

THE ROYAL MARINES

The British Marines date to 28 October 1664 when Charles II authorized the formation of the Duke of York and Albany's Maritime Regiment of Foot, which was also known as the Admiral's Regiment. During this period, the men of the regiment wore knee-length yellow coats lined red with a full length of pewter buttons down the center, two flap pockets fastened with white metal buttons at hip level and broad red cuffs decorated with pewter buttons. The breeches and stockings were red, the broad-brimmed hat black with yellow braid binding, and the shoes black with red bows. The officers' version was even more elaborate and included a gold-trimmed red sash and a white feather plume for the hat. White stocks were worn at the throat on all uniforms.

In 1685 the Duke of York became King James II, and the regiment was turned over to the King's son-in-law, Prince George, and the name was changed to the Prince of Denmark's Regiment. Although the regiment was practically dormant under this name, it cast off the yellow coats and adopted a new uniform. The coats were red with broad yellow cuffs, although one painting of the period shows them, incorrectly, as a blue-green. For officers the coat had white trimming and a white sash. Officers continued to wear the black, plumed hat, now bound in white braid.

The regiment was disbanded in 1689 because of the political climate in England, and the Marines from the unit were sent to join the Coldstream Guards. The next year, however, two regiments of Marines were ordered to be raised. They marched off, or sailed away to battle in Cork, Beachy Head and Jamaica, now in their blue uniforms with white facings. The regiments

suffered heavy losses in their battles, were consolidated as one, and finally disbanded in 1699.

Within three years, a need for Marines arose again, and Queen Anne ordered six regiments of Marines to be raised. They wore red uniforms with different facings for each regiment. They fought in Spain, France and North America, but gained a lasting honor for their Corps with their capture and defense of Gibraltar.

After disbandment in 1713 there were no Marines until 1739, when Britain was again at war with Spain, and soon with France. Two Regiments of Marines were raised, followed by the raising of three further Regiments in the American Colonies. These Regiments played a prominent part in all the subsequent fighting, but with peace in 1748 were disbanded.

In 1755 the Marines were again reformed, designated 'The Marine Corps', and formed into three divisions based at Portsmouth, Chatham and Plymouth. They wore uniforms of red with white facings. Stockings were now covered by white leggings that rose to the knee and covered part of the shoes.

During this period the Marine Corps fought in battles with the French and Spanish and earned one more lasting honor. The Marines spear-headed the assault on Belle Isle off the southeast coast of Brittany, which became the first piece of French territory to fall to British arms during this conflict. The Marines were awarded the laurel wreath for their action there.

When peace with the French came with the treaty of Paris in 1763, troubles arose in the American colonies. Marines sent there were mostly attired as grenadiers (there were also Light Companies in the Battalion) with black

caps, red coats with, in Light Companies, white lapels, white vests and trousers and knee-length black leggings. Officers wore tricorne black hats with gold braid binding.

Familiar old foes, France, Spain and Holland, entered the war on the American side, and the action spread back to Europe and into the West Indies. The Americans were granted independence and the war ended in 1783 with the Treaty of Versailles. By this time the black, cocked hat with a white over red plume on the left side was being worn, but little else about the uniform had changed.

The French declared war on England following the French Revolution in 1793, triggering a long series of wars between the two nations during a period that saw the rise of Napoleon Bonaparte. The tri-corn hat for enlisted men and the cocked hat for officers were the main types of headgear worn by the Marines from 1797. Officers now wore gold epaulets on red coats.

The Corps was given the designation 'Royal' on 29 April 1802 by King George III at the instigation of Admiral Lord St Vincent. Two years later, in 1804, the first companies of Marine Artillery Companies were formed.

The blue facings of a Royal regiment replaced the white facings on the Marines' uniform coats and the high-crowned, narrow-brimmed black hat sometimes termed a 'top hat' became the standard headgear for enlisted men, although some officers alternated it with the cocked hat. The red coatees now worn had standing collars of blue with white and red trim. The cuffs were also blue with white and red braid. White and red 'frogs' extended on either side of the single row of buttons in pairs on the other ranks' jackets. On officers' uniforms the white braiding was replaced by gold. White cross belts with a brass plate at the center were worn by other ranks. The breeches continued to be white and the leggings black. This uniform, with few modifications, continued to be worn throughout the Napoleonic wars during a score of battles, including the famous battle of Trafalgar where Lord Nelson was killed in the hour of victory against the combined French and Spanish fleets, on 21 October 1805. Paintings of that period indicate that Marine NCOs had begun to wear broad white chevrons point down. A year after the end of the Napoleonic wars in 1815, the Royal Marine Artillery began to wear distinctive blue uniforms of the same style as the Army's Royal Artillery,

except that the buttons and hats were the same as those of the rest of the Royal Marines.

The War of 1812 saw three battalions of Royal Marines despatched to North America, and they were amongst the British troops who sacked and burned most public buildings in Washington D.C. on 24 August 1814. The U.S. Marine Commandant's house and the U.S. Marine barracks were spared and, although many legends have arisen in Marine lore for these omissions, no satisfactory explanation has ever been given. The war officially ended with the treaty of Ghent on 24 December 1814, but isolated actions at sea continued for several months, and the last major battle – New Orleans – was fought on 8 January 1815. The slowness of communications in those days cost the British 2036 casualties in a battle fought seventeen days after peace was officially declared.

The Royal Marines continued to fight all around the world and earned so many battle honors that King George IV awarded the Corps 'the Great Globe itself' in lieu of battle honors when colors were presented by the Duke of Clarence in 1827. One engagement was selected to be inscribed on the colors as representative of all the other battles: Gibraltar.

A black, high-crowned peaked shako with a brass plate at the front became part of the Royal Marine uniform after this period and was worn by the red-coated infantrymen and the blue-coated artillerymen in the Carlist War in Spain, in the Crimea and in the China War, although the pattern changed with Army style. Dark blue trousers replaced the white trousers in the field. Non-commissioned officers' chevrons began appearing in gold on a dark blue background.

Around 1830, Royal Marine Artillery officers were wearing blue waist-length coatees with high standing, gold-braided collars, a panel of gold braid on each sleeve and a double row of brass buttons down the flap front. Gold-fringed epaulets were worn on each shoulder. A gold bullion flaming grenade edged in red was worn on each epaulet, and on the coat tails.

At the conclusion of the Crimean War, the Marines were designated a 'Light Corps', and the title of the Corps became Royal Marines (Light Infantry) while their artillery counterparts were called Royal Marine Artillery, although the official designations RMLI and RMA were not forthcoming until 1862. The shako continued to be worn, but a flat-topped peaked cap

was also being worn by officers. The crown was blue with a red band below it. On the red band was a silver globe showing the eastern hemisphere. A bullion laurel wreath surrounded the globe. Above the globe was the stringed bugle of a light infantry regiment or company, but this was not worn yet on the undress cap. The Corps' famous globe and laurel was moving into prominence. It was also being worn as a collar badge.

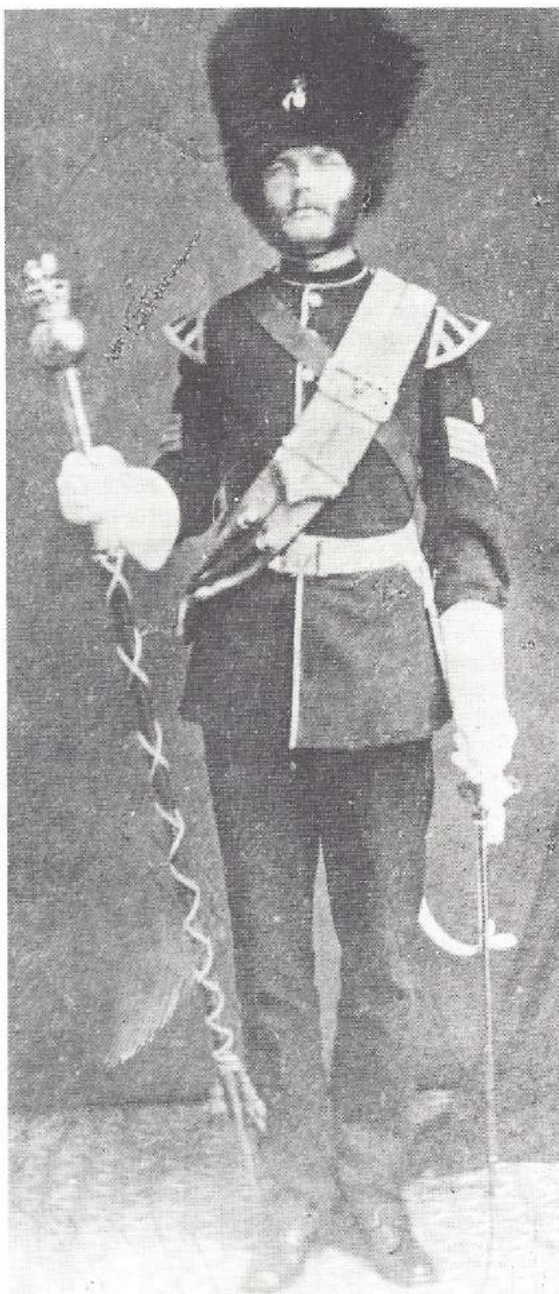
During the 1870s the Marines put on a new headgear as they were made part of the force fighting the fierce Ashanti tribe on the West Coast of Africa. The RMLI wore their red coats with dark blue trousers, gaitered into boots, as they marched into the steamy jungle. A few wore tropical helmets, but the most common headgear for this campaign was a white 'French Foreign Legion' type képi complete with neck flap.

During the next decade the Marines operated further north, in Egypt, and wore a blue uniform with white tropical helmets as they engaged the 'fuzzy-wuzzies' and other forces of the Mahdi. The white helmets gave way to khaki ones before the fight was over. Some Marines also found a new method of transportation as they joined the Guards Camel Regiment in an attempt to rescue Gen. Gordon. This attempt failed. More than a decade passed before the Royal Marines returned to the Sudan, and when they did, in 1896, it was a small party of RMA which carried on the Corps tradition for fidelity and bravery in battle.

Although both the RMLI and RMA participated in the Boer War, they fought only one major land battle—at Graspan. The Marines who fought ashore were dressed in the tropical kit of light tan khaki, including the new wrap-around leggings, which left them virtually indistinguishable from their Army brothers-in-arms.

On 31 May 1900, 82 members of the Royal Marine Light Infantry swung through the streets of Peking on their way to the Foreign Legation enclave inside the Tartar City. They were part of the eight-nation 'winter Guard' of 340 marines and sailors called to protect the ten foreign diplomatic missions inside that section of the Chinese capital. A Chinese secret society, the 'I Ho Ch'uan', which translates as either the Righteous or Patriotic Harmony Fists, whose members, in a sort of a pun, were called 'Boxers' by Westerners, had become powerful and threatened to kill all 'foreign devils' in China.

The relatively small force sent to protect the legations was joined by another ninety men on



Drum Major John Greenfield, Plymouth Divisional Band, Royal Marines Light Infantry, 1873–1886. Bearskin caps, authorised from 1768, developed during the Seven Years' War when the grenadiers began to cover the front of their cloth caps with fur in imitation of European regiments. All bearskin caps were abolished in 1843, except those of the foot guards and Scots grays and bandsmen.

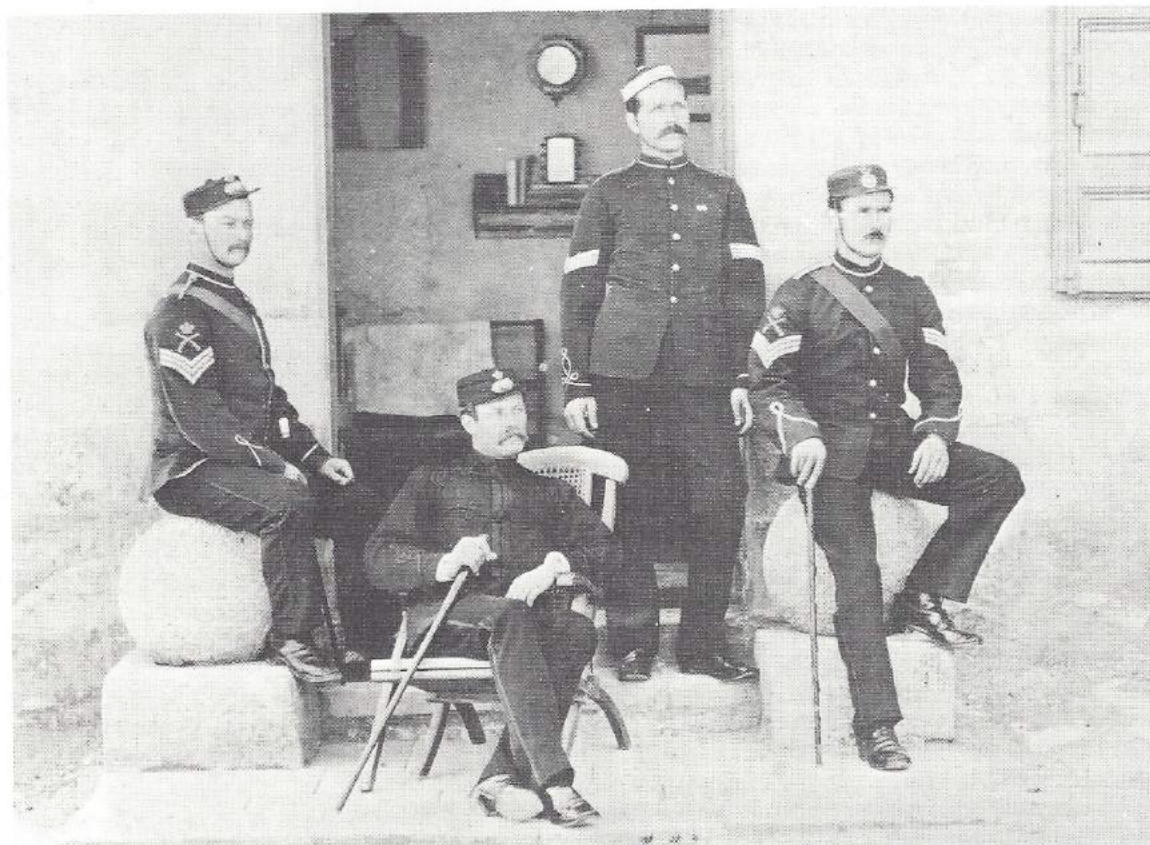
4 June. This was to be the defense line against untold thousands of Boxers who had at first tacit approval, and finally, physical help from the official Chinese government. The troops were from Austria, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Japan, Russia and the United States. Although both the Dutch and Spanish governments maintained legations in Peking, they apparently contributed no troops to the defense of the Legation Quarter.

The RMLI members in the detachment were wearing the new work order uniform of white trousers, blue coat and cap. The headgear, the recently introduced 'side cap', was trimmed in red piping, and the coat had red shoulder cords. The standing collar had red embroidered stringed bugles on each side. The RMLI badge was worn on the left side of the cap. The Boxers laid siege to the three-quarter-mile square Legation Quarter. It took 55 days for an Allied relief force, which eventually numbered 14,000, to reach the besieged area. Both inside the Legation Quarter and in the relief expedition

A studio portrait of a Marine, circa 1914-18, displaying a wound stripe on his left lower sleeve, globe and laurel emblems on his collar, single patch breast pocket, and two patch side pockets. The buttons bear an anchor surmounted by a crown and encircled by 'ROYAL MARINES' and a laurel wreath.

Below right: Lieutenant G.E. Barnes, Royal Marine Artillery astride his horse Nellie, at Esquimalt, Canada, where he was commanding officer of the RMA detachment circa 1896. The cypher on the sabretache and the bursting grenade on the collar are of interest.

Below: Captain A.B. Liardet Royal Marines Light Infantry, and his Musketry Staff, on Malta in 1885.





Royal Marines and U.S. Marines fought side by side. Both the Royal Marine commander at Peking, Capt. L. S. T. Halliday, and the USMC commander, Capt. John Twiggs Meyers, were wounded during the battle and were decorated by their governments. Halliday received the Victoria Cross. The two Corps would meet again in common cause in the Far East a half century later.

Although the basic uniform differences had earned the RMLI and RMA the nicknames of 'Red Marines' and 'Blue Marines', there were variations, as in the blue coats and caps worn by RMLI members during the Boxer campaign. Both also had white uniforms.

A variety of headgear was also worn in the period around the turn of the century. Both RMLI and RMA wore blue 'home service' pattern helmets which had been introduced in 1878. The former wore it with a spike, the latter with a ball top. There were several variations in helmet plates over the years. The RMLI plate was very similar to the one currently worn. It was an eight-pointed star topped by a crown, sitting on the eighth point. In the center of the star was the Corps' globe circled by a belt with the Corps' motto, *Per Mare Per Terram* - 'By Sea By Land' - used since 1775. At the bottom point of the star was the anchor and stringed bugle. In 1902, the Victorian Crowns on the plates were changed to the Imperial Crown. The RMA members wore a brass bursting grenade helmet plate. Other headgear in this period included the side cap, the 'pill box' cap, peaked caps, and the so-called 'Broderick' caps which were like peaked caps with the peaks removed.

As the new century moved into its teens, events forecast that the RMLI and RMA would soon be wearing a common helmet. The blue helmet gave way to the white tropical helmet for home service in 1905 and the Wolseley pattern helmet in 1912.

When war came, it was no surprise to the Royal Marines or any other alert member of the British Armed Forces. The government had been preparing to enter the conflict and sent mobilization telegrams to members of the forces two days before officially entering the fray on 4 August 1914.

Both the RMLI and the RMA went into what became the Great War, and, later, World War I, in blue uniforms with the blue Broderick cap. The artillerymen's badge on that cap was the

brass flaming grenade, while the infantrymen wore the globe and laurel with the stringed bugle above. Officers wore a number of distinctive uniforms, among them a blue uniform that included a double-breasted, knee-length frock coat. The blue peaked cap with red band was worn with this uniform; in summer a white cap cover could be worn over the blue peaked cap. RMLI officers wore a cap badge of a gold-thread embroidered laurel wreath, a silver and gold metal globe and a metal stringed bugle. On the uniform collars the badge was similar but without the bugle. RMA officers had crossed cannon above the globe and laurel on the cap and wore horizontal flaming grenades on the collars.

Much of the service of Royal Marines during this war was afloat, but at the onset of the British entry into the conflict, a Royal Marine brigade was sent to Belgium to be part of the Royal Naval Division. One battalion of this brigade was made up of the RMA, but at the end of the month was withdrawn to become the nucleus of the Howitzer Brigade and the Anti-Aircraft Brigade.

The former was formed to man the 15-inch howitzers that gave solid backing to the British effort on the Western front throughout the war.

The new style of war on land brought new style uniforms. The Royal Marines, both infantry and artillery, were soon dressed in the same khaki uniforms as their Army counterparts. It had a single-breasted coat with stand-and-fall collar, trousers and puttees. The headgear was a soft, peaked cap with the RMLI or RMA badge in brass worn at the front. In combat the newly-adopted British shallow steel helmet was worn.

A number of special units were formed by the Royal Marines during World War I, and some of them were given a special cap badge, including the R.M. Labour Corps, which was formed in February 1917 from two companies of the Army Service Corps. The Labour Corps' badge was the globe and laurel surmounted by a sailing ship. The RME wore just a globe and laurel. Some RM officers qualified as pilots during the war and earlier, but there was no separate Marine badge for this speciality. Officers of the Royal Naval Air

The Drum and Fife Band of the RMA detachment at Esquimalt, Canada, circa 1896, identified as, left to right, rear rank, Gunners Spencer, Buxton, Hatcher, Gadsby, and Edwards, and, front rank Bugler Boyce, Gunners

Davis and James, Cpl Harris, Bombardier Brennan, and Bugler Rann, with Royal. The rank stripes on Harris' and Brennan's headgear are noteworthy.



Service wore a badge above their rank stripes of an eagle in flight, and RM officers wore the eagle in flight badge on the left breast above the pocket.

The war caused heavy losses to the Royal Marines both afloat and ashore and engraved some new names on the pages of Corps history: Ostend, Gallipoli, Zeebrugge, and a score more. At the war's end the Corps' losses totaled nearly 6000 but its strength had grown to 55,000. Within a year this had dropped to 15,000. More cuts were ahead. The days of the 'Red Marines' and the 'Blue Marines' were numbered.

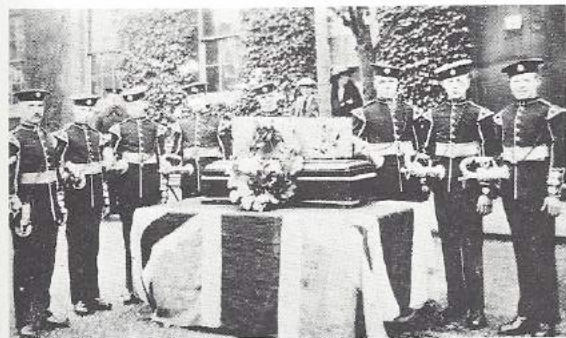
By 1923, Corps strength had been cut to 9500 and the decision was made to amalgamate the RMLI and RMA. By this time, the everyday uniform was primarily the blue one. The dress uniform retained by the new Royal Marines was the blue of the RMA topped by either the white Wolseley pattern helmet or the blue peaked cap with red band, which had a white cover in summer.

The amalgamation ended the use of the stringed bugle of the RMLI and the grenades and cannons of the RMA on badges. In their place, above the globe and laurel on caps, was the lion and crown (the distinguishing badge of a Royal regi-

ment). Between the wars there was little change in the uniforms after amalgamation. There was service in China during the 1920s and in the various outposts of the Empire, and, of course, there was continued service in the fleet.

When World War II began in September 1939, Corps strength stood at 12,000. Corps members were wearing the blue uniform adopted in 1923, the World War I khaki service dress, lighter weight khaki drill for warmer climates, and a new type of uniform that had been in the works since 1937 and started being issued to selected troops in 1938. The uniform was khaki with a stand-and-fall collar on the waist length blouse. The trousers had a large, flap pocket just above the knee on the left leg. It underwent revisions during the war years, but the basic design remained the same. The uniform was the bane of the spit-and-polish British regiments, and the Royal Marines were no exception. But, being introduced as the curtain was rising on history's greatest war, the new field clothing was eventually and inevitably dubbed 'battledress'.

Early in the war the Marines wore battledress along with the khaki side cap that had two brass buttons at the front, and the Royal Marines brass cap badge on the left side. For a time, at least,



Above: RMLI buglers, aged 14 and 15, at Chatham Barracks in 1919 on the anniversary of the storming of Zeebrugge mole by HMS *Vindictive*, part of whose funnell casing mounted on a section of her upperdeck is in the foreground. This was the first use of silver bugles, while the buglers wear the last red tunics to be worn.

Right: An unusual combination indicating a Royal Naval chaplain attached to 44 Cdo, RM. The red fighting knife on a black triangle was worn by RM commandos of the Special Service Group, 1944-46.



Field Marshal Montgomery presents TSM H.F.G. Beavan of 45 Cdo, RM, with the Military Medal at Kiel on 1 June 1945. The style of Beavan's shoulder flash above the Combined Operations flash is noteworthy. On his left sleeve, he wears a Troop Sergeant Major's rank badge of crown surrounded by a laurel. Montgomery wears the 21st Army Group's formation sign.



Major-General Laycock inspects NCOs of 45 Cdo, RM (with a Royal Navy commando in the foreground). The good conduct stripes on the lower sleeve, the corporals' and lance-corporals' stripes and the styles and colours of shoulder flashes are noteworthy.





Captain Musto, Royal Marines explains items of Special Boat Service equipment to a Royal Navy Admiral, circa 1957. Musto wears the red fighting knife on a black triangle which was worn between 1946 and 1964 by the 3rd Commando Brigade, and previously by the Special Service Group.

Below left: The colours of 41 Cdo, RM on parade for the United Nation's Medal Parade at UNICYP BRITCON (UN Forces In Cyprus, British Contingent) Base Cyprus, September 1979. In the front rank, left to right, are Lt Mark Baily, WO2 Bob Williams, and Lt Tony Airey behind whom are Colour Sgts Tony Higgins and Bill Newton.



Below: Sergeant Alan Rennles, RM, pointing out the location of the Temporary Cease-Fire Line to the Marines on escort duty, Derrick Pinnington and John Taylor, while serving as part of the UN peace keeping forces in Cyprus. The different UN cap and arm badges can be seen.



officers continued to wear the standard khaki uniform coat with lapels and four flap pockets. The globe and laurel insignia in bronze was worn on the upper lapels. A Sam Browne belt was worn. The khaki, peaked cap had the peak covered in the same material as the rest of the cap. The bronze cap insignia had the lion and crown separated from the globe and laurel, which was the standard officer style. A light green shirt and tie were worn with this uniform. This uniform soon gave way to battledress, although officers had and still have the collars open, worn with a khaki shirt and tie.

Battledress was the uniform the Royal Marines wore as they were formed into a Mobile Naval Base Defence Organization, an Amphibious Infantry Division, a Siege Regiment, and units of engineers as the war got under way.

Shoulder flashes and formation signs were beginning to appear throughout the Army, and the practice quickly spread to the Royal Marines. The Royal Marines Division wore a red, wedge-shaped shoulder patch with a yellow trident in the center. The Siege Regiment, which manned the big guns that shelled the French Coast from Dover, wore (shades of the Royal Marine Artillery) a red flaming grenade on a khaki background. The engineers wore a blue shield with a red anchor afoul with white rope and a yellow bursting grenade. While many of the Marines served aboard ship, others were waiting to perform the Royal Marine speciality – amphibious operations. The so-called ‘phoney war’ period in Europe between September 1939 and 10 May 1940 prevented this, but other opportunities soon presented themselves.



A group of 41 Cdo, RM and attached WRENs wearing their UN medals after the Medal Parade at the BRITCON Base Cyprus in 1979. The UN's emblem replaced the RM beret badge; another style of UN emblem was worn as an arm badge above a small cloth Union Jack on the upper left arm.

Newly-qualified RM pilot with Army wings at an Army Air Corps ceremony, with an Army major-general. The specialist badge (upper) denotes a Marksman, and the lower is a clerk third class skill badge.

Sgt Lawrence, the first RM NCO to qualify as a pilot, wears the Lovat uniform with subdued lapel badges and buttons, the latter bearing an anchor and crown encircled by ‘ROYAL MARINES’ and a laurel wreath.





Member of 42 Cdo, RM on street patrol in Port Stanley, in the 'mop-up' at the end of the 1982 Falklands war. His combat dress is identical to that of the Army.

A blinding snowstorm was in progress as H.M.S. *Berwick* glided as quietly as possible for a cruiser into the inner harbor of Reykjavik, Iceland. It was 4.00 am on 10 May 1940. The Marines landed without opposition in this remote northern land which had grown to strategic importance because of its position on the North Atlantic trade route. Units of the 680-man Royal Marine 2nd Battalion quickly took over the telegraph, telephone and radio broadcasting offices and then made their way to the only enemy outpost in this island nation – the German consulate.

Dressed in World War I type steel helmets and with khaki battledress buttoned tight against the late spring cold, the two platoons under Major S. G. Cutler trotted briskly through the snow with black boots sinking at times almost to the short, web anklets. The Army-style NCOs chev-

rons, blanched white by the marines, seemed a perfect match for the snow. The consulate was secured, secret papers captured as the Nazis tried to burn them, and known Nazi agents rounded up. The net snared one German naval officer who had been put ashore from a U-boat earlier. The Marines stayed on as an occupying force until 20 May when Army troops took over the duties. These soldiers held the island against the German invasion threat until relieved in May 1941 by 147th Infantry Brigade and then by the 1st Provisional Marine Brigade. These Marines, however, were not the Royals. They wore an eagle and anchor with their globe insignia and came to Iceland to protect interests of the United States. They also freed several hundreds of British troops for service elsewhere.

Dark blue battledress was issued to Marines who were serving in ships' detachments or as landing craft crews. Although Marines were busily engaged aboard ship, little use had been made of them as ground forces, although some had been landed in Norway in rescue and rear-guard operations, and other landings had been made in Holland and France. A Marine force of 2000 was sent to the Island of Crete early in 1941, but suffered heavy losses when German paratroopers attacked and captured the island.

A red patch with the Marine emblem in brass was now worn on the left side. A shoulder flash with the words 'Royal Marines' in red on dark blue cloth was also being worn on both sleeves of the battledress.

In 1942, what was to become the speciality of the Royal Marines after World War II, got under way with the formation of 'A' and 'B' Commandos within the Corps. The Army had already formed commando units which specialized in lightning raids on enemy-held territory and reportedly mounted mild protests to letting the Marines in on this speciality. But the objections were ignored, and the two Royal Marines Commandos were soon designated as 40 and 41.

The first test of a Royal Marine Commando came during operation *Jubilee*, the amphibious landings by Allied forces at Dieppe on the French Channel Coast at dawn on 19 August 1942. A German force was ready and waiting. The Royal Marines were sent in as reinforcements at about 0830 hrs. After surveying the situation Lt Col. Peter Picton Phillips, the R.M. Commando's commanding officer knew his men headed toward the beach would encounter almost certain

slaughter. Only when the futility of further action was demonstrable did he don white string gloves, carried to assist him in his beach landings, and stand up, utterly exposed, in the stern of his launch, which led the assault, and wave back the landing craft astern. The gloves made him more visible to the landing craft crews. They also made him more visible to the Germans. He was shot down, but he had achieved his objective; he had saved 200 of his men. Only the two LCMs on the flanks did not see his signals and beached; all their occupants were killed or captured.

Eventually, there were nine R.M. Commandos, numbered 40 to 48. They wore red on blue shoulder flashes that varied somewhat during the war. Early flashes had the numbers written, such as 'No. 45', over a straight Royal Marines flash with a Commando flash below it. One version later had the number on top, followed by a line with the word, 'Commando' followed by another line with 'Royal Marines'. Later versions dropped the 'No.' and had the numerals standing

alone above the rest of the flash. Commandos also wore the Combined Operations patch below the flashes, but with their own little re-styling touch. The patch was originally issued with an arch-shaped black background with an anchor, an eagle and a submachine-gun all in red in the center. The Commandos trimmed the patch into a circle, after approval had been given by the Earl Mountbatten, who was Chief of Combined Operations at the time. Another patch worn by the Commandos later in the war was a red fighting knife point up, on an inverted isosceles triangle.

Royal Marine Commandos were wearing green berets when they spearheaded the invasions of Sicily and the Italian mainland in 1943. By late 1943 blue berets had become the standard headgear worn with both the khaki and blue battle-dress. The next year Royal Marines were in the forefront of the Normandy invasion and took part in many operations throughout the balance of the war in Europe. In addition to the Commandos,



three battalions, operating under the umbrella of the 116th Brigade, fought on the Maas and at Oldenburg. They wore the old R.M. Division formation sign of a yellow trident on a red triangle. The 33rd Battalion of the 117th Brigade was sent to Germany at war's end to take part in the surrender of the German ports and harbor installations. They wore the Brigade formation sign of a six-pointed yellow star with a solid red circle in the center on which a yellow foul anchor was superimposed.

Royal Marine ground activity against the Japanese in the final years of the war was largely confined to the theater of operations where 42 and 44 Commandos wore khaki drill and field clothing most of the time. Royal Marines also served aboard ship throughout the British Pacific Fleet, Task Force 57.

Some 350 miles from the Japanese mainland on Easter Sunday, 1945, troops from the U.S. Marine Corps' 1st and 2nd Divisions joined Army comrades in what was to become the last land battle of the Pacific War. They hit the beaches at Okinawa supported by the ships of the U.S. and British fleets. As the American Marines fought on the ground below, Royal Marine pilots were among those giving close air support from above. It was among the few operations of World War II in which both Corps participated.

The strength of the Royal Marines in 1944 was 78,500 officers and men, of whom 3,999 were killed during the conflict.

Special mention should be made of the Royal Marines Band Service, which became responsible for bands in the Royal Navy in 1903. Distinctive uniforms have been and still are worn by Royal Marine bandsmen. Dating to the mid eighteenth century, when Divisional bands were formed, the bands have had their ups and downs as defense cuts reduced and wars increased the

strength of the Corps. Until 1930, Divisional bands existed at Chatham, Plymouth, Portsmouth, and Deal.

Among distinctive badges worn by the bands is the Prince of Wales plumes, awarded to the Plymouth band in 1922. It is worn on the cap in white metal between the lion and crown and the globe and laurel. The Rose of York, awarded in 1902 to the Chatham band, was worn in the same position. The Portsmouth Band, now the band of CINCPACFLT, wears a special badge of bursting grenade and laurel wreath, plus the cyphers of King George V, Queen Elizabeth II, and Prince Philip. This band also wears a Royal Yacht curved shoulder flash surmounted by a crown on the right shoulder. Band members of the Royal Naval School of Music, as distinct from the Divisional Bands, from 1903-50 wore a lyre over the globe and laurel cap badge and a lyre as a collar badge. R.M.B. shoulder titles have also been worn. In addition to the standard R.M. uniforms, band members wear pre-war cere-



Left: Arriving back in Britain, the Royal Marine garrison of Port Stanley which was forced to surrender to the Argentinian invaders' overwhelming numbers and firepower. The corporal has parachutist's wing on his 'woolly-pully', the only RM item on which shoulder flashes are worn.

Right: Major General Jeremy Moore, RM, CB, OBE, MC, holds the signed Argentinian surrender document which ended the 1982 Falklands war. Just visible between his breast pockets is his rank tab, a position adopted on combat dress during the Falklands war.

monial 'blues' which had high yellow or gold-trimmed red collars with embroidered globe and laurel collar badges. A special white tunic with high collar is also worn, but has no collar badges. Recent defense cuts indicate that the Commando Forces band will be phased out. It inherited the Prince of Wales plumes from the Plymouth Divisional Band, and, so far, it is uncertain what will become of this unique insignia.

Following World War II, battledress was still the mainstay uniform for everyday dress in the Royal Marines, but as they saw service in varied places such as Palestine, Malaya, Cyprus, Suez, Aden, and Borneo, field clothing in green khaki

Right: Royal Marine Band buglers, c. 1963, wearing the pre-war blue uniform with high red collar trimmed in yellow or gold with embroidered globe and laurel.

Below: Royal Marine bandsman wearing the Prince's Badge on his left shoulder. The white Wolseley pattern helmet is a pre-war relic. The helmet plate, an eight-pointed star, is derived from nineteenth century RMLI styles, and the ball top from the RMA.





drill and other rigs more suitable for warmer weather were worn. A soft crowned, narrow-brimmed hat was also worn with some field clothing in place of the beret. Warm-weather gear was not all the Corps would be needing as the 1950s opened and new trouble spots exploded.

'They've got us surrounded. The bastards won't get away this time.' The date was 28 November 1950, the place was Koto-ri, North Korea, and the speaker was Col. Lewis B. 'Chesty' Puller, USMC. He was talking to Lt Col. Douglas B. Drysdale, commander of 41 Independent Commando, Royal Marines. Drysdale was given one of the toughest tasks of the Korean War; he was ordered to try to get a combined British-American force through the encircling Chinese Communist forces to the city of Hagaru, 11 miles away, where Lt Col. Thomas L. Ridge, USMC, was holding out with his outnumbered 3rd Battalion, 1st (U.S.) Marines.

Task Force Drysdale reached its objective two days later, but at great cost. The force consisted of 41 Independent Commando, G Company, 1st U.S. Marines, and B Company, 31st U.S. Army Infantry. Nearly half the task force, including 61 Commandos, was lost in the battle of Hell Fire Valley. Drysdale, who was wounded himself,

punched through with half the force to Hagaru to reinforce Ridge's beleaguered battalion with 300 men, 174 of whom were Royal Marines. Getting there had cost the force 321 casualties.

41 Independent Commando, Royal Marines, was specially formed in August 1950 at Plymouth to serve with the U.S. 1st Marine Division in Korea. The men of the unit, dressed in plain clothes, were flown to Japan where they were issued American equipment. American field clothing was worn by the Royal Marines in Korea, although they retained their distinctive beret. In addition to their fight to reach Hagaru during the retreat of the 1st U.S. Marine Division from the Chosin Reservoir, the Commando also participated in some coastal raids and other actions. The Commando was awarded the U.S. Presidential Unit Citation. All R.M. Commandos wear colored lanyards, the one of 41 being old gold. This Commando was disbanded in February 1952, reformed in March 1960, disbanded in 1977 but reformed and finally disbanded in 1981.

Royal Marine service since World War II has covered half the world: Palestine, Malaya, Cyprus, Suez, Kuwait, Aden, Brunei, Tanganyika, Borneo, Radfan, Hong Kong, Northern Ireland, and Belize have all echoed to the marching boots of Her Majesty's Jollies. That

Members of the Women's Royal Naval Service assigned to the Royal Marines during World War II, wearing WRNS

uniform and rank insignia, but with the globe and laurel and lion on the seaman's cap.





Above: MARENS photographed in 1979 on the Thames. The officer (foreground) has an WRNS cap emblem, but the Petty Officers on the flanks do not, although all wear WRNS rank insignia.

Lt Col. P. G. Ferguson, RM, presenting Leading Wren Susan Smithson with a bronze medal for the winning team in the Wrens inter-unit shooting competition, 1975. The manner of wearing the cap insignia on a red patch is shown.



The King's Badge, instituted by King George V in March 1918. In July 1952 Queen Elizabeth II approved that the style and custom remained unchanged.



The first Royal Marine Forces Volunteer Reserve shoulder badge issued in 1948 and worn until 1952. The title has since become Royal Marine Reserve.



A Royal Marine officer's shoulder belt badge, 1784-85.



The Prince's Badge, awarded annually since 1978 to the best Boy Musician or Bugler in Senior, or Commandant General's Squads training at Deal.



Marine officer's gorget, the last relic of medieval armour, worn on a ribbon around the neck. They were established in 1830.



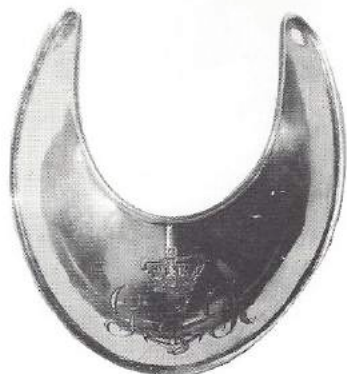
Royal Marine waist belt plate bearing Queen Victoria's Royal Cypher surmounted by a Queen's Crown. The plate is 1.7in by 2.25in.



The Prince's Badge. (The Commandant General, RM approved the title 'Commandant General's Squad' in January 1950.)



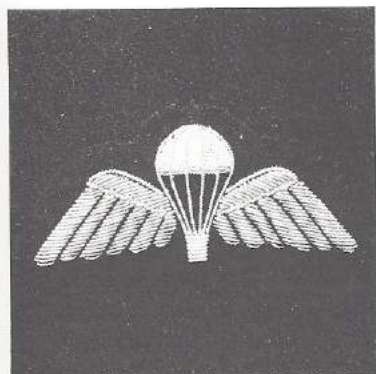
Original style of RM gorget, 4.2in deep, and 3.75in wide. They were worn to indicate the officer was on duty.



Royal Marine officer's waist belt plate, 1830-55. The King's Crown is surmounted by a lion, distinguishing of a Royal regiment, which the Marines became in 1802.



The gold on blue parachutist's wings worn two inches below the shoulder seam of the right arm of an NCO's blue uniform tunic.



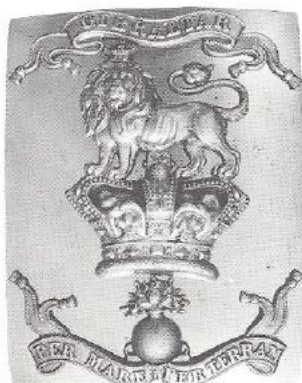
Colour sergeants gold on red herringbone pattern stripes and gold on blue Crown, worn on the right upper sleeve only, but now not worn on blues.



RM Gun Layer 3rd class badge (upper) which replaced the single gun emblem c. 1950; Marksman's badge; Good Conduct badges.



Royal Marine Artillery officer's shoulder belt plate from the reign of Queen Victoria, having a Queen's Crown and RMA bursting grenade.



Royal Marine officer's shoulder belt plate, 1830-55, with the battle honour 'Gibraltar', awarded in 1827 to represent all the many and King's Crown.



Royal Marine officer's shoulder belt plate, 1826-30, bearing the lion of a Royal Regiment upon a King's Crown, surrounded by an oak wreath.



Royal Marines Artillery Company officer's waist belt locker, 1857-59. The first official mention of the title RMA dates to 1862.



Full Dress waist belt locker, warrant officer RM Bands, 1923-39. It measures 3.78in by 1.96in.



Other Ranks valise badge, RMA and RMLI, 1877-1901.



Badge of the 21st Bombay Native Infantry, a Sepoy Marine Battalion dating from January 1777, but unconnected with the Royal Marines.



Pouch badge, 1902–70. Note that the King's Crown was not changed until 1970 due to the large stocks remaining. It is 3.15 in in height.



RMLI horse martingale badge, 1893–1902. This badge is 3 in high.



Royal Marine Artillery horse martingale badge, 1893–1902. It is 3.17 in high.



An unidentified prototype, therefore unofficial, globe and laurel wreath badge. The laurel wreath was awarded for the Marine's assault on Belle Isle.



An unidentified prototype, therefore unofficial, Royal Marine Light Infantry cap badge, with the stringed bugle which distinguished the RMLI.



Unauthenticated belt buckle plate, 2.85 in high and 2.15 in wide.



A Royal Marine Artillery hat plate, 1816–21: it leaves no doubt as to the wearer's occupation! It is 4.9 in high and 3.55 in wide.



The badge of the Royal Marines Labour Corp, a globe and laurel surmounted by a sailing ship, from World War I.



term, incidentally, originated in the late seventeenth century and had its base in London street slang of that era. Citizen soldiers were known as 'Tame Jollies' and the Marines were called 'Royal Jollies.' The term was immortalized by Rudyard Kipling in the poem 'Soldier and Sailor, Too'.

In 1964 the Royal Marines said farewell to battledress and adopted a distinctive new dress for everyday wear. Called 'Lovat dress' it is a shade of green slightly lighter than the forestry green of the U.S. Marines. This is worn with the green Commando beret and with the blue beret with red patch and brass globe and laurel for ranks under training. Band ranks wear the white peaked cap with red band with Lovat dress. Light khaki shirts and neckties are worn with this uniform which has a tunic with turned-back lapels. Bronze collar insignia buttons and initials are worn with this uniform. Chevrons worn with Lovat dress are gold on dark green and are of a slightly smaller pattern than those worn on the blue uniform.

Chevrons are worn on the right sleeve only. Color sergeants wear a crown above their stripes on all uniforms, except the blues, when they wear the traditional color sergeants' badge consisting of a globe on crossed union flags having a crown above and a foul anchor below, surrounded by a laurel wreath. Rank chevrons are worn point down, except for drum and bugle majors and provost sergeants who wear them point up. Good conduct stripes are worn bottom point up, but on the lower left sleeve only. When greatcoats are worn, chevrons are at the cuff level, otherwise they are always worn about 10½ inches below the shoulder seam.

In addition to Lovat and blue dress, light khaki drill uniforms are worn in tropical climates for everyday wear. They have turned-back lapels for officers. Collar badges are worn only by officers on this uniform. Either the peaked cap or the dress helmet are worn with this uniform. A variety of combat and field clothing is worn. A popular item of everyday wear is a knit sweater or pullover known as a 'woolly-pully', which is often worn instead of the tunic in Lovat dress. The sweater is an olive drab shade. It is the only Royal Marines uniform item on which the Royal Marine Commando shoulder flash and Royal Marines Band Services title are worn.

As Britain's sole Commando units, the Royal Marines and R.M. Reserve receive highly spe-

cialized training. Most of this is done at Lympstone. Because of cuts announced in 1981, the Royal Marines presence in some traditional bases is uncertain, but Portsmouth, Deal, Plymouth, Arbroath, and Poole still serve.

Some work at Marine bases is performed by members of the Women's Royal Naval Service (WRNS). Wrens assigned to the Royal Marines are often called 'Marens'. They wear the regular WRNS dark blue uniform, but instead of a cap tally wear the Royal Marine badge on a red patch.

On 2 April 1982 Argentine forces landed at Port Stanley, the Falkland's capital, and next day at Grytviken, South Georgia, overwhelming the token Marine garrisons. Britain rapidly mounted an amphibious operation to retake the islands. The initial landings being carried out by 40 and 45 Cdo and 2 and 3 Para. 42 Cdo remained afloat as reserve, landing later. The main Argentine force, concentrated around Stanley, had to be defeated, but direct sea assault was not viable. The British landed 65 miles away at San Carlos Bay. Early in May, SAS and RM Special Boat Squadron section were deployed on reconnaissance tasks critical to the selection of the landing site. The enemy believed a march from San Carlos was impossible in winter, but the Marines have a saying: 'The difficult we will do at once, the impossible will take a bit longer'. On the night of 26 May 3 Cdo Bde began its march across moors, hills and mountains in rain, sleet and freezing winds, with little helicopter lift. As decisive as a major action, it demoralized the enemy. It also promoted a new word: yomping. 5th Infantry Bde which landed later also closed in. Maj. Gen. Moore, RM who had been appointed Land Forces Commander launched the final offensive on the night of 11/12 June, and after determined attacks on the remaining Argentinian positions by all units, the enemy's will finally broke and surrender became inevitable on 14 June. This was unmechanized infantry war radically different to Ulster anti-terrorism and Rhine army technology, but the Marines have had considerable experience of such warfare since 1945. Marine aviators were in the forefront of supply and casevac helicopter operations throughout the campaign, the first occasion they had operated with and got awards from all three services. In the Falklands Marines wore rank on chest tabs, as in Norway where it is also worn on headgear as per NATO. The only distinctive features were the globe and laurel on green berets.