambusters of RAF Bomber Command in World War II, spent much of his boyhood in Saundersfoot.

"Throughout the war the ladies of the Saundersfoot Women's Institute were busy, as were so many similar organisations throughout the country. A sick bay had been set up in Wogan House and the Institute provided pillow-cases, pillows and other bedding. They made slippers for the Military Hospital at Pembroke Dock and knitted hundreds of socks, mittens, Balaclava helmets, gumboot stockings, and gloves for the men of the Royal Naval Minesweepers, in addition to sending parcels of new clothing and other necessities to London for distribution to the victims of the German air raids. And, of course, they saw their sons and husbands leave to serve in the country's Armed Services, some of whom were not to return.

St Brides Hotel perched on the cliff edge above Saundersfoot commands a view across the beach to Wiseman's Bridge bay, where a 'D-Day' rehearsal took place.



"In August, 1943, a full-scale rehearsal of the imminent Allied seaborne assault on the coast of Europe took place on Saundersfoot's gently shelving sands. The village was put under curfew. All outgoing mail was censored. Summer visitors were required to leave the area, and all available rooms and hotels were commandeered to house the 'top brass'. The Military Police checked everyone; even Servicemen on leave who wished to enter the village. The Harbour was full of petrol barges (one of which went up in flames). Ordnance depots were set up near St Issell's Church and elsewhere, and on the beach there appeared innumerable landing ships which disgorged troops, trucks and other military equipment, from their huge bow doors. Winston Churchill surveyed the rehearsal from outside the Wiseman's Bridge Inn, with Admiral Viscount Mountbatten in attendance. Over 100,000 troops took part in this logistic exercise, which obviously provided valuable experience for Operation Overlord, almost a year later, when the Allied assault forces landed in Normandy on 6th June, 1944.



"After the declaration of VJ-Day, the Royal Marines vacated St Bride's Hotel, and the Royal Marine Holding Company left the airfield at nearby Templeton which they had occupied for some three-and-a-half years and, except for the Saundersfoot men returning from their units and ships on demobilisation, uniforms disappeared from the streets and lanes of Saundersfoot, and World War II passed into history."

