



Royal Marines HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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(While every effort is made by the Editor to ensure that information contained in this publication is correct, contributed material is the sole responsibility and opinion of the author).

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lower row of braid. Cuffs pointed, and, for a Lieutenant, laced with chevron of gold wire lace 5/8 inch wide, 7½ inches high, traced outside with gold Russia braid, terminating with an Austrian knot, making a total height of 9½ inches, showing a light 3/16ths of an inch wide between lace and braid, traced also inside with gold Russia braid, finishing down cuffs with crow's foot and eye. Collar and front edges edged with white piping, also back skirts and side edges. Shoulder straps twisted round gold cord, lined with scarlet, small button in top loop, Rank badge star in silver.

SASH Gold and crimson net, 2½ inches wide, in ½ inch stripes of gold and crimson

alternately, gold and crimson runner and tassels. To be worn only on state occasions and at balls.

SWORDBELT (Fig 3) Gilt lace, of same pattern as on the fulldress trousers, lined with crimson morocco leather, slings of similar lace 3/4 inch wide. To be worn only on state occasions and at balls.

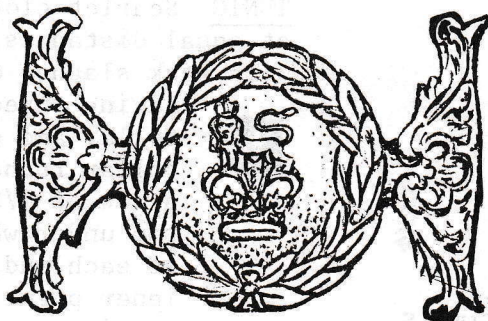
SWORD Half-basket hilt and back-piece of gilt metal with device of Royal cypher and crown, and lined with black patent leather, fish-skin grip, bound with gilt wire, slightly curved blade, grooved and spear-pointed.

3

SCABBARD Steel.

SWORD KNOT Gold and crimson strap, with gold acorn.

TROUSERS Blue cloth. Gold lace and crimson silk stripe 1.1/8 inch



*Officers Full Dress
Belt Locket RMLI
1868-1902*

wide in the centre. To be worn only on state occasions and balls.

CAPTAIN JOHN BARTLEMAN RM BY C F FAIRLEY

Research into old Pre-Stamp covers and letters is an old hobby of mine. Sometimes it produces odd results but the information gained often enhances a quite non-descript item and throws light on past events and the writers themselves.

One such item addressed to a Charles Cox of Holborn with a curved "Rochester" postmark and a manuscript "8" at first appeared quite trivial and unlikely to have much interest.

However the contents looked promising. The letter enclosed was written on 7th September 1798 at or near Upnor Castle (near Rochester, Kent), and concerned payment of a "bill" incurred by the writer, who signed himself "J Bartleman".

He mentions some prize money due to him "for the two captures" of which his share will be 10 pounds. He also invites the recipient down to see the launch of the *Temeraire* 70-gun ship (actually 98) on the next Tuesday.

An additional enclosure was a letter dated 4th September 1798 signed by a James Sykes. This was addressed to Lieut. John Bartleman and informs him that "The Headmoney is due to be paid at the end of the month on the Athenian and Albacore and also of a Portuguese ship recaptured...".

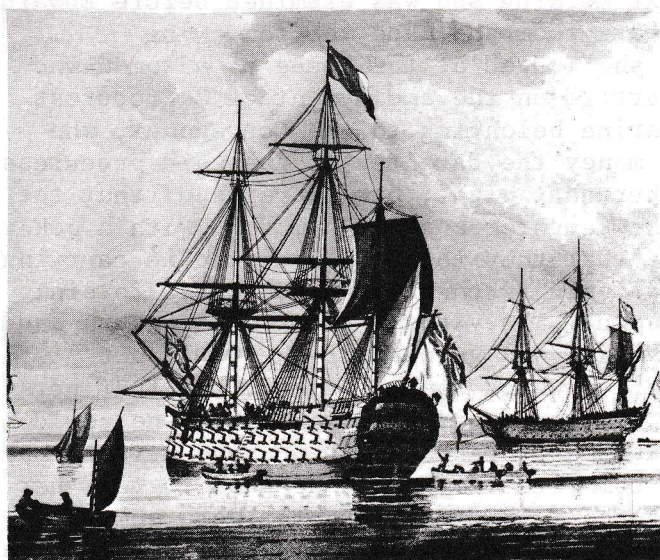
We have now discovered that the writer was a Lieutenant of the Navy/marines.

I wrote to the National Maritime Museum for more information, and they provided me with a mine of facts. Their records show that the *Albacore* was a 16-gun sloop built at Rotherhithe in 1793.

On 4th May 1796, according to the ship's log book, while under the command of Commander Robert Winthrop, off Barbados she took the French *Athenienne* (14 guns).

The *Albacore* seems to have remained in the West Indies under various commands until 1802 when she was sold. The *Athenienne* was taken into the Royal Navy and saw some service in the Mediterranean in 1801/2.

The *Temeraire*, 98 guns, was built at Chatham in 1798 and served with Nelson's fleet at Trafalgar. In 1816 she became a receiving ship at Plymouth. In 1820 she was moved to Sheerness and in 1833 was sold for £5,530. She was eventually towed to Rotherhithe to be broken up (*vide* Turner's celebrated picture "The Fighting Temeraire").



The Maritime Museum are almost certain that Bartleman was aboard the *Albacore* when she was made a prize, as the Headmoney was paid at varying rates to those involved in the capture, and the amount mentioned (£10) would have been that due to a Lieut. in the Marines.

The Maritime Museum suggested enquiries be made at the Public Record Office, which I did, and they provided me with Bartleman's career record in the Royal Marines.

Quoting their findings, we find that he was commissioned as 2nd Lieut in the Royal Marines on the 12th May 1793.

He was promoted to 1st Lieut on the 18.2.1795.

He was promoted to Captain on the 16.1.1802.

Placed on half pay on 1.7.1802.

Appointed Capt. of 133 Coy, RM at Chatham on 1.7.1802.

Commissioned Major (in the Army) (Captain in the Coy.) 4.6.1813.

Transferred to Woolwich 1825.

And finally placed on half pay as Captain 6.7.1826.

To finish off my investigations, I managed to get a couple of prints of Upnor Castle as it appeared when J Bartleman was alive, together with a print of Turner's picture.

My poor little cover and its contents now have a history.

- oOo -

LEICESTER AND NOTTINGHAM JOURNAL, 9 DECEMBER 1786 (Submitted by H Heather)

Extract of a letter from Chatham, November 29

The power of conscience is in no instance so strongly marked, as in the crime of murder. An example has lately happened in this town. A few evenings since a woman followed the watchman and entreated him to take her into custody, as she had been an accessory in a murder.

The watchman thinking at first she was insane disregarded what she said, at last wearied by her importunities he conveyed her to the constable who ordered her into confinement for the night. The next morning she was examined before Edward Pilcher Esq, a Justice of the peace, before whom she made the following confession. That about six years since she lodged at the house of a woman who lived on the point at Portsmouth, and carried on the employment of a procuress for seaman, that she cohabited with a Marine belonging to the Courageaux, who having received about ten guineas prize money the daughter of the said procuress endeavoured to seduce him to sleep with her that night; but he refused: that the Marine being intoxicated with liquor, the daughter knocked him down with a poker and repeated her blows till he was dead, that they then all assisted in carrying out the body to the seashore to which fastening stones they endeavoured to sink it in the water, but finding that ineffectual, they dug a hole in the beach and buried it: that the mother afterward gave her six guineas if she would not publish the fact, but go over to Ireland, to which she consented, but that her mind was so disturbed in consequence of the part she had taken, that she could have no peace by night or by day, and was therefore resolved to give herself up to justice, upon this confession she is committed to Maidstone gaol to take her trial at the next assizes, it seems that the mother and daughter were sometime after the murder committed on suspicion and were tried at Winchester but for want of evidence were acquitted.

A copy of the above examination is sent to the Mayor of Portsmouth.

TED MACONOCHIE REPORTS ON CORPORAL HUNTER VC

One of the last actions the late Society Member Ted Maconochie fought was on behalf of Corporal Thomas Hunter VC, as the following report taken from the Edinburgh Evening News of 30 May 1980 records under the heading 'Now Tom Hunter VC is accorded his final battle honours'.

Thirty-five years after his heroic death in the Second World War that earned him the Victoria Cross, Tom Hunter, of Edinburgh, has had the Defence Medal added to his list of decorations.

The belated award for the greatest hero of the Royal Marines in the war is all due to the knowledge and perseverance of Mr Ted Maconochie, of Morningside, himself a former marine.

He has also succeeded in having Tom Hunter's name added to the rolls of honour at the Scottish National War Memorial at Edinburgh Castle.

This had been omitted because he was born in Aldershot, but Mr Maconochie (80), pointed out that Tom's parents were Scots and his father was serving with the Royal Scots at the time of his birth, so his name now joins those of the Scottish servicemen who lost their lives in both world wars.

Mr Maconochie, a one time collector of military badges and now a collector of postcards and cigarette cards relating to the marines, started his investigations last July after a visit to the Royal Marines Museum at Eastney in Portsmouth.

He noticed the Defence Medal was missing from the Hunter collection of four decorations that included the VC - the only one awarded to a marine in the 1939-45 war.

The medal was awarded to all with more than three years' war service.

COTTAGES

Mr Maconochie enlisted the help of General Sir Campbell Hardy, a retired officer, and former commandant general of the Royal Marines.

He got in touch with the Ministry of Defence and Tom Hunter was awarded his medal 35 years after his death in Italy.

Lance Corporal Hunter was only 21 when he was killed at the battle of Lake Comacchio on April 3, 1945.

Single-handed he took on a group of enemy soldiers to allow his colleagues to make cover from an exposed position.

The Tom Hunter memorial cottages were opened in his native area of Stenhouse in 1954 to commemorate the man who became the second capital VC of the war.

Tom Hunter's Defence Medal now joins his VC and other decorations - the 39-45 Star, the Italy Star and the 39-45 War Medal - in the Royal Marines Museum.

- oOo -

Publication Programme.

Future editions of 'Sheet Anchor' will be scheduled for the Spring and Autumn of each year. New material for inclusion is always welcome, particularly original researched articles.

MAJ GEN ARTHUR CHATER CB CVO DSO OBE - PART FIVE

After my leave I was sent to Deal, and employed as Staff Captain of the local coast defence organisation. Brigadier Parsons my old CO in Gallipoli, had just become Commandant of the Depot. After I had been there a few weeks, he told me that he wanted me to be his Adjutant. Adjutant of the Depot was at that time regarded as one of the best appointments in the Corps for a junior officer and I was very junior for the appointment. I however felt, with the war going full bore in France, that I ought to be there and not sitting safe at Deal: these feelings were, however eased to some extent by a letter from Bamford in which he said that this war would not go on much longer, and then I would be glad to be in such a good job. On 12th July 1918, I became Adjutant of the Depot RM, and in the same month I was awarded the DSO, and given a Brevet Majority for Zeebrugge.

The Depot RM was at that time a show place. The drill and PT of the recruits was outstanding. A constant stream of Army officers came to see it. One of my visitors was Brigadier-General Critchley, who was accompanied by HRH Prince Albert, (afterwards King George VI) and Louis Greig, who had bandaged me up when I was wounded at Antwerp in 1914. King George V had just approved the senior squad of recruits being called the "King's Squad" in commemoration of his visit in March, and also the award of the King's Badge for the most outstanding recruit in each King's Squad. I drafted the conditions for the award of the King's Badge.

The Depot was very full, with men living in tents in the Drill Field and in the North Barracks Drill Shed. The daily state was sometimes over three thousand.

The Commandant had some novel ideas on training recruits. One of these was that they should be made to develop a sense of direction by drilling at all sorts of angles to the sides of the parade ground (later in my service I found that African soldiers could never fall in or march "square" with any road or building). He wished to discuss this idea with me, and invited me to dine with him on 11th November, so we could discuss it after dinner.

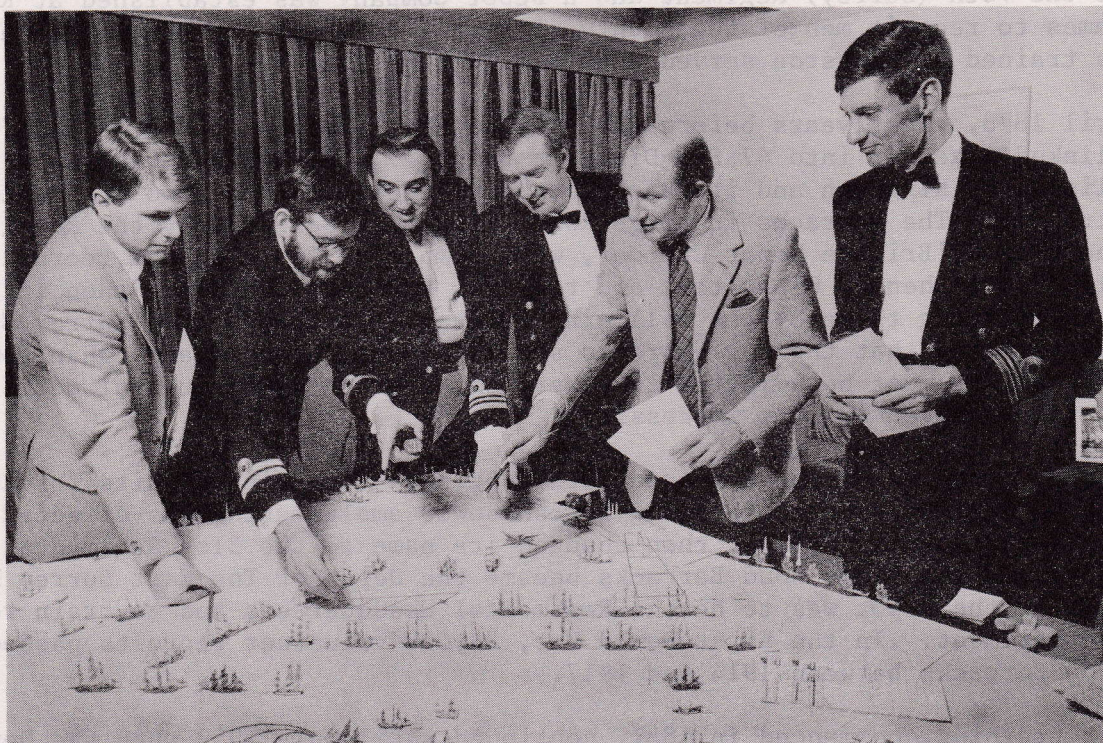
When on the morning of that great day, I went in to report the Armistice to him and said we should do something to celebrate the event, he agreed to our holding a mess parade at noon, and to the rest of the day being a holiday: but added "Don't forget that you are dining with me tonight to discuss my idea of sense of direction": and that was how I spent Armistice night 1918.

On 10th June 1919, my father died suddenly. He had been staying with me at Deal not long before, and I had noticed that he did not like to walk far without sitting down: but his sudden and quite unexpected death, came as a great shock. The funeral was in the beautiful church at Amersham, where he is buried.

In the summer of 1919, the Naval and Military Tournament was revived at Olympia. For the first time, the drill display by the King's squad appeared on the programme. A PT display by the recruits of the Depot was also given. The introduction of these two displays by our recruits, both of which received high praise, was entirely due to the influence and efforts of Major Walter Garnier. They were so popular that they both were produced again at the Tournament in 1920, and the drill display by the King's squad has appeared many times since, but they have never been better than in 1919.

As the year 1920 progressed, the numbers at the Depot fell, and my job became a shadow of what it had been. I began to look around for new adventures. I had for some years been attracted by the idea of the Egyptian Army, in which some of the best RM officers had served. At that time our high Commissioner in Egypt was Lord Allenby, and a kind friend wrote on my behalf to Lady Allenby. The reply came back that there was a long waiting list, and I had little chance.

Then one week-end Colonel R H Darwall, who was on leave from the Sudan, came to stay with Colonel Maurice Festing, the Military Instructor. Darwall gave a lecture which I attended, on the punitive expedition he had just commanded against the Aliab Dinkas. I met him, and told him my idea. In November a telegram was received at Deal saying that the Sirdar of the Egyptian Army had applied for my service. Of course it was Darwall, who was then AAG in Khartoum, who had arranged this.



LIEUT. CDR. ROBIN EYRE-TANNER RNR GOES TO WAR!

Our former Membership Secretary, Robin Eyre-Tanner, who through his RN Reserves connection arranged three excellent dinners for the society at HMS Wessex the Southampton RNR base, took up a full time post with the Royal Navy at Rosyth (HMS Cochrane, Headquarters of the Flag Officer, Scotland and Northern Ireland) last year, and despite being laid up recently following injuries sustained from a fall down some steps whilst on duty, he is once again back in action.

Prior to the very real sea battles being fought now against Argentinian Naval Forces around the Falkland Islands, Lieut. Cdr. Eyre-Tanner RNR devised and developed his own Wargame, recreating one of Nelson's famous engagements, in the Wardroom of HMS Cochrane! Robin (third from the right in the picture) assures us that actions lasting some exciting hours, full of movement and fire-power, with broadsides and boarding parties bringing the 'Horatio touch', is a game of risk and skill that has caught on in the Fleet Office, and anything from 20 to 200 'would be Nelson's' could take part if they so desired!

His own Naval commitments have so far taken him to Holland, Belgium, France, Spain and Madeira, whilst some of the officers partaking in this wargame have since set off to face the realities of sea-warfare, with the Task Force in the South Atlantic. (Editor)



THE QUEENS ROYAL SURREY REGIMENT

BY

MAJOR P G E HILL (QRSR)

In 1782, county titles were introduced for Regiments of Infantry, ostensibly to foster a connection with a particular county, but primarily to establish a base for the ever present problem of raising recruits for the Army. The Seventieth became the 70th (Surrey) Regiment and a Depot Company was established at Kingston on Thames to recruit men of the county of Surrey for that Regiment. The early drafts trained at Kingston served with the 70th in Canada.

In April 1873, eight years before their final amalgamation, the 31st and 70th were linked together into 47 Sub-District Brigade. The Brigade Depot was established at Kingston and it was here that recruits for the two Regiments were trained. The Barracks in Kings Road, Kingston, designed by the Royal Engineers as a 'Brigade Depot Centre', were completed in 1875, and recruits for the 31st Foot, then in Gibraltar, and recruits for the 70th Foot, then in India, were in training there by the following February. Although the 'Surrey Comet' in 1874 remarked that the new barracks should have a 'by no means unhandsome appearance', it must be admitted they were of no great architectural merit, though the massive Keep was impressive.

The Depot Companies of the 31st and 70th continued to train recruits for their respective Regiments until the long-foreshadowed amalgamation was effected in 1881. The 47th Brigade Depot then changed its name to the 31st Regimental District, and the Kings Road Barracks became the Depot of The East Surrey Regiment. The role of the Depot was to be the Regimental Headquarters and to train recruits for the Regiment. In the First World War, 84,000 volunteer recruits passed through Kingston Barracks between 1914 and 1917.

Recruit training, commenced in 1881, continued until July 1959 when the Depot reverted to its alternative role of the Headquarters of the Colonel of the Regiment and his secretariat. Three months later when The East Surrey Regiment amalgamated with The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment, the newly formed Regimental Headquarters remained at Kingston Barracks for another two years before moving to the TAVR Centre in Portsmouth Road where it has been for the last 16 years.

The Regimental War Memorial in Kingston consists of the Trinity Chapel in the Parish Church of All Saints and the Memorial Gates to the Churchyard. The Chapel was restored in 1920 by the relatives, friends and comrades of the 6,000 officers and men of The East Surrey Regiment who lost their lives in the 1914-18 War, and whose names are recorded in the Book of Remembrance. To this Roll of Honour were added the names of 1,198 officers and men of the Regiment who were killed in the 1939-45 War. Oak panels on the walls are memorials to officers who served in the Regiment and there is a section for holders of the Victoria Cross. In the Church hang Colours of the 31st and 70th Regiments, and of the Territorial and Service Battalions of The East Surrey Regiment.

In May 1944, the Council of the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames conferred upon the Regiment the Freedom of the Borough, but it was another three years before the Presentation Ceremony could be held. In his address, the Mayor of Kingston said, "You are granted by the town, as a Regiment, the right to march through the town with fixed bayonets, Colours flying and drums beating ... It is difficult to express in words the great pride and admiration which Kingston holds and feels in the record and history of the East Surreys - or may I say, 'our own soldiers'".

The Freedom of the Borough was first exercised by the 6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment (TA) when His Majesty the King opened the giant new power station at Kingston on 27th October 1948. The Depot was regarded as the home of the Regiment. It was here a soldier began and finished his service; and, being the centre of the Old Comrades Association, it was here that Reunions and Garden Parties were held. There was a friendly atmosphere about the place, and any old Surrey visiting could be sure of a warm welcome. In 1950 the Warrant Officers and Sergeants Association was formed at the Depot, and is perhaps the most active bond with the old Regiment. Its meetings and functions are still held in Kingston. In times of industrial unrest, men of all three Services were occasionally accommodated in Kingston Barracks. An unusual visit occurred in 1951 when the King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, in full dress with their guns, staged at the Depot prior to the funeral of Field Marshal Lord Birdwood.

Without doubt the most significant and spectacular event celebrated at Kingston was the 250th Anniversary of the raising of the Regiment in 1702. The Regiment exercised its privilege of marching through the Royal Borough with bayonets fixed, bands playing and Colours flying. At the Depot, in the presence of the Mayor, civic dignitaries and senior officers of the Services, a large crowd watched the massed bands of the Royal Marines and the Regiment beat Retreat.

The last great East Surrey and civic occasion at Kingston was the Centenary Celebration of the 6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment (TA). Formed in 1859 as local Volunteer Corps, one of which, the 12th Surrey Rifle Volunteer Corps was raised by the Mayor of Kingston, the separate units were eventually merged into a battalion in 1880. The 6th Battalion, preceded by Band and Drums, and followed by the Old Comrades of the Battalion, marched through the town with bayonets fixed and Colours flying, the salute being taken by His Worship the Mayor at the Guildhall.

It is gratifying that the Freedom of the Borough was granted to The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment and latterly to The Queen's Regiment. Thus the connection between the Royal Borough and the Regiment of today is preserved.

MARINE COLONELS OF THE REGIMENT

A note of the four Colonels who commanded the Regiment when part of the Marine Corps between 1702 and 1714 may be of interest.

George Villiers was commissioned in the First Guards on 31st August 1685, and must have been in his late thirties when appointed to command one of the newly formed Regiments of Marines. His commission as Colonel of a Regiment of Marines was signed by King William III on 12th February 1702. The first action in which Villiers' Marines took part was an unsuccessful attempt to capture Cadiz on 12th August 1702. Two months later they formed part of the Second Brigade at the capture of the Spanish galleons at Vigo, although they remained embarked on this occasion. It was while serving in the Mediterranean the following year that the Regiment suffered a great loss in the death of Colonel Villiers. He and one of his officers were drowned at Priuti on 6 December 1703.

The second in Command, Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Luttrell, who had served with the Regiment since its formation, immediately assumed command. He had previously been in the (19th) Yorkshire Regiment and had seen active service in Flanders. After an unsuccessful attempt to capture Barcelona on 19th May, Luttrell's Marines took part in the capture of Gibraltar on 21st July 1704. They formed part of the heroic garrison which held on to the Rock through the long and bitter siege which lasted until 18th April the following year. Luttrell remained in command during the second and successful attack on Barcelona in October 1705,

but he retired from the Active List on 31st January 1706. Colonel Luttrell died in September 1714.

The next commanding officer was Lieutenant Colonel Joshua Churchill of the 3rd Foot (The Buffs). He came from a well known family in Dorset, but was not, so far as is known, related to the Duke of Marlborough. During 1706, the Marine Corps took part in the Capture of a number of towns on the east coast of Spain, including Alicante, and of the islands of Ibiza and Majorca. The Regiment continued to service 'By Sea and By Land', and Churchill's Marines took part in the ill fated attack on Toulon in the summer of 1707. In October the fleet sailed for home, but some of the ships were wrecked off the Scilly Isles, and a large number of men, including some of Churchill's Marines, were lost. Operations in the Western Mediterranean continued in 1708, and Churchill's Marines were in the force which captured Cagliari, the capital of Sardinia, in August of that year. In 1710, a composite battalion of Marines was formed for an expedition against Port Royal in Nova Scotia. Six Regiments of Marines, including Churchill's, each supplied one company, and the force was commanded by Major Reading of Churchill's. The following year, Colonel Churchill, after five years in command on active service, received Her Majesty's permission to sell his commission, and left the service in February 1711.

On 1st March 1711, Lieutenant Sir Harry Goring, then Member of Parliament for Steyning, was promoted by purchase to command of the Regiment. He was aged 32. During his period of command, Goring's Marines were employed by detachments at sea and on garrison duties ashore in the traditional role of the Marine Corps. Consequent upon the Treaty of Utrecht which concluded the War of the Spanish Succession in 1713, the Regiment was threatened with disbandment, and Colonel Goring himself was placed on the half pay list. The following year, after the death of Queen Anne on 1st August, there was an upsurge of Jacobite activity with the aim of restoring the Stuart dynasty. The situation was sufficiently serious for six new regiments to be raised, and the three senior Marine Regiments, including Goring's, to be restored to the Active List as Regiments of the Line. Goring's Marine Regiment thus became the Thirty First Regiment of Foot, and Sir Harry was re-appointed to the colonelcy in 1715.

Unfortunately, Colonel Goring was suspected of Jacobite sympathies, and in June that year, as a result of political pressure lost his seat in the House of Commons, and three months later he was obliged to sell his commission. On his retirement, Sir Harry returned to Sussex. He died at Horsham on 12th November 1731, at the age of 52.

Footnote

In this review of Marine Colonels, it would perhaps be not inappropriate to mention General Sir Richard Foster, KCB, CMG, DSO, who was Colonel of The East Surrey Regiment from 1939 to 1946. Commissioned in the Royal Marine Artillery in September 1897, he served in the Royal Naval Division in France in the 1914-1918 War. He was awarded the CMG and DSO, and was four times mentioned in despatches. The climax of his distinguished career was his appointment as Adjutant General Royal Marines in 1933. He was knighted during his term of office and retired in 1936. A later Colonel of the Regiment wrote, 'The period of Sir Richard's Colonelcy was by no means an easy one, covering as it did, the whole period of the Second World War, but he entered with energy, enthusiasm and instinctive sympathy into the life of his new Regiment, and did much to maintain the high morale of the Surreys throughout those difficult years'. General Dick, who died in April 1965, was regarded with affection, admiration and respect by all ranks of his Regiment.

CHATHAM ORDERS

17th March, 1769. No Military Compliments to be paid by the Marine Guards or Centinels when on duty to any Officer of the Land Forces or Marines unless such Officers are dressed in Scarlet with swords; nor to any Officer of H.M. Fleet unless they are dressed in Blue with Swords.

16th September, 1772. In pursuance of His Majesty's Orders the several companies of Marines at Quarters to parade tomorrow morning upon the New Road close to Star Lane Rochester in order to march to Maidstone on account of the Election.

14th October, 1779. The Non Commissioned Officers and Private Men are never on any occasion in paying the proper Respect to their Officers, or any other Person, to take off their Hats or Caps. They are when without Arms, to put up their Right Hand (in a gracefull manner) on the right side of their Hats with the Palm outwards; and when with Arms, to keep Recovered; and in these positions of civility they are to continue during their Business with any Officer, or other Person to whom the same respect may be due.

17th August, 1782. As it will greatly conduce to the good order and happiness of the Inhabitants of the Barracks that a Military Good example of attention in the Officers who lodge there be adhered to by keeping proper and seasonable hours, in repairing thither regularly in the evenings. It is therefore earnestly wished and expected, if any Officer who lodges in the Barracks, is engaged abroad for the evening that he will be pleased to repair to his Apartment at Ten o'clock, or at furtherest half-an-hour thereafter. For as the Commanding Officer will endeavour to carry out the several duties so as in a little time to give the Young Officers, in as pleasing a method as can be desired, a small idea of Garrison modes, he is therefore resolved that at half-an-hour after Ten, or at furtherest a Quarter before Eleven o'clock every night the keys of all the Gates and Doors shall be brought to him by the Sergeant of the Guard, and not returned to the Guard until full daylight next morning.

16th November, 1791. All the Officers, N.C. Officers and Private Men are to hold themselves in readiness to turn out a minute's notice to march where they may be ordered to receive Their R. Highness the Duke and Duchess of York; and uniformly dressed; and those that are unfit to join the Battalion are not to be straggling about the streets on any account.

MAIL ARRANGEMENTS - CHATHAM DIVISION

6th October, 1768. Conformable to the orders of 1758, the Orderly Sergeant is to bring all letters from the Post Office that are directed to the Officers of the Division. The C.O's letters to be carried to his quarters and the rest delivered to the Orderly Room, where they will be given to those who the officers choose to send for them, or otherwise delivered by the sergeants and corporals of the respective squads at the officers' quarters, with their orders.

12th October, 1800. It is possible that many of the Private Men's letters may not reach their friends owing to the incorrectness of the superscription, the Sergeants of the Companies to which such men belong are ordered to address the men's letters before they are brought to the Commanding Officer to sign, after which they are to be returned to the Adjutant's Office, and delivered to the men who have the Commanding Officer's leave to put them into the Post Office themselves upon paying one penny with each letter.

SERGEANT J A EGGO RMLI

(This personal story is just part of the vast amount of information supplied to the author James D Ladd).

The 6th Royal Marine Battalion returned to the United Kingdom from North Russia in October 1919 and its four companies were dispersed to their Divisional Headquarters. In my case it was Forton Barracks, Gosport, the Home of the Royal Marine Light Infantry, Portsmouth Division.

I understand that these Barracks were built during the Napoleonic wars as a Hospital, but I am unable to remember when they became Barracks or when they were taken over by the RMLI.

The entrance from the Forton Road was through an archway surmounted by a Clock Tower and it is anybody's guess how many detachments of RMLI have marched in and out of that gateway behind the Regimental Band led by the tall Drum Major swinging his Mace. Countless recruits have been assured that a good Drum Major could toss his Mace right over the Tower and catch it as it fell on the other side; surely a story as tall as the Tower itself and I shall not blame you if you exclaim: "Tell that to the Marines". The origin of that saying has been ascribed to King Charles the Second who thus commented on a "tall one" related in his presence, whereupon an Officer of Marines took umbrage. The Merry Monarch was genuinely surprised and assured the company that he had meant it as a compliment, for, he claimed, if there were any who could affirm or deny the story it would be his experienced and widely travelled Marines.

Since writing this alleged origin of "Tell that to the Marines" I have read that

On entering the Barracks one passed straight on to the Parade Ground where it was the custom for fifty buglers to sound Reville - known as "Charley, Charley" from the fancied words, "Charley, Charley, get up and dress yourself. Charley, Charley get out of bed". It was a lively tune in contrast to the dirge recruits had been accustomed to at the Training Depot at Deal. At Forton, all bugle calls were preceded by the Divisional call followed by two G's signifying Portsmouth Division. At Chatham, one G was used; at Plymouth, three. Similarly, on their Soldiers' Kit Bags, were painted two black rings for Portsmouth: one for Chatham; three for Plymouth.

Ranged along the side of the Parade Ground opposite the entrance were the Barrack-room blocks and in rear of these, the large Drill Shed, Cookhouse, Ablution rooms, stores, offices, canteen etc. etc. In rear of all and bordering on the shores of Portsmouth Harbour was the Battery where recruits were trained in Naval Gunnery.

Men proceeding between the Main Entrance and the Barrack blocks had to cross the Parade and tended to dislike doing this as feeling rather exposed to view, this being specially the case with those leaving H.Q. to walk into town, the more so if they were conscious of any irregularity in their attire.

A Colour-Sergeant was kept posted on the Main Gate and one of his duties was that of seeing that all men proceeding on leave were properly dressed. One of these Non-Commissioned Officers gained a sinister reputation for having the eagle eye: no soldier, with any irregularity in his attire, could hope to pass him undetected. However did he do it?, everyone was asking, until one day he himself gave the game away.

A young soldier was nervously making his way across the Parade knowing that the

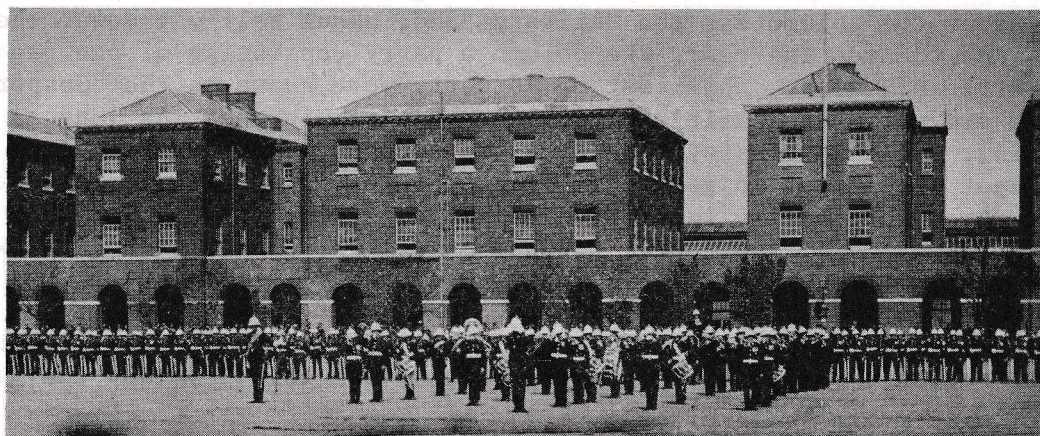
"Terror" was on duty and sure enough was stopped and told, "Go back and put uniform socks on and tell that crowd looking out of your room window that you did not get away with it and that Colour Sergeant unprintable Smith sent you back". So that was it: Watch the windows and if there is a crowd with their eyes fixed on someone crossing the Parade then that one is suspect.

Naturally Forton had its fund of anecdotes told of some of the "Characters" in the Division. The trouble with anecdotes is that one may think of them as original when in fact they may have been current in the armies of the Philistines. Perhaps we should do well to adopt the philosophy of the Italians and shrug it off with, "Anyhow, it was a good story".

One of the favourites concerned a young officer making his first barrackroom inspection knowing that in each room there would be an Old Soldier standing the rounds and all too ready to play the "Old Soldier" against his own inexperience. The first room to be inspected was faultless until our friend spotted a cobweb hanging from the ceiling and pointed a triumphant and accusing swagger cane at it and asked the dread question, "Why?" The Old Soldier was quite ready with, "Please, Sir, we allus keeps a cobweb handy in case one of the lads cuts his finger". "So", thought our Officer, "You simply cannot win". Into the next room he went and this time was quite victorious with the report, "Deficient of one cobweb".

Another Officer had a not undeserved reputation for piety and on one occasion was inspecting his company at Morning Parade. It had come to the "Examine Arms" stage: that is, where the soldier will hold his rifle away from his body with the muzzle about level with the eyes of the inspecting officer and at the same time insert his thumb nail into the breach of his rifle in such a way as to reflect light up the barrel. This Officer squinted down the barrel of one man's rifle and looked hard and long until he apostrophized the man with, "You need a shave". Then, looking him in the face, said, "If I do not punish you, God will punish me" and, turning to the Company Sergeant Major, ordered, "This man is to get his hair cut and parade again at 5.30 this evening".

Hair cuts!! With one Adjutant hair cuts were an obsession. One cold morning he was inspecting the Barrack Guard about to mount. Halting in rear of one man he enquired of the Sergeant Major, "Do the men still wear those broad collars to their Greatcoats?" What does an embarrassed S.M. do on such an occasion? In this case the tension was relieved by the Adjutant explaining with, "If this man were to get his hair cut I would not have needed to ask that question". Years later, when our Adjutant had been promoted to Field Rank, a phone call came through to the Officers' Mess, "Is Colonel X in the Mess?". So Colonel X came to the phone to hear a cheeky voice from a Public Call Box telling him to Get his hair cut.



One of the Gunnery Instructors was nicknamed "Cock" and if a Cockney be one born within the sound of Bow Bells then surely this man's Mother must have needed ear plugs around the time he was born. Cock would take a Gunnery Class through a pretend Naval Battle and admonish them with, "We-peat all orders arter me", where the "All orders" invariably began with the formula, "On the beam a target". I have said "invariably" but on this occasion one bright laddie itched for a change and instead of "On the beam a target", the outraged ears of Cock heard, "On the beach at Margate" (Laughter). But the laughter had faded somewhat at the end of an hour's extra drill, for the whole class, around a gun which must surely have been designed by some sadist for the punishment of those given to levity during gunnery instruction.

In those days Forton was full of troops; too full to be comfortable, and one of the problems was: How to keep them employed. There were far too many for the necessary fatigues and a surfeit of Infantry Drill became boring. In the forenoon, during Drill, there was a break of 15 minutes and it is an open secret that on the expiration of this break there were many who did not trouble to fall in again, being assured that, like the potential victims of the Lord High Executioner, they never would be missed.

Friday afternoons were devoted, among other things, to coal fatigues. Coal was carried in iron bunces, that is to say, in tubs having two handles and carried between two soldiers, or in a chain among a number of men. A large party would be marched to the coal yard in columns of fours and men would be told off to take coal to the various rooms, offices, etc. Before this column of troops had been worked through, the needs of the barracks had been supplied so that the Sergeant in charge would tell the remainder of the men to run away and lose themselves. So, before long, men had discovered the advantage of posting themselves at the rear until one bright Sergeant gave the order "About turn" before reaching the Coal Yard and the drones got the work that day. While our minds are at the Coal Yard I am reminded that years later I came across an official letter putting forward a complaint that the handling of these coal tubs was detrimental to the health of the Marines. Now I can hear someone talking about degeneracy; about the "modern Marine" and saying, "Now in my day, etc, etc". So, Old Timer, may I ask what you mean by the "Modern Marine?" and, which day was "your day?" I ask these questions because the letter about the coal tubs was dated 1804!!!

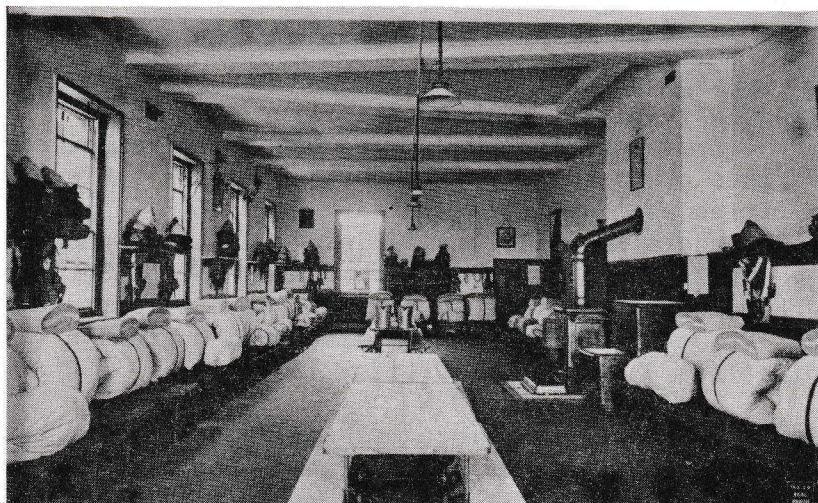
There was no problem about what to do with surplus troops on Wednesdays for this was marching out day. In the morning all available men would be formed up in column of route and marched northward to the Town of Fareham, about six miles distant. They would then be halted to enjoy a smoke while the "Scheme" was explained to those having any kind of command. Then the attack would take place against some named objective, after which, *veni, vidi vici*, there would be another smoke while criticism of the attack with suggestions as to what might have been done was heard and then all would march triumphantly back to barracks with no further duties to be done that day. Proceedings were enlivened by three bands. At the head of the column was the Military Band; about half way down, the Drums and Fifes and towards the rear, the column a party consisting of one Bag Piper and two Kettle Drummers. This last named party were known as the "Gosport Scottish" (The Piper did not wear a kilt). The plan was a simple one. As long as there was marching, there was music, and it may be supposed that our favourite tunes were those of servicemen in general:- Colonel Bogey, Old Comrades, El Abanico (The last named more easily identified, perhaps, by the words, "You'd be far better off in a Home". The tune, "Colonel Bogey" is, I understand, the work of a Royal Marine Officer.

Obviously, more could be said of Forton, if only of the Sports Field where the Divisional Football Team used to play on Saturdays. This team won the Amateur

Cup one year, though which year I cannot recall. The result, I believe, was:- RMLI Gosport 2 - South Bank 1. I fancy this RMLI team had in it men who had played for Chelsea, Sheffield United and Portsmouth but it is of the Chelsea man only that I am certain.

We shall soon be leaving Forton for they are about to form the 8th Royal Marine Battalion and no doubt about its destination and purpose - Ireland. For there is trouble in that most distressful country, just as there was trouble in 1916 and before: just as there will be trouble in 1969 and 1977. How long, O Lord, How long???

So, the 8th Battalion is selected and will prepare by packing their blue uniforms into that spare kit bag for stowage in the Company Store Room, together with all unnecessary paraphernalia, and we shall proceed to Ireland dressed in Khaki Service Dress and carrying small kit bags containing nothing surplus.



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EXTRACT FROM A LETTER FROM MR H HEATHER

I remember reading a Naval biography by a Retired officer who served in the Cruiser Devonshire in 1929, when Marine Streams received the award for his gallant conduct in evacuating one of the eight inch gun turrets which was ripped apart by a premature explosion, in which some 31 men were killed or seriously injured.

It seems that the Corporation of Plymouth had when the ship was first commissioned in 1928, presented a replica of Drake's Drum, which is supposed to beat whenever the hour of national danger arises.

It was housed in a glass case on the quarterdeck but the lower deck held it to be an unlucky omen which would only bring disaster. It seems to have been a fact that whilst the drum was on the ship nothing ever went right, until it culminated in a full scale disaster during a full calibre shoot off the Aegean Island of Sciathas.

The feeling was so strong that the Captain ordered that the Drum should be removed and conveyed on shore and from that day forward everything went right with no more sense of unease of disaster.

Cigarette Cards

Although there is a claim that Robert Peacock Cloag (1851) was the first British cigarette manufacturer to use picture cards in his products during the Crimean War, the earliest known set of British cards was not produced until a decade later, when W D and H O Wills brought out the 'Soldiers of the world' (1895-7) and 'Ships' series. Unfortunately we do not have a sample as they are unobtainable now, however a later set, brought out by Barratt and Co Ltd, also entitled 'Soldiers of the world' has at No 39 of the 50 piece set a Royal Marine Private which we can exhibit (Fig 1).

Wills (of Bristol and London) like John Players and Sons (of Nottingham) had started out with simple advertising cards, but following the importation of American picture cards in 1885 the former brought out their first illustrated set in the next year with Players joining in during 1898, starting with a 25 piece coloured set and a year later a 50 piece black and white set ... all depicting actresses.

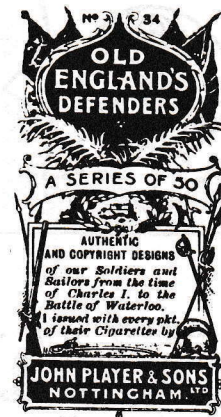
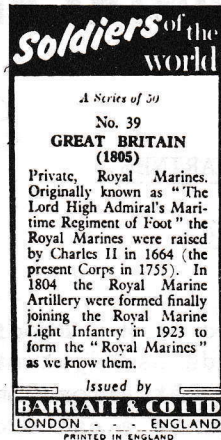
With the British Empire at it's zenith during this era, it was natural that these giants of the cigarette industry (plus a number of smaller concerns) should turn their attention to the Army and Royal Navy, and other empire builders of all kinds, in addition to various other subjects. After 'Actresses', Players were quick to follow with such titles as 'England's Military Heroes' - 'England's Naval Heroes' - 'Old England's Defenders' - 'Military Series' and 'Life Onboard a Man of War in 1805 and 1905'. Wills then jumped in with their 'Nelson Series' to compete with the last set. Some examples of these two sets were illustrated in Sheet Anchor Vol VI No 2, whilst here (Fig 2) from Players 'Old England's Defenders' No 34 from the 50 piece set shows the RM Officer 1802.

Between 1894 and 1907 Ogdens Ltd (Liverpool) went into mass production on thousands of different pictures recording events and personalities of the era, with the Boer War and Boxer Rebellion featuring prominently in their 'Golden Guinea' series and Tab Cards covering scenes, weapons, transport, and people.

During this period another type of 'war' was going on within the tobacco industry itself; from 1901 onwards a shrewd tycoon James Buchanan Duke of the American Tobacco Co began to build his own empire, by first taking over the American Cigar Co and then reportedly by eliminating some 250 small firms to absorb them into his net. Not content yet, he then turned his insatiable power lust towards the world market, and crossing the Atlantic in September of that year he aimed at the thriving firm of Ogdens and bought them outright!

Human beings predictably band together in times of stress, such as wars, to face a common adversary, and so in Britain it came as no surprise that 13 tobacco firms formed a consortium known as the Imperial Tobacco Co Ltd (prominent amongst them were Wills, Players, Lambert and Butler, and Stephen Mitchell and Sons) with Sir William H Wills as their spokesman to face the opposition. Duke's 'battle tactics' included generous sales commissions and bonuses to his British salesmen and workers, whilst attempting to capture the hearts and minds of the public through buying up as many of the Ogden 'Tab Sets' he could lay hands on to present them in album form to various hospitals. (How many of these are still in existence today one wonders!)

Another big independent, Churchmans, refused to join the ITC, but teamed up with five other small firms later to resist the American invasion in this short sharp war ... in which the real winners were the customers!



1

2

The 'battle' ended in something akin to a 'draw', for whilst the powerful Mr Duke was financially sound, he was thwarted by the ITC who gained control of most distribution channels in this country, thus he was practically forced to sell his Ogden concern to the ITC (at about three times the price he paid!) who agreed to restrict their sales to the UK while Duke concentrated on the rest of the world. His dream of 'global domination' was short lived, however, for a new Company 'The British American Tobacco Co' came into being ... to supply the needs of smokers outside the UK, America and Cuba ... and teamed up on the Board of Directors were Messrs W H Wills, W G Player, C E Lambert, three of the Ogden family ... and J B Duke himself. An armistice had been declared! (All card series issued prior to this 'war' were limited and are thus difficult to obtain today).

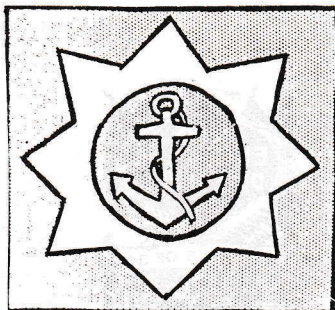
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EDITORIAL COMMENT

The night of December 11/12 we commemorate this year two daring raids; the twentieth anniversary of the hostage rescuing at LIMBANG during the Borneo Campaign, and the fortieth anniversary of 'The Cockleshell Heroes' reaching their goal to place mines on the hulls of enemy ships at Bordeaux for the climax of OPERATION FRANKTON, the fore-runners of our elite Special Boats Squadron, now an integral part of the Corps.

Although the SBS have undoubtedly played a vital role in many skirmishes since 'Operation Frankton' it is perhaps true to say that they have not made such a big impact (on the general public at least) since then until the current Falkland Islands war, and of course the Corps in general have done a splendid job in this unexpected upheaval, earning praise from Politicians, the Press and Public alike. We salute their bravery in upholding all the traditions cherished by past and present Royal Marines, and whilst it is to be hoped that the cease-fire announced (as we go to print) will hold, we know that our men will ever be ready to continue their professional expertise.

Of special interest to us is the fact that the officer in command of all land forces for this second Battle of the Falklands, Major General J J Moore CB OBE MC (MGRM Commando Forces) was the Captain who led L Company of 42 Cdo RM in the successful Limbang rescue of 1962.



117 INFANTRY BRIGADE RM

Part Two

32nd BATTALION, ROYAL MARINES.

JANUARY 45 to MAY 45

DEAL, January 25th Captain Ramsdon arrived at R M Depot to carry out preliminary liaison with H Q 117 Infantry Brigade as Adjutant, 32 Battalion R M. During the next week he was joined by the Battalion Commander, the Quarter Master and the Motor Transport Officer and later by a cadre of SNCO's and tradesmen who formed the nucleus upon which the Battalion was built. During the initial stages at Deal, parties were sent to Margate to prepare accommodation with a view to housing the complete Battalion. The weather was extremely cold and due to heavy falls of snow, the accommodation, which consisted of semi-detached houses and hotels in the centre of the town was in very bad condition.

On 5th February, the Battalion, now consisting of about 80 men paraded in North Barracks, Deal, and together with the other two Battalions of the Brigade, marched out of barracks through the streets of Deal to entrain for Margate. The Salute was taken by the Commandant.

Between 8th and 17th February, three main intakes arrived by train from Lympstone. They consisted of about 200 men in each draft and were mainly former landing craft personnel, the majority of whom didn't take too kindly to the exchange of the "groundsheet" for the "duffel coat". However, on learning the reason for the formation of the Brigade, they soon "buckled to" and worked hard at their new job.

On 8th February, 24 Officers joined from various units, chiefly Landing Craft Flotillas, most of them being sent off almost immediately on courses to fit them for their pre-selected jobs in the Battalion.

During the period at Margate, there were many teething troubles, not the least being the job of fitting the right men into the right place. Due to everyone being granted a week's Embarkation Leave and also to the numerous courses which were being undertaken, the Battalion was never more than at half strength. The early stages found the Companies engaged in kitting up and other domestic problems and it was only during the last fortnight when it became known that we would train in England and not on the Continent that any infantry training on a large scale was commenced. Two Army Officers and 80 Instructors had been loaned to the Battalion and with their help the initial stages of weapon training and fieldcraft were started - the built-up area of Margate and surrounding districts proved a disadvantage for this, but the range facilities and helpfulness of HMS "Robertson" were invaluable. Physical exercise on the sands and route marches were carried out in excellent weather and consequently good health and morale were maintained on a high level.

When it became known we were to complete Corps training in Westmorland, an advance party was sent by rail to prepare the new camp and view the training areas. A fortnight later on the 16th March, the main body of the Battalion entrained during the night and arrived early the next morning at Dalton-in-Furness - the Battalion transport having been sent ahead in a Brigade convoy three days earlier.

DALTON

The camp, which had been built to house bombed-out civilians of Barrow and had lately been occupied by the 5th Inniskillings, was well laid out, in good condition and consisted of prefabricated huts with adequate concrete roadways. It was set on high ground overlooking Dalton and the Lake District to the north.

There was the barest pause before training was again in full swing - as at Margate it was based on a six day week with 24 hours stand-off. The areas themselves were good and suitable for all types of training, the only disadvantage being that they were rather too far away and necessitated, on occasion, the use of transport. Within a short time the stages of weapon training and fieldcraft were completed and consequently the services of the Army Instructors who had been mostly drawn from Searchlight and A A Batteries and so possessed only a comparatively limited knowledge of Infantry work themselves, were no longer really required. By this time, Platoons and Sections were properly organised and working as formed units.

The local Council offered us such sports and entertainment facilities as they possessed, and as far as limited leisure allowed, these were taken advantage of. We were able to arrange inter-Battalion and Brigade football and Rugby matches.

The weather experienced during our stay at Dalton was certainly typical of the Lake District and the groundsheets previously scorned were now regarded as prized possessions. There were, however, fine days and on one of the hottest, the Battalion moved out on its first 24 hour exercise, involving an overall march of 16 miles, preparing a defensive position and setting up bivouacs under operational conditions. More than one Company completed the last seven miles of the return march in well under two hours. Then followed a period of more advanced training, interspersed with Battalion and Brigade exercises. Valuable experience was gained from these exercises and it was felt for the first time that the Battalion as an operational unit was gaining strength.

Platoon and other inter unit competitions were organised, which imbued the men with further keenness and spirit.

It was evident that the war in Europe was drawing to its close, but it was firmly hoped that the Battalion might still be used and be able to deal at least one blow before the fighting ceased. This hope continued almost unabated until VE Day and training was maintained as hard as ever to this end.

It was perhaps ironic that the order to move overseas coincided almost exactly with VE Day. The administrative headaches involved rather damped the celebrations, but nearly everyone had 24 hours off.

The transport moved under Brigade arrangements on 10th May to the transit camp at Purfleet, being joined later by the remainder of the Battalion who travelled by train, leaving Dalton on Saturday, 12th May.

CONTINENT

After remaining in the transit Camp overnight, the road and rail parties again separated, the former embarking in Landing Ships Tanks and the latter in Landing Ship Infantry (LST's and LSI's). The crossing to Ostende was uneventful and during the afternoon on Monday, 14th May, the Battalion made their long-sought for footing on the Continent. We then learned that our eventual destination was Kiel and that evening was spent in making preparations for the four day road journey ahead - we were billeted in the transit camp in the centre of Ostende.

In the early morning, the Battalion transport, supplemented by 64 Troop Carrying Vehicles (TCV's) of a Dutch transport unit were drawn up and divided into four echelons. The troops embussed and the first group moved off at 0830 hours. From its start the journey was most interesting, and having traversed Belgium, the first night was spent just short of the German frontier, two miles outside Venlo in Holland. The next two days took us through North Germany; the road we followed had been the axis of advance of the 2nd Army, traced day by day on the map in the Officers' Mess and Information Room at Dalton.

From Venlo, the CO, Adjutant and Signalls Officer went ahead to arrive at Kiel 24 hours ahead of the main body. They found that we were due to relieve 28 Battalion RM in our present location, but not for several days. Thus the main convoy, when it arrived, was stopped several miles short of Kiel on the Noomunster road and Companies were allocated village areas, where they stayed for 48 hours until it was possible to relieve 28 RM.

The roads through Holland and Germany, scarred by battle, made the journey uncomfortable and trying to the vehicles which, nevertheless, stood the strain well. One or two trucks fell out and minor repairs were necessary, but all eventually caught up with the main body.

The outstanding event of the whole move is that of the lone carrier which was stranded at Derby in England due to its war flat (railway truck) having developed trouble and not being allowed to proceed. This carrier, with its complement of two Marines, PO.X.118323 Marine R E Bennett and PLY.X.113888 Marine S Pearson, drove into the Battalion car park at Kiel only four hours after the last vehicles had arrived, having completed the entire journey as a separate entity and relying entirely on their own initiative. They had no previous knowledge of the Battalions destination on the Continent.

KIEL

At Kiel, the Battalion is employed roughly as follows:-

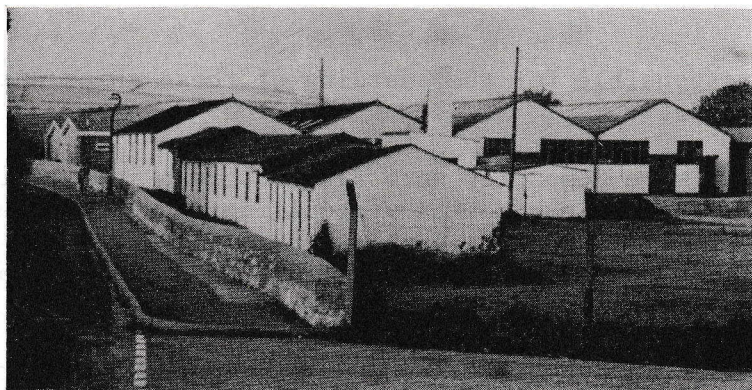
- (i) "A" Company providing guards, sentries and escorts for Naval Officer in Charge (NOIC) and their respective ships.
- (ii) "B" Company organising Boat Patrols and the Boat Pool for NOIC.
- (iii) "C" Company control and unloading of Prisoners of War from the Boom and supervising their landing from German Landing Craft. In addition, one Platoon is guard to the German destroyers which have been de-militarised.
- (iv) "D" Company guard the Prisoners of War in Wik Barracks. These amount to anything from eight to eleven thousand at one time.
- (v) Support Company guards a small, outlying, vital Naval installation, etc, with the Carrier Platoon held as a mobile reserve.

CONCLUSION

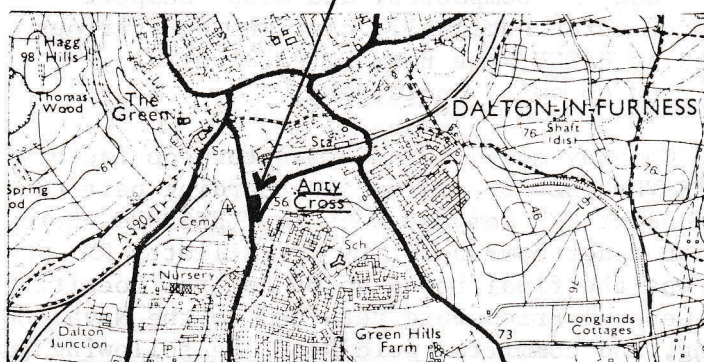
On arrival from Landing Craft at Margate, the men seemed disappointed and dispirited over their change of role, but after training commenced in earnest and it was realised fully that the unit was intended for operations, the spirit and enthusiasm became very great and the standard of the men, both in bearing and training, increased proportionately. There is no doubt that all the personnel have gained considerable advantage as Royal Marines, due to the training, despite the fact that the Battalion did not see any action.



Duffel Coat
('Duffel' - a
course wollen
cloth).

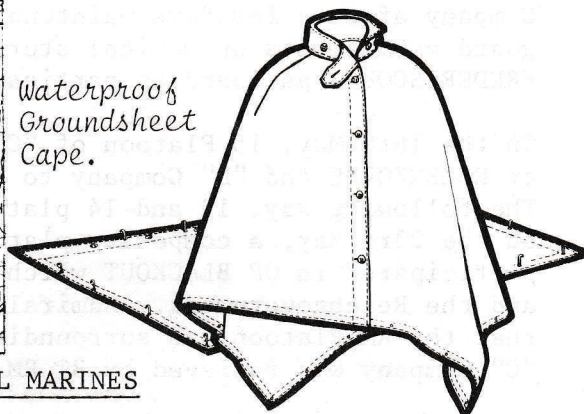


Anty Cross Camp



33rd BATTALION, ROYAL MARINES

Waterproof
Groundsheet
Cape.



On 29th January, 1945, the nucleus of 33 Royal Marines assembled at DEAL and a week later moved to MARGATE. The men arrived in drafts of 250 and by 28th February, HQ and the Rifle Companies were mobilised, nearly all the men having had 7 days embarkation leave. Also by this time 2 Captain and 79 NCO's had arrived from various regiments as weapon training instructors.

In the third week of March, the Battalion less those details of Support Company who were training in NORTHERN IRELAND and WARWICKSHIRE, moved to Anty Cross Camp, DALTON-IN-FURNESS. Corps training here proceeded at very high pressure and included much night training. There were many exercises for Battalion HQ in the field and one Battalion exercise on "Relief in the Line". During this period 33 RM was visited by Commander in Chief Home Forces, General Officer Commanding Western Command and General Officer Commanding 38 Division.

PM Friday 27th April, orders were received to prepare to move overseas and at 1500 hours the following day, all the wheeled vehicles left by road for TILBURY. The remainder of the Battalion went to TILBURY by train and both parties arrived at OSTENDE by sea on May 2nd. After spending a night there in a transit camp, the unit moved to a Naval concentration camp at BOURG LEOPOLD, where the living conditions were far from pleasant. All the vehicles left by road the following day and there was no breakdown in the journey to KIEL with the exception of the carriers whose tracks suffered from the continuous bad roads.

Early on the morning of VE Day, the remainder of the Battalion moved to BRUSSELS and from there flew to an airstrip near HAMBURG; then on by road to LUBECK where the Battalion transport joined up.

After a night just South of KIEL, the Battalion moved into its present billets in the WILHELMPLATZ and in under eight hours after arrival, "A" Company went down to the docks to remove the crews of a flotilla of Narvik class destroyers. By the end of the following day, 11 destroyers were cleared, most of the work having been done after dark. The actual surrenders of two destroyers were made to Major J M Buckett, RM and 2 Lt I J Rutherford, RM. "A" Company was

responsible for the guarding of these ships until relieved by 28 RM 6 days later.

Two more Companies were also out on a job within 24 hours. "B" Company moved complete to the victualling yard on the much bombed East side of the harbour to guard valuable German Naval stores. They continued on their job until relieved by 31 RM on 19th May, having experienced trouble between the Russian slave workers and the Germans.

"C" Company were called out to receive and guard approximately 14,000 Wehrmacht that were being landed that night. They were, however, relieved the following day. For the rest of the week, "C" and "D" Companies, and also "Support" Company after a few days maintenance, were continually carrying out various guard commitments on medical stores at HAGEN, the Boom Defence Vessel; FREDERISCORT, as boarding parties, and on small boats, etc.

On the 16th May, 15 Platoon of "C" Company moved to a German torpedo factory at ECKENFORDE and "D" Company to TRAVEMUNDE for guards and boarding parties. The following day, 13 and 14 platoons of "C" Company went to FLENSBURG where, on the 23rd May, a composite platoon under command of Lt C J Elliott, RM participated in OP BLACKOUT which was the final round up of Admiral Doenitz and the Reichgovernment. Admiral General Friedeburg returned to the Naval HQ that the RM Platoon was surrounding, and committed suicide. The following day, "C" Company was relieved by 31 RM.

On 20th May, the Battalion assumed the commitment of guarding merchant ships destined to sail to the UK and one Platoon of "A" Company proceeded afloat to guard four merchant ships. Two days later, the remainder of the Company proceeded to embark on a further eight merchant ships and the following day "B" Company embarked in 12 merchant ships.

On 22 May, 4 Platoon Support Company took over the control and guarding of all landing craft in KIEL harbour and, on the same day, 3 Platoon and 40 men from 117 Infantry Brigade HQ under command of Captain E S Poole RM, executed a raid on a German Officer's Club.

Two days after this, "D" Company was relieved by 31 RM at TRAVEMUNDE and on 29th May embarked on twelve merchant ships. "C" Company meanwhile was providing the Battalion guard and preparing for the King's Birthday Parade on 2nd June, two sections, however, embarking on 30th May for guard duties in merchant ships.

On 2nd June, six ships guarded by "A" Company proceeded through the KIEL CANAL prior to sailing to the UK.

The Battalion provided a Company of 3 Officers and 75 Other Ranks on H.M. the King's Birthday Parade.

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ABBREVIATIONS (Additions and Corrections to Part One list)

Bde I.O : Brigade Intelligence Officer; BM : Brigade Major
GOCRM : General Officer Commanding RM; AF G1098 : Authorised Scale
FOIC : Flag Officer in Charge; WE : War Establishment
DAA & QMG : Deputy Assistant Adjutant and Quartermaster General
SDS : Signal Despatch Service; MAPLAY : Map Reference Code.
WS : Wireless Sets; VS : Visual Signals; SLIDEX : A Signals Code.
SDO : Signal Despatch Office.

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