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CORPS BULLETIN

Captain General's Portrait

Officers of the Corps have commissioned Mr. Edward Halliday to paint a portrait of His Royal Highness in the uniform of the Captain General.

Mr. Edward Halliday is President of the Royal Society of British Artists and Member of the Royal Society of Portrait Painters.

The portrait is set against an outdoor scene. At His Royal Highness's suggestion, the background is likely to include the Rock of Gibraltar, and HMS **Bulwark**. It will be hung temporarily in the Officers' Mess, Eastney, until the new Mess is completed at ITCRM.

The fee is being provided by subscriptions from the Officers. No personal subscription will exceed one pound. Retired Officers may wish to contribute and should forward cheques to PRORM, payable "RM Portrait Fund."

Captain General Visits Malta

During April, the Captain General visited units and detachments serving in Malta.

Prince Philip was met at Hal Far by the Governor, the Commander-in-Chief and the CGRM. The first visit was to HMS **Bulwark** where HRH spoke to SNCOs of 42 Commando and senior ratings of the ship's company. Later he dined with the Officers.

Early on 26th April, 42 Commando began a rehearsal for Exercise 'Sky Pioneer.' Prince Philip watched helicopters taking off from the ship, then flew to St. Paul's Bay where 40 Commando made a seaborne assault from the Amphibious Warfare Squadron. Later he flew to various parts of the Island to watch the exploitation phase of the rehearsal.

The Captain General visited St. Andrew's to meet the families and dined with the Officers at Brigade Headquarters. On returning to UK, HRH made the following signal:

"I was delighted to see something of the Commando Brigade both on and off duty. Although the visit was a bit rushed it was enough to give me a good impression of the professional competence and the high standard of smartness and cheerfulness which I have come to expect from all units of the Royal Marines. I hope your exercise in North Africa will go well and I send all under your command my very best wishes."

Mayor of Chippenham

Mr. R. G. Archard, ex Colour-Sergeant, Royal Marines was installed as Mayor of Chippenham, Wilts, on 24th May, 1960.

Mr. Orchard is the Honorary Secretary of the Chippenham Branch, RMA. Characteristically, he has decided to continue his Secretaryship during his term of civic office.

Exercise 'Sky Pioneer'

As the Captain General left Malta, 40 and 42 Commando started for Libya, and Exercise Sky Pioneer, this being the first major exercise from HMS **Bulwark**.

40 Commando landed at dawn on 29th April, at Homs. Brushing aside light opposition the commando moved inland to Tarhuna. Meanwhile, 42 Commando landed by helicopter, twenty miles to the East. Part of this unit was later flown to support 40 Commando's assault against the enemy.

C.G.R.M. and G.O.C. Troops, Malta were present throughout the exercise.

Press and TV reports of the exercise were very favourable.



R. ARCHARD

Redeployment

The following major unit moves have been completed.

45 Commando to Aden

On 12th April, the main body of 45 Commando sailed for Aden in the **Dunera**, and by 20th April had relieved 1st Battalion, The Royal Warwicks. The unit is located at the BP camp at Little Aden, and Dhala, one hundred miles inland.

42 Commando to Singapore.

After their workup in the Mediterranean, 42 Commando sailed in May for Singapore. They are due to arrive on 5th June, and when ashore will be accommodated at the former Royal Naval Air Station, Sembawang.

Closing Down of Plymouth Barracks

Stonehouse Barracks has been reduced to a state of care and maintenance, and its future is still undecided. NCOs' Wing and the Commando Specialist Training sections have now been transferred to Lympstone.

Move of PRORM to Eastney

Preparations are proceeding for the move of PRORM to Eastney, which will be completed by 29th August. The final parade will take place at Chatham the previous week. We shall endeavour to maintain our association with the Medway Towns in the future, but it is bound to be a sad day for the Corps.

Ceremonial

Street Lining parties were provided in London for the visit of General de Gaulle, and for Princess Margaret's Wedding.

C.G.R.M. visited Liverpool on St. George's Day and took part in the Zeebrugge Memorial Service, in which he laid a wreath on the Mersey.

COVER PIECE PRESENTED BY
CORPORAL P. G. YOUNG

Lieutenant Colonel C. J. Eagles represented C.G.R.M. at Zeebrugge on 24th April. Colonel Eagle's father was killed in action during the fighting at Zeebrugge 1918.

Exhibitions

The Corps Information Van, and Corps Float have started the summer season tours. Already some minor recruiting successes have been reported. The programmes for these tours have been published, and everyone, RMA in particular, is invited to liaise with the teams and assist publicity whilst on tour.

The Corps Judo Team led by Sergeant E. S. Paddon will be performing at "The Royal Navy Today" displays. These displays will be at Lewis's stores:

Bristol 1st-10th June
Manchester 18th June-2nd July
Glasgow 7th - 17th July.

Visitors

On 15th, 16th and 17th February, Brigadier D. G. R. Rajwade and Lt. Col. M. S. Chatterjee from the Office of the High Commissioner for India, visited Plymouth Group.

Captain de Corvette Le Boucher from the French Navy Underwater Swimming School, visited JSAWC for a two-day acquaint.

WO II P. W. Askew, Australian Army is now qualifying as a SC2, at JSAWC.

Captain A. J. Croft, U.S.M.C., was attached to 3 Commando Brigade in Malta. He served most of the attachment with 40 Commando.

Junior Marines—Squads

Junior Entry Squads will be given a regular recruit squad number at the end of their Deal training. The squad will then be, in all respects, the same as a recruit squad.

New York Tattoo

A military tattoo is being held in Madison Square Garden as part of the British Exhibition from 17th June-4th July. The tattoo and exhibition is sponsored by the Federation of British Industries.

The Corps is providing Plymouth Group Band, a commando display, and an old-time drill display. The commando display is a new item, consisting of a team competition over a tarzan/assault course. Teams of volunteers trained at ITCRM and go to the United States early in June.

Deal Tattoo

An ambitiously planned tattoo and exhibition is being held at the Depot from 28th July to 3rd August. The exhibition is a comprehensive static display of all RM activities. The tattoo will be a floodlit spectacle of ceremonial, recreational, and operational activities.

All units, and branches of RMA have received posters and handbills for display and distribution to the public. Extra copies can be obtained from the Depot.

RMFVR

After small but steady decreases in strength, due mainly to the pruning of some 'dead wood,' the total strength of the RMFVR has remained constant since the beginning of this year. Recruiting is healthy.

The revised system for Initial Training of newly joined ranks has now started. Under this scheme a VR Marine carries out two week courses at the Depot in addition to evening and weekend instruction in his VR unit. The Phase I course is primarily parade work and the Phase II fieldcraft and weapon training. One course of each type has so far taken place and first results indicate that the scheme should be successful. In particular, the Phase I course produced a high standard and provided interesting and healthy competition with regular Squads on the parade at Deal.

3rd Class and some 2nd Class SQ courses have been arranged for nearly all SQs at the appropriate Corps Wings. Two JNCO courses at NCOs' Wing have also been arranged.

After deducting those doing their two weeks' annual training by attending Initial Training, SQ or other courses, the numbers available for unit annual camps is comparatively small. These camps are, however, being planned to take place as follows:

(a) RMFVR Merseyside, Commando Wing will train at Bickleigh for the period 5th-18th June. The amphibious Wing will train at JSAWC and in HMS Rampart for the same period.

(b) RMFVR Bristol and RMFVR Tyne join forces for the period 18th June-2nd July at Garelochhead—a hutted camp with an adjacent field training area and amphibious training facilities.

(c) Subject to confirmation, RMFVR City of London Commando Wing are going to the Centre d'Entrainement Commando of the Belgium Para-Commando Regiment at Marche-les-Dames. Training should be of good value and interesting, including a raid on the 300-foot high-castle of Bouillon.

(d) RMFVR Scotland will probably carry out their annual training at Bickleigh 24th July-5th August.

(e) Three officers and thirteen other ranks from different units who already hold an SC qualification are training with 6 SBS in Malta for the period 2nd-16th July.

The annual TEWT, run by Officers Wing, was this year held in the Bristol area. 35 RMFVR officers from all units attended in excellent weather. Subjects covered included Commando battle procedure, and HQ and B Echelon in the field.

Chosin Cup

On Sundays 20th and 27th March, a competition for the award of a new Trophy—the Chosin Cup—was held for London Area Sea Cadet Units and Marine Detachments. The competition was devised by the OC Sherborne House Marine Cadet Unit as an endurance competition including canoe portage, assault course, canoe crossing of the Thames, whaler pulling, shooting and culminating with an inspection.

Tooting Sea Cadet Unit were first out of the 29 units and detachments competing. Sherborne House Unit (all Marine Cadets) was placed fifth and the Marine Detachment of Kingston Unit, eighth. The Commandant General presented the Cup to the winning unit on the 9th May.

* * * * *

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a history of 41 COMMANDO

THE origin of the 41st Commandos commenced on the 23rd September, 1940 when the 8th Battalion Royal Marines was raised at Lymestone Camp, Exmouth, and was the result of a policy to inaugurate the 3rd Infantry Brigade of Royal Marines for the Royal Marine Division which was designated the 103rd Brigade Royal Marines, with the 7th and 9th Battalions forming the other two units.

The first Commanding Officer of the Battalion was Lieut. Col. S. G. B. Paine and it was fortunate that the Battalion, raised at this time, was able to contain as its hard core a fairly large number of the Infantry and other Instructors who had been retained at the Chatham and Portsmouth Divisions respectively, for the large intake of recruits that naturally took place at the outbreak of war almost exactly one year previously.

Amongst its small proportion of regular Officers was Capt. (Bt. Major) C. R. Hardy, later to become General Sir Campbell Hardy, Commandant General, who joined the Battalion directly from his appointment as Adjutant to the Portsmouth Division, similarly, Capt. (Bt. Major) B. J. D. Lumsden came from his appointment as Adjutant, Chatham Division, and became the Adjutant of the Battalion and subsequently the first Commanding Officer of the 41st Commando.

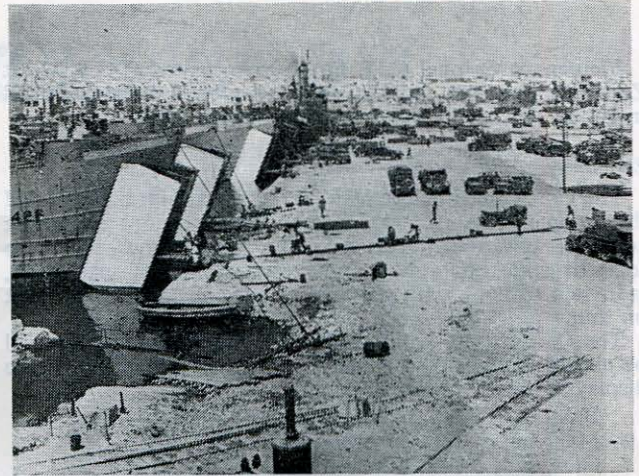
Soon after the formation and preliminary training, circumstances necessitated the formation of a Royal Marine Officer Cadet Training Unit. It fell to the greater proportion of Officers, NCOs and trained soldiers of the 8th Battalion to form the nucleus of this unit, which was located at Thurlstone in South Devon, with the arduous task of producing 500 temporary officers selected directly from civil life. The task was to be completed within six months and when this was achieved the Battalion again re-formed. After a further short period of preliminary training in camps at Woodbury Common it left to join the Royal Marine Division and located itself at Pembroke Dock in Wales, which was within the Divisional Area at that time.

It may be said that the high quality of its NCOs and trained soldiers from the staffs of the Headquarters Divisions and also the various types of training work which the unit had undertaken up to this time, had developed the Battalion into a happy unit of high morale and efficiency; furthermore, it had been fortunate in retaining throughout, the greater part of its Officers, NCOs and men. Thus, after a summer's training in Wales with the Division it was a pleasant surprise to the unit when it was detached for special service in October, 1942. By this time the Commanding Officer had been relieved by Lieut. Col. P. O'H. Phibbs and he had done much to train the Battalion during that year.

It must be recalled here that a special unit of Marines had taken part in the famous raid on Dieppe and had suffered heavy casualties, including their Commanding Officer, the late Lieut. Col. (Tiger) Phillips.

It was partially in order to re-enforce this unit that, to commence with, about half the Battalion was sent to the Weymouth area to train for a special operation under Major B. J. D. Lumsden. This operation did not materialise and so the unit settled down to Commando training generally, and with the Dieppe Unit, under the late Major Manners, they came to be known as the "A" and "B" Commando Units, Royal Marines.

The size of each unit was small compared to a Battalion and because of the nature of its work the younger men were more suitable, so that there was a good deal of reduction amongst its ranks when the second half of the Battalion



Ready for Sicily:
Front line weapons being loaded in North Africa

Photo: War Office

joined, but it is interesting to note that the hard core of Officers and NCOs as well as some trained soldiers remained with the unit, all of whom were volunteers for special service.

Capt. (Bt. Major) Acting Lieut. Col. B. J. D. Lumsden was appointed Commanding Officer and both units came under the Army formation known as the Special Service Brigade, commanded by Brigadier (later Major-General) R. E. Laycock, DSO, which consisted in all of some ten Army Commando units, several of whom were serving overseas. The practice of these units in the UK was to live out of barracks and be billeted upon the local population so that whole residential areas had Commando Marines living in their houses and the system proved to work extremely well, giving a sense of independence, trust and initiative to all ranks.

Both units moved to the Isle of Wight where the Dieppe Unit settled in its previous home in the Shanklin area and this new unit in the area of Bembridge, St. Helens and Seaview. The two Units also moved independently by troops to the famous Commando Training School at Achnacarry, near Fort William in Scotland, and also for a time lived in the bombed sites of the East End of London so as to become proficient in street fighting.

At about this time it was decided that the Special Service Brigade should be given a special distinction and wear a green beret and the Royal Marine Commandos were the first to receive them, but they caused much comment, adverse and otherwise amongst the Corps in general. The Officers of this unit used a distinctive badge for their beret, namely the pre-war frock coat badge because of its very pliable nature.

The experience of the Dieppe Unit was of great assistance in our new training with regard to cliff climbing and it was on the Shanklin cliffs where both units, as well as some Army Commandos, first perfected this method of attacking ashore. As we became efficient in our new role and organisation it was necessary more clearly to identify the Royal Marine Commandos, and for reasons unknown, other than the usual one of misleading enemy intelligence, the series "40" was decided upon to identify their units; thus, the Dieppe Unit which had been re-enforced by now was officially designated the 40th Commando Royal Marines and this unit became the 41st Commando Royal Marines, on 14th March, 1943.

Although the tactical units of one troop and two sections, each of two sub-sections, was similar to the Army organisation, the Royal Marine Commandos were the only ones that were self-supporting with regard to cooks and similar Headquarters personnel, thus making their strength a good deal larger than their Army counterpart; they also had a larger number of supporting weapons.

In April the 41st Commando moved to new billets at Troon, Ayrshire, and were placed under orders from "Operation Husky" which was the code word known for the invasion of Sicily.

OPERATION HUSKY

The Assault on Sicily - 10th July 1943

The role of 41 Commando was to effect a surprise landing by night at Cap Passero on the southernmost tip of the island and overcome the beach defences to enable the 1st Canadian Division to land at dawn. Although air-borne forces were to attack at Syracuse, some 50 miles North East at about the same time the 41st Commando was to be the first unit to assault from the sea and this was taken to be a great honour.

The Union Castle liner, **Durban Castle**, specially converted to carry assault craft was allocated to us. We had one full scale rehearsal with the Canadian Division off the Ayrshire Coast and then sailed in a large convoy for the operation area. A certain amount of enemy action took place on the way and some ships were lost but we came through unscathed though on the final day a gale made things extremely difficult for the long run in on a very dark night with our small assault craft taking in a great deal of water. The beaches were illuminated from distant air action and this had partially alerted the beach defences but we were put ashore within a hundred yards or so of our objectives and after a very short and fierce action all opposition was quickly overcome, which consisted mainly of concrete pill-boxes manned with machine guns. We had expected to scale a small sandy cliff which air photographs indicated but in the event this proved to be no

obstacle compared to the machine guns trained on wire defences at the rear of the beaches, and it was in cutting through this that Capt. J. A. Taplin leading "A" Troop was wounded and Maj. J. McCann the 2 i/c was killed, shortly after when crossing it. There were inevitably other casualties, including a well-known Marine, A. E. Streams, AM (awarded in a peace-time gun explosion in HMS **Devonshire**), the CO's batman who died of a gun-shot wound later that day which was his pension day after 21 years very fine service. The pill-boxes when located in the dark were soon overcome by hand to hand fighting and as the day dawned we could look seaward and see a vast armada of ships sending troops and craft of all descriptions to the beaches where they landed unopposed.

Following the assault, the Commando moved on the flank of the Canadian Division meeting less and less opposition until it was withdrawn for small cutting-out operations further up the coast. It was while waiting to set off on one of these raids from the port of Augusta in two cross-channel ships converted to assault vessels that the unit suffered further casualties from air-attack when embarked at night in harbour though 40 Commando in the **Princess Beatrix** were in the main unit involved.

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AS the campaign in Sicily progressed 41 Commando moved to the Catania area to await further operations. It was the intention to maintain the Unit as a whole for use in the forthcoming assault on the Italian mainland, and as soon as the American Army on the left flank of the 8th Army secured the Port of Palermo the Unit moved across country together with No. 2 Army Commando in order to prepare and embark for the assault on Salerno.

It was an interesting move, first because on the way we passed air-fields where it became known that the Italian authorities negotiating its peace proposals were to land, and secondly, because a move of this nature across so recently captured country gave rise to many problems and much experience on negotiating destroyed bridges, roads and so on. The RASC Transport Company allocated to our Units did a very efficient job. It was at this point that we parted company after so many months of training and campaigning with our old friends of 40 Commando who were to take part in different operations on the East coast of Italy.

The Unit finally embarked at Palermo in two of the newly designed American LSI (Landing Ship Infantry) which were small vessels containing about two troops each. The administrative tail of the Unit was not to accompany us to the assault and the operation entailed much planning in order to ensure that the troops could maintain themselves for a period of some three days at least.

After a very calm passage we approached the assault area at about 2 a.m. on the night of 9th September and effected a landing in the small bay of the fishing village of Vietri Sul Mare, approximately nine miles to the north of Salerno. The clearness of the night soon placed us under mortar fire before reaching the beaches and at midnight we had heard from the wireless of the Italian surrender but had no instructions to change any part of our operation and so we proceeded in accordance with orders.

The landing was effected successfully and No. 2 Army Commando landed first on this occasion and proceeded to secure the hills to the East of the town whilst 41 Commando saw to securing the ravine and the two features about 1,000 feet high on each side of it.

We had a strenuous climb to gain our positions with some opposition. "C" Troop under Captain (now Major) Parsons had the duty of clearing the village. It soon became apparent that we had arrived in the middle of a German formation who were withdrawing to the North (proved later to be a Panzer Division). Because they were resting certain of their guns and equipment was destroyed in the main street and generally due to this reason we were able to secure our

positions astride the ravine but our front was very wide as we were expecting relief after about six hours when the main landing had taken place to the south of us at Salerno. As dawn broke on this occasion we could see clearly that the main landing had come under considerable opposition and very soon we found our positions being heavily attacked and movement became difficult. After holding on for some 24 hours without too many casualties the Headquarters of the Unit came under heavy mortar fire and all units were coming into close contact with the enemy. On no occasion was any ground given up and on the third day No. 2 Commando came to the support of the Unit and consolidated the position to a great extent. The Commanding Officer and many others were wounded in the attack on the HQ, and Major Edwards, the second-in-command, took over the Unit.

By this time the Army Corps had established a foot-hold and more relief was obtained for a short while but it was some days before the fierce fighting was finally overcome and in the last action Major Edwards, a very gallant officer, was unfortunately killed in assaulting the final hill on which the enemy had established a foot-hold. By the time the Army commenced to advance upon the Naples area the Unit, which had suffered heavy casualties, was withdrawn to the North African coast where it re-organised and was eventually relieved in the theatre and came home to join the Commando Group which by this time contained all the RM Units of the previous RM Division as well as some newly formed Units prepared for the assault the following year on the Normandy coast-line.

THE ASSAULT ON SALERNO



Royal Marines who fought at Salerno

Photo: Imperial War Museum

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THE FLEETS—HOME AND ABROAD

HMS RESOLUTION

No. 6 Minor Landing Craft Squadron

By the time that this article goes to print the 6 Minor Landing Craft Squadron will be no more, for on 2nd April, the Squadron will be boarding a Charter Britannia for the United Kingdom and an assortment of new jobs.

Few will have any regrets at leaving and the prospect of those weeks of leave at home has been uppermost in everyone's mind recently and the solemn ritual of crossing off those "days to do" has been religiously observed. That is not to say that the last few months have not been pleasant ones by Christmas Island standards, but as any old Grappler will feel bound to admit time to do is probably the most frequent topic of conversation here bar one.

Since Christmas we have had two ships in, first a Copra ship, the *Lossiebank* to be loaded, and latterly the *Javanese Prince* to be both unloaded and then reloaded with stores being returned to UK. Both operations went with almost unprecedented smoothness aided no doubt by perfect weather (not one day was the channel closed) and an extremely high degree of understanding between the Sergeant Major out on the ship and Sgt. Carpenter in Craft Control, so that the usual hanging around was kept to a minimum and the "right craft with the right load was at the right hatch at the right time." Some idea of how efficiently the task was accomplished can be gauged from the fact that we finished three weeks ahead of schedule and the Task Force Commander who was coming out to see the back loading in action found the ship had sailed before he arrived.

51 Port Operating Squadron and ourselves have formed a mutual congratulation society to mark the triumph and the fact that we have all been rewarded by going home a week or so early must mean some merit was attached. Both we and 51 go home on the same aircraft which bodes ill for Vancouver next Sunday!

Other jobs have included the building of a .22 rifle range, fitting memorial to our triumphs against the USMC in the Autumn or should it be Fall? The sea defences have been completed and now for the last few weeks we have been busy refitting craft. Four LCM's have been left in the water and four are now on the quay thanks to the OCRM's patent haulage methods described in our last contribution. We have now handed the craft over to the Navy and the last few days have witnessed the happy sight of red-faced "seamen" having instruction in craft handling from marine coxswains.

In the sporting field the detachment has as usual been well represented, with our footballers and hockey players turning out for the combined *Resolution* teams. Another sport which has not received attention in these articles before and which has none the less been flourishing on the Island is Judo. For many months past Mne. Pickwick, our Black Belted "Master," has been running a successful Judo Club in the Port and many people from all the services have benefited from his instruction. More recently he and his team have given a series of demonstrations in the various Messes and Clubs in the Island and everyone is agreed what a splendid job they have done.

One shadow in an otherwise cloudless sky has been the unfortunate illness of C./Sgt. Shears, who after months in hospital in Honolulu was eventually medically repatriated in March—we all wish him a speedy recovery at home. Otherwise we have managed to remain remarkably free from sickness and Mne. Fisher's appendix has provided the only other excitement.

A fitting climax to our stay here has been the presentation to our Sgt. Major, C./Sgt. Wilkins, Cpl. Chambers and Mne. Butler of the Task Force Commanders Commendation and they richly deserved their awards.

As conclusion it would be nice to be able to produce some impressive statistics of miles steamed and tons carried by the Marines in Christmas Island but unfortunately figures are not available. Be it sufficient to say that one way or another the Royal

Marines have managed to leave their mark in the Island and on behalf of Grapplers past and present to wish our magazine farewell.

HMS LOCH FADA

The detachment, under Lieut. R. W. Perkins with Sgt. F. R. Keep as Sgt. Major, formed at Eastney on 20th November last year and we set about preparing ourselves for service in a Persian Gulf frigate. Pre-embarkation training for frigate detachments is by now a fairly standard business and the well-oiled machinery of Eastney Barracks soon had us busily engaged on a miscellany of training: internal security drills, weapon training, seamanship, some mysterious pastime called A.B.C.D. and other even more mystifying activities with which real "Ship-Marines" are no doubt well familiar. We learnt to handle our new S.L.R.s and the new pattern fighting order.

It is sufficient to say that we completed our training without showing any particular excess of merit, but, more important, no great lack of it, and we were able to pass out before our Captain at the appointed time. Our Commanding Officer is Commander R. R. Whalley and he seemed well pleased with all phases of our pass-out, which consisted of a ceremonial inspection and march past, an internal security exercise and a fire power demonstration.

After commissioning and spending about a week at Portsmouth, familiarising ourselves with life in one of Her Majesty's Ships, and brushing up our "Hornblower-taught" naval ceremonial, we set off for a four week work-up at Portland. To those of you who in the future will find yourselves in the clutches of Flag Officer Sea Training and his staff we send a warning—be prepared. You will beat Father Time at his own game and somehow fit twenty-five hours into every day. You will do everything an HM ship has ever done or is capable of doing, from suffering the privations of "action messing" to towing an indispensed oil-tanker, or from boarding a submarine to keeping at bay imaginary frogmen. In short you will be given a period of thorough and exhaustive operational training and when eventually Portland, under its permanent cloak of rain and force 8 winds, disappears over the horizon for the last time, like us you and your ship will heave a sigh of relief.

The next task assigned to us was a fishery protection patrol. We were for some time prepared for the arctic rigours of Iceland, but thanks to the withdrawal of British trawlers from the Iceland area we found ourselves headed instead for the more amenable climate of the Faeroe Islands. Here we passed a surprisingly pleasant and entertaining month. We found the Faeroese, who are of Scandinavian descent, friendly and hospitable. The islands themselves rugged but beautiful and, apart from more traditional entertainments, excursions into the mountains were popular. The detachment and a party of sailors spent a day ashore on a mountain-trekking expedition. It was a day well spent in beautiful weather. Of the time spent at sea most was on routine patrols with the aim of enforcing the fishing limit regulations and being as helpful as possible to any trawlers in need. On one occasion we investigated a large Russian fishing fleet. The Russians are as enterprising in their fishing methods as they are in any other walk of life. They use large depot ships which allow their trawlers to stay at sea for much longer periods than would otherwise be possible.

We enjoyed our stay in the Faeroe Islands and there was more



"Watch on Deck"
Mnes. Hunt, Oxley, Flanagan

than one wistful expression in the detachment as we sailed for the last time from Thorshaven harbour.

On the whole we have by now settled down in our dual role of "soldier and sailor too." There have been occasions when we felt ourselves more suited to the former than the latter, but these feelings were temporary though perhaps shared by our naval colleagues. Guards of Honour are now standard procedure and we have been known to produce one in six minutes flat. Our guards are enhanced by Marine Williams who, though not a bugler by profession, can play that instrument comparatively well. Other talents have been unearthed from carpentry to cookery, and by now spliced ropes and seamanlike knots appear on the quarterdeck with mundane regularity. Cpl. Grinstead, our springer, is occupied with plans for circuit training, judo lessons, tug-o'-war competitions and other healthy quarter-deck type occupations to while away any spare time we have ahead.

We are now back in Portsmouth where we are taking our leave before sailing for the Gulf on 10th May.

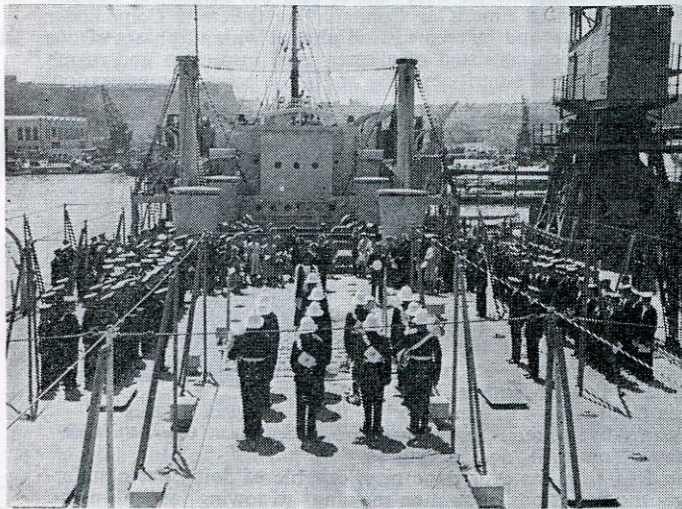
HMS DIEPPE

5th Assault Squadron, RM

Old members of the "Fighting Fifth" will be interested to hear that we now have a new home. It must be admitted, however, that we only have five craft and a consequently smaller complement.

We joined the rest of the ship's company, many of whom appear never to have seen Royals before, at the Naval Air Station at Hal Far at the end of March, after enjoying the hospitality of the 3rd Assault Squadron in **Striker** for some time. Buses took us to work on board each day.

Even to the most hardened of us, the first sight of the ship was not encouraging. She was very much in "Dockyard hands," with all the filth of seven years out of active life. It seemed impossible to



Commissioning Ceremony: HMS Dieppe

Photo: RN Official

get her ship-shape for Commissioning Day. However, either by miracles or by sheer hard work, or perhaps by a combination of both, we could feel proud of her when the great day arrived.

We commissioned on 12th April. A little red lead and an awful lot of undercoat were still in evidence, but nevertheless **Dieppe** looked remarkably smart. We even got a large paragraph and picture in the "Times of Malta."

Since then, we have been hucking out the corners, coaxing things to work again after their long hibernation, and in the best gunnery phrase "lowering things over the side in deep water." Soon we hope to be able to say that we're an efficient member of the Fleet.

HMS LOCH KILLISPORT

*If England were what England seems,
An' not the England of our dreams,
But only putty, brass and paint,
'Ow quick we'd drop 'er. But she ain't.*

RUDYARD KIPLING.

The last two months have been, for us, fairly active ones. On 24th February, for the first time since we arrived in the Gulf last

September, we turned left after sailing from Bahrain, instead of right, and went to explore the Northern shores.

We found Kuwait to be a very large city, by Gulf standards, and a very rich one too with an oil income of over £140 million per annum. Cars ran everywhere, while on the more permanent side a very extensive building programme was in progress. We spent a day and a night alongside the vast new jetty that has just been constructed, and the next morning sailed for Mena-al-Ahmadi, Kuwait's oil port.

Mena, we had been told, was the one really good "run" in the Gulf, and so it turned out to be. Buses were laid on to take the ship's company around, the canteen on the oil-jetty had a good cinema, the people were extremely kind and asked us out, and the games played were of a high standard. In short everyone had a good time.

The second night in we sent along the detachment's shooting team with one sailor in it to represent the ship in a match with the Hubara club. We were eventually beaten, but it was the closest any team had come to beating the "Home" side since the **Centaure** called in 1959. Sergeant Stooldey was equal top scores with the Hubara Captain. Next time we visit Mena, in June, we will put out our strongest team and beat them.

One way we have out here of relaxing while on patrol is to anchor off one of the deserted desert islands there are in the Gulf and go ashore to fish or swim for an afternoon, usually on Sundays. There is nothing much else to do but sun-bathe, but at least it does mean we get away from the ship for a couple of hours. Some of the islands are surprisingly beautiful.

Shortly after leaving Mena we were sent out to patrol the Trucial Coast and in so doing scored the only success we have achieved so far while on patrol out here. One dhow we approached dropped the arms it was carrying over the side. Although we were not aware of this at the time we heard about it through the "informers net" some ten days later.

Our next excitement came in the form of Exercise "Mudlark V," from 21st to 23rd March, down on the Batinah Coast of Oman. These Mudlark exercises are run by the Sultan of Muscat's Armed Forces (SAF) and are designed to "reccce" and open up successive areas of the country. This particular one took place some twenty miles inland amongst the foot-hills of the Jabal Akhadar, where it will be remembered certain Royal Marines assisted the SAS, RAF and SAF, late in 1958, to inflict the first defeat on the hill tribes that they had experienced in over a thousand years.

The Wadi we investigated had not been known of two months previously, and in fact we became the first white men ever to enter the area.

The exercise followed the usual pattern of a reconnaissance followed by a fire power demonstration, the only difference being this that we were transported into the hills by trucks and not on a donkey. The remainder of the "reccce" was carried out on foot, which meant a seven hour march to the top of the wadi and back.

During the second day we moved back to the coast again and bivouacked in a palm tree plantation, this was all very well, but during the night the Sergeant Major was chased by a huge black spider with hairy legs. We have it on reliable information that he did not sleep a wink that night.

The following morning we gave the "Fire Power" demonstration to the locals and by lunch, the exercise having finished, we were sunning ourselves on the beautifully sandy beach. Unfortunately we were forced to stay on this beach until 2300 hours because the wind got up during the afternoon and only one boat managed to get into us during daylight. Since we had sent all our gear back on that boat little suspecting that it would be the last for some hours we became a little chilly in only our bathing pants.

On the sporting side, we have been knocked off both the ship's football and cricket competitions, but put up a very spirited performance on Easter Monday by only being beaten 1-2 by the ship's water-polo team.

On the 21st April we combined with **Loch Lomond's** detachment to form one of the four service guards for the Queen's Birthday Parade at Bahrain. This was a novel experience for us because we had to discard our No. 4 .303's and drill with SLR's, borrowed for the occasion from the 1st Battalion, The Inniskillings, who are currently doing their year's tour in the Gulf.

With the QBP passed, and also the Commodore's harbour inspection, we must close. Now we sail for Muscat and Exercise "Mudlark VI."

Finally, we have just heard that the CGRM will be visiting the Gulf early in June and sailing up to Abadan on board **Loch Insh** as part of his tour. Since we are sailing up with them, and parading with the **Loch Insh's** detachment on the occasion of the Queen's Birthday, it will be something worth looking forward to.

HMS ALBION

Since our last contribution the ship has been alongside in Malta for a ten day refit and most of the detachment were able to spend three days ashore in RMTC. Most of the time there was spent getting better acquainted with our new 7.62 rifles, and thanks to a lot of hard work by Sgt. "Bobby" Blunden, quite a good standard of weapon training was achieved. Even our Commander managed to break away from the ship for a few hours to visit us and try his skill with various weapons. But all too soon our short stay was over and once again we found ourselves on board.

On sailing from Malta we found ourselves busy on operations off the North African coast taking part in Exercise "Starlight," where our planes gave ground support to troops near El Adem. We had also embarked FOAC before leaving Malta and a new job has cropped up within the detachment in the shape of Admiral's Orderly carried out by Mnes. Belcher and Walker.

A welcomed break from operations was a short visit to Athens where the ship was honoured by a visit by HRH King Paul of Greece, and the detachment were kept very busy mounting guards of honour.

We then had a quick passage through the Suez Canal where we were greeted with the usual Arab friendliness. By the time we had reached Port Suez, Blues had been stowed away and shorts and sandals became the rig of the day.

We have also welcomed Lt. T. J. P. Murphy to the ship. He has come aboard for flying duties with 806 Squadron (Seahawks).

In the sporting world we have more than held our own in the few games of soccer we have had. Mne. Parks put up a good show boxing for the Fleet v. RN Singapore and won his Welterweight fight on points over a three round contest.

Marine Cummings who is the ship's judo team is to be congratulated on being awarded his green belt through the Singapore Judo Club.

HMS PROTECTOR

Arriving for "Half Term" in Montevideo, Uruguay, on the 4th February, we were soon treated to the welcome sight of Postie (Cpl. Cheshire) returning to the ship with the Land-Rover overloaded with some of our long awaited mail. The BOAC Comet

service, which was recently inaugurated, enables Montevideo to receive "Air Mail" only three days old, which combined with two months old "Sea Mail" made interesting reading.

On the 5th February, the Royal Naval and Royal Marine Guards, combined with a detachment of the Uruguayan Navy, performed another Wreath Laying ceremony, this time on a memorial to Fernando Jose Artigas, who organised Uruguay against the Portuguese in the early 19th century.

The detachment made contact with the United States Marine Corps detachment attached to the United States Embassy, and after a hectic evening ashore with them, we were pleased to see them come aboard the following day at tot time.

Arriving back at Stanley, 15th February, the detachment went ashore for two days on the range (Firing type, Not "Home On"). As the range available is unsuitable for a normal range course, two days' competition shooting was carried out which was enjoyed by all.

After embarking His Excellency the Governor of the Falkland Islands (Sir Edwin Arrowsmith, KCMG), on 18th February, we sailed for the Governor's annual tour of inspection of the Dependency Bases.

On 22nd February we received a message from Sir Vivian Fuchs (embarked on the Danish ship *Kistadan*), asking us to recce a possible landing strip and an access route to and from an abandoned hut on Anvers Island. The ship's flight carried out a recce of the possible air strip, and landed the OCRM and Sgt. Hill who did a recce on skis of the route to the hut. Some enormous crevasses were seen, though a safe route was marked.

Having visited the Bases at Admiralty Bay, Hope Bay, Deception Island, Argentine Island, Port Lockroy, the last two by air as pack ice prevented the ship getting closer than 30 miles, and Signy Island, the ship steamed off to the South Sandwich Islands, where there are a number of active volcanoes. Though conditions prevented helicopter landings, several "sight seeing" flights were made around the islands of Visakoi and Zavodoski, where penguins and Fur Seals abound. Fur Seals were almost exterminated in the Antarctic by indiscriminate slaughter less than a hundred years ago, and now, as protected animals, they are becoming more numerous again.

On 2nd March we arrived in South Georgia and secured alongside in Leith. Various trips around the whale factories were arranged, and though walks were possible, a complete absence of snow on the easily accessible slopes put paid to any chances of ski-ing. The ship's football team played against each of the whaling factories, and on this occasion were beaten by both Grytviken and Husvik, though they managed to win against the champions, Leith.

Returning to Stanley on the 7th March, the Governor was disembarked and his flag was struck.

Tomorrow, the 11th, we sail on our last trip South, and will be the last ship calling at the Bases until next season. We hope to return to Stanley in time to say our farewells, and sail for home via the west coast of South America on the 29th . . . but that, as they say, is another story.

HMS BELFAST

Exercise "Oriol" begins our article this time, actually it was a "shopwindow" to show off naval strength and fighting efficiency in the Far East, to foreign consuls, senior officers of all services, businessmen and schoolchildren from Singapore. There were demonstrations of minesweeping, anti-submarine work, torpedo runs by destroyers, massed air attack by *Centaur's* aircraft, and 10 broadsides from *Belfast*. All went well until the second day when we nearly sank the tug instead of the target, with our first broadside. The rest of the shoot was cancelled.

We went back to the naval base for two days and sailed again on Sunday, 14th February in company with *Centaur* and several small ships to take part in JET 60 at Trinco. Two days out we were joined by *Gambia*, *INS Mysore* and *INS Delhi* with a destroyer escort. Many readers will remember *INS Delhi* as the *Achilles* and *INS Mysore* as the *Nigeria*.

The "convoy" arrived at Trinco on 19th February making a tactical entry prior to commencing JET 60 proper on Monday, 22nd February. The detachment were destined not to see much of these exercises for we landed on the Monday morning midst torrential rain to "live in the field." The first afternoon was spent making camp on the range in Coral Cove. The whole day and night was made miserable by very high winds and incessant rain. Between 2300 and 0600 the next morning no less than six inches of rain fell, turning the camp into a veritable quagmire. The OCRM did a recce and moved us into a large house where the detachment from *Centaur* were already quartered. It then stopped raining, and apart from some during the evenings and nights remained fairly dry for the rest of our time ashore.



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We spent the days on the range getting some much needed practice in firing from "other positions" but we couldn't hold our annual range course because the targets weren't available. We did however find that some of our Marines can shoot by holding a competition on the last day with 60 cigarettes as a prize. The best shooting of the week came out at this time.

Some climbing is possible at Coral cove, but the rock is very loose and great care should be taken especially on the high climbs. Underwater swimming was tried by some of the detachment but without much success. Muddy water brought visibility down to three inches. One person even says he did catch a fish with his spear. I wonder why nobody else saw it?

One afternoon was spent on a seven mile speed march (the author was not on it, which is why he says), it wasn't too bad really seeing they ended it with a quick dip in the sea.

We were surprised at the number of baboons flitting about the roads during the day and apparently not a bit perturbed by lorries roaring past. Several people took photographs of them but not from very close. Three elephants were in the area and could be heard trumpeting, and although tracks were very much in evidence they were not seen (thank goodness). This is the first time for some years that elephants have got as far as Elephant Ridge.

The PWI shot a snake on the range, but as there was not much left of it to be identified, we consider it in a class with the fishing story above.

The Sgt. Major "Britain's Ambassador" who looked after the camp made friends with some of the locals in our absence, and one evening we returned to find that he had a massive dish of crabs for supper, and the following night a dish of lobsters. He took back the empty dishes to them and returned about two hours later with his breath smelling, suspiciously, of gin.

We returned on board on Friday morning when the fleet entered harbour. The next, and last, part of the JET 60 programme was the cruiser regatta on the Saturday morning. **Gambia** put up a terrific show and won just about every race. The detachment offer no excuses—we lost and that's it.

On the Monday morning we awoke to find that **Gambia** had done a "moonlight flit" leaving the band that they were supposed to take to Singapore for us still on board. The band went to Singapore after all with the 8th Destroyer Squadron, we hope the small ships didn't give them too rough a passage. **Gambia** actually had

been sent to Mauritius to help with the damage caused by the cyclone that had struck the island.

Belfast left Trinco that afternoon for Australia. We embarked seven ranks of the 1st Battalion Sherwood Foresters for this trip, and apparently they are enjoying it.

We reached the domains of Neptune on Wednesday morning at 10 o'clock and had the pleasure of seeing the Commander and OCRM initiated before scurrying away to hidey holes to avoid the same fate. The crafty ones in the detachment like the GI and PTI and large types like "lofty" Clifton, became policemen so that they could help do the dipping instead of receiving it. One thing we must report is that the younger schoolie presented a smashing pair of legs in his role as Aphrodite.

During the following six or seven days the weather deteriorated rapidly and a lot of work that had already been put in in readiness for the Admiral's inspection was undone. There were also many cries of "why don't we shift into No. 8's," as the temperature dropped further and further ending up at about 60 in the evenings which to us, at the moment, is brass monkey weather.

*There was a young girl of Fremantle,
Whose charms were exceedingly ample,
But when Belfast came,
Her father said "Jane,
"Remember you're not a free sample."*

On Thursday, 10th March, we arrived at Fremantle. What a change to see an English type town with a good clean look again. Quite a few people were on the jetty to see us arrive. A brewery run and a bus tour were arranged for the afternoon and a Ratings' dance was held in the Town Hall in the evening. The ship was also open to visitors during the afternoon, not many people came aboard, but this was due mainly to it being a working day. Everybody seemed to have a good time and many friends were made, an obvious fact by the number of people on the jetty to see us sail on Saturday morning.

Five days to Hobart, made lively by strong headwinds, didn't upset the Starboard Watch who were looking forward to the four days' station leave they would be having there. Hobart was very nice (except Sunday—no beer), and many people took the opportunity to get out to the Apple festival and see something of the countryside. The number of invitations streaming in to take numbers of men on outings was tremendous. The affection which these

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people have for the British was very much in evidence on Tuesday, 22nd March, when several young ladies had a good weep. We must tell you that one sailor had a whirlwind courtship and got married, we expect to get him back one of these days.

*Eight sailors ashore in Hobart,
From their girl friends found they couldn't part,
When the ship sailed away
They stayed back to play,
And live on la femme a la carte.*

Another short trip round the coast to Sydney to give four days, station leave to the Port Watch. Another nice place with tons of invitations. Here we met members of the Sydney branch of the Royal Marines Old Comrades Association. They entertained us to an evening in the Royal Naval House and we tried to repay their hospitality by inviting them to look round the ship on the Sunday morning. Here we met 73 year old George Raynor, one of the founder members of the Sydney branch of the RMOCA. Mr. Raynor joined the RMLI in 1903 and rose to the rank of Warrant Officer; he served on many ships, big names amongst them being the **Lord Nelson**, **Queen** and **Pegasus**. In 1925 he was pensioned off from the Corps and emigrated to Australia. During the 1939-45 war he joined the Australian Navy and was appointed WO, RAN Armament Supply Officer. Although he is not so young now he still gets down to see all the ships that have detachments on board, and he has been known to help many a man by slipping him a fiver on a blank week. Keep going George and we hope to see you again soon.

Our Australian tour is over now except for a call at Darwin lasting 24 hours next week, and we go back to Singapore before starting the next cruise which should be an interesting one, this includes a trip to Subic Bay and Manila.

Acknowledgments

Poems—by Jove.



HMS Tiger about to berth at Palma

HMS TIGER

Tiger's latest cruise was a most enjoyable one. Leaving Malta on 8th March we sailed to Valencia in Spain, and as usual we exercised ship in every conceivable way on passage. The weather was excellent and our visit coincided with the local grand fiesta known as the "Fallas" celebrations.

This fiesta is held annually in Lent and lasts for three days. It was originally a Pagan festival celebrating the beginning of Spring, and now culminates on St. Joseph's Day. Valencia's population is doubled during this period by visitors from all parts of Spain. The fiesta consists of over a hundred "Fallas," which are paper-mache tableaux of vast proportions, depicting satirical ideas of present day Spain. These are placed all over the town at street corners, etc. Celebrations last all night, with dancing in the streets, fireworks and copious drinking. Early each morning, tired revellers are aroused by more fireworks. On the last night, all the "Fallas" are burnt to the ground to the accompaniment of terrific firework displays. The detachment assumed that the whole business had been laid on for their benefit and joined in accordingly.

We had the usual Guards of Honour for visiting Spanish dignitaries and our band marched through the town to the local bull fighting arena, where it performed before the fights started. It was

here that some of the "fly" members of the detachment were observed marching into the arena behind the band to avoid paying for their tickets! No names, no pack drill!

Next port of call was that good old stand-by Gibraltar. As there were twenty ships in port, and more arriving hourly, the detachment noticeably confined its excursions ashore to "Rabbit Runs." These ships were mostly part of the NATO Fleet which were taking part in Exercise "Dawn Breeze V," and it must have reminded the inhabitants of the Rock of the good old days, now gone for ever.

Here we combined with HMS **Bermuda's** detachment, and carried out the "Ceremony of the Keys," our own band massed with the Home Fleet Band in HMS **Tyne**.

After leaving Gibraltar we proceeded to Palma on the Spanish Island of Majorca. Palma is known as the poor man's Monte Carlo, and is reputed to be the second best "Run" in the Mediterranean, Barcelona being the first, and on our agenda for a future visit. We can hardly wait!

At Palma our band combined with part of Commander-in-Chief's Mediterranean Band from HMS **Phoenicia**, which was being carried in HMS **Trafalgar**, and Beat Retreat on the Jetty.

Arriving back in Malta on the 8th April, the ship began a seven week self refit, and the detachment was lucky enough to go to Ghajn Tuffieha for the first week. What a glorious week it was, wonderful weather, good food and a complete change from ship's routine. The only complaint, it wasn't long enough. We were the first detachment to shoot the 1960 range course there, but alas still with No. 4 Rifles. It is a constant source of bewilderment to me that, although being in the first of the Navy's modern cruisers, we must of the few detachments who still haven't got S.L.R.s

This brings me to the time of writing, we are now all back abroad, rapidly losing our fresh air tans, and at the moment busily preparing our tropical gear for wear on the 9th May. Some amusing sights will be seen then, although I have been told that "**Bermuda**" shorts are all the rage this year.

Before finishing I would like to send our wishes for a speedy recovery to L/Cpl. G. Badrick whom we left behind in hospital at Gibraltar, and to offer our congratulations to Mnes. Doggett and Blackwell both of whom recently married their English fiancées in Malta.

R.A.I.

I wonder why our correspondent didn't mention his inadvertent swimming test in French Creek.

HMS BERMUDA

After a long absence from these pages, we return now that we can offer information of some interest.

On completion of our exercises and Christmas leave in Portsmouth, we sailed for Gibraltar, to languish for three months in dockyard hands. But it wasn't all work. A couple of days were spent on RAF and Army rifle and Sterling Ranges and these afforded a welcome change in rig as well as environment.

Between the middle of February and the middle of March we had a delightful issue of fourteen days local leave; with an option of taking it in England or Spain. Some chose Spain, though surprisingly few compared with the number who took the advantage of a trip home by air on the "never-never."

An aircraft drama took place at Bordaex when one engine "retired" after take-off. The least worried of all the scared passengers was the Sgt. Major. Yet he will never admit he ate his cardboard lunch-box with one eye on the engine.

While at Gibraltar His Excellency the Governor of Gibraltar allowed the Royal Marines to perform the "Ceremony of the Keys," which is described elsewhere. We provided the "Outpost Platoon" and "Escort to The Keys," being augmented by ten members of **Tiger's** detachment.

Now our Easter leave is over and we are preparing for a cruise to Helsinki on which your correspondent will be pleased to report in the next issue.

HMS ARK ROYAL

The ship left Devonport on 4th March and our first port of call was Gibraltar, the first "foreign" run ashore for the younger members of the detachment, a fact which a few of them made obvious. We went on to Malta and started our work up: we spent a long time in our turret and even fired the guns on one or two occasions. With the aircraft landing on directly over the barracks, the turret was as quiet a place to be as anywhere else.

We visited Palermo for a weekend and few of us are particularly worried if we do not visit another Italian sea port. Since we now carry the flag of Flag Officer, Aircraft Carriers, our moves are attended by a fair number of "guards and bands." We were not allowed to "beat retreat" ashore in Palermo, but the band carried out the ceremony on the Flight Deck for the benefit of the ship's company on our last evening there.

During the next work up period, the "staff" announced that they had arranged for us to land in Cyprus to act as enemy during an Army air support exercise. Detachment training programmes were made out with an urgency suggestive of panic and we found our days starting with PT on the Quarterdeck. When the landing was cancelled at the last moment we hope we regarded the wasted effort with philosophic calm. These "wars and rumours of wars" did do us some good, however: we were provided with an excellent excuse to get ashore for training when we were next in Malta.

We went up to Ghajn Tuffieha on three days, and fired all weapons. Each day we had a helicopter from one of the ship's squadrons for training.

On the third night each section carried out a recce patrol and then combined for a fighting patrol. All the patrols achieved their missions and a good deal of enthusiasm was shown—in fact, the prisoner taken by the fighting patrol thought there was rather too much of it. The helicopters came to pick us up next morning and landed us on a beach in Gozo, to the accompaniment of delighted cheers from a crowd of children. The morning was spent doing what amounted to a treasure hunt, with sections moving to RVs passed in code by wireless. Our stay in the island was unexpectedly extended when the Fairy Godmother, for a variety of reasons, failed to get the final "clue" (the time and place to catch the ferry back to Malta) through.

During this spell in Malta the Inter-departmental Football Knockout was played off. Being by far the smallest department in the ship we are not at all modest about winning the competition and being presented with the Cammell Laird Cup by our Captain's wife, after an exciting final which developed into a real "blood and guts" second half. We must pay tribute to the ship's CBGL section, who fielded two out of their three members on our behalf.

During the Operational Readiness inspection we were again landed by helicopter, this time on Ghajn Tuffieha range to blow up a "Gunnery Radar Station." The OCRM enjoyed himself setting off a representative demolition charge, closely watched by the NCOs who, remembering that the season for 365a's is at hand, were doing their best to keep the anxiety out of their faces.

Corps Remembrance Sunday was kept by a Church parade on the Quarterdeck, and as we go to press we are on our way to Gibraltar for a short spell in dry dock.

HMS GAMBIA

The first week in March saw the **Gambia's** arrival in Mauritius five days after Cyclone "Carol" had done her worst. The island had certainly been severely damaged, but most of the work required was of a long term nature. The ship left after staying a week. Nearly everyone on board got ashore sometime to help clear up the debris which was everywhere.

On the way to Singapore our inter-part deck hockey competition was held. The detachment sports committee decided not to enter a team but the OCRM insisted. Result a win for the RMs.

After a week-end in Singapore we went to Hong Kong for ten days. This was as always most enjoyable and everyone spent as much money as they could lay their hands on.

After leaving Hong Kong the Captain did Mess Deck rounds. This is a comparatively rare occurrence in this ship and a prize was offered for the best Mess Deck. It was described in daily orders as "a framed photograph, much admired by students of modern art." The picture now hangs in the Barracks.

Back in Singapore again most the detachment went to stay with the 1st Battalion the Sherwood Foresters at Burma Camp near Kota Tinggi. Unfortunately we managed three days but it was a very good break, and proved to many how unfit they were. The Sherwood Foresters were very hospitable and the spirit in their unit was tremendous.

We congratulate Cpl. R. Shearer on his promotion to Sergeant. We also congratulate Mne. and Mrs. B. L. Woolner on their new baby. Woolner flew home a short while ago. On one leg of the journey his plane crashed in the sea off Gan and he lost all his kit. He finally reported to Eastney Barracks. As he said in a letter to the OCRM "Reporting to barracks in RAF uniform and trying to tell the Sergeant of the Guard that one is a marine is no laughing matter."

Lastly we congratulate Mne. R. Hayward for winning the light welter-weight in the Far East Open Boxing Championships. He went on in the Navy versus the rest of the Fleet and won his weight. He was chosen for the Inter Service championship but the ship sailed before this took place.

HMS EXCELLENT

Now that Easter leave is behind us, we are settling down in the summer term feeling refreshed; which is just as well for it looks like being a very busy one.

The wheels are already turning in preparation for the Whale Island Tournament which is being held on the 26th July, whilst before then there is the contribution to the Queen's Birthday Parade on Southsea Common and the Inspection of HMS Excellent by the Commander-in-Chief, Portsmouth.

Our GIs are still kept very busy in all fields of Gunnery even though of course our RM classes qualifying are rather few. It is good to see the keen interest shown by the RMFVR classes that visit us from time to time. Already this term we have had two weekend training periods with them and more are booked.

The Band are once again fully booked up for summer engagements and from a non-musician's point of view some of their engagements look good, i.e. a trip to Vichy for a week, the England v. Yugoslavia football International match (plus having had a front seat view of the Royal Wedding !)

Since our last contribution, Capt. Pottle has left us to take over the duties of Company Commander "M" Company at Deal and 2/Lieut. Mason has joined in his place as Command Band Officer. During their turn-over, a hockey match was played between the Officers and NCOs and the under 20s of the Band. An enjoyable game all round, won eventually by the youngsters by a couple (or was it half a dozen goals?) and a few odd knocks. Still everyone finished the game on their feet which was amazing.

The football season finished with the Band having played only a few matches because of their commitments but nevertheless doing very well in the games that they did catch up, only being beaten once. Cricket appears to be a very popular sport though and already they have soundly thrashed one of the Divisional teams, having got them all out for 8—yes, 8 runs. It is unfortunate that they cannot enter into the inter-part knockout competition, again because of their commitments, for without doubt they would do well. However already their prowess is known and friendly matches can be arranged as often as they can find time to play.

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LOCH LOMOND UP THE GULF

Only hours before we left Portsmouth we waved farewell to two "Barons", Mnes. Stringer and Tickell who took the easy way out (Discharge by Purchase). Farewell also to Mne. Hilton who got a compassionate draft and Mne.(S) Wilson, who left us to do a scribes (sorry, C3) course. In their places we welcome Mnes. Laws, Haysman, McNamara and Mne.(S) Morton who had been hiding away in Signals Coy store for a long time.

The journey out to the Gulf was uneventful, we had the usual unofficial "kit musters" going through the Bay and stopped at Gibraltar, Malta, Port Said and Aden.

We arrived at Bahrain on 6th March, two days later the detachment provided Guards for the Commander RAF P. G. Group Capt. G. P. Walford, OBE, Commander Land Forces, P.G. Brig. E. H. Tinker, and the Political Resident His Excellency Sir George Middleton, KCMG. It wasn't long before we started patrols, boarding dhows and searching for arms, ammunition, wanted persons and drugs. We kept our eyes open for slave traders, believe it or not that sort of thing may still go on in this part of the world. So far we have detained one dhow which was suspected to be carrying arms. An escort crew consisting of the OCRM, Sgt. Major, Mnes. Murray, Kelly, Brand and Asher, a bunting tosser and a stoker escorted the dhow to Dubai where it was handed over to the local police. Most of the dhows we have stopped are fishing ones. Naturally we were able to obtain fresh fish at a very reasonable price.



Children visit "Loch Lomond" at Abu Dhabi.
Mne. Colderly on left, Mne. Boardman right.

Photo: RM Official

We had a couple of amusing incidents which might be of interest to the reader. Firstly when we were in an Arab village waiting for the next phase we were besieged by the usual horde of kids, begging for anything we could give them. We gave them numerous tins that we had left over from our ration packs, Mne. Whitehead very kind-heartedly opened his small pack and gave away his "Snack" pack containing chocolate and sweets etc. This kind act rebounded when Whitehead discovered that he had given not his own, but the OCRM's nutty away, the OCRM being fond of nutty, was not at all pleased at Whitehead's generosity. I think Joe was the only person not amused. A second incident was when the Sgt. Major ceremoniously gave Mne. Boardman his sterilising tablets. Boardman, a little green perhaps, religiously swallowed both tablets before commencing to have a swig from his water bottle. (Boardman mistook them for Paludrine tablets.)

The Queen's Birthday Parade was held in HMS Jufair on the 21st April. A Royal Marine Guard was provided by the combined detachments of **Loch Lomond** and **Loch Killisport** under the command of Lieut. M. Gambier, OCRM **Loch Killisport**. The Royal Navy, Army and RAF each provided a guard and the band was provided by the Bahrain Police. From all accounts the Marines stole the show despite the fact that the **Loch Killisport** detachment had never drilled with the S.L.R. before. After the parade Lieut. Gambier treated us all to a much appreciated can of beer.

At the moment we are on an exercise with the Imperial Iranian Navy in the Kharg Island area at the northern end of the Gulf and are looking forward to our refit at Karachi next month.

Dhow search off British Somaliland. Party led by Lt. D. G. R. Hunt.

Photo: RM Official



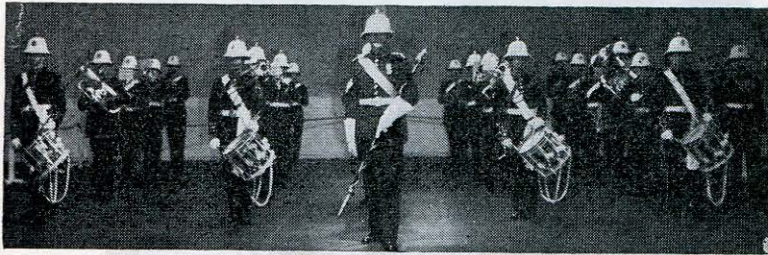
Boarding Party, British Somaliland

L. to R. (RMs): Lt. Hunt, C/Sgt. Hipwell, Mnes. Rothwell
Laws and Hayeman

Photo: RM Official

On St. Patrick's Day, the ship was visited by the Minister of Defence, Mr. Harold Watkinson, who was touring Service establishments in the Middle East. He inspected the Ship's Company at Divisions. Our Irishmen, Mnes. Justin, Murray and the Sgt. Major being conspicuous by their proud cluster of shamrock (some say it was cress) attracted his attention and he had a word with them. Later he paid an informal visit to the Marine Barracks where he spoke to quite a few of the detachment and commented favourably on the living conditions.

On the 30th March we took part in Exercise "Winged Khanja." **Loch Lomond** and **Centaur's** detachments formed a RM Troop under the command of Capt. Michell, Centaur's OCRM. We landed at Khaburah on the Oman coast. Other units in support were "A" Coy RIF from Bahrain, a squadron of armoured cars provided by the Royals, FAA aircraft from **Centaur**, with HMS **Loch Lomond** and **Lagos** providing Naval Gunfire support. The SRMO PG., Capt. Roch-Kelly and Officers from the Trucial Oman Scouts acted as umpires. Our very elusive enemy were the SAS supported by Hunter aircraft of the RAF. The exercise lasted three days and provided valuable information on living in the desert. Mne. Jafferjee proved invaluable as an Arab interpreter during the exercise.



Band of HMS Hermes in the hangar.

Photo: RN Official

HMS HERMES

Since our last contribution the Royals have provided several "high spots" in the ship's programme. The major event was the **Hermes** Boxing Championships which took place aboard on 15th March off Spithead. Ten of the detachment entered and five were in the final nine fights.

Marine Harris was narrowly defeated on points in the Welterweight Final after a most exciting three rounds. Marine Saunders was awarded a walk-over for the Light Middleweight after repeated appeals and broadcasts failed to attract his opponent (he was later found to be ashore). Corporal Fulton's opponent found that being hit all over the place was not a rewarding pastime and after "covering-up" for several minutes the fight was stopped in the second round. Bugler MacFazdean (on loan from Eastney) won his Junior Heavyweight title after a most spirited effort. The finale of the evening was the Heavyweight contest when Mne. Dempster was opposed by a sailor who looked twice his size but Dempster's aggressiveness and hard hitting caused the fight to be stopped in the second round. So we finished the contest with four winners—a credit to the detachment and Sgt. Mathers our indefatigable trainer.

Our four day visit to Le Havre began on 18th March with the band giving a most impressive display in the hangar to about three hundred Port Officials and their wives. The local press advertised that a Spectacular "Beat Retraite" would be performed by the "batalion de fusilier marin" on 19th March. On hearing this in the Place Gambetta, Bandmaster Pearce spread his band out to give the impression that a battalion was performing and then provided an entertaining half hour for several thousand French people. The locals showed their appreciation by taking the band to a restaurant for an equally entertaining half hour's drinking.

As soon as **Hermes** was alongside at Le Havre half the detachment disappeared off to Paris for two days being relieved on Sunday by the other half and the band. What happened in Paris is left to your imagination, but the Foreign Legion did not claim any of our members, so life on board could not be too arduous.

On arriving back in Portsmouth on 25th March, we welcomed Mnes. Rudd, Taylor, Bell, Maddock and Buglers Giffard and Hudson. Corporal Cox left for a LC 2's course at Poole. We spent an enjoyable evening ashore with **Loch Fada's** detachment on 5th May, but they really need more darts practice.

We now sail for our flying trials with real aircraft then back to Portsmouth for half our Summer Leave. "MICK."



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"GIBRALTAR"

The Ceremony of the Keys—March, 1960

His Excellency the Governor and Commander in Chief of Gibraltar wrote to Admiral Sir William Davis to invite his Royal Marines to carry out the Ceremony of the Keys. He is General Sir Charles Keightley and had met the Corps previously in Malaya, he had also seen us perform this ceremony at Gibraltar 18 months ago. An impressive figure in his residence is the major domo, C./Sgt. Wheeler, R.M. What with one thing and another he probably felt he could rely on seeing the ceremony performed in a competent manner.

The Home Fleet was visiting Gibraltar in March, in company with NATO squadrons of three other nations, but in all this array of shipping there are very few Royal Marines. However C. in C. Home Fleet's band would be present in the **Tyne**; **Bermuda** with her platoon embarked would be in dry dock, and the **Tiger** was due in from the Mediterranean Fleet three days before we sailed. So it was decided that 24th March was the only possible date—only just possible at that. To add to the gravity of the situation it was found that an exceptional galaxy of VIPs would be attending the parade. These included the First Lord of the Admiralty, Lord Carrington and the Permanent Secretary Sir John Lang, in addition to the already large number of senior officers of all three British services and Flag officers of the French, Netherlands and Portuguese navies.

The ceremony itself dates back to the great siege of Gibraltar (1779-1783) when the governor ordered that all foreigners should be clear of the fortress by the time the sunset gun was fired, and the gates should be locked at that time. A band paraded through the streets before sunset to warn all aliens to leave. Just before the gates are locked the Outpost Platoon marches out. Queen Elizabeth's Keys are brought onto the parade at Casemates by His Excellency in person. After the ceremony at the gate they are marched with their escort, behind the band, back through Main Street to the Governor's residence where he receives them back.

Fairly complicated drill and precise timings are needed, so the C. in C.'s band and **Bermuda's** platoon under Capt. Luxmoore, set about training up key numbers, between bouts of "storing ship." Sgt. Fleming commanded the Escort of the Keys. Captain Smith from **Tiger** was to be Adjutant and his band and detachment were to swell the ranks. They arrived on Tuesday morning and quickly got the hang of the procedure. We had a Dress Rehearsal on Wednesday, and on Thursday evening the show was on.

It rained most of Thursday until five minutes before the troops marched on. Early spectators were greeted with rows of up-side-down chairs, but just before the main body of guests arrived it was possible to set the chairs upright and the sun came out to dry them off. An interested spectator, who expressed himself as satisfied by the drill, was Colonel J. M. Fuller, now living at the Bristol Hotel. He will be remembered by many as the Adjutant at Eastney in 1932.

The parade went off without a hitch and this was largely due to the kindness and co-operation of the British Army, both the Fortress staff and the Prince of Wales' Own Regiment of Yorkshire.



Ceremony of the Keys, Gibraltar.

Photo: RN Official

FAR EAST STATION

The new Commando Base at Sembawang

The Royal Naval Air Station, Sembawang, flying the White Ensign and unit flag of 42 Commando, is the scene of busy final preparations for the arrival of HMS *Bulwark*, and the occupation of the Base by 42 Commando Main Party and 848 Helicopter Squadron.

This airfield was carved out of the Bukit Sembawang rubber estate in 1937 and the Air Station was built for the RAF with the original intention of housing two Bomber Squadrons. In 1941 the Air Station was transferred to the RAAF and became the home of four Australian Squadrons of light bomber and fighter aircraft. The station suffered heavy raids and many casualties, and in late 1941 the Australians were augmented by two Dutch Bomber Squadrons. However, the situation on the ground in Malaya grew steadily worse and in January, 1942 the station was evacuated.

Sembawang Air Station was occupied, with ceremony, by the Japanese in February, 1942. This occupation lasted until September, 1945, when a Naval Party took back control of the airfield from the Japanese. There were about 90 Zero fighters, a few Betty bombers on the airfield, and a complement of about 700 Japanese officers and men. The station was honeycombed with tunnels and foxholes and was in an unbelievable state of filth and disorder. The Japanese prisoners of war were put to work at once and laid the existing PSP runway and filled in as many of the tunnels and foxholes as could be found. Sufficient to say that some have never been found, and one in fact caved in below the Wardroom Galley in 1947 with almost disastrous results.

The station remained under Naval control until 1947, when it was handed over to the RAF. However, with the advent of the Korean war the station returned to Naval hands again, and the period 1950-1954 was one of intense naval air activity there.

After the Korean war the Naval air commitments at Sembawang were gradually reduced, and before work started recently on re-activating the station, it was largely occupied by Army troops.

The buildings are basically brick built, though some of the recent additions are of wooden construction. Together with the five hangars they are all grouped along the south side of the large airfield. The airstrip is no longer used by fixed wing aircraft, except Austers and other light aircraft, and so the plateau forms an excellent training area for helicopter drills. It also provides good pitches for soccer, cricket, rugby and hockey.

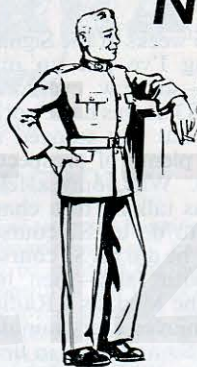
The station surroundings are pleasantly rural and the breezes in the evening make it one of the coolest places in the island. An added attraction is the splendid swimming pool, which is ever a tempting sight.

42 Commando Advance Party have settled down happily in their new surroundings, and we all look forward with enthusiasm to the many more green berets we shall be seeing in June.



Admiral Sir Charles Lambe with Sgt. G. R. Hughes, one of 42 Cdo. advance party at Sembawang. One of the last photographs of Admiral Lambe with the Corps before he was forced to give up the post of First Sea Lord by ill health.

NOW I CAN SAVE



Parent How's that, son?

Marine Well, my pay in the Marines leaves a good margin
Thomas over and I've found a scheme that shows a good profit.

Parent What exactly is it?

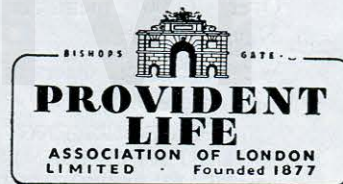
Marine It's called a **PROGRESSIVE SAVINGS POLICY**
Thomas and is issued by the **PROVIDENT LIFE ASSOCIATION**. I make a £3 monthly allotment and I shall leave the service in 20 years' time when I shall be nearly 40, with £855 in cash, which is £135 more than I pay in.

Parent Jolly good, but what happens if you decide not to re-engage in the service say after 9 years.

Marine I can carry on paying premiums or if I want it take
Thomas a cash sum. If I stay on for the full term of service as I expect to, there are other house purchase and pension options. This is just the thing for me, Dad.

Parent I agree, and it will make your mother happy to know you're being so sensible about money matters. You know, we ought to tell Cousin Jack about this.

Marine It's very simple. All he has to do is to write to the
Thomas **PROVIDENT LIFE ASSOCIATION**.



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Rank or Rating Age next birthday

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CI



ONE UP

and two to go

BY S3

WELL, after 15 weeks at the Signal Training Wing I've put up my crossed flags—so now everyone knows I'm an S3. It was hard work getting there, but I've enjoyed it and there are plenty of prospects for the future. Why, only a few days ago I was talking to a chap who is going to do an S2 course for Corporal—he did his S3 course about 18 months ago—then he

had a tour in the Brigade—went all over the Med. as a Radio operator—Tripoli, Cyprus, Sardinia and enjoyed every minute of it. He had a whale of a time in Naples. So now he is in line for Corporal—well if I keep up with things I'll be back here soon on the same routine.

But going back to this S3 course—15 weeks may seem a long time on top of your recruit training but there was so much to do that we didn't get a chance to be bored. Even in the first week when the old bogey MORSE was pumped into us, we were given the TRR A40 to use. Nice little set that—small enough to slide in the top of your pack—light too, and a range of about a mile. The exercise was a bit of a shambles until we got the hang of the Voice Procedure—trouble was we all tried to shout at once and the set didn't like it—neither did the Instructors! Like everything else—you have to wait your turn.

We did our line laying in pouring rain over at Browdown. Soaked to the skin before we started and the gorse tripping us up every five paces, we cursed everything in sight—just like it used to be at Lymstone, but at the end at least we had something to show for it — OUR line worked!

On to wireless

It was much better when we got onto the wireless phase—once we had manpacked our TRR 62 on the first exercise we were given a vehicle as well and travelling in comfort! Much better than walking—on one exercise I almost got to London—of course, it would have to be the day before pay day so we couldn't stop! That was called "Longhop," but one of our instructors said it was quite short range compared with an exercise he did when he did his S1's course—something about going to Anglesey—up in North Wales. But that was with one of those new TRC11/RR210 sets. I hear they have just got them in Bde. HQ. We used them too, but only for a short exercise. It was a bit of a game with all those knobs and dials, but when we got used to it, it was the best set of the lot. I hope I go to the Bde. Signal Tp.—I may be able to operate one there too!

Well, now I'm looking forward to the future. If I can pass my Juniors this commission I should be doing an S2 course in two years time, and on the way things are going, I should be an S1 about two years after that. Of course it's hard work, but I think it's worth it. I'm a candidate for promotion. See you in the Sgts' Mess.



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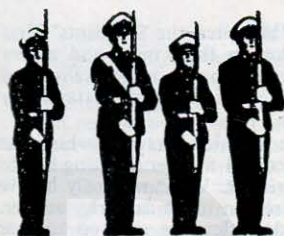
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PER TERRAM

At Home



PORTSMOUTH GROUP

EASTNEY BARRACKS

Have you ever raced a Kart? Just before Easter the Parade ground was the scene of the noisiest demonstration ever recorded at Eastney. On a very wet Monday afternoon, several stalwarts of the local club brought six of these noisy little 80 c.c. racing frames for us to try. It is alleged that these machines provide the same thrills at about 30 mph as full scale racing does at over 100 mph. Those marines who volunteered to drive them are the best judges of that! Needless to say, there were many occasions when the wet tarmac failed to provide a grip for the tyres and the sight of a Kart going backwards towards the grass was quite common. The safest place for spectators appeared to be inside the circuit, but most marines preferred the "pit area" under the trees along Gunners Walk.

Whilst the rebuilding of the accommodation blocks goes on steadily month by month, considerable work has been done by Mr. Monkman to improve the gardens. With the aid of the experts from the Portsmouth Parks Department, many trees have been cut back and those that failed to survive last year's drought have been grubbed out. A new plan has been made and nearly 200 new trees and shrubs have been planted. The "new look" will eventually provide for a complete screen along the north edge of the heliport and a balanced pattern of shade around the parade.

Easter leave coincided with the start of the good weather and so far it seems as if the Eastney summer has come to stay. In blazing sunshine, rehearsals for the Street Lining Detachments for the State Visit of General de Gaulle and then Princess Margaret's Wedding kept the Parade Staff occupied. These were followed by a Church Parade for the Corps Remembrance Sunday, in which most of the men under training formed the Companies. With such brilliant weather, the early holidaymakers were out in force and there was a large public to watch them perform. Whilst not a big attendance by pre-war standards, it is encouraging to see the public returning to Eastney on a Sunday morning.

The good weather has also encouraged the marksmen to emerge from the .22 range where they have had such a successful season, to try their skill with the SLR on the open range. Results so far show that the SLR hits the target just as well as the old No. 4. If the weather holds, and the practice week is fully subscribed, the Unit Rifle Meeting at Browdown on 18th-20th May should give a good indication of our future Bisley Shots. We shall see!

WRNS

Wren Sheila Phillips was married in Portsmouth on 2nd April to LEM C. Taylor of RN Barracks. She was well supported by local Wrens.

We say Cheerio with best wishes to Leading Wrens Bucknell and Broadhurst who have recently left the Service, and welcome Leading Wren Hayter from HMS *Mercury*.

The Portsmouth Command are celebrating the 21st Anniversary of the formation of the WRNS on the 27th June, 1960. The celebrations take the form of a Service on board HMS *Victory* and a March to the Guildhall where the salute will be taken by the Commander-in-Chief and the Lord Mayor. After the March Past, the WRNS are being entertained to tea by the Lord Mayor and Councillors. Then the cutting of the Birthday Cake. Fifteen Wrens from RMB and fifteen from HMS *Excellent* are to form one of the eleven Platoons.

Sergeants' Mess

There is very little news to report. We welcome RSM Cornish, our President, back in our midst and are pleased to see that he is fit again. The refrigerated cellar has now been installed and the usual Mess entertainment continues.

Present day reports seem to consist of "drinking sessions" and "stag nights." I wonder what they would have been like in the olden days when punishments were flogging, drumming out and discharge with ignominy in which the Drum Major and Provost Sergeant played a pretty prominent part.

Although flogging ceased as a punishment in 1866 it used to take place in the rear of Woolwich barracks early in the day. Drummers

used to do the flogging, for which they received three-farthings a day "flogging money." Each drummer gave twelve strokes; if more were to be inflicted the next drummer took over. This was under the control of the Drum Major who gave the time each stroke should be given, generally every thirty seconds, in order that the drummer could disentangle his "nine tails." A doctor had charge of the man physically and could stop the punishment at his discretion, as many did. Drummers used to practise flogging in their barrack room.

Drumming-out was a sad affair in which the whole division took part. After the victim had been stripped of his facings, ornaments, buttons, etc., by the Drum Major in the centre of the parade, he was marched round the large square, which was formed by men on the parade, under charge of the Provost Sergeant. The drums and fifes followed, playing the "Rogue's March" to the front gate when he would be handed to the Drum Major, who would take him into a small room to the side of the gate and there tattoo a BC on his left breast. The prisoner was then kicked out of the gate by the smallest drummer boy, into the arms of a civil policeman, who took him away to gaol to do any imprisonment in addition awarded to him.

No doubt the Drum Major and Provost Sergeant suffered many a "leg pull" after such occasions and quite possibly sleepless nights.

There have recently been several "old soldiers" visit the Mess, One old chap, who kept us agog with his reminiscences, went to pension in 1908 and he is still going strong, perhaps he will visit us again sometime.



Colour Party for President de Gaulle's visit to London.
L to R: C/Sgt. Davis, Lt. Wallace, QMS Buxton, Lt. Mackie.

Photo: E. Auty

PAY AND RECORDS OFFICE

The weekend, 7th-8th May, 1960, saw the final Corps Day of Reunion to be held in Chatham. Blessed with lovely weather, there was a congregation of over a thousand in the Royal Dockyard Church, and the turnout of the "old and bold" was the best for many years. The Farewell Reunion, held in the Sergeants' Mess, was indeed a memorable one, and further details of this appear later. This ceremony was the first of several which will take place in the next three or four months before PRORM and the Royal Marines finally close in Chatham. Admiral Sir Robin Durnford-Slater, KCB, Commander-in-Chief, The Nore, took the salute, and amongst the distinguished guests was the Major-General, Portsmouth, Major-General R. W. Madoc, and the Mayor of Chatham.

Sergeants' Mess

The weekend of 7th-8th May proved to be the most memorable that the Mess has experienced for years. On Saturday a "Farewell Reunion" of all ex-members was held—this turned out to be more successful than even the most optimistic member of the Entertainments Committee dared hope for.

The Devil cast his net far and wide over the country, bringing in members and their wives from as far apart as Plymouth, Bickleigh, Stafford, Dover and London. The first to arrive, at 1245, was ex-C./Sgt. Charles Marshall, from London, looking remarkably well and showing a great deal less than his 88 years. He remained with us until 1515 hrs. Sunday—when he walked into Chatham to catch his coach home, carrying, by the way, a bottle of whisky won in the raffle. This has been an outstanding year for C./Sgt. Marshall, as earlier he had the honour of being presented to HRH The Queen Mother, when he received the gift of Royal Maundy Money.

Over 300 guests were present during the evening, when amongst those we were pleased to welcome were Major-General R. W. Madoc, Colonel N. H. D. McGill and Major J. H. Salter, our Supervisor. Another notable guest was ex-Sgt. Harold Smith, now Mayor of Gillingham. During the course of the evening many old friends were re-united, stories told and lamps swung. More ships were probably sunk that night than at any time since the Battle of Jutland. Eighteen ex-members were accommodated overnight—and were up at 0800 despite the 0300 turn in!

Sunday brought more glorious weather, and our final Church Parade. The service, held in the Royal Dockyard Church, included an excellent address by the Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of Maidstone, recently returned from a visit to 3 Commando Brigade. Special guests on this occasion were three of our friends from Pembroke House, ex-privates Burton (91), Fairweather (85) and Emery (82), all RMLI. These gentlemen were taken by car to the Church, and after the Service had seats by the Saluting Base for the March Past. They were afterwards presented to C. in C. and MGRM, Portsmouth. After the reception in the Mess, our friends were taken back to Pembroke House by car.

In the late afternoon the Mess returned to its usual quietness, as the last guests departed—some with suspiciously moist eyes. The work put in by the Entertainment and Farewell Committees had been amply rewarded, and the farewell to our predecessors in the Corps, to whom we owe so much, was complete.

Special thanks are due to the RMOCA, London, and RMA Chatham, who turned up in such force.

JNCOs' Club

Our previous contributor, "Schoolie" (Cpl. Eggleston), has left us to resume his chemical activities in civvy street. He nominated me for the job during my absence and as I now stand unanimously elected, I join with all members of the club in thanking him for his past services and hoping that his future ones will be as much appreciated.

Our social activities have certainly not been at a standstill since the last issue, for members enjoyed entertaining "residents" of the "Green Lion Hotel," Rainham, at a social evening in the club on the 17th March. Our guests of that occasion visited us again on the 21st April, and this time they paid for the buffet. The evening began in a lively fashion, and did not let up until midnight. A football match, the second half of which was played in fancy dress, preceded the indoor capers. The Chinese lady playing right half was later identified, because of his drinking action, as Cpl. "Buster" Brown.

Due to our move to Portsmouth, we regret having to discontinue these annual events from which we have derived so much pleasure, but we trust there will be social occasions to match these when we join Eastney.

On the 26th April, members who accepted the Sergeants' Mess invitation to an indoor games match in their mess had a very enjoyable evening. We thank the Seniors for their hospitality, and for proving to us just how they utilise their lunch and stand easy times.

It is whispered that Cpl. Robin Lumley-Harvatt, who is at present languishing in RNH has received a letter advising him to visit himself as he is the club sick visitor. We can hardly believe this and we hope that soon he will return to us as perky as ever. Our Leading Wren members will doubtless be relieved to hear his cheery quips once more.

We wish Cpl. Vallance all the best on his draft to 40 Cdo., and although he has left a hole in the duty roster we have not to be dismayed for long as we can now welcome Cpl. Peerless from HMS Loch Ruthven to stop the gap.

Our congratulations are offered to L./Cpls. Davis, Ranger and Thompson on their promotion, so now we cannot really grumble about the dreaded roster, and least of all me, for without it, in this "goggle box age," it is doubtful if this article would ever be written.

B.L.

WRNS

"Twenty-First Birthday of the WRNS" Celebrations.

On Saturday, 26th March, a Dance was held in the Corn Exchange, Rochester, for the three WRNS units in Chatham. It was attended by just over 400 people, and everyone seemed to thoroughly enjoy themselves. The sum of £14 5s. 0d. was raised by "raffles," and sent to the World Refugee Fund.

The following day, Sunday, 27th March, a most impressive Church Service was held in St. George's Church of the RN Barracks. The sermon was preached by the Chaplain of the Fleet. The Church was packed with WRNS Officers and ratings from all over the Nore Command, and afterwards, a "March-Past" took place of all the units in the Command (nine platoons in all), and the salute was taken by the Commander-in-Chief, the Nore. This was followed by tea for everyone in the Gymnasium, and the Director, WRNS cut a huge "Twenty-First Birthday" cake, which had been prepared by the Supply School of the RN Barracks. Part of the March-Past was televised, and appeared on the BBC News at 9 p.m. the same evening.



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THE DEPOT

Known generally as "The Depot," this Royal Marines establishment at Deal comprises a remarkably wide range of our Corps activities—all pursued with great enthusiasm, as many of us have good reason to know. There is the Recruit training which is the aspect most commonly associated with an Army "Depot" and currently geared to handle a steady intake of some 650 regulars a year. Then we have "Junior Wing," 300 strong, responsible for the upbringing of all our Junior Musicians, Buglers and Marines, and which in less economical days would be a unit on its own. Next and by no means least important is the Royal Marines School of Music, the training, holding and drafting centre of the whole of the RM Band Service. Finally and full of its traditional vigour, we have the RMPT Wing, the responsibilities of which extend from Corps sport, via Naval fencing, to getting the weeds out of the Depot Church garden.

But the point of writing all this is to report that every Officer, NCO, man and boy returned, without a single absentee or late-comer of any sort, at the end of Easter Leave, ready to undertake what is probably the busiest period the Depot has ever known. It is a question of applying the principle of war we call "concentration of force"—of deciding what is the particular thing to be done, and directing all our efforts to that end.

The first big effort is the Beat Retreat Ceremony at the Horse Guards Parade in London. Four Bands each of sixty-five ranks, plus spare men are massing at the Depot. For the uninformed the administration and work of preparing such as this, not to mention the rehearsals and Press visits, comes as quite an eye opener, particularly as in this case the whole thing has to be repeated, but with a change in some of the bands for the Royal Tournament.

Concurrently, and working up to its final crescendo in July will be the preparations for the most ambitious Tattoo programme ever undertaken within the Corps. And in addition to the actual Tattoo, there is to be a comprehensive exhibition in the afternoon involving everyone on the permanent staff.

With this considerable activity we welcome our WRNS detachment, the advance party of which arrives in May. They are to be housed in A and B Blocks in South Barracks and we hope that the detachment will be at full strength by the end of June. At least they will soon realise they have not joined a backwater.

Turning now to events since our last contribution, we are able to report that the Annual Rifle Meeting was successfully held at Lyddon Spout Range on 4th and 5th April. Prior to the meeting numerous vintage "shottists" flexed their muscles and eyed the prize list with sardonic smiles which doubtless meant "I suppose I will have to take your money again, old boy" even if it is with these new-fangled rifles. But they were in for a shock because they were all beaten by the new Depot Champion, Recruit Cawley of the 736 Squad, who won the individual championship. Recruit Butler of the same squad won the Young Soldiers Trophy. Not to be outdone, YE/3 Squad Young Marines of the Junior Wing, won the new Houghton Inter Squad trophy for competition between all squads training at Deal. The excellent shooting of all the young Marines was a notable feature of the Meeting.

The Inter Departmental Tile Match produced an amusing final when a team of Recruits found themselves shooting against a team which included the Commanding Officer and the Adjutant. The Recruits discreetly lost.

735 and 736 Squads put on a really excellent drill display at the last Chatham Navy Days over the Easter holidays. Considerable credit reflects on QMS Hoskins, Sgt. Norris and Sgt. Ford who worked so hard to make this display as near perfection as possible. It gave the two squads something to work for, and in their determination and prowess they maintained the high standard of the Corps.

We offer our heartiest congratulations to QMS Prosser, not only on the award of his LS and GC Medal but also on being one of the first QMS Cooks in the Corps. This has given a considerable fillip to the cookery world as a whole and brings them in line with the other branches.

On the recreational side we have had two noteworthy events. The first was a most enjoyable performance by the Globe Players of a comedy "Haul for the Shore" which is reported fully elsewhere in this issue. Our players came second in the Nore Command Competition. Congratulations to the producer, 2nd Lieut. Greatorex and all who supported him. This show is to be followed by a revue, "Try this for Size," which promises to be excellent entertainment.

Not to be outdone our Friendly Wives organised a dress show for themselves for which the Sergeants very kindly loaned their Mess. This display was a resounding success and about 140 ensembles were modelled. Christine Thomas (whose father is serving in 45 Commando) and Valerie Hubble (daughter of an ex Royal

Marine PTI) displayed some bright teenage fashions with verve and assurance which particularly entranced the audience. The other models Mesdames Hynes, Thomas, Morgan, Ough, Hilton, Powell, Hubble and Hardwick. Tea and a raffle followed, intermingled with some lively discussion and praise for the show. Mrs. Stentiford, the oldest member present, picked the winning raffle ticket for a basket of fruit. This was a very pleasant social occasion which augurs well for the future. As our final item we can report that we endeavoured to mark our Corps Remembrance Sunday in a fitting manner. A large scale Church parade was held under the Command of Lieut. Col Pound, the Depot Second-in-Command. At an exhilarating and beautiful service there was a stirring sermon by Rev. J. Holland, OBE, RN (Rtd), now Chaplain of the Royal Hospital School, Holbrook. We were honoured to welcome Major-General Fellowes who took the salute, as well as a large number of ex Royal Marines and their families. Afterwards we entertained all our visitors and it was pleasing to meet so many old faces. We hope they enjoyed the occasion as much as we did, and that they shared our hope that we were paying due regard to the many splendid members of our Corps whose example we now follow.

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

The month prior to Easter Leave provided much interesting and hard work for both the Military Band and Orchestra. Outstanding engagements were undertaken at the closing of Sheerness Dockyard and at a passing-out parade of the Buffs at Canterbury. Special mention must be made of the excellent impression created by the band of the Junior Wing during a week-end visit to Bradford and of the high standard they attained when they performed an orchestral concert at Ramsgate.

The fortnightly orchestral concerts finished on a high note with works of great variety. The distinguished guest conductors on these occasions were Mr. Maurice Miles and Dr. Clarence Raybould who both rehearsed the orchestra to a fine pitch and produced performances enjoyed by players and audience alike.

Since returning from leave the Band has performed at the Burma Star Re-union at the Albert Hall and at the opening of the Carpenters' Hall, London, plus a broadcast on the 11th May. Preparation and rehearsals are now proceeding for the busy summer term ahead with the highlights being the Massed Bands engagements for Beating Retreat on Horse Guards Parade on 2nd June, the Royal Tournament, 22nd June to 9th July, Greyhound Derby, 25th June, and Deal Tattoo, 25th July to 4th August.

Junior Wing

Winter activities are nearly forgotten as we look forward to what is usually the most pleasant, and at the same time, the most active term of the year at Deal. With the end of Easter Term, we said farewell to Lieut. T. Secombe and Lieut. P. N. Thompson, and have welcomed in their places Lieut. J. St. J. Gray and Lieut. G. T. Woods respectively.

In the athletic sphere, a noteworthy achievement was made by J/Bugler Douglas, who won his way into the semi-finals of the Junior A.B.A. Championships in the Albert Hall. The Junior Wing House Championship was won by Barham (Junior Marines), and the annual Staff v. Boys rugby match was won 3-0 by the Staff.

Sailing enthusiasts were interested to see a sleek vessel enter the Depot towards the end of term, crated up on an enormous truck. This turned out to be the Vision II which Major Dillion later drove down to the Mediterranean. He managed to evade the unwelcome interest of gendarmes, polizei and carabinieri by claiming total ignorance of all languages proffered, and safely arrived in Naples to spend the Easter Leave working up for the Olympics.

Travelling a little nearer home, but not less venturesome was a party of eleven Junior Musicians and four Junior Buglers who spent the last week of Easter Leave on tour in Belgium and France. The idea was enlarged on the highly successful trip to the Brussels Exhibition two years ago, by staying longer and travelling farther afield. The first three nights were spent in youth hostels at Bruges and Brussels. At Bruges three members of the party were fortunate to climb in half an hour after "lights out."

After crossing the French border, the camping gear was unpacked and the first night was spent at Compiègne. Finally the long awaited journey to Paris was negotiated, and the boys were safely steered across the Metro system, in spite of a disturbing encounter with a "portillon automatique" which threatened to split the party neatly in two. By now the weather was superb, and the camping site ideal, an island on the Seine at the locks of Bougival between Neuilly and St. Germain. In between visits to the boulevards and sights of the city, there was plenty of amusement on the river with dinghies borrowed from two English yachts moored alongside.

All too soon it was time to return, but this blow was softened by the fact that the compartments occupied in the boat train were flanked on either side by girls' school parties! One cause for satisfaction is that these boys have gained an impression of foreign travel which they could easily miss in their later travels in the Service. Many have since joined the Y.H.A., and plan to go abroad as soon as the opportunity arises.

Sergeants' Mess

To write a suitable introduction to this article is rather like trying to dig a Channel Tunnel. There are many areas which seem to be good prospects on the surface but which get rather wet after a little digging. Therefore I propose to do without an introductory passage with the exception of saying that this is my first article from the Sergeants' Mess, so if the traditional pattern of articles is broken please accept my apologies.

Should the TV script writers ever run short of material for a comedy series, I strongly advise them to attend one of our General Meetings. Although quite a lot of serious business is conducted, they give the Mess comedians a golden opportunity to exercise their wit. Subject under discussion, "Shall we call it the Gramophone Committee or the Radiogram Committee?" Eventual answer: The Radiogram Committee. The committee member makes his report, "The gramophone needs replacing by a record player!" Where to go for the Mess outing was another occasion for mirth. One suggestion was that we go to San Francisco to meet Barbara Moore, or Paris for the day, or more popularly the "Lord Warden."

Having had the lounge decorated recently, it seems odd that as soon as volunteers for some duty or other are called for, a hundred pairs of eyes become extremely interested in the decor. However these things are I am sure not restricted to the Depot and there must be many humorous incidents worth hearing about from other Messes. Departures and Arrivals seems rather like the heading of a railway timetable but we are very pleased to see new faces at the Depot and a little sad to see some of the old faces go. Very often you lose touch with someone until seeing his name again in one of these articles. As there are quite a few from the Depot I propose to record them in list form.

Departures

B/M O'Donnell and B/Sgt. Clements to HMS St. Vincent.

B/M Farlow to RNAS Arbroath.

C/Sgt. Hackett to RMFVR Bristol.

Arrivals

B/M Masters, B/Sgt. Schmid and Sgt. Evans from HMS Victorious.

Sgt. McCance and Sgt. Camble from RMFVR London.

C/Sgt. Dillon from Whale Island (Home of the Brave).

Sgt. Holland from HMS Loch Fada.

B/M Ward from HMS Ariel.

B/M Walton from HMS St. Vincent.

Sgt. Sharp from RMB Eastney.

Promotions are always a happy event to write about, especially when they bring new blood into the Mess. Recent promotions in the Depot include C/Sgt. (K) Prosser to QMS, and B/Cpls. Hill and Lockwood to B/Sgt. and Cpls. Harper and Ward to Sgt. We heartily congratulate them all and hope the newcomers will have a long and happy career in the Mess.

Prior to Easter Leave the Mess held a social evening which was well attended and enjoyed by all. The Steward, Sgt. Mann, who had his Christmas leave in March thought it was New Year's Eve. Several members of the Mess attended the 1st Battalion Gloucester Regiment's "Back Badge Ball" and the outstanding feature was the fabulous buffet provided.

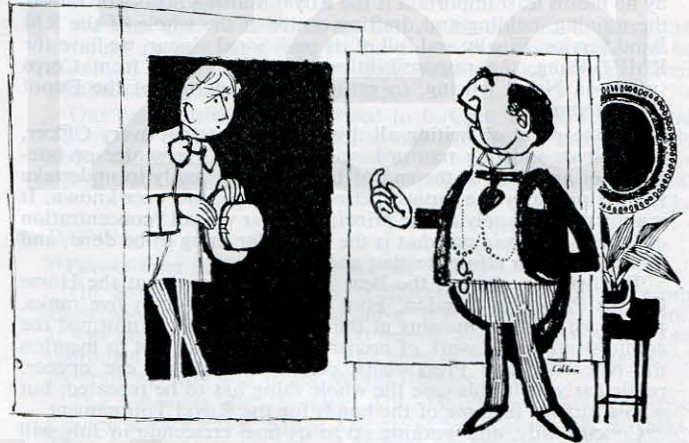
We were very pleased to see QMS Shoemith on the occasion of his visit to the Depot with a batch of Y/Os and trust that he enjoyed his stay with us. The two new "Blues" in the Mess are QMS Prosser and Sgt. Paddon. The future forebodes a lot of activity for the Depot with the Tattoo and Golf, Beat Retreat and Golf, and the Mess outing and Golf. The mess recently installed a one-armed bandit in the lounge and purchased three sets of golf clubs. There is absolutely no connection between these two pieces of information.

"HAUL FOR THE SHORE"

The Globe Players of the Depot RM performed a light West Country comedy "Haul for the Shore" by Jean McConnell in the Royal Navy Drama Festival. After our overwhelming success last year it was almost too much to hope for another win, but we did not disgrace ourselves and came second to HMS Ganges.

"Haul for the Shore" can be considered no more than a trifle of a play, with a slight plot, but a concord of humorous situations. It takes place in a Cornish fisherman's cottage, where the whole village lives on the spoils of wrecks washed up during the storms.

It's different now



*I rose. "Good morning", I said,
and stepped into the safe.
"Come out", said the bank manager coldly.*

(LITERARY LAPSES, 1910)

There was some truth in it when Stephen Leacock wrote his uproarious sketch of a nervous man's first encounter with a big city bank. In those days a first-timer had need to bring some self-assurance with him to meet the august protocol of a banking hall.

How different today – when people drop in at their Lloyds Bank branches as unconcernedly as they would enter a coffee-bar . . . can even be seen emerging from the manager's room with the complacent look of one who has just borrowed a modest sum on most favourable terms . . .

The fact is you really can't do without a bank account these days – and the cost of running one is negligible if you consider the advantages – so why not call at the nearest branch of Lloyds Bank and open a current account now?



LLOYDS BANK LIMITED

The arrival of a new vicar puts a damper on their activities, and also on those of the young couple who own the cottage who have been "living together for three years, but never seem to get around to a wedding."

The play depends for its strength on the development of the characters, which in turn revolved around an exacting performance of an old fisherman, superbly portrayed by James Powell. As the adjudicator, Mr. Cecil Bellamy said, "He was a character one could really believe in, even though he was rather too spruce." (But what else could one expect from the Recruit Company Commander.)

His opening scene with Mrs. Trout, the local gossip imaginatively played by Pat McNulty, set the play off with the proverbial "bang." As a first performance, she holds considerable promise for the future.

The young couple were played by Pam and Derek Oakley, whose performances were described as "charmingly sincere" and "delightfully simple." They were unrewarding parts as a whole, but they proved to be excellent foils for the more robust characters.

Frederick Townsend portrayed the sporting vicar with the necessary ingredients of incredulity and firmness. Petrock Pook, another local character, was splendidly portrayed by Christopher Greatorex.

It is impossible to mention all the members of the cast fully, but Phyllis Gray as a hearty country doctor, brought her considerable experience to a delightful cameo. Pat Curtis, who alternated with Leonnie Dunn as a milk girl gave a refreshing performance, and Torrance Beaton, the local constable, did not overdo his performance by making him a figure of fun, as is so often done. Vivian Gibson and Ian Thomas were convincing as the bogus customs officials, and Jack McNulty rounded off the programme with a minute but characteristic part.

In a play which involved an almost continuous stream of cups of coffee, tea, bottles of wine, a complete meal of soup, lobster curry and sweet, and numerous other vital "props," mention must be made of Jay Dillon and Rosemary Davis. They somehow managed to have everything ready with an absolute minimum of fuss, and put up with the eccentricities of the performers with tact and patience. The set, which was designed and built by the "Schoolies" was extremely realistic, if not a little too clean. Stage managed by the inexhaustible Charles Bowden, the play was as satisfying for the audience as for the performers.

The cast have asked me to show their appreciation of the untiring and unenviable work put in by the producer. The adjudicator praised the team work of the cast, but this would not have been possible without Christopher Greatorex's enthusiasm and theatrical knowledge keeping them hard at it and never accepting anything



Plymouth Colours entering RN Hospital Church.

Photo: RN Official

but the best. Len Broad, who was the inspiration behind the play and its undoubted success, whilst keeping himself in the background, helped the cast to maintain the high traditions of the Globe Players.

ROYAL MARINES BARRACKS, PLYMOUTH

Run-down of the Barracks

Now that a decision has been made to run-down the Barracks (it is hoped only temporarily) this may well be our last contribution to the GLOBE AND LAUREL for a while and inevitably our thoughts have wandered back to the early days when Marines were first stationed in Plymouth.

Plymouth Division was formed in 1755 although there must have been Marines in Plymouth prior to that date. At this time the Division had no barracks and so the eighteen companies of Officers and men were billeted round Plymouth. The Marines were in the Barbican area, the Orderly Room in Southside Street, and the Officers' Mess opened some time later in Marlborough Street, Devonport. Work on Stonehouse Barracks was started in 1781 and completed two years later when the first Marines moved in.

The earliest history of Plymouth Colours are lost in the mists of time but a letter to the Commandant in 1775 directs him to send the Divisional Colours to Boston with the Marines going to America, where they were later carried at the Battle of Bunkers Hill. A small portion of these colours is still held in the Officers' Mess.

Little is known about the Colours presented in 1810 but a full description has survived on the occasion in 1827 when HRH the Duke of Clarence, later King William IV, presented Colours to the Plymouth Division. The whole ceremony took place in pouring rain and the Duke's speech alone took an hour and a half. In 1861 a stand of Colours was issued (there does not appear to have been a presentation ceremony) to the Marine Battalion forming up at Plymouth which later served in Mexico in 1863. These same Colours were carried in 1864 in Japan during the attack on Simonsaki and must have been the last Royal Marine Colours to be carried in action.

The 1858 Colours, which were presented by the Commander in Chief, Rear Admiral Sir Thomas Pasley, are now laid up in the Barracks' Church of St. Christopher. In 1896 HRH the Duke of Edinburgh (formerly the Duke of Saxe Coburg and Gotha) presented Colours to the Plymouth Division. As far as can be traced this was the first occasion in which the old Colours were trooped prior to the presentation of new ones. These Colours were laid up in the King's Chapel, Gibraltar, in 1953.

The most recent stand of Colours was presented in 1951 by HRH the Duke of Edinburgh on behalf of King George VI and it was these Colours that were marched through Plymouth in 1955 when the Corps was granted the Freedom of the City.

On 29th March, 1960, a representative battalion commanded by Capt. M. H. Denyer paraded with these Colours for the last time before they were lodged in the chapel of the RN Hospital for safe custody. It was a moving occasion as the Colours, carried by Lieuts. Ashby and Estlick marched slowly off the parade to the tune of "Auld Lang Syne."

A more light-hearted occasion was the closing of the Officers' Mess on 10th April, when the few remaining Officers gathered to dispose of some "unreturnable champagne." A paying-off pendant (of token length only) was hoisted between the Mess and the Clock Tower and a final salute was fired on those well-worn cannon. The SNCOs Mess closed on 1st April (what a day to choose!) and the JNCOs Club three days later. Except for a small quantity which has been loaned to the Corps Museum and 41 Commando, and the silver which is being held for safe custody by the Command Trophy Store, the property of both the Officers and SNCOs Messes is being stored "in situ" with a caretaker to look after it. In this way both messes can re-open at short notice if the need arises.

In February, Lieut. Col. C. E. J. Eagles took over as our new Commanding Officer whilst still retaining his duties of Chief Staff Officer at Group HQ.

The Barracks is already looking very empty with the NCOs Training Wing and the Commando Special Training Troop having moved to ITCRM, the Group Band to Bickleigh and the 4th Raiding Squadron to JSAWC. With the help of working parties from 41 Commando, de-storing is in full swing and a large number of items are turning up in unexpected places with many an old S126 turning in its file somewhere!

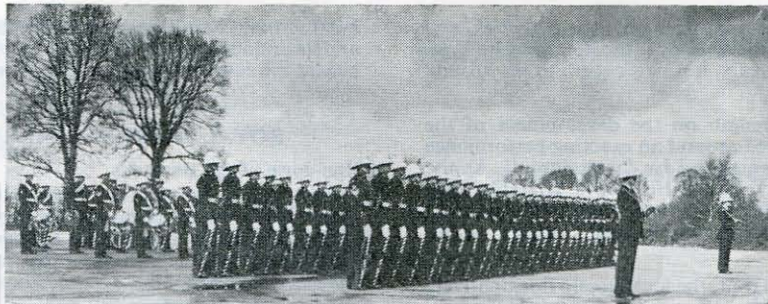
ITC

Photo: W. A. Puddicombe

RM

Spring is merging into summer and the ITC, like the season, is changing. There are so many new faces around the place that one feels that the naval idea of wearing tallies giving name, rank and duty might be a help in identifying them.

It started with the transfer of Wings from Plymouth. We are pleased to welcome the Assault Engineers, Heavy Weapons and the Cliff Climbers, who together with "X" Troop, constitute the new Commando Training Wing. The NCOs' Training Wing moved in swiftly, quietly and efficiently, and were conducting courses almost before we noticed their presence. The Recruit Squads have been compressed into the lines at the lower end of the camp and are almost a minority group.

The accommodation problem is acute and I am assured is not a subject for levity in this article. Nevertheless, building of the much discussed "new look" ITC started with a bigger and better drill shed and a new magazine. We are delighted to report that, after so many false alarms, the contractors have made a start on the new Officers' Mess. Patience, though, as it is going to take two years to complete.

Our Administrative Inspection was a great success, due to the hard work put in by all departments. The exercise on the last day involved a top secret aircraft crashing on Woodbury Common. The highlight was when our nuclear expert C/Sgt. Baxter was sent out to test radio-activity. He was seen leaving the camp clutching a geiger counter and driving his own fast sports car. It's the modern way to go into battle.

On the 3rd and 4th June, we are holding our Display Days for the public. The arena display features the Commando Display Team which is appearing at Madison Square Gardens later on in the month. They are billed in the New York programme as "World Famous Commandos" and we can tell you that their "act" is one of the slickest we have seen for some time, and one of the toughest physical tests ever. In addition, there is to be a Commando attack, Police Dogs, Old and Modern Drill Displays and Beat Retreat.

The 728 Squad is the first King's Squad to complete its training at the ITC, and will pass out on 3rd June before MGRM, Plymouth. A combined King's Squad of JE2 Squad and 729 Squad will be appearing at Rosyth Navy Days over Whitsun.

Officers' Training Wing

There are thirty-four YOs in the Wing—batches 19, 20 and 21, so the Directing Staff and NCO Instructors are earning their pay with a vengeance! Nevertheless, Major Taplin and Capt. Wall managed to slip away to North Africa for three days to watch Exercise "Sky Pioneer" and to see how the Second Lieutenants in 40 and 42 Commandos were progressing. Meanwhile, the Chief Instructor and remaining DS went to Bristol to run the annual TEWT for RMFVR Officers from all over the UK.

Early in March, YO 20 spent an extremely enjoyable and instructive weekend at Deal, where they were very hospitably entertained and shown all the various aspects and activities that go on in the Depot. Perhaps the highlight of the visit, and indeed of their sporting prowess, was the fact that they provided the backbone of the Depot side which managed to beat the Deal Ladies at hockey.

Shortly before the end of the rugby season, a pitched battle took place between YO 18 and 20 with the OC Wing doing duty with the whistle—YO 20 showed their disrespect for their seniors by deservedly beating them in a very good match. So to the cricket season with the promise of a little more talent than of late.

There have been various changes in the staff recently. Capt. D. L. Bailey has left us for the RAF Staff College, and Capt. F. Reynolds has joined us in his stead. Lieut. Hazeldine has relieved Lieut. T. W. S. Downs as AO, as he is due for a Machine Gun Course shortly. Sgt. Lovell has joined us to take the place of 2/Lieut. (SD) D. Pugh.

Sergeants' Mess

Since our last article was written, the annual Administrative Inspection has taken place. The new TV room has been completed during this period, and the extra room, although slight, has proved a great benefit to the Mess. It is a most restful room, comfortably furnished and tastefully decorated in pastel shades.

Just prior to leave, the Mess Easter Dance was held, and was a great success, although as the strength of the Mess grows with the addition of new members from other Wings of the Corps, the Mess buildings become more and more crowded during functions of this type. Saturday, 30th April, saw another event arranged by the Entertainments Committee. This was the Mess Annual Outing, and this year it took the form of a trip to London to watch the Tottenham Hotspur v. Blackpool Football Match at White Hart Lane followed by a dinner at Herr Schmidt's Restaurant in Soho. The rest of the evening was spent by members roaming at will round the night spots of the Metropolis. No-one missed the buses on the return journey from the forecourt of Charing Cross Station, and all who went agreed that it was a most enjoyable experience.

The Mess must have one of the largest complements in the Corps now that the latest arrivals from other Wings have come to swell our ranks. From RM Barracks, Plymouth, have come Instructors and Staff of the NCOs Wing, the Cliff Assault Wing, the Heavy Weapons Wing, and Assault Engineers Wing. Fortunately, most of these SNCOs live out, otherwise the Mess would burst at the seams.

A new arrival in the Mess is a machine designed to appeal to the gambling instincts of those with a sixpence or two to spare. This is known as a "Fruit Machine," although I have heard it referred to by other less flattering names. For the price of a small silver coin, one can spin the numbers, and if it is the right day of the month, the machine obligingly vomits forth sixpences galore. More often than not, however, it just swallows them up forever. It has proved a good source of revenue for the Mess anyway, and some of what members spend on a flutter comes back as welcome income to the Mess.

Departures

Sgt. Denis Pugh has left us on promotion to Branch Officer, and we wish him all the best of luck in this new sphere. QMS Bray has gone to join Brigade HQ. QMS Salter has taken his place in the Victualling Office, and now has a figure like Friar Tuck to match the hairstyle he wears. Sgt. A. E. Taylor has moved off to join RMTC Med. Sgt. Baldwin of the SASC has rejoined the Small Arms School, Hythe, on completion of his tour with SATW here. QMS Bowns and QMS Rigden have left for civilian life outside. Sgt. Hoban and Sgt. Foster have gone to join 45 Cdo. To all of them we wish the best of luck in their new appointments.

Arrivals

Sgt. Mowbray has rejoined us from SASC, Hythe, and Sgt. Porter has come to us from RMO.

Sport

Darts. The Mess Darts Team came second in the Exmouth and District League at the end of the season.

A personal triumph for Sgt. Bert Shorter, who is the captain of the team, was the fact that he got right into the finals of the individual championship and was narrowly defeated in the last leg. Well done Sheriff!

Small Arms Training Wing

The Royal Naval Long "G" 1960B Officers' Course have just completed a week's training in the Wing, being acquainted with Platoon Weapons and being taught minor tactics and IS Duties.

YO 10 Batch are now undergoing a four week Course which will be followed by further Military Training in the Officers' Training Wing prior to going to Commando Brigade in the late Autumn.

Sgts. McInshire and Williams leave us shortly to take up appointments in Brigade. Major D. L. S. Langley has now taken over from Major J. L. S. Garratt as Commandant of the Wing.

NCOs Training Wing

In common with a large number of other people, we at the NCOTW were sad at having to leave RM Barracks, Plymouth. Our roots had grown deep in the fourteen years we had been there. Prince of Wales Redoubt (the Fort), whose damp walls contain the secrets of countless men who have aspired to climb the ladder of promotion and whose splendid isolation added much to the mystery and honour of the Wing, stands forlornly empty. Only the wind now rocks the ship's ladder once brutally man-handled by many a working party. The davits stand idle. The saluting guns, muzzles stuffed with rags, point dejectedly out to sea. The grass slopes below the ramparts are trodden by a different kind of working party. Sic transit Gloria . . . Three days after JNC 5/59 Part II ended on 4th April, 1960, the move of the Wing to ITC started in earnest. Forty-eight hours later the move was complete, but the work had only just begun.

Much had to be done to get ourselves established in our new location, situated, for the benefit of those readers who remember ITC, somewhere in the asphalt jungle between the Sergeants' Mess and the LAD. Not many people have found us yet. A telephone linesman who stumbled into the Company Office eventually managed to link us with the outside world. A number of unhappy Marines who wander about our part of the camp have discovered that we have our own First Drill, which they seem to think is rather unfair.

On the training side there is plenty to do. As from the beginning of this training year, the first Courses of which join at the end of May, the candidate for promotion to JNCO does a separate course depending on whether he is in the General Duty or Technical Branch. The course for Technical ranks will last for four weeks, as did the combined course hitherto. The Course for General Duty ranks has, however, been considerably revised. It lasts eight weeks, and contains a balanced programme of the old Part I and Part II subjects. It is hoped that the new look will produce a more alert and flexible type of JNCO.

These changes have involved considerable work in themselves; in addition a great deal has had to be done to find new training areas, stances and so forth. Old students will be glad to know that, despite changes in the Course, a Camping Holiday on the Moor remains in the programme for future students.

Many staff changes are taking place. We have already said goodbye to C/Sgt. Jones, who has left after seven years with the Wing. We wish him all good fortune when he leaves the Service in August.

Major Marsh, the OC, leaves in June after more than two years with the Wing, to command 45 Commando in Aden. He is to be relieved by Major Showell-Rodgers. Capt. Morgan leaves at about the same time to go to RMT, Med. He will be relieved by Capt. Keiso. Lieut. Downton, the Company Commander, also leaves at about the same time to join 41 Commando, and Capt. Marston is due to leave us in September.

41 COMMANDO

41 Commando re-formed once again—and this time for good, one minute past midnight on 30th March, 1960. At that moment the unit consisted of 17 Officers, 38 SNCOs and 139 JNCOs and Marines. Since then there has been a steady flow of arrivals, and the build-up period is in full swing. HQ, A, B and S Troops are on the map, and it is intended to form P Troop shortly. The other two fighting troops will be X and Y.

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Lt.-Col. Waters (Commanding Officer) inspects HQ Troop.

Photo: RN Official

On our re-formation congratulatory messages came pouring in from all parts of the Corps, and we were most pleased and proud to receive them. They made us realise that what we had been talking and thinking about for a long time was now here. They also reminded us what we had inherited. Pride in one's unit is a thing taken for granted in a Commando which has been a going concern for a long period, but when starting from scratch it has to be sparked off, and the signals we received provided the starting point.

On the morning of 31st March, the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel J. T. O. Waters, inspected and addressed the unit, after which he ordered the flag to be broken out. All ranks were then issued with yellow lanyards. We had re-formed! But easy though it all seemed, and is still seeming, we fully realise that two things have contributed very greatly to getting us off to a good start. These are firstly all the thought and planning which has gone into our re-formation—particularly at Plymouth Group Headquarters—and, secondly, the presence of Bickleigh Camp Staff, who had got everything ready for us on the ground. We welcome Bickleigh Camp Staff as "honorary members" of the Commando, and know how much we shall rely on them in future.

After one week the Commando went on Easter Leave, but with that now behind us we are getting down to training. Our G.1098 is being unpacked and issued and the gymnasium is being used as a dispersal point. Already everyone has been issued with the 1958 pattern equipment and the last of the black webbing has disappeared. SLRs have just arrived and the MT Platoon has already got enough vehicles to try playing "dodgems" in the MT park.

MGRM Plymouth, visited us on 7th April, and inspected a Quarter Guard on the Small Parade. He then met the Officers in the Mess.



HQ Troop foal with its mother, and Mne. Quartermaine, its handler.

Photo: RM Official



No. 1 Coy, commanded by Lt. Gandy, march through the gates of Bickleigh church.

Photo: RM Official

On Sunday, 8th May, Corps Remembrance Day, the unit held a Church Parade and attended morning service at Bickleigh Church. This was the first opportunity for the Plymouth Group Band to perform for us since they came under command of the unit on 1st May. The Group Commander took the salute, and afterwards Long Service and Good Conduct Medals were presented to C./Sgt. Morrison and Cpl. Bywater.

The process of building up and training will continue for the next few months, and we will partake in a number of outside activities, such as recruiting displays. In September we go to Norway. A and S Troops were the first to leave the comforts of the camp to spend nights on the Moor, the latter travelling 50 miles on foot. Statistics reveal that consumption figures were 50 miles per gallon (beer).

HQ Troop have had a new arrival in the shape of a foal, which was born in the Troop lines in front of the TSM. It has been christened James, since that is the name of the Troop Commander, the TSM and the TQMS. Mne. Quartermaine, who will be remembered as a dog handler in Cyprus, has been appointed pony handler.

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AN exchange visit had been arranged for me, as the Officer Commanding the Special Boat Company, with the Officer Commanding the US Navy's Underwater Demolition Team (UDT). The exchange was to be organised so that I spent four weeks with the UDT, whilst it was undergoing its annual training at St. Thomas, in the American Virgin Islands, and that the OC of the UDT should come to England in September.

Col. N. Tailyour met me at Washington and in the course of the next 24 hours briefed me on various points of my visit.

The following day I flew to New Bern in N. Carolina where I was met by US Marine Corps transport and taken to the Marine Air Wing Camp—Cherry Point—only a few miles away. I was to join a routine 'Logistic' aircraft the following day to take me to Puerto Rico—which is only a few flying miles from St. Thomas.

Cherry Point—as with all other USMC establishments—is vast. It covers an area of about 25 miles by 10 and is completely self-contained both as a service establishment and as a residential area. Needless to say it is wonderfully laid out and has everything from a golf course to all grades of children's schools.

From N. Carolina the plane took me—and other service passengers with about two tons of stores—southwards, and the first night we stopped at Miami, Florida. By this time the temperature had risen sharply to the 80's and a change in style of uniform was necessary. Miami was a bit of a disappointment for me, as we arrived too late for a meal in the Air Force base and with none of my travelling companions wanting to see the bright lights of Miami Beach I ventured forth alone. The splendour of the hotels there is fabulous, and had I dared to enter and have a meal I would have parted with about three-quarters of my dollar allowance which was to last me for my whole visit.

From Miami we continued our journey calling at Quantanomo Bay in Cuba (the USMC base that Dr. Castro wants to take over), Vieques, which is a small island used by the USMC to practise their divisional and brigade amphibious exercises, and eventually Puerto Rico. By the time we had arrived I discovered that it was too late to get to St. Thomas that night.

The flight to St. Thomas only took forty minutes. It is a pleasant-looking island, about half the size of Malta but with about a twentieth of the population. Amongst so many coloured people and tanned tourists, all in gay-coloured clothing, I felt very conspicuous in uniform, pale from British climes.

It did not take me long to make two major discoveries after I had been made welcome by my US Naval host. The first one was that the dress of the day was khaki bathing trunks and sandals, and in the evening, shorts, shoes and T-shirt. The second discovery was that living was astronomically expensive.

On the first count I was bitterly regretting having brought my khaki drill, khaki Service Dress, and white Mess Kit and on the second I was wondering how I could become adopted by some fairy godmother.

After two days in the island both my troubles were nearly solved. The 'Empress of Britain' called at St. Thomas on a cruise and I repaired on board to find that the Commander was only too willing to take all my unwanted uniforms back to Liverpool—from where I felt certain that arrangements could be made by the RMFVR Mersey to return my suitcase to Poole. In the course of conversation with the Commander and Captain I discovered that there was another Royal Marine on St. Thomas.

The following day I contacted Major Ian V. Major, who

had been my OC in the early days of post-war Special Boat Training at Eastney. He is now married and lives in a delightful home right at the top of the island and is heavily engaged in business, real estate and of course in sailing.

St. Thomas is a free port as far as dutiable goods are concerned, has a temperature which is uniform between 70° and 85° throughout the year—day and night—and is blessed by the breeze of the Trade Winds. The island has no natural water and the national beverage is rum. It follows therefore that it has become a haven for rich New York tourists

avoiding the winter's cold and is a natural selection for American honeymooners.

The prices were quite prodigious and a frugal meal in a cheap restaurant—soup, omelette, ice-cream and a glass of beer, would cost considerably more than my daily rate of Overseas Allowance (DOPAR please

note!) A daily newspaper cost the equivalent of 1/9d and after discovering that the laundering of the clothing I had used in my travels from UK would cost me more than 15 shillings I started my own dhobeying!

The routine worked by the UDT started with a run and PT at 0630. This was followed by breakfast which in turn was followed by the forenoon's work until 1130. After lunch they worked until 1600 most days—with two night exercises a week. The last meal was at 1730, but this was the starting point of the evening's 'Run Ashore.'

The UDT has many points of similarity with the Special Boat Section both in training and in employment. It was interesting to dive with their equipment, to work from submarines using their techniques and to discuss points of mutual interest. They have countless advantages over us, in the ease of obtaining equipment, in keeping nearly all men in the unit all the time and in having a unit of such enormous proportions. They have fifteen officers and 120 men in the UDT on each of their coastlines, apart from the men in the fleets in the Mediterranean and in the Far East. There are, however, many things that I would not change with them. The most important of these is their training system. Each year the training element of the UDT has two courses each of 16 weeks' duration. The course starts about 100 strong and finishes with about 12. Each week is a sort of HELLWEEK and the instructors told me with pride, that any officer or NCO instructor can make a man (or officer) under training do up to 100 'press-ups' just because he does not like the man's face. The 'harassment' which forms part of the instruction and which is to get a man used to demolition training, sounded inexcusably wasteful in explosive (and in men too!) The finished products were tough—good swimmers—but their qualities struck me as being very different to those that we require of our Swimmer Canoeists.

I took my place in all the training that was going on. On each of two demolition exercises, when coral reefs were 'destroyed' the UDT used more explosive than the entire Royal Marines annual training allowance permits.

The UDT spends each year from January to March in St. Thomas and it is not difficult to imagine that their presence attracts Press, Cinema and Television Cameras. Visitors varying from Senior Officers to 'Admiralty Experts' have to come down to watch how the training is progressing.

There were two USMC officers attached to the UDT for the 3-month stay in the Caribbean and I decided that my trip to America would not achieve its full value unless I saw a little of the work of the 'Force Recon Company'—their parent unit. This was accepted by the authorities in Washington and at the same time I was told that my visit to the States was to be extended so that I could join up with the Presentation Team from the Staff Training Wing of JSAWC who were due

a visit to **THE VIRGIN ISLES** *and U.S.A.*

by CAPTAIN P. G. DAVIS

to witness an amphibious exercise in N. Carolina and give a presentation at the Marine Corps Schools at Quantico, Virginia.

The Force Recon Company—to establish it in British parlance—is a Reconnaissance Company either employed as Corps Troops or as a supplement to a Divisional organisation. The reconnaissance it carries out can be from under the sea but is generally from the waterline to about 40 miles inland, and the method of entry to enemy territory is either by submarine or by parachute. As such it has very great similarity to the Special Boat Sections from the military point of view, whereas the UDT was similar mainly from the naval aspects.

I spent six days at Camp Lejeune in N. Carolina with the Force Recon Coy and looked at all their equipment and talked with all their officers and men. During my tour of their parachute packing and stowage rooms I was casually asked if I had ever done a “free fall parachute descent.” I answered that I had not and explained that we only used the static line equipment in UK. As can be expected I was then asked if I would like to make a free fall descent—the honour of the Royal Marines, the Special Boat Company and of Captain Davis himself was at stake—without hesitation and with a brave effort at making my voice sound enthusiastic I said “Rather . . . that would be a great experience.” Without more ado the nearest Marine Corps Air Unit was telephoned and shortly a helicopter was available to take the Force Recon Company Commander and me up in the air. I had been told the drill . . . “just count five seconds and pull the D-ring—you then feel a jerk on your parachute harness as though you have had a kick in the crutch.” A photographer was in the helicopter, I could feel that all the eyes of the USMC were on me. I was determined to make a perfect exit and not allow the spectators any cause for derision at the Royal Marines parachute technique. I received a tap on the shoulder—I sat in the doorway. The helicopter at 2,700 feet was a long way from the ground. I rehearsed mentally how to count to 5—how to pull the D-ring, how to pull the D-ring, how to pull the D-ring . . .

I received another tap on the shoulder . . . “I had made my perfect exit. The ground was miles away . . . I could see the sea . . . we were jumping over an old airfield . . . the ground was getting closer . . . crikey! I have forgotten to count up to 5 . . . I must have done five seconds by now . . . I had better pull the D-ring.”

The opening shock of the parachute was less than I had thought—I drifted slowly to earth and made a good landing on soft ground. A white faced and breathless officer ran up to me as I was gathering my chute . . . “what happened . . . you made a ten-second delay before the chute opened.”

While I was with the USMC I watched part of their very large-scale amphibious exercise. This was punctuated by things that went wrong as well as by the smooth efficiency of their well-tryed organisation. The helicopters landed at the wrong place and the build-up on the beach was slower than planned—largely due to a heavy sea-mist that suddenly appeared. It was exciting to see the variety of tracked recovery vehicles and load movers, and the scale of the exercise was more like that of June 6, 1944 than anything we are used to in the Commando Brigade.

From the US Marines I journeyed on to Norfolk in Virginia which is a Main Naval Base and particularly so for Amphibious Units. Here I joined with the UDT again and was able to assist them considerably, as they were about to carry out their first parachute descent into the sea. The UDT was under the impression that they were about to do the first-ever ‘water-jump.’ When I passed on the information that we had done them for at least ten years they were amazed and incredulous. The amphibious base is what one dreams of, as far as facilities are concerned. Good beaches, good repair facilities, plenty of craft, impressive training aids and amenities for all requirements.

After two days at Norfolk I returned to Washington where I visited all the departments of the British Joint Services Mission that had any connection with my visit and passed on the points and queries that had occurred.

I journeyed to Quantico where the Marine Corps Schools are situated and teamed up with the Commandant and some of the officers of the Staff Training Wing from JSAWC.

The British Presentation was received with great interest and promoted many questions. It is surprising how many words in the English/American language are different and Lt.-Col. F. N. Grant, who is the resident RM instructor at Quantico had to be present throughout the rehearsal to ensure that the phraseology was correct for the large audience.

It was at Quantico that the now famous American hospitality reached its climax. If the days were filled with visits, talks and discussions, the nights were overflowing with parties, alcohol and good food. In my own case, I was eventually cornered by my Sponsor Officer who was determined to have me to his house, and I agreed to spend my last 90 minutes with him and his wife. He collected me at 0800 (after a *very* hectic night the night before) and when I entered his house for breakfast found that he had quite a party assembled to greet me. This too was the one morning in the States that I was not offered fruit juice for breakfast . . . a whisky sour made with Bourbon—whisky does something to a scrambled egg . . .

We left Quantico by road for Washington and flew to New York where we had 24 hours before the plane left for London. The few remaining dollars bought gramophone records and fancy things for my family (all of which were more expensive than in England). My sightseeing tour consisted of a car drive through the city, a boat trip round Manhattan, a visit to the United Nations Building (where I heard part of the Security Council debate on South Africa) and a visit to a few of the less expensive bars.

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Nowadays we live amongst continual discussion about passports, inoculations, travellers' cheques and baggage weights. Globe-trotting at JSAWC is a well organised occupation! Since the trip to Norway in March the Commandant and some Officers from Staff Training Wing have paid a most interesting and successful visit to the United States Marine Corps at Quantico, Virginia, and have followed it up by flying out to North Africa to witness Exercise "Sky Pioneer."

Not to be outdone, Capt. Davis, Commanding Special Boats Company, went to see what the American Underwater Demolitions Teams do in the West Indies, and also took the opportunity to drop in on the United States Marine Corps Reconnaissance Companies. A full report by the traveller himself appears elsewhere in this copy of the *GLOBE AND LAUREL*.

Whilst most of us were relaxing in the sun over the Easter weekend, some of the more determined of the Special Boats Company were paddling the 130-odd miles along the Kennet/Avon Canal and the Thames in the annual canoe race from Devizes to Westminster. Our reign of supremacy for the last seven years is now over, and we should like to congratulate the winners from 22 Special Air Service Regiment, who incidentally, were trained by the SBS. Another big date in the canoeing calendar is the Poole Harbour Circuit Race which takes place on 29th May, a record entry is expected.

Our shottists have got away to a good start this year by winning the "Emperor of India" event in the recent Non Central Competition.

There is now positive evidence of the building of the new quarters; bulldozers and graders are clearing all the land at the camp entrance and the first foundations will be laid any week now.

At JSAWC we are used to every sort of request for assistance. Recently, however, we have had two rather special ones. The first one came from a Society who rejoiced in the name of "The Brighton Bottom Scratchers." The second one was from an architect building a block of tall flats in Bournemouth, who wanted to know how long a shadow would be cast by his new building when the sun was at a certain height in the sky. Our Senior Instructor Officer provided him with a snappy answer, so another satisfied customer was added to the list.

Staff Training Wing

"Write an article for the *GLOBE AND LAUREL*."

"The Globe and what?" I said, being then a poor ignorant soldier.

".....!"

"All right, all right, calm down," I said. "What do you want me to write about?"

"About the STW," said the voice.

"Has it ever been done before," I said—hoping for a crib.

"Haven't the faintest idea," said the voice.

Anyway, after due enquiry, I found that nothing about the STW has ever appeared in this magazine, so we had better start by telling you what this mysterious STW is and how it fits into the scheme of things.

The STW, or Staff Training Wing, is a part of the Joint Services Amphibious Warfare Centre at Poole. This Wing was originally in Fremington and was known in those days as the School of Amphibious Warfare. It moved to Poole in 1956.

The STW is truly joint service and we have Naval, Army and Air Force Officers on the Staff, plus one Royal Marine and one United States Marine Corps Officer. A mixed bag you say? Agreed, but it's surprising how well the mixture mixes, and in spite of many angled arguments during the discussion of a problem, the solution is always sound, joint service, and all parties remain happy.

We run numerous courses at Poole, from senior officers of NATO downwards.

Also we go abroad to such places as Cyprus, Malta, Gibraltar, and Norway each year and every other year a chosen few manage



L to R: Lt. Syrad, L/Cpl. Aston, Mne. Lovell, Cpl. Horsburgh.
BAOR Ski Championships.

Photo: Sgt. Howe

a trip to the United States and Canada. The numbers who go to the United States and Canada depend on how much money the Treasury will cough up. Those left behind on these trips never feel too kindly towards the lucky ones, but such is the natural buoyancy and goodwill of the members of STW that soon all is forgiven, and the unlucky ones hope for better luck next time.

In addition to our overseas visits, the Joint Services Staff College, the other Staff Colleges and Dartmouth, Sandhurst and Cranwell always give us a big welcome and look forward to our further visits!

You will ask—"What do we do?" A good question, which I should have made clear at the start. Already you will have guessed that our work is to do with Amphibious Warfare and you will be right. We try to preserve and develop the technique and to study all its implications, and they are many and varied as you well know. We also study the joint service problems of raiding, in which arts many of you take an active part.

In our travels and talks we try to ensure that a common policy on Amphibious Warfare and Raiding is taught, and that we, by inviting questions and comments from the large and varied audiences we meet, keep our feet firmly on the ground and remain sensible and practical people rather than theorists.

I expect you all think by now that we are on a pretty good wicket—we think so, and think we are doing a pretty worth while job. But where would we be without the hidden side of the STW? The model movers who have a thankless task letting down drops and moving ships' models on a floor cloth; the projectionists who get cursed if they get a slide upside down (they do sometimes); the draughtsmen who painstakingly draw our maps, etc; our model maker, an artist in his own particular sphere; and last but by no means least our clerks and typists who are continually at it, preparing precis and course folders, at times when we can "take five."

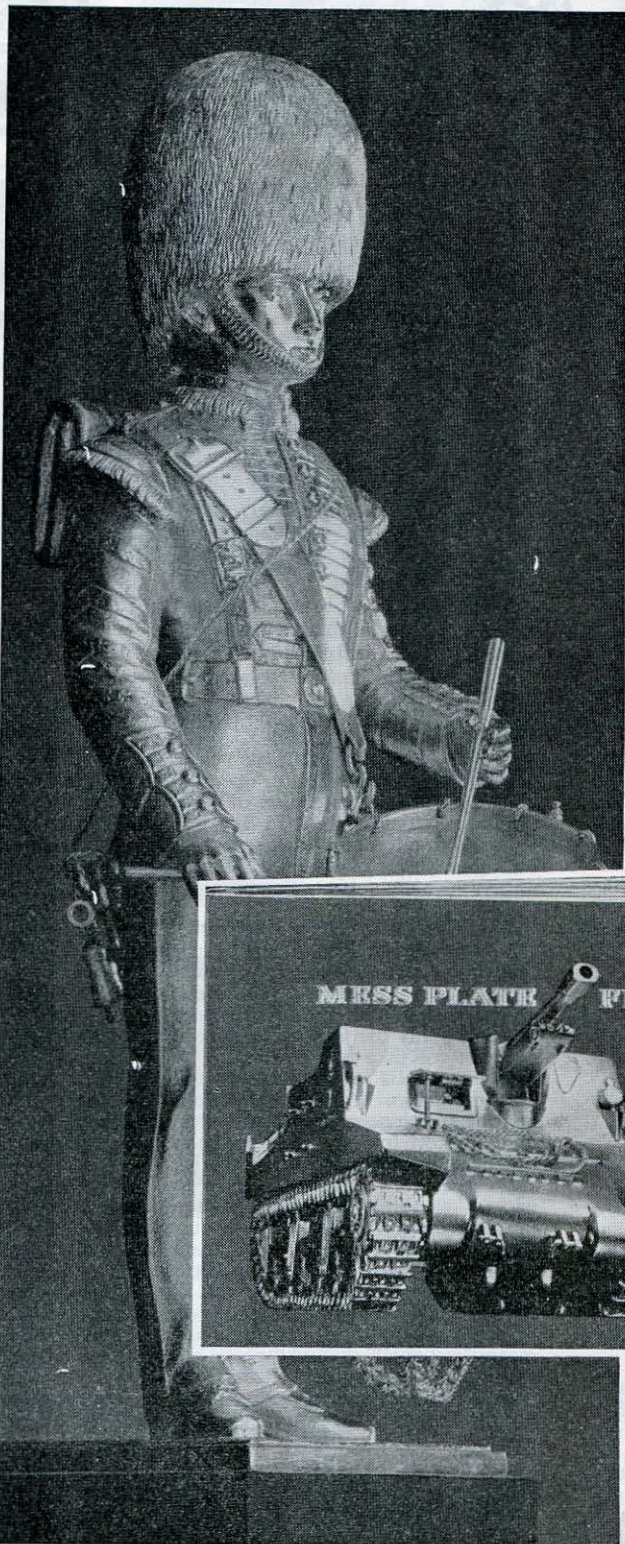
Come and see us sometime—we can speak your language—"cabin" instead of "room," "going ashore" instead of "leaving the camp." You are assured of a welcome.

—"Written by a soldier with full joint service approval!"

Landing Craft Company

Have you ever done a vectoring exercise without radar? If not and you want to know all about it, write to us and we will send you a pamphlet! It should be pointed out that good visibility is required.

Since we last wrote we have begun to enjoy the sunshine again, and to start the "silly" season. We've had our usual recruit squads, an LC2 and LC3 course, and the Gemini Squadron have covered 1,000 miles in five weeks training with 19 Infantry Brigade.



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We now have the LCR back—it's about eighteen inches shorter, has flat bows, and makes a very good "pusher" tug—a job done in the American Navy by rather cheaper LCMs.

On Wednesday, 30th March, an intrepid party set off for the Channel Islands. Herewith a firsthand account of their intrepid adventure.

"The TRSB and LCM sailed for St. Peter Port in order to move a ten-ton steam roller to Sark. At 5 o'clock on the morning of 1st April, a lorry with hauling gear and winching kit was embarked in the LCM at St. Peter Port and taken to Creux harbour where it was duly landed.

A steam roller was next embarked after a considerable delay while the local workers sorted out a method of lowering the roller into the craft. A hasty and hazardous passage to Creux was completed in fifty minutes and at 11 o'clock the roller was ashore in Sark. The LCM retracted and disappeared towards Creux New Harbour to secure. Three minutes later the roller slipped slowly into the water of the harbour, much to the amazement of all, and perhaps to the secret delight of the Dame of Sark who does not normally allow mechanised vehicles on her Island. BBC TV coverage was fairly complete and the local newspapers did us proud. The weather hindered our return—we were lucky enough to spend three alcoholic days in Guernsey and Alderney—two of them without lighting after a generator break-down."

A party of three from the Gemini Squadron went to Chatham for their last-ever Navy Days. They gave twelve demonstrations in three days before some 40,000 people.

On Sunday, 24th April, three LCTs of 76 Company RASC came to load the Guided Missiles for the Outer Hebrides trials season, so a team from the maintenance party and Squadron were happily employed over the week-end putting various craft in the water to assist. The LCR once again proved its worth!

C/Sgt. Harding left for Corradino, QMS Cross and C/Sgt. Dearsley are looking forward to Aden. C/Sgt. Harris is going to 40 Commando, Sgt. Howarth to RMTG (Med) and Cpl. Lawsley is waiting to go to HMS Meon. 4th Raiding Squadron have just arrived so once again we are in the toils of a big change-round.

In the sporting field we hold our own—we continue to lose soccer matches with great regularity. Perhaps we will find that we are all cricketers!

An eye to the future reveals that we have a trip to Guernsey next week with Young Officers 16 batch and the water festival, carnival or regatta season is nearly upon us.

SB Company

The Special Boat Company is already feeling the absence of No. 2 SBS, who left Poole early in March for HMS Terror taking passage in HMS Bulwark. The training, demonstrations and exercises that still occur at the same pressure have to be undertaken by the remaining ranks of the Training Section and No. 1 SBS without respite.

Parachute continuation training and water descents have restarted, and the whole company participated in a water descent in Lyme Bay on 14th March; and from now on there will be two water jumps every month with occasional helicopter jumps on land thrown in for good measure.

In the Devizes-Westminster Canoe race this year we did not manage to keep our unbeaten record of the last seven years and finished second to the Special Air Service in the open class, as well as being second in the "folding boat class." Sgts. Edmonds and Howe and QMS Richardson and Cpl. Michie were the two placed teams. Lieut. Syrad and Mne. Tandy were unlucky to hole their craft only a comparatively short distance from Westminster when they were ahead of a record breaking time. Without introducing any "excuse," it is of interest to point out that a member of the SAS team which won had attended a SC3 course, and the SAS had concentrated their canoe training solidly for the three months prior to the race.

A very successful attack was carried out on HMS Adamant in March, at the request of Flag Officer Submarines, in which Capt. Emslie, Sgt. Gaunt, Cpl. Michie and Cpl. Doughty penetrated the defences and placed limpets—which, as far as we know, are still on the ship!

Just prior to the departure of 2 SBS, the SB Company pulled off the double which Wolverhampton Wanderers were trying to emulate—we won the Football Cup and League at JSAWC. In fact, the final match had to be played when 2 SBS should have been loading stores for Bulwark and we are grateful to all concerned that this matter of "greater importance" was not allowed to suffer by the impending departure of the Commando Carrier.

The future summer season presents its usual picture of non-stop courses (we have an SC2 and 3 RMFVR Course), exercises (Wales,

Scotland, Devon and Norway), and demonstrations. Now that we have to look after the recruit squads during their week at JSAWC we are finding from personal experience that:

(a) There are only twenty-four hours in a day;

(b) One man cannot be in two places at once;

(c) The value of good recruiting and publicity takes its toll on the amount of progressive training that we can accomplish;

(d) The glamour and work of the SBS still attracts the right sort of man both to join the Royal Marines initially, and also to specialise with us once he has joined.

Apart from saying au revoir to 2 SBS (Lieuts. Wilkins and Carless) we say the same to Lieut. Syrad, who has left 1 SBS for 6 SBS in the Mediterranean and to C/Sgt. Parkinson who is going with them as SNCO of 6 SBS. Lieut. D. Mayhew and C/Sgt. Moorhouse are taking over the reins of 1 SBS.

We were very sorry to learn of the tragic death, after the Devizes-Westminster Canoe race (in which he had just competed) of former Mne. Paul Farrant. Farrant who was a member of the London RMFVR did his National Service with the Special Boat Section at Poole and in Germany and was a Gold Medalist in the Slalom canoeing events of the World Canoeing Championships.

WOs, CPOs, POs and Sergeants' Mess

I am strolling past the Officers' Mess shrubbery, thinking of nothing in particular except the last lovely leave, when I see what appears to be a replica of a New Hebridean village. Curiosity being what it is, I investigate further and find our PW 1, Sgt. Joe Locke, under a rhododendron thatched shelter. We know it's difficult to get a hiring, but this is ridiculous, so I ask Joe if he's had a black-out and gone back to his wartime Commando days, but the explanation is much more prosaic—purely a concealment exercise for the Swimmer Canoeist's course. I am sure that would never wash in a less rural camp; he'd probably finish up in a strait-jacket at Eastney!

Our Mess Ball, held at the end of March, was a great success. The Royal Bath Hotel at Bournemouth was the venue this year, and this was a happy choice, as the floor is good, the band (or should one say orchestra?) very pleasant to dance to, and the vocalist well above the usual level—a fact commented on by many. C/Sgt. Mansbridge of Poole RMFVR entertained us, as he often does in the Mess, with two fine songs. The bar was well away from the floor, always an advantage, and drinks were quickly served without the awful crush which is often a failing at such functions. The Manager looked rather concerned ("Globe and Laurelese" for panic-stricken) when the Grand March led up to the balcony supported on slender pillars, but Sgt. Grieves, the MC, had estimated his stresses and strains well, and no damage resulted, except possibly to the aforementioned Manager's heart! All in all, a fine evening, due to the sterling work of C/Sgt. Dan Scully and his committee.

The scramble for end cubicles looking onto the no-man's-land outside the main gate will soon be no more—the waste ground has been cleared quicker than a barrel of bitter on a free night, and we confidently expect to see quarters up very soon. I wonder if anyone will have the nerve to claim for baggage charges going from inlying to outlying members, but I suppose the fence is a bit high to toss a heavy kitbag over.

I wish I could endow the names of incoming and outgoing members with comments as in Beachcomber's "List of Huntingdonshire Cabmen," but a lot of SNCOs have joined or re-joined us, including C/Sgt. Jackman, Sgts. Organ, Howden, Brewin, Taylor, Sawtell and O'Brien. We bade farewell, as they say in travel films, to C/Sgt. "Tosh" Harding, off to Malta. "Jumper" Cross is now a QMS and Sgts. Sparrow, Whatmore and "Butch" Abbey have joined the Upper Set—good luck and congratulations to them.

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SAGA OF THE 4th RAIDING SQUADRON

Pardon the pun; much water has flowed beneath the boots of bodies who have been carried per mare per 4 RS ranging from recruits to NATO forces and from WRNS to Boy Scouts. The actual birth date of the Squadron is a mystery to all present members, the records having been lost when the Squadron Office was washed off the wall at Mount Wise, but three founder members, Cpl. Hendrie, Mnes. Jan Moore and Jan Knowles, still insist that the worst job was trimming the wicks of the navigation lights back in the dark days.

During its life time the 4 RS has been through many phases from exercises around the Scandinavian coasts to that annual battle in the Far East (of the Isle of Wight), Exercise "Runaground."

Looking back it seems that the humorous events far out-number the tragic, which but for the high skill and seamanship of the coxswains may well have been the reverse. One might add that we have also been through our quota of boats as the sinking of LCP(L)s 548, 544, and LCP(S) 2 will show, also the time when a coxswain took his boat over for pay parade and nearly made it as far as the drill shed via the Camber wall.

Past members will be interested to note that George will be staying on with the MSPB and so he will be able to continue his log entries which include everything from the hours run and fuel drawn to the size and number of fish caught on any particular day. One entry which Cpl. Hendrie is still trying to explain away is as follows: "1830 hrs. Hendrie and party rescued from Drakes Island."

To wind up our commission we held a pulling regatta. Crews were formed from the various departments within the Squadron and on the day appointed the chief judge and starter, Capt. J. E. Burton, managed to get us into line and away with a force 8 wind and ebb tide to help us. If the standard of pulling was not of Varsity quality the spirit and effort were. The Maintenance party crew claimed they developed engine trouble and failed to finish the course. Maybe it was the extra weight of the crossed hammer and spanner on their stem that caused it or perhaps the excessive weight of their Cox, Jumbo Sawtell, in the sternsheets.



"African Queen"

Photo: Capt. J. E. Burton

Now alas the draft chits have arrived and some of our numbers have already donned the Green Awning of 41 Commando and others to such square numbers as they have been able to find. To these and to all passed members we wish them bon voyage.

PS.—Reference the rather rude remarks about the appearance of our safety boat HLD 43591 in the February edition. When the buzz got around that we were returning her to the Dockyard, the PAS office was swamped with requests to take her over. The diving school won her (not for services rendered) and now we have our TRSB back in service until we finish here.

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sun mountains and sand

by M. A. FITZPATRICK

WHEN men of 45 Commando first set foot on the Arabian Peninsula a new page was written in the history of the Corps.

For 45 Commando the event was of unparalleled significance. Not only were they the first Royal Marines ever to be stationed in the Aden area, but the unit became an integral part of a unique Joint Services Command with responsibilities in a vast area from British Somaliland to the Persian Gulf.

As Aden is more than likely to appear on draft sheets for some time hence, it is as well to look into the area to which we are committed and also the reasons for our being there.

The territory of Aden, which occupies the southern edge of the Arabian Peninsula, comprises a British Crown Colony, 75 miles square in area, and a Protectorate divided into Western and Eastern areas totalling 112,000 square miles. The population of the colony is about 140,000, mostly Arabs, with many Somalis and Indians.

Aden is one of the world's busiest bunkering ports and primarily consists of two volcanic peninsulas joined together by a strip of coastal desert.

Its history is as dark as its people. Attacked by the Portugese in the 16th century, Aden was also ruled by the Turks and the Yemen before it was captured by the British in 1839 following the plundering of an Indian ship off the coast. By this time Aden, once a thriving port, had declined to little more than a fishing village with 500 inhabitants. Thirty years after the occupation of Aden by the British, the opening of the Suez Canal regained for Aden its old importance as a midway halt on the shipping route to the East.

To the newcomer this famous fortress and port presents at first a rather forbidding aspect. Huge volcanic crags spring from the desert, presenting a picture of complete desolation. But by Eastern standards there is a lot of activity in the towns built on the larger peninsula. Tawahi (commonly known as Steamer Point) is quite modern, and here the busy atmosphere of the harbour is reflected on land. There are excellent shopping facilities here and also at Crater, which can be reached by travelling along a dual carriageway through the growing suburb of Maalla, one of the world's oldest dhow building places where, legend has it, Noah's Ark was built. Near the Main Pass which leads to Crater is, according to legend, the grave of Abel who was killed by his brother Cain and carried to Aden to be buried. At Khormaksar is a large R.A.F. station, and also an Army

reinforcement camp (the horrors of which many members of 45 Commando are already accustomed !)

Approximately 20 miles from Aden itself, along the coastal strip which separates the peninsulas, lies the community of Little Aden. This 'oil town' has risen in importance through the construction of an oil refinery a few years ago. Here at Little Aden 45 Commando has taken over a small camp with air-conditioned accommodation, used as Commando Headquarters.

The climate is hot and humid, especially between April and October. Men fresh out from Britain take some time to get acclimatised to the conditions, but having done that can usually find life bearable at the worst times.

So much for Aden. But why are British troops here? Basically, the answer lies in the number of disturbances, due to Yemeni territorial pretensions, on the Aden-Yemen borders. To implement Britain's treaty obligations in this part of the world and guard our interests an independent joint Army/R.A.F. autonomous Command was set up two years ago. British Forces Arabian Peninsula is a unique Command in that it has a single Commander to cover the activities of all three services.

Troops are positioned strategically, and the camp from which 45 Commando is operating is at Dhala, which is reached by air from Khormaksar or by a rough journey over 90 miles of mountainous country. Members of 'X' Troop, the first to sample the trip, have since advised the carrying of cushions for passengers in the convoys !

At Dhala the climate is much more pleasant than in the coastal areas, though it must be remembered that the terrain in the Western Aden Protectorate is extremely difficult.

Dhala is probably the tenderest spot on the whole frontier, because it is the shortest route from the populated centres of the Yemen to Aden and also because there is the only road descending a large escarpment which is passable to lorry traffic for most of the year.

To help in the policing and maintenance of order in the area are a number of locally enlisted forces, chief among which are the Federal National Guards (F.N.G.) and the Aden Protectorate Levies (A.P.L.). The F.N.G. are organised and trained in platoons, have a British commanding-officer, and are armed with rifles and light machine-guns. They are a useful force, but not organised or trained to deal with anything more than gangs of marauding tribesmen.

Behind the F.N.G. is the main punch of the local forces—the Aden Protectorate Levies, a force of long-serving regulars commanded by some British officers and NCOs. In a land where a man without a rifle is a man without respect the Arab who joins the A.P.L. considers himself in an honourable position, and there are many who would vouch for his eagerness and ability. They are natural soldiers who have been taught team-work, discipline, and fieldcraft, while not eradicating the qualities natural to an Arab. It is the A.P.L. who do so much sterling work on the troubled borders, moving like mountain goats over rugged country, nightmares of gorges and precipices quite impassable except to men on foot or camels. These lean, agile, little men prize themselves on their appearance, which is always quite remarkably smart.

Any further description of the terrain is impossible. It has to be seen to be believed. Tactics employed in this country are practically identical with those of the North-West Frontier in days gone by; all movement is up the Wadis, with troops picketing the hills on either side, a slow and laborious business.

That, then, is a brief picture of the Aden area in which 45 Commando is now operating. There is much to be done in the way of reorganising camps and facilities, but this will be done in good time to make life comfortable and interesting for those who will serve in the latest theatre of the Royal Marines.

Exercise Sky Pioneer

SKIMMING above the haze of choking dust whipped up by an oven-door wind from the desert, the sandy helicopters of 848 Squadron hug the contours of the hills to drop their loads of Commandos on a boulder-studded landing zone.

Twenty miles up the coast assault troops are already ashore and the quiet bay echoes to the deep roar of diesels as beach parties struggle to prepare the way for vehicles to land.

The code word 'Scampi' has loosed the commandos on Exercise 'Sky Pioneer.'

The Exercise was designed to be the climax of the work up period of the Commando Carrier in the Mediterranean. In addition to exercising the Commando, the ship and the Squadron in landing and operating ashore, it was hoped to prove certain provisional ideas on the commando carrier as a waiting-off force.

Forces involved

The landing force was divided into two Task Groups. **Bulwark**, 848 Squadron, 42 Commando and 2 SBS were in

one while the other included 40 Commando, 166 Amphibious Observation Battery and 211 Ground Liaison Section who were carried in 2 LSTs and an LCT of the Amphibious Warfare Squadron and allowed ashore by the combined efforts of the Naval Beach Unit and the Army Beach Troop Cadre. Air support for the landed force was provided by Meteor strike aircraft of 728 Royal Naval Air Squadron while the light aircraft of 8 Independent Recce Flight from Idris were also available for reconnaissance of the battle zone.

Setting

The setting of the Exercise was Blueland, a small, mythical state whose enormous oil royalties had produced a far higher standard of living than that enjoyed by its rapacious neighbour, Redland. After inflammatory propaganda by Fantasia a number of incidents occurred and a certain amount of Redland infiltration took place. Disturbances developed and, as a result of various military moves by Redland, Blueland called on the United Kingdom to assist in the event of aggression. The landing force was therefore at sea when Redland invasion started on the late evening of D minus 1.

Plan of the Exercise

The two commandos were to be landed by sea and air to secure the two (Blueland) oilfields against capture. In the course of accomplishing their mission each unit would bump the enemy in positions requiring several troop assaults and then a unit attack.

One unit, 40 Commando, would then be faced with a more powerful enemy force than they could deal with alone and 42 Commando would move a force across the front to provide an anvil against which the enemy would then be crushed by 40 Commando's hammer.

Control

The Exercise was controlled by a tactical Brigade Headquarters which also played its normal part as a headquarters and commanded the forces ashore. The larger part of the Headquarters was, however, involved in building and running an Observer's Camp and information room for some 40 observers of all Services who came from as far apart as Singapore and the United Kingdom. These included Admiral Sir Alexander Bingley, Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean, Lieutenant-General Riches, Major-General Moulton, Chief of Amphibious Warfare, and Major-General Block, General Officer Commanding Troops Malta.

The two elements of the headquarters force left Malta by LST on 19th April and spent 10 days laying-out and setting-up an Observer's Camp, carrying out signals checks to ensure that control over the whole battle area could be continued through the Exercise, and later on looking over the ground and deciding on the details of the battle with the umpires and the enemy commanders.

The enemy force consisted of two companies of the 1st Battalion the Royal Irish Fusiliers from Tripoli and a squadron of armoured cars of the 2nd Regiment Royal Tanks from Homs working as two separate company/troop groups.



40 Cdo. landing at Homs

ioneer

These forces entered enthusiastically into the spirit of the Exercise and provided an imaginative and energetic enemy.

Umpires were gleaned from a number of Services including Headquarters Troop Malta, who provided the Chief Umpire, Royal Marines establishments in the United Kingdom, Second Tanks, who provided enemy communication with two troops of their armoured cars, as well as the Captain of Marines of **Tiger** and our own Brigade Headquarters.

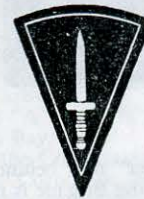
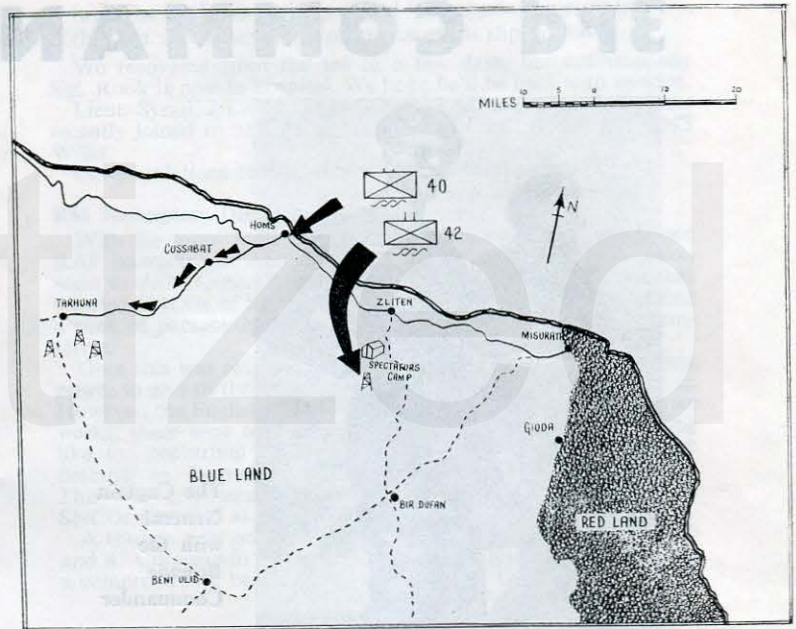
Rehearsal

On 26th April a rehearsal for the Exercise took place in Malta. Training areas there are of course severely limited and it will be without surprise that readers learn that 40 Commando landed at Mellicha beach, turned south, and advanced along the coast road towards Valletta.

However, the field firing range of Ghain Tuffieha provided a landing zone for 42 Commando who were able to exercise unit ship to shore movement and land nearly all the unit and enough Citroens to send off a vehicle borne reconnaissance force. They also sent off two coup de main parties by helicopter to take two of the features on Victoria lines which commanded the approach route of 40 Commando.

The rehearsal therefore merely practised the mechanics of getting to the place where the job was to be done. It was not until the force was ashore in North Africa that it was able to exercise itself in its real role as a military force.

Whatever the rehearsal may have lacked in pure military value was more than compensated for, for both the Naval and Marine forces involved, who had the honour of being watched by the person whom the Navy call Admiral of the Fleet but who is in fact, of course, the Captain General.



CGRM with General Block and Major Owen and general views of the Observers' Camp

3rd COMMANDO BRIGADE



**The Captain
General
with the
Brigade
Commander**

Photo: RN Official

Headquarters

With Exercise "Sky Pioneer" now behind us, the last of the big spring exercises is over, and the Brigade is now looking forward to what is hoped to be a fairly quiet summer, before we go across to North Africa again for unit training in the autumn.

In the meantime, with Capt. Spary, the Staff Officer Royal Engineers, and Lieut. Wilkins, 2 SBS, to despatch and receive them in safety all the wearers of parachute wings in the Brigade are bringing themselves up to date with some parachuting from helicopters at Takali airfield, and the SBS are to do some water jumps at Mellieha Bay.

March and April have been busy months, not least for those people with unspectacular jobs, whose task it is to ensure that the Brigade runs on easy wheels. There have been a large number of moves. The Fusiliers have been to and returned from North Africa where 40 Commando now is for unit training.

45 Commando have gone, and the last of the rear party have left St. David's Barracks at Imtarfa, which is now to be the home of one of the Royal Malta Artillery regiments.

The mainspring of our activities has been the arrival of the Commando Carrier and the working up of the team in her to full military efficiency. The climax of that work up—for which the Brigade was responsible—was "Sky Pioneer," of which details are given elsewhere; but there has been a lot of preliminary training in which the Brigade has had a part. 2 SBS were called to Malta, and have been living in St. George's Barracks while absorbing some of 6 SBS's hard won experience, both this and the other side of the barrier. We have also from time to time given house room to the unit transport of 42 Commando, who have been operating with only the helicopter transported Citroens and the odd quarter tonner that they are able to land in their LCAs.

The Brigade MTO went with a small party to North Africa and trained 42 Commando's MT troop in desert moves. This included a supply dumping trip down to Sebha, 500 miles into the Libyan desert, to build up the administrative backing for an even longer drive which the 2nd Royal Tanks are to do shortly. This Regiment, and the Royal Irish Fusiliers, who are at Tripoli, have helped a great deal in the various training schemes which have taken place so far this year, and it is hoped that we shall see more of them later on.

Back in Malta both 40 Commando and the tactical Brigade Headquarters spent 24 hours in **Bulwark** in Exercise "Double Up," the aim of which was to prove in practice the theoretical statement that the ship could carry two Commandos and a Headquarters for short periods. It can! The Headquarters has also carried out a number of field exercises to ensure that it should work properly when operating in command of the Brigade. However well written operational standing orders may be, the actual working of the machine relies a lot on those who have done it all before. Despite many changes in personalities since last Autumn, there are still enough of the old barrels of "Penguin," "Petrel" and "Whitebait" days to pass on the word to the newcomers.

General Bower visited Malta during the course of his leave taking of the Middle East Land Forces and, among other arrangements, gave the military officers in Malta a fascinating exposition of the current aims and problems in the Middle East.

General Musson—Chief of Staff to the Commander-in-Chief, Middle East Land Forces—also came to see us, and was shown various aspects of Commando Brigade life—including a demonstration by 40 Commando of Gemini training, which interested him so much that he demanded a ride, and was taken out with General Block (GOC, Malta) for a run in one of these splendid little craft.

The visit which overshadowed all others was of course that of the Captain General just before "Sky Pioneer," of which he saw the rehearsal.

Arriving at Halfar in a Devon, His Royal Highness left immediately by helicopter for the Commando Carrier where he dined with the officers of this ship, squadron and commando, and spent the night on board.

Shortly after seven o'clock the following morning (a fine one despite gloomy forecasts of thunder and rain) he appeared on the flight deck to watch some of the first helicopter loads of 42 Commando leave the ship. After breakfast the Duke came ashore by helicopter and landed at Mellieha Bay together with the Commandant General and the Commander-in-Chief, Middle East, Admiral Bingley. Here he met the Chief of Amphibious Warfare, General Moulton, the GOC Troops, Malta, under whom the Brigade is at present serving, and the Brigade Commander.

The party watched operations on the beach for half an hour, where 40 Commando was in the process of marching off southwards while their vehicles were coming from HMS **Striker** across the pontoons to the beach roadway laid by the Beach Troop.

In two helicopters, the party then flew over the beach head and assault anchorage on its way to Mellieha Ridge from which His Royal Highness watched the build up of 42 Commando across the valley on the field firing range.

He then moved down by road to be met on the landing zone by Lt.-Col. Crombie. He watched a troop of 42 Commando emplane for a move to Victoria Lines and part of another troop move off in the Citroen trucks, before taking a helicopter to Fort Madelena where he saw another troop roping down from their helicopters to occupy the fort.



**General Musson and General Block
return from trip in a Gemini.**

From here His Royal Highness flew back to **Bulwark**.

Later in the afternoon, HMS **Walkerton**, an inshore minesweeper, steamed into Sliema Creek and the Duke came ashore to an open car which took him to St. Andrews Barracks. After changing at the Brigade Commander's house he was driven across the parade ground to the Naafi where he had tea with some of the Corporals and Marines and their families.

Later, outside the Sergeants' Mess of 40 Commando, C./Sgt. Cook had the honour of being presented with his long service and good conduct medal by the Captain General, while inside the mess many of the Senior NCOs of the Brigade and the Fleet, together with their wives, met His Royal Highness.

Finally in the Officers Mess, the Captain General met officers and their wives and then dined with the officers before returning to St. Anton Palace for the night.

Signal Troop

Since our last contribution our main topic has been "Sky Pioneer." We began our work-up programme for this in the middle of March and left Malta for N. Africa on the 19th April. As usual we provided communications for the Empire and Control Organisation. The exercise from our point of view went well and one of the main things which made a large contribution to its success was the Loaded Whip Aerial designed by QMS Mordue our new TSM. Signallers may hear more about this in the future but it is producing most satisfactory results.

We have as usual provided Rear Link detachments for 1 RF and 40 Cdo. unit training and these give our signallers excellent training in Sky Wave Working over distances up to about 800 miles.

We have recently welcomed our new BSO and Troop Commander, Capt. D. G. Alexander, and Capt. Kelso has left us for UK and ITCRM. Also just gone is our TSM, QMS Sandercombe, who goes to STW Eastney.

6 SBS

2 SBS have now been with us for six weeks and we hope they have enjoyed working alongside us as much as we have. The social life between the sections has been intense (actually in bars). We wish them luck in their future activities in the Far East.

A small recee team went over to Homs on HMS **Ickford** for "Sky Pioneer." From our side, this was a success marred by only two things:—

- (a) The crude tea-making of 2nd Lt. Leggate in a soup tin.
- (b) Sgt. Rook having a recurrence of his slipped disc.

We recovered from the tea in a few days, but unfortunately Sgt. Rook is now in hospital. We hope he'll be back with us soon.

Lieut. Syrad, 2/Lieut. Leggate, Mne. Lord and Mne. Lynn have recently joined us and we say farewell to Capt. Dodds and QMS Willis.

Congratulations to Sgt. Haynes on his third stripe.

RM Helicopters Dispatchers Course

With the usual Inter Service Close Liaison the first words our RAF instructor at Abingdon said were, "What exactly is it you want to do?" Generally speaking, the idea of the course was that selected SNCOs of SB Sections should be capable of despatching a stick of parachutists from a helicopter and then despatch themselves.

Once this was realised by the RAF they did everything in their power to give us the necessary experience in the three week course. However, the English climate was against us and in the whole three weeks, there were only two days suitable for jumping. By acting like the proverbial Yo-Yos, the despatchers managed to get five descents in themselves and despatch at least five sticks each. This was considered to be adequate experience, and all four SNCOs qualified as despatchers.

A team is now on its way to Aden to work with A/W squadron and 45 Commando in the near future. The remainder are starting a comprehensive beach survey of Malta and Gozo.

40 COMMANDO

Visit of HRH The Prince Philip Duke of Edinburgh

The arrival of the Duke of Edinburgh's trophy in the unit was the highlight of the last article, this time it was a visit by the Captain General himself. His first appearance with the unit was on the morning of 26th April, when he watched the last phases of the rehearsal for Exercise "Sky Pioneer." Having landed by helicopter and seen the beach area after the unit had come ashore in LCAs, HRH then watched "A" and "B" troops advancing south on the road from Melliha Bay.

His next visit to the Commando was in the afternoon when he had tea with some Corporals, Marines and their wives in the NAAFI of St. Andrew's Barracks. In the Sergeants' Mess afterwards he presented C./Sgt. J. Cook, the unit PWI with his "Blue Peter." Finally, the Captain General made his last stop in this unit at the Officers' Mess, where he dined with the Officers.

We have had several other distinguished visitors recently. "X" Troop provided a Guard of Honour for General Norstad's visit to Hafmed on 6th April, and the Sergeants' Mess were visited by the Bishop of Maidstone two weeks later. The Bishop had tea in the Mess, when he met and talked to many of the SNCOs.

The Unit Gymkhana

The unit Gymkhana and Sports Day, as well as being an excellent Athletics Meeting, provided some very good sideshows and several laughs. The honours of the day went to "X" Troop who, when all points were added up, came out the winners, but the issue was in doubt until the very last race.

If there had been a novelty prize it would surely have gone to "S" Troop. Having an AE Officer with an original if sadistic sense of humour, there was no end of scope for the Troop. Their sideshow always had a large gathering around it. The basis of this contrivance was a Marine sitting on a chair above a large tank of water. Spectators were then invited to pay for the pleasure of hurling cricket balls at a small square of wood above his head. In the event of someone being accurate enough, the chair tipped up and deposited the unfortunate Marine into the water.

"A" Troop while not perhaps quite so ingenious nevertheless had a large attendance.

The alcoholic efforts of Officers and SNCOs in two beer drinking races also provided some light entertainment, even if not for the competitor in a previous race who was smitten in the face by a relay baton.

The JNCOs' race was won by "The Pair" who are, to the uninitiated, Cpl. Brown and L./Cpl. Gough, a good effort by the Clerical Comics of the unit.

Flying

During the last month, "B" and "Y" Troops have been competing with 42 Commando for the motto "Per Mare Per Terram ad Astra." Their attempts, however, have been purely in fixed wing aircraft.

R N B T

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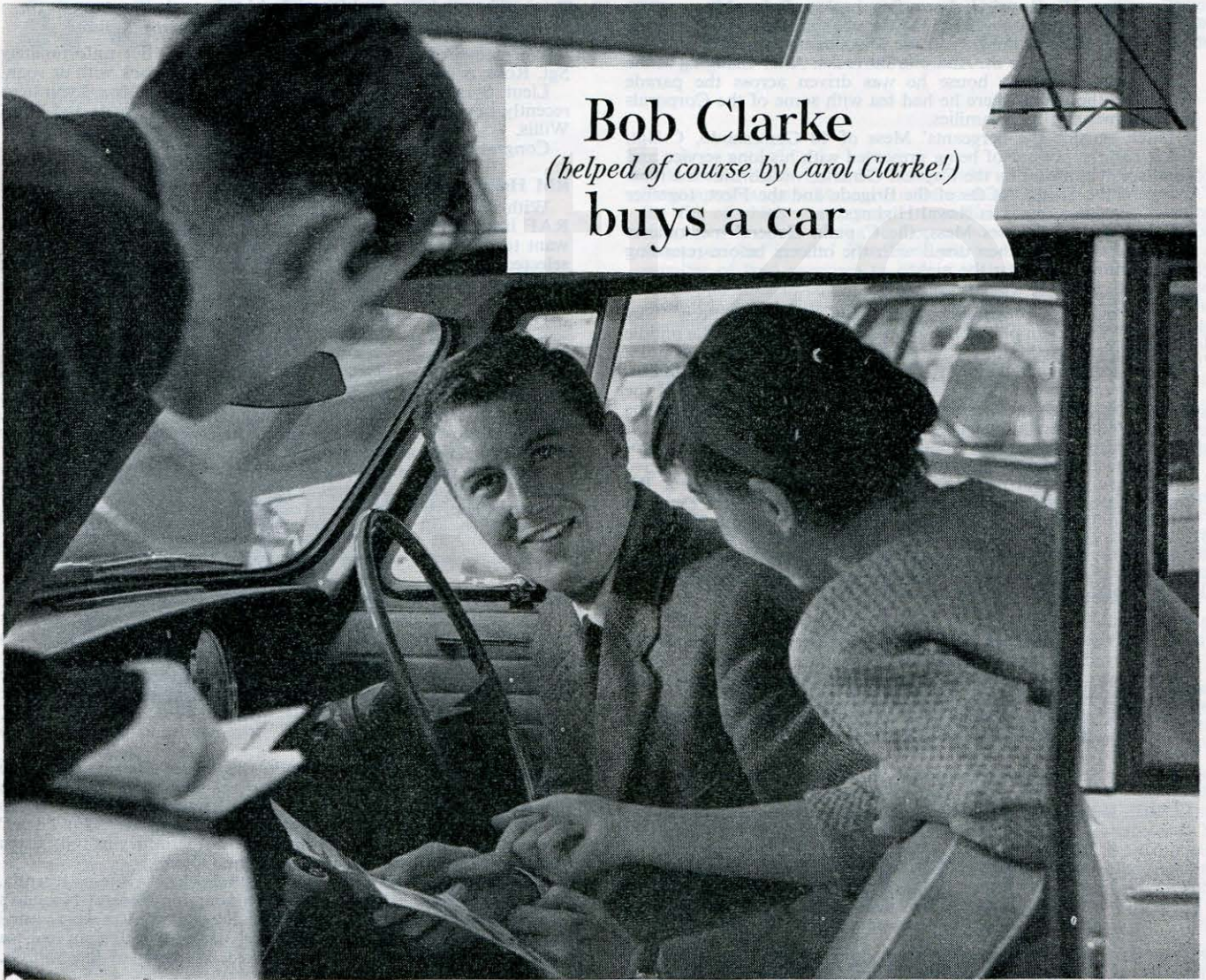
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Bob Clarke
(helped of course by Carol Clarke!)
buys a car



Bob's father didn't buy his first car till he was 38: and even then it was a secondhand job, with a dickey at the back where young Bob had to sit, come rain, come shine. Yet here's Bob buying a brand-new saloon while he's still in his twenties—thanks to UDT, who help him to pay for his car over the months instead of all at once.

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"B" Troop sent teams of about seven each week to RNAS Hal Far to fly in 748 Squadron Meteors. This was a very popular change from testing air defences of the airfield which the Troop has done on two separate occasions.

"Y" Troop on the other hand pinned their faith in the RAF. This Troop getting their flying done in five days with No. 38 Squadron, RAF, which base their Maritime Recce Shackleton aircraft at Luqa.

Exercise "Double Up"

"Double Up" was aptly named. For this exercise we embarked with 42 Commando in HMS *Bulwark*. While conditions were not exactly what one would expect at the Waldorf Astoria, considering the number of troops embarked, the exercise went well. Most impressive was the slick way in which the unit was lifted by helicopter to St. Andrew's Barracks from the carrier lying off Malta.

A New Painting

A long awaited painting arrived in the Officers' Mess shortly before the Duke of Edinburgh's visit. This was commissioned by the Officers, to commemorate the last Guard Changeover Ceremony in Valletta before 45 Commando left for Aden. The picture shows the Regimental Colours of both 40 and 45 Commando being paraded together in the middle of the square by both escorts and the two guards. The painting, by Mrs. Duke, was hung for the first time on the night the Captain General dined in the Mess.

Sand

Whilst writing this article the unit has moved into the Tarhuna area for a period of desert training. Provided that the "Ghibli," which has been blowing for the past twenty four hours, stops long enough for us to dig ourselves out before we all become completely immersed in sand, a report on our desert training period will follow.

Obituary

It is with much regret that we have to report the death, in a road accident, of RM 18375 Mne. C. R. Ridgway. He was buried with full military honours in the Cemetery at Tripoli on the 15th May. All ranks express their deepest sympathy to his parents.

42 COMMANDO

We sailed from Plymouth in HMS *Bulwark* on the 14th March, and after a pleasant trip across a very calm Bay of Biscay, we arrived at Gibraltar on the 18th to spend the weekend there.

The weather was exceptionally good and we had quite a festival of sport, including a "Round the Rock" Relay, in which 23 teams took part, to the bewilderment of the local authorities, who were expecting the usual half-dozen or so.

Old friends and old haunts were visited, while some of us managed to run over the border to La Linea. Algeciras, a little further along the Spanish coast, offered a bull-fight and several members of the unit were to be seen enjoying this national spectacle.

Our short stay ended, we set sail for Malta and, after three days of fairly rough weather, we found ourselves in Grand Harbour surrounded by dhghais waiting to ferry us ashore. We had a weekend of sport and "strangling" old friends before leaving on 28th March to begin our work-up in the Mediterranean.

This began with ship/shore movement of troops in the Homs area, developing into full unit exercises and culminating in Exercise "Sky Pioneer," about which you may read elsewhere in this edition. In the early stages much midnight oil was burnt and members of the Fleet Work Study team, who joined us at Malta to analyse the assault organisation, were flitting to and fro armed with stop-watches, tape-recorders and other tools of their trade. However fresh lessons were learnt each hour of the day, and we had expected that in our new role we should have many problems to overcome.

The highlight of the work-up period came at the end of April, with the visit of our Captain General who, after watching the rehearsal for "Sky Pioneer," toured the ship and found time to talk to many men in the unit.

Early in April we were privileged to receive a visit from the Chief of Defence Staff, Admiral of the Fleet Earl Mountbatten of Burma.

At the time of writing we are back in Malta, busily storing ship and re-equipping ourselves prior to sailing for Singapore on 12th May. In our next article we shall be able to tell you something about our new home at Sembawang. We are looking forward to our arrival there in June and the arrival of wives and families shortly afterwards.

"A" Troop

Troop Commander: Capt. D. G. Huntingford.

Troop TSM: QMS C. R. Humphries.

Those of us who were green to ship life before leaving Bickleigh, are now well and truly initiated. Living conditions in the mess deck are very cramped, whilst locker space is at a minimum and in consequence personal tidiness is of paramount importance.

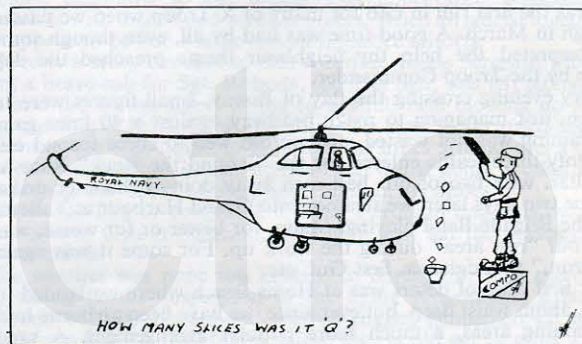
The Troop together with "B" Troop assists the Seamen's Division in helping to keep their part of ship clean, and chipping, painting and scrubbing parties can be found in the fo'c'sle, top and quarter deck most days. Although an unpopular form of work, it must be done as the ship is short of seamen who had to be left out of the ship's complement to make room for the unit.

We have spent the first four weeks of our five week work-up period allying military training to desert conditions. Unknown traits have suddenly appeared and we now have a number of budding entomologists and students of the desert's natural fauna (mainly snakes, scorpions and tortoises).

Exercise "Sky Pioneer" turned out to be a bit of a marathon as far as we were concerned. After an early shake at 0400 hrs. we flew ashore at 0700 hrs. to assist "X" Troop secure part of the unit objective. We remained in situ all day in a strong khamsin until the evening when with "B" Troop and one section each from the three "S" Troop platoons we had to move about 45 miles to the Bde. reserve area. This move was a protracted affair by shanks' pony and transport, and we did not reach our new location until dawn.

A certain amount of discretion is observed in the presence of one member of the Troop, who, when taking part in a section attack, lost the battle to keep his trousers up. Amid great amusement he was observed going into the assault hobbled like the local donkeys.

When we were out in the field recently, our TQMS, Sgt. Rayner, and Mne. Urey, the Troop cook, surprised Sgt. Abbott on his birthday by giving him a very large iced cake. Rain frustrated the evening party which met outside the Troop Commander's bivvy to celebrate the occasion with a wet of tea. We discovered that the Padre, who was living with us, likes his cake, whilst No. 1 Section prefers cake to compo for breakfast.



"B" Troop: Sgt. Pierce gets his "stick" aboard.

Photo: RN Official

B Troop

Troop Commander: Captain J. R. Bacon
TSM: QMS P. C. Fielder.

After the ceremonial embarkation at Plymouth "B" Troop spent the next few days adapting themselves to new surroundings and getting to know their way around our new home. By now everyone is settled in and although S2 mess-deck is no paradise, and more than three in the Troop office makes breathing difficult, we are surviving well.

The last month has been spent mainly ashore in the Homs area. The accent up to now has been on working with helicopters, but we have had time also for Troop attacks, field firing, mobile 2CV patrols and that ever-popular Brigade pastime—building sangers. C/Sgt. Villiers has established a clear lead in the sun-tan stakes and Mne. McLoughlin is now our chief snake-catcher, although there appears to be some doubt if this feat was intentional.

Opportunities for sport have been limited. We have won two out of three soccer matches we managed to play, the last being our debut in the ship's league when we beat the Quarterdeck division 3-2 thanks to Mne. Riley's hat-trick. Perhaps our greatest achievement so far was a very convincing win in the ship's "Round-the-Rock" relay in Gibraltar last month; we now hold both the ship and unit cross-country trophies. Out of working hours the Troop has been impressively represented in Grand Harbour at the week-ends by our fast motor-boat's crew from 10 Section, with Sgt. Pierce as coxswain. Last week-end also Cpl. Owen took a party of boy seamen on a highly successful cliff climbing expedition. The remainder of us look forward to a further opportunity to contribute to the island night life now that the rest of the Brigade has gone.

During "Sky Pioneer" we spent most of our first night *marshing*—something that is rather foreign to our nature these days. It was unanimously agreed afterwards that we will settle for any amount of contour flying instead of blisters.

C Troop

Troop Commander: Lieut. R. E. A. Mylne
TSM: QMS T. J. Gallon.

During our time on board HMS **Bulwark** we have been busy working part of ship and trying to find training spaces, but thanks to Circuit Training on the Flight Deck and numerous County Fairs, lectures and quizzes, we have kept fit and amused respectively.

After a weekend in Gibraltar we arrived in Malta on the 24th March, and with the beginning of the "work up" on the 28th March, our training became more interesting. Old "Desert Rats" led the new and we have made numerous trips ashore, "Chopper Borne" landing in the Homs-Zliten area, carrying out a varied programme, including long range helicopter patrols, the usual Troop attacks, and even troop advance-to-contact in Citroen 2CVs.

In sport, our basketball players have come well to the fore, defeating all-comers in a knock-out tournament on Saturday 16th April. The Troop soccer team have to date defeated the Quarterdeck 4-1, and drawn with the Engine Room CPOs 1-1. Sgt. Bashford has also played regularly for the Ship's XI. In the "Round the Rock" race in Gibraltar we finished sixth out of the twenty-three teams entered.

You can read elsewhere of the final exercise, and with that completed we look forward to our arrival in Singapore in June, after the usual runs ashore in Aden and Colombo. Our advance party representative sends us cheerful reports from Sembawang, and we hope to be able to give you good news of our new home in the next edition.

X Troop

Troop Commander: Capt. M. J. Baizley
TSM: QMS J. H. Sharland.

It was the first run in Gib for many of X Troop when we passed through in March. A good time was had by all, even though some misinterpreted the help thy neighbour theme preached the day before by the Troop Commander.

Every evening crossing the Bay of Biscay, small figures were to be seen, just managing to make headway against a 40 knot gale. But training was not wasted, and we did well to come second out of twenty-three teams entered for the "Round the Rock" Race at Gibraltar, with two of our best men away doing helicopter drills.

Some two days later, we steamed into Grand Harbour at Valletta with the Brigade Band playing. Malta, for better or for worse, was to be our "rest area" during the work up. For some it was again "first run," first dghaisa, first Gut, etc.

Our first dose of desert was at Homs Beach where we landed in LCAs, about waist deep, but ever since, we have been airborne into the training areas, a much more popular arrangement. A sand

storm blew up during our first day in the area south of Zliten, but the pilots of 848 Squadron managed to find us in the murk and dropped our big packs together with some mail.

During a night patrol against Yankee Troop, both sides made captures and in the big swop at the end we came off quite well, bartering a loaf of bread captured by L/Cpl. Bullock for two sergeants grabbed by the enemy.

On our last exercise, the weather was quite different and we were nearly floated down a small wadi. It was one of those days when you get wet either by building an inadequate bivvy or by staying out and building a good one.

No sooner had we arrived in Malta than the ship was flooded out with a second unit, 40 Commando. But our opposite numbers settled in very well and all appeared to go smoothly. This was known as Exercise "Double-Up."

In the demonstration for HRH Prince Philip, X Troop landed on the track above Ghajn Tuffeija Bay and took up a defensive position, furnishing a mobile patrol mounted in Citroens.

In the sporting line we have done quite well, winning all our soccer matches, both in Gib and Malta. Several members of the Troop have taken to weight training led by Mne. Callan. Mnes. Crawford and Chatters have been sailing regularly, and others have joined the Canoe club. On passage to Singapore we hope to get some fencing started within the Troop.

Y Troop

Troop Commander: Capt. P. H. Scarf
TSM: QMS P. J. Margetts, BEM.

On the last occasion on which a contribution was despatched, the Troop was about to go on embarkation leave and, as soon as this was over, we settled down to prepare for our ceremonial farewell to Plymouth, and to pack our bags. It is thought that the parade was a success and the Daily Sketch printed a centre page photograph of the Troop embarking.

Our next activity was the weekend in Gibraltar. Our team entered for the "Round the Rock" cross country race but, alas, only achieved a ninth place. In order to counteract too many weeks of soft living and too little fresh air on board, the Troop went "en masse" to Spyglass Hill, on top of the Rock: some found it necessary to rest a little before they could fully enjoy the view, and the little Gibraltar, with his eye on the main chance, who at the crucial moment pedalled into view with his ice cream barrow deservedly made his fortune.



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After a somewhat dreary weekend in Malta with little money to spend and weather conditions which would give one reasonable cause for complaint even on the Moor, we sailed for North Africa. The Troop's arrival at Homs beach by LCA was unusual. Unknown to any member of the Troop the objective had been changed, and finding ourselves opposite the ruins at Leptis Magna we decided to make the best of it and carry on with our training as though nothing had come amiss. The arrival of the Curator of the Museum put an end to that and somewhat shamefacedly we withdrew some hundreds of yards further up the beach: had we paid the five piastres entrance fee . . .!

The desert training period for the Troop has not differed from that of the remainder of the Commando, with a round of field firings, tactical movements in helicopters and patrolling. For Exercise "Easter Egg" which took place on the Tuesday and Wednesday after Easter, we provided the enemy and spent an amusing two days provoking the Commando in all sorts of unkind ways.

Once again the Commando returned to Malta and we carried out the rehearsal of "Sky Pioneer" in which we had to do a roping down assault on Fort Madelena, watched by HRH Prince Philip.

On completion of the rehearsal we sailed off to North Africa for the real thing. The Troop was the last to land and we only got ashore after the battle had been raging for some twelve hours. After a night spent in shell scrapes and a morning of patrolling, some misguided fellow thought it would be amusing to march back from the battlefield to Zliten on completion of the exercise, a distance of some fourteen miles. This march was carried out in two stages of seven miles each and it would be a most dishonest man who denied that at the end he was glad to see the helicopters which came to collect us.

We still provide a proportion of the unit hockey team and Capt. Scarf, Lieut. Hardy, QMS Margetts and Sgt. Watson have all played recently. Mne. Williams has played basketball for both the unit and the ship and for those of our readers who watch with bated breath the outcome of our Troop soccer matches, we can report that though we still lose our games the margin is now quite small!

The Troop held third position in the Mercer and Victory Cups in the second period of the RMRA non-central competition, and in the aggregate of the first and second periods we are leading in the Mercer and lie fourth in the competition for the Commandant General's Trophy.

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In conclusion we would like to say that we are glad to have Mne. Mellors back with us once again after his spell in hospital and we should like to congratulate Sgt. Bellas on his engagement, which was announced recently.

S Troop

*Troop Commander: Capt. C. P. Walker.
TSM: QMS James Taggart, BEM.*

During the past two months we have carried out a very varied programme, which made life interesting and saved us from the agony of routine. Naturally enough mistakes were made by all, but lessons are being learnt.

One lesson was when in the field to stand well clear of a certain gentleman, who with careless abandon and complete disregard for all onlookers, commences his morning toilet by diving into a mess tin full of water.

The first few days onboard our luxury vessel, HMS *Bulwark*, completely bewildered our landlubbers. However, they soon settled down to ship life and are no longer amazed by such pipes as "Up Spirits," which led them to believe it meant: "Take heart—the morning's work is nearly over."

We said goodbye to our pay clerk, Mne. Keeble, who left us hurriedly in Malta for the dangers of "Civvy Street." Marine Phillips has thought fit to accept the vacant position of pay clerk and can now be seen wandering around with the benevolent air of a rich uncle who possesses poor country cousins.

One of our more intelligent marines, "Scouse" Thomas, excelled himself in a quiz programme, "Brains of *Bulwark*" which was broadcast over the ship's SRE. After this amazing feat he is now available to the natives daily about noon, to answer with complete ease such questions as, "What day is it?" Rumours that he had gussets put in his beret after his success are unfounded and are mean attempts by some of the lower peasants to belittle him in the eyes of his master, Quasimodo.

The football team has continued its success, though they lost 4-3 to "S" Troop, 40 Commando. It was subsequently found out, however, that the opposition had boosted their team with imports from the remainder of the unit as "S" Troop were unable to field a team of eleven men who were awake at the time.

Exercise "Sky Pioneer" provided good experience for us, as we were combating a well equipped live enemy, which happens all too rarely. Great use was made of the manpacks and a section of Mortars and MMGs did fairly well (by our standards) in a night march behind rifle troops. It was a good job they were also carrying their large packs as it gave the rifle troops in front a few extra seconds to drag the riflemen (who had fallen by the wayside) out of the path of the onrushing "S" Troop.

We were also pleased to see the Mobats ashore. Two were flown in and two came by land. At one time a 3.5 Rocket Launcher and Mobat were within one yard of each other in competition at a target approximately five hundred yards away. Sergeant Noakes' comments were a joy to listen to, and really made our day.

Headquarters Troop

*Troop Commander: Lieutenant J. J. Arnold.
TSM: QMS J. Farmery, BEM.*

Since leaving Plymouth we have travelled many miles across the high seas with one or two members maintaining faces coloured the same as the sea whilst passing through the Bay. Our arrival at Gibraltar was greeted with some beautiful sunshine which helped to get us nice and bronzy for our arrival in Malta, thereby trying to avoid the look of complete novices in foreign parts.

Our main work-up period during April has been spent in the Homs area. The Troop appears to be divided into various shades of tan and one hasn't to look very far to see the seasoned campaigners, exhibiting a real Desert Fox appearance, comparing themselves with their blood white brothers. When all placed together they appear to be like a large box of liquorice allsorts.

There is a story circulating that a certain Bugle Sergeant Flook doing a brave sub for Sgt. Roberts, the PRI Sgt., was left stranded high and dry in the desert owing to a sandstorm blowing up and the grounding of helicopters. His attire of a Mae West caused some concern as the only liquid to be found for miles around was a can of beer! Rumour has it that he has been heard going around the ship singing the "Desert Song" and "Sand in my Shoes."

We would like to congratulate Sgts. Fordham and Bristow on promotion to Colour Sergeant, they have now left the braves and become chiefs.

The weather was none too kind to us during our final exercise and, owing to the suspension of the flying programme, a large collection of fully booted-and-spurred rugged gentlemen sat and waited from 0600 to 1800 hours before they could get to grips with

the enemy. On taking off, the Signals Officer's helicopter was seen to do several three point landings before completely disappearing over the port side of the ship. Several hearts gave a few heavy thumps and the right hands were seen to be making rather quickish moves to the automatic pumper-up of the life belts. However, with skilful handling by the pilot all was well and victory ours.

In the football world under the careful eyes of Cpl. Danks and Mne. Lynas the Troop started off with a resounding victory of 7-0 over the Starboard Engine Room. We hope this will not cut us down to half steam.

By the time we produce our next article we should be wearing happy faces in Singapore, living on a very nice rate of LOA. To coin a phrase—"WE NEVER HAD IT SO GOOD."

MT Platoon

MTO: Lieut. E. A. Rigsby.

On the ship's arrival in Malta the MT department was confronted with its first nautical evolution, that of transferring vehicles from the Flight Deck to Marsa Hard, and despite the delays due to the shortage of lighters, the operation was a success and by late afternoon all the vehicles were disembarked and on their way via very wet Maltese roads to St. George's. The driving conditions caused a certain amount of disquiet amongst the younger members and brought a knowing smile to the faces of those who had done it all before. The first few days ashore were spent driving in and out of **Striker** and **Bastion**, including a night embarkation which was something new even to the older hands.

Many valuable lessons were learned and we had the opportunity to confirm all that had been taught while doing the real thing prior to sailing for Homs.

The early stages of our stay at Homs were spent in the barracks of the 2 RTR who did all that was possible to make us welcome. They seemed particularly impressed by our vehicles, possibly due to their un-desert-like hue, and showed an interest which was to be directly responsible for the highlight of our desert training which was soon to follow.

It transpired that the Regiment had planned to carry out an expedition to Tibesti, and in order to carry out such a long range exercise it was necessary to establish a POL dump at Sebha. In consequence the Commanding Officer was asked if the unit

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could assist with load carriers and to the delight of all concerned the challenge was accepted.

At 0730 on Thursday, 7th April, the convoy consisting of one Landrover and 17 RLs from 42 Commando and four vehicles from 2 RTR swept eagerly out of the barracks gate and headed towards Misurata.

The first two hundred miles was along the Via Balbia, the coast road, and eventually we turned South on the new road to Bungem. Here we were horrified to find the tarmac came to an abrupt end, and gave way to a desert track which continued for the next seven hundred miles!

From Bungem it was 120 miles to Hon, the first 50 miles of which were so bad that speed was reduced to 12 miles an hour. Conditions gradually improved however as Hon was reached and just north of the village we came up a tarmac road which continued in all its glory for three hundred yards and ceased—a deep disappointment.

Hon is overlooked by a deserted and ruined fort which has certain Beau Geste qualities but had little else to offer.

Hon to Seba proved to be the most interesting part of the whole journey, being 240 miles of varied terrain including black jebel, open sirir and sand sea.

The first 40 miles involved an exciting chase after a three tonner whose tail-board had fallen open due to the securing pins being shaken free, thus leaving, at regular intervals along the track, an impressive trail of jerricans. This particular vehicle wanted some catching and proved more difficult to overtake on the track which wound steeply through black stony jebel.

The open sirir was about 60 miles wide and high speeds were possible over the entirely flat featureless countryside. From here the track led down to the Wadi Es Sciati, a wide sand filled feature, where on the return journey considerable difficulty was experienced owing to high winds and desert sands. Several lorries were found to be in trouble and the driver of one which had been stuck in the sand for three days was very thankful when our recovery vehicle pulled him out. It was evident that many of his fellow countrymen had passed by without offering him the slightest assistance.

The last part of the journey led through a belt of sparse vegetation and salt flats and it was uncomfortably hot: it was here that the Land-Rover suffered most because of evaporation in the feed lines. The town of Sebha, which is the capital of the Fezzan, is built in two distinct halves about two miles apart. The old town is grouped around the old Turkish Fort and is mainly concerned with the caravan trade with the French territories to the South: French incidentally was almost universally spoken in the native quarter, whilst new Sebha consists of an area of dull concrete houses built in neon lit streets. It has a swimming pool, a hotel and a huge unused government building. The local police were most helpful and the influence of the American oil men became evident when a local dignitary who was offered a British cigarette answered, "For me, no, I only smoke Salem—King sized"!

It was hoped that the convoy could return over the Ramlet Es Seghira sand sea to Brak but in view of the weather, the severe damage to the U Bolts on the vehicles, and advice from the police, it was decided to return by the same route.

Some driving took place in the sand dunes of the Wadi Es Sciati before heading due North for the coast.

The total distance covered was 1,148 miles over a period of six days and much experience was gained, which we hope will prove profitable in the future.

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Photo: Sgt. Bond

CDO

Farewell to Malta

To bring to an end an eventful period of eight years' service, with certain interruptions, on the Island of Malta, 45 Commando bade a final farewell on 12th April. The main body of the unit left Grand Harbour in the early hours of the morning under the watchful eyes of the GOC and the Brigadier and followed in the wake of the Advance Party to the warmer climes of Aden.

The period immediately preceding our departure was hectic. To avoid the danger of leaving things to the last minute, plans were made well in advance to meet the 1001 problems that exist when preparing for a march-out. A host of things had to be done, including the packing and loading of stores, cleaning up the Barracks, and, of course, attending innumerable farewell parties.

Our official good-bye was said at the Farewell Tattoo held at the end of February, but in the ensuing seven weeks before the last of the unit left, there were many farewells said and sung. A great many people—far too many to enumerate here—were very kind to the unit and gave us great encouragement for the future.

Finally we left Malta with a lot of mixed feelings. In many ways Aden has more to offer and in other ways much less. We have left many friends behind and to them we would like to say "Thank you" for their help and to wish them the best of good luck for the future.

The Voyage

The unit used four ships, plus a few seats in aircraft, to transfer itself to Aden.

4th March	Advance Party sailed in Nevasa .
5th March	Advance Party transport sailed in WD LST Empire Fulmar .
4th April	Main Body transport sailed in WD LST Empire Skua .
12th April	Main Body sailed in Dunera .

Judging from the Troop articles all ranks had most enjoyable voyages in their various ships. This includes four dogs who were transferred on the strength as Troop mascots, and passed their immigration examinations with tails well up.

Arrival in Aden

On reaching Aden after the 3,000 mile voyage, the Advance Party, under the command of Major T. D. Morgan, had the task of taking over from the 1st Battalion, the Royal Warwickshire Regiment the hatted accommodation at Little Aden and also a tented camp on the Yemeni frontier at Dhala.

X Troop, with about half of Support Troop attached, went first to the transit or reinforcement camp at Khormaksar and then to the camp at Dhala where they took over the operational commitments from the Royal Warwicks. A description of Dhala and the life there can be read under X Troop's contribution to this article.

On the arrival of the main body of the Commando on 23rd April (an auspicious day, surely) sub units moved to their planned locations as follows:—

Little Aden (a hatted camp situated in the BP Refinery and leased from them. Main advantages—air conditioned accommodation, a civilian community and excellent bathing).

Commando Headquarters.

Support Troop—less elements of all platoons at Dhala.

Alpha Troop.

Zulu Troop.

Khormaksar (a tented horror of a transit camp with no advantages whatever).

Echo Troop.

Dhala (a tented camp in an operational zone. Excellent climate and tons of work).

X-Ray Troop.

Bravo Troop.

Sec. 3 in Mors; Sec. MMG: 2 Dets. Mobat: Det. AE.

On the very day that the Commando arrived the plans had to be changed due to the battalion of Aden Protectorate Levies having to leave Dhala for operations elsewhere. We were invited to look after their camp for them and it gave us an admirable excuse to take Echo Troop out of Khormaksar Camp and send it up country to Dhala. This is only a temporary move but the APL had better watch out—there is a saying that "possession is nine points of the law"!

Owing to the fact that the length of tour with this Commando is now 12-15 months, Troops have had to be reorganised on to a "Repatriation Date" basis, and the plan is that every ten-week period each Fighting Troop in turn will become the "Troop Reforming" (may be "Reformatory Troop," who knows?) This Troop will repatriate all its Marines and at the same time take in all GD Marines arriving as reinforcements. This plan is tied in to the overall change—round of Troop locations at the end of five or ten week periods. Changing to this method was not achieved without some heartburn, and it was Zulu Troop that had to die in order that the others might live. Zulu Troop is looking remarkably healthy just now though.

While X Troop holds the frontier for Queen and Country the first effort for the remainder of the unit must be to accustom ourselves to working in the extreme conditions of heat and humidity which exist on the Arabian Peninsula. This is being tackled by increasing the length of our daily periods of Fitness Training and moving them nearer to midday. Looking ahead, we must be thoroughly acclimatised by 20th May, when we take part in Exercise "Egress" with 23 Brigade who are being flown in from Kenya.

There is naturally much to be done before the camps are in a satisfactory condition, demanding plenty of energy and foresight on the part of everyone involved in this new venture.

As regards sport we are at last going to be able to play for our proper service. The Navy here at the moment consists of HMS **Sheba**, and soon to be joined by the Amphibious Warfare Squadron, and together we hope to put the Navy on the sporting map again.

First impressions of life here have been quite good, certainly nothing like as bad as we were expecting. It is hot, yes, but there is nothing unbearable about it, and everybody has been much too busy to think about it. Best compensation of all is that the Commando has been under fire at Dhala from the rebel tribesmen (called "Dissidents" locally), and their fire has been returned with interest.

A Troop

At the time for the Tattoo our numbers were falling gradually, but by March we were brought up to strength again by members of S Troop and the disbanded Zulu Troop. In order to mould the new in with the old the entire Troop was taken out whenever possible on the ranges and for speed marches, while the other aim, of getting fit for Aden, was being accomplished as well.

At Mtarfa we reached the semi-finals of the Soccer Knockout



A view of Dhala camp.

being beaten by E Troop, and we also played many useful games against "HQ Miscellaneous."

The fitness programme had achieved something, in that once on board the **Dunera** no-one could stop us. First we played Deck Hockey against S Troop and succeeded in winning all the way, finally beating the RAF team. The games, at times, became more like rugger, but the spirit our teams put into it was terrific. We fielded three teams so that everyone who wanted a game could play.

Winning the toss only once, most important because of the angle of the deck, we again won our way to the top of the Tug of War competition. We beat Z in the semi-final and ten minutes after we beat B, who had a bye in the semi-final, in the final. Two days later we beat the combined Army and RAF team. With Mne. Kemp as anchor, the team consisted of Mnes. Thompson, Dunn, Keen, Hunt, Hart, Froggatt and Emery.

Sergeant A. Fraser met us in Little Aden, having already climbed the local "hills." Sergeant M. O'Brien had also flown out ahead of us. TSM R. F. Beaton stayed behind in Malta to take his Branch Officer's examination and he will be joining us next month. Sergeant Horan is standing in for him. Just before we left Malta we were sorry to lose Cpl. A. Bain to HQ Troop.

In spite of the air conditioning we are looking forward to going to Dhala within the next two months.

"Noddy" Dunn is the TQ's storeman now and Simba is facing up to the heat well. He came out on the **Empire Skua** and is well acclimatised.

B Troop

Over the past few months the Troop lost several of its old stalwarts and all but three of its National Servicemen. This will be a great loss to us as in the past they have been invaluable particularly in the world of sport. Marines Cooper and Wilson will be missed as they contributed a great deal towards the Basket Ball Team, helping to win the Inter Troop Competition two years running. This year it was a very hard fought battle with X Troop and A Troop in the final and semi-final respectively. Marines Salt and Sullivan will also be missed as they have been the mainstay of the football team for some time. They have both finished their tour and returned to England. The Troop now remains the same until July when the sad time comes for it to disband and reform out of a new draft. The Officers and NCOs, however, will remain the same.

Most of the training for the last few weeks in Malta concentrated on fitness. Sport was played as much as possible with favourable results and with the help of ex-members of Zulu Troop the football team showed much improvement. Marine Wood, who we left behind in Malta for repatriation, will certainly be missed in the forward line. During working hours speed marches to Ghajn Tuffeija and the assault course there were the main part of the "get fit campaign" with an occasional swim before returning to Imtarfa along the coast by bouldering or by a cross country march.

Since we have been on board TT **Dunera** the athletic members have upheld the prestige of the Troop by reaching the finals of the "Tug of War" and Deck Hockey, and in both cases were narrowly beaten by A Troop. In the latter, one of the most vicious games ever witnessed on board, "The Saints" by sheer weight and size just managed to grab a victory from a more skilful and equally tenacious side.

We bid farewell particularly to C/Sgt. Taylor who has been with the Troop for some time and done a lot for us all individually and as a Troop. We perhaps remember him best in Derna, when we were on exercises. Our food always arrived hot and at the right time whatever the circumstances and difficulties. Marine Rowe, his storeman and able assistant for the past seven months, has nearly finished his National Service and so has returned to England.

E Troop

Since the Tattoo the Troop activities have been somewhat restricted while the Unit has been packing for the move to Aden, and we have concentrated on fitness training.

Sgt. Wilson went off to Aden in the TT **Nevassa** as "E" Troop advance party; he is the only member of the Unit who managed to take his family with him. Whether his wife ever went on to Cape Town as planned we shan't know till we reach Aden. I have my doubts!

As usual in the sports field, Echo Troop excelled. The football team has reached the Inter Troop final which we are to play on arrival in Aden. In the Inter Troop basket ball we reached the final but after a very close match lost by 1½ points. The cross country we won easily, having six of the Troop team in the first ten home.

Lieut. Goldsworthy and Mne. Muir have played for the Unit Rugger team all the season, and finished by representing the Malta Combined Services team with games in Naples and Rome.

We say goodbye to Lieut. Hunt, who has returned to the United Kingdom to complete his training, and to Lieut. Goldsworthy who soon takes up the duties of Squad Officer in Deal—he has our full sympathies.

We congratulate C/Sgt. Brady on his promotion and regretfully say farewell to him on his transfer to "A" Troop—of all Troops—as TQMS.

We welcome Lieut. Seeger, Sgt. Hoban and Cpl. Summers to the Troop. We are particularly sad to report the loss from the Troop of Sgt. Rees, who was taken seriously ill just before we sailed. We all wish him a speedy recovery and every best wish for his future back in the United Kingdom.

X Troop

The Unit advance party left Malta for Aden on 4th and 5th March in TT **Nevassa** and the WD LST **Empire Fulmar**. The total strength was 183 and consisted of "X" Troop Group and elements of HQ Troop.

Due to bad weather the **Nevassa** was unable to get into Malta on 3rd March, the day we should have embarked. After a number of false alarms, we stood down and spent an extra night at Imtarfa, eventually embarking at 0800 hours the following morning. The Brigade Band played us out of Grand Harbour with a selection of inspiring tunes including "Will ye no come back again," which cheered us up enormously!

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The trip to Aden was uneventful and the living conditions on board were very good. We flew the Unit Flag in Port Said and many stories were told by those who had last been there as uninvited guests in 1956, arriving by helicopter or assault craft! The usual sports were played on board but the facilities for training were poor. We won the finals of the Inter Troop deck hockey competition after some bloodthirsty matches and even more bloodthirsty support from the spectators. The "Tug of War" between the Officers and the Senior Non-Commissioned Officers was won by the Seniors under the able coaching of Sgt. (K) Adams.

On arrival in Aden on 10th March we moved into the Transit Camp at Khormaksar, a few miles outside the town, on the edge of the RAF airfield. We had been briefed to expect the worst and we weren't disappointed. The luckier members of the advance party (not X Troop group) moved into the Royal Warwicks camp at the refinery at Little Aden and suffered in silence in air conditioned accommodation. The difference in temperature between Malta and Aden in early March came as quite a shock. The day we landed the temperature was 86° and we were glad we had arrived early, before the warm weather started! It is the combination of high temperature and very high humidity that makes the Aden climate so unpleasant.

On 16th March, the **Fulmar** arrived with the advance party vehicles, stores and fifty ranks under the command of Lieut. Rose, who joined the Unit just in time for the move to Aden. They had taken eleven days compared with our six but had thoroughly enjoyed the trip much to our surprise. Support Troop fired their MMGs on board and various competitions took place including "Tug of War" against the Chinese crew, who were inexperienced in the art and lost cheerfully.

The Troop group, consisting of X Troop, one section of Mortars, one section of MMGs, two Mobat detachments and AEs plus drivers, signallers and cooks, remained at Khormaksar until 18th March, when our advance party moved to Dhala near the Yemen border, by road. "By road" is, strictly speaking, incorrect, as the distance between Aden and Dhala is about eighty miles and you run out of road after about five miles. From then on the going varies from fair to rotten, being mostly confined to wadis until you eventually reach the Dhala Plateau about eight hours later. The time taken by convoys depends on the number of breakdowns and our vehicles stood the test extremely well, which was fortunate because the REME recovery detachment with the convoy had no spares for the combat range of vehicles, as there are none in Aden as yet!

On 25th March, the remainder of the Troop group under the command of Capt. P. Griffiths moved to Dhala and the next day the company of Royal Warwicks that we were relieving moved out, bound for Aden and Hong Kong.

There was a lot that had to be done to the camp, which has now been occupied by British troops for about four years. Most of the tentage appeared to have been in use for that length of time and was well overdue for replacement. In the month since we arrived the camp has undergone quite a facelift and is now almost habitable, although the galley still requires demolition as opposed to repair. The AEs are itching to get at it! Extra tentage has been put up to accommodate "B" Troop who join us in a few days on arrival of the main body from Malta. Dhala will then hold two Troops plus elements of Support Troop and by a process of relieving one Troop every five weeks each Troop will do ten weeks up here and fifteen weeks down in Little Aden before returning for a further spell.

The camp is built on a small ridge on the Dhala Plateau at an altitude of 5,000 feet. The climate is excellent compared with Aden because although it is just as hot by day, the humidity is very much lower and at night it gets cool enough to need blankets. It rains here for part of the year and therefore there is a certain amount of greenery which is pleasant after the desert scenery in the coastal area.

We are overlooked by the "Jebel Jihaf" which rises over 2,000 feet above us and this has to be climbed before going in a northerly or westerly direction. Vehicles have a limited use up here and donkeys, which are more versatile, are used on patrol for load carrying. The 3rd Battalion, Aden Protectorate Levies (APL) live within a few hundred yards of us and we come under command for operations. Guides from the APL have helped us to get to know the area. These Arab soldiers are at home in the mountains and move fast over the roughest ground. As guides they are excellent but have to be kept on a tight rein. Their standard equipment is a rifle, bandolier, PT shoes, shirt and shorts. They appear to eat and drink nothing all day and are completely untiring and extremely cheerful.

We are getting used to the altitude which makes a considerable difference, particularly in the high temperatures which prevail in this part of the world. The life of a pair of SV boots appears to

be about fourteen days actual patrolling. The sharp rock, most of which is rotten, cuts boots to pieces very quickly and is quite useless for serious climbing. KUA looks like being overspent on boots alone! The new 1958 pattern equipment which we received just before leaving Malta seems excellent and is a great improvement on the old type.

Sports up here are a bit limited as the local "Dhala United" football pitch is the only ground level enough but we play the locals and the APL regularly. Piquets have to be put out on the surrounding high ground whilst play is in progress in order to prevent the local dissidents or supporters of the Dhala team from interfering with the games!

A "run ashore" to Dhala leaves much to be desired. Shore leave expires at 1800 hours and one visit satisfies the curiosity of the average man. It is a typical Arab town with very little to offer apart from a variety of smells, plenty of flies and general squalor. The Emir of Dhala lives on top of the hill overlooking the town and recently invited some of the Officers to a "fuddle" or feast. Having been to lunch with a local Sheikh the week before some of them weren't looking forward to it too much. Eating goat with the fingers of the right hand whilst squatting on the floor without shoes isn't what most of us have been used to and it may have been just a coincidence that the Troop Commander reported sick the next day!

Rations come up to Dhala by courtesy of the RAF five days a week and so we live on fresh rations most of the time. Heavy supplies come by road once a fortnight in a properly escorted convoy with the heights picketed in likely trouble spots. Recently this area has been very quiet apart from a little long range sniping by dissident tribesmen in the pay of the Yemen.

Since arriving in Aden, QMS Mashford has taken over in place of QMS Wooley, who returned to the United Kingdom just before we left Malta. We hope he enjoys his tour with "X" Troop and we wish TSM Wooley the best of luck with 41 Commando.

Z Troop

Since the last issue we have been kept fairly busy with Unit activities—the Farewell Tattoo and then the move to Aden.

Soon after the Tattoo the old Zulu Troop disbanded with the exception of the Officers and NCOs, and reformed almost completely with new drafts. Mnes. Ellis and Holliday were about the only real "old timers" left. The period up until we embarked on the **TT Dunera** was used to train up the new Troop and also to prepare for the march-out of St. David's Barracks. The new Troop has developed a good spirit very quickly and it won't be long before we are winning all the "pots" again.

Sgt. Fairclough, whom we welcome to the Troop, had a very short stay in Malta and then went on to Aden to act as our advance party. Going in the other direction were Cpls. May and Gane to whom we wish the best of luck on their respective courses. C/Sgt. Helsby has unfortunately said goodbye to the Troop to take over the job of camp "TQ" at Dhala for the last few weeks he has left of this commission. Before he left us he distinguished himself by getting his "blue"—many congratulations and the best of luck for the future. C/Sgt. Moyses has now taken over as the "TQ", so now the "TQ's" sign is crossed clubs.

The Troop is now situated in Little Aden and is settling in well. Fitness training takes up much of our time and we have had some fairly vigorous sessions getting used to the local hills as the TSM's feet can testify.

Finally we welcome Capt. A. A. Eyre as our new Troop Commander. His arrival was distinguished by a somewhat eventful flight out here—who said a Viscount can't get into a spin? Lieut. Mitchell has now left the Troop and has taken over as the Unit Intelligence Officer.

SP Troop

Detailed training was rather at a standstill during the last few weeks at Malta, the priority task being the camouflaging of barrack damages. In this respect Sgt. Holmes did an excellent job and we left him in Malta to hand over the Troop accommodation before he returns to the United Kingdom.

Lieut. Blackah moved to Aden with half the Troop in the operational advance party on 5th March. They must regard themselves as old sweats by now—with the accent on the sweat. There were a lot of "Fishermen's Tales" recorded in the advance party's first few letters to us, but so far there have been no casualties from the snakes, scorpions or snipers about which we had heard so much. In any event this advance party seems to have done a good job and the rest of the Troop will be relieving them of their isolated duties fairly soon.

Lieut. Preston declares that his "Swanning" days are over. On behalf of other ranks he became heavily involved in litigation during his last trip with the AW Squadron to Italy.

During the officers' day on the range the Troop Commander scooped the kitty during the classification shoot on the SLR, this being the first time he had fired the weapon.

Under S Troop organisation a Unit Concert Party was formed to entertain all and sundry during the voyage in the TT **Dunera** from Malta to Aden. All told there were three major performances, two for children, and about six minor shows. It was all first class entertainment which everyone enjoyed although Geordie Whitlock had the puritans on edge with some of his anecdotes. The principal contributors were QMS Thomas, producer, Mne. Farrell of "E" Troop, and L/Cpl. North at the piano.

Lieut. B. Woodham has replaced Lieut. A. Cook as the anti-tank specialist and the Marines in the AE Platoon are a brand new lot. There will be no other changes until July when repats and reliefs will start flowing again.

"Bombs gone" for now. Malta wasn't such a bad place after all.

Sergeants' Mess

Greetings to all SNCOs within the Corps from our "New Location" here in the heat of the Aden Protectorate.

We arrived in Aden after a wonderful trip from Malta aboard the TT **Dunera**. Many of us have travelled in the comfort of her before, but alas never again as her present trip is rumoured to be her last.

On arrival the Mess got into its stride right away and many of the older hands were re-introduced to "Tiger" beer, a relic of Malayan days thoughtfully provided by the advance party members.

The Mess closed down finally in Malta on 8th April, a sad farewell being said to it. Many pleasant memories of it remain in the minds of both present and past members.

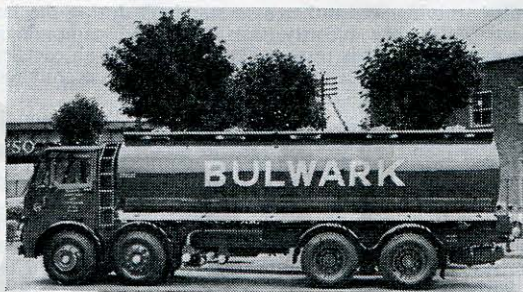
Before leaving Malta, however, quite a few events took place, one of which was the presentation of LS and GC Medal to C/Sgt. Gordon Helsby, "Z" Troop TQMS, by the GOC Malta. All troops were on parade forming hollow square, when from their midst came one DL 1 dressed in denims, and halted in front of the GOC. His dress may have been excused, but to give a negative answer to the GOC's request for a pin is really inexcusable. After all, all SNCOs should carry one pin, even if only to help ladies in distress. Had he been in Aden at that time, he may have been excused that breach of discipline, as having a medal pinned on one's chest in "bare buff" tends to be a little painful at times. However, all things being equal, we give him our congratulations for managing to get away with it for fifteen years.

We also offer our congratulations to Sgt. (The Basher) Moyses and Sgt. John Brady on their elevation to the dizzy heights of "Colours." Their crowns were feted in all the true traditions of the Mess.

Since our last article we have bade farewell to many old faces and greeted many new. May the old relish their new jobs in Blighty, and the new enjoy their stay with us here.

Many members are still moving round in a daze, not grasping the fact that they do not need to rush away at 1600 hours each day, home to their wives and families, but given time they no doubt will come to love their air conditioned, double berth cabins, that we have to offer rent free out here. All members hope that the wives have become settled at last and reconciled to the fact that hubby has left them for a while. Time passes so quickly.

On the trip from Malta many a good time was had by all and



Proposed Mess Truck — not approved.

Photo: Bulwark Tpt. Ltd.

many new friendships formed. The "Per Mare" part of our slogan came well to the fore one night at a cinema performance when one certain SNCO turning to the young lady sitting next to him (he wouldn't have been a SNCO had he not had a lady sitting next to him) aired his nautical knowledge by informing her that the ship was steering a course of 152°. He became really scuttled however when she in turn looked at him in surprise and answered, "Oh! that is fast, isn't it?" Obviously a landlubber, what?

We had a Mess Meeting and farewell party on board before leaving the ship, which caused quite a roll on quite a number of members, not entirely attributable to the ship, either. It caused a few to switch to orange juice until they regained their land legs.

The present quarters of the Mess are situated alongside the BP Oil Refinery in Little Aden, and across the road we have for company a Regiment of the Royal Dragoons, and a lot of the living accommodation of the BP married personnel. Our first social invitation has arrived from the Royals (what a mix-up, two Royals together) and there is a promise of many more during our sojourn in this locality, although it seems that the advance party SNCOs spent more time as advance party for social events than for the purpose they were sent on ahead.

Next month there is to be a big exercise in the desert and our able-bodied steward, Crash Murray, is faced with the problem of either having an MT Section of his own or setting up his own brewery. No doubt with his usual energy he will reach a suitable conclusion.

In order to become acclimatised for the manoeuvre everyone is having an hour's exercise each day, which eventually will take place in the middle of the day. Never has so much sweat and weight been lost by so many in such a short time. Johnnie Rice please note.

Before closing all members wish to thank members of Brigade HQ and 40 Commando Sergeants' Messes for their hospitality and for the farewell parties that they laid on for us. It may be quite a time before all the SNCOs Messes of 3 Commando Brigade will be together again in such a way, as HMS **Bulwark** and 42 Commando were in Malta at that time.

That is all for this time, and should we still be energetic enough to write, we will submit a further article for the next issue.

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RMTC Shooting Team.

Photo: RN Official

ROYAL MARINES TRAINING CENTRE (MED)

March and April have been both memorable and eventful months at RMTC. The Royal Marines detachments of HMS **Ark Royal**, **Albion** and **Tiger** have carried out weapon training courses, and we hope have returned to their ships feeling the better for their stay with us. Naval landing parties from HMS **Tiger**, **Eastbourne**, **Whitby** and **Zest** have completed weapon training courses, together with short courses on internal security.

We have been particularly pleased to welcome the Captains of HMS **Tiger**, **Eastbourne**, **Whitby** and **Zest**, and to have the opportunity of showing them the facilities available to their ships' companies at RMTC.

At the beginning of April the GOC Malta, Major-General A. G. C. Block, CBE, DSO, paid us a visit to present the Middle East Shooting Trophy to the RMTC team. This was the second occasion since 1909 on which RMTC had won this most coveted trophy. The team scored 704, the highest score ever attained. It was sad that the full team were no longer serving at RMTC, but the GOC showed very great interest whilst talking to the six remaining members of the 1959 team. This was the GOC's first visit, and after the presentation of the trophy he toured the establishment and watched training.

At the beginning of March opportunity was taken to have a go at the Middle East Shooting Trophy for 1960. With many of the better known shots returning to UK in the late summer, it was decided to shoot off the competition in early April. Training started with the SLR on 21st March, and although a virtually brand new weapon to all ranks as regards competition shooting, the team settled down well and learned a great deal during the ten days work out. QMS Newport was selected to captain the team. The firers were fortunate with weather on the day of firing off the competition which was witnessed by the FRMO. The team achieved a very good score which we hope and believe will take quite a lot of beating!

On 6th April we were announced the winners of the Malta Inter-Services .22 league. This is the first occasion that RMTC have won the trophy, which was presented by the Flag Officer Malta, Rear-Admiral D. H. F. Hetherington, DSC. The team had trained very hard indeed in an effort to win the trophy, and it is particularly pleasing to think that following several very hard and closely contested matches, we eventually came out the winners.

QMS Newport had the honour of being selected as coach to the Royal Navy team for the Inter-Services .22 match, and two members from RMTC fired for the Royal Navy and the Colony, namely CPO Tupper and Sgt. Dunsmore.

On 13th April our annual Administrative Inspection took place. The Inspecting Officer, the Captain, HMS **St. Angelo**, Capt. Milne-Home, RN, together with the FRMO, Lieut. Col. J. L. A. Macafee, were received on parade on arrival. The Band of the Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean, was in attendance. After inspecting all ranks and ratings on parade, the Captain, the FRMO, together with the Captain's Secretary, carried out the remainder of the inspection, and lunched with the Commandant and Officers in the Wardroom on completion.

On 24th April a service for the Corps Day of Remembrance was held in St. Paul's Anglican Cathedral in Valletta. RMTC provided ten ranks to take part in the parade.

On 26th April, great aerial activity was to be seen on Mayesa field firing range when 42 Commando set up a command post on the range during a demonstration for HRH The Duke of Edinburgh. Helicopters from HMS **Bulwark** flew over Ghajn Tuffieha all day, ferrying men and stores. From an onlookers point of view the demonstration appeared most impressive. HRH The Duke of Edinburgh landed on Mayesa by helicopter. In the afternoon several ranks attended a tea party at St. Andrew's NAAFI to meet the Captain General, and in the evening ten SNCOs proceeded to 40 Commando Sergeants' Mess to be present at a Mess party in his honour.

A cocktail party to HRH, given by the Officers of the Mediterranean Fleet and Officers of the 3rd Commando Brigade in 40 Commando Officers' Mess, was attended by all officers and their wives. Later the Captain General was dined in the Mess, and so ended a most memorable day.

On 27th April we were delighted to welcome our Commandant General on his informal visit to RMTC. General Riches toured the establishment and watched JNC GD 1/60, undergoing weapon training, a naval landing party from HMS **Tiger** going over the assault course, and an RMRA non central practice on the range, in addition to meeting a number of the staff. We only regret that his visit to us was such a short one.

We cannot close without saying a very special "Au Revoir" to Lieut. Christie who left us in May to take up an appointment at ITCRM. He will be sadly missed on the football field next season. We welcome RSM Pedrick and his family; he has now joined us and is attached to the NCOs Training Wing. We also welcome Sgt. Taylor and Mne. Hughes, and we wish Mne. McAvoy a happy commission in the West Country. Perhaps he would be wise to beware of the scrumpy!

NCOs' Training Wing

JNC GD 1/60 joined on 24th April, 1960. This is the first course to commence the new syllabus.

Sergeants' Mess

First of all, we must say how glad we are to welcome into our midst our new President, RSM Pedrick, and Sgt. A. E. Taylor—both now hard at work with the new NCOs' course.

In our social world, we welcomed our new President and his wife, with a Social and Dance, and then on 7th May we are attempting something new in a Tramp's Ball. Let's hope that we can find, or make, plenty of Tramp's Clothing.

Our inlying members are now reduced to C/Sgt. Jim Fisher and Sgt. Bobby Blunden. The latter spends his spare time running the chicken farm, and both are keen tennis players. Strange to relate, the chickens do produce eggs, and the standard of tennis is going up and up.

The theme of our Mess seems to be fitness when the football season is finished. All we could see was our staff in running shorts charging around our very new football pitch in preparation for the St. Angelo Sports. Unfortunately these were cancelled, but it still does not deter certain members who still keep running. With the warm weather coming, the next item seems to be water-polo. According to "buzzes" our new President is a dab hand at this.

QMS Moore and Sgt. Tullett, who will both shortly be leaving us for UK travelling overland together, are busy testing our tents, and cooking gear, making sure that the journey will be a comfortable one. Let us hope everything goes well with them.

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To be Captain: Lieut. R. E. A. Mylne, 12.6.60; Local Capt. H. B. Musgrave, 15.6.60; Lieuts. D. J. Brewster, R. C. Sidwell, A. P. W. Quin, 1.7.60; Lieut. J. D. C. Mayhew, 29.7.60.

To be Local Captain: Lieut. T. J. M. Wilson, 21.4.60.

To be Lieutenant: 2/Lieuts. S. H. Down, D. R. B. Storrie, A. G. H. Mackie, G. K. Gandy, H. J. Wiltshire, 1.11.60.

To be Lieut. (SD): 2/Lieuts. (SD) S. T. Kemp, 1.4.60; T. C. Merrett, 1.4.60.

To be Acting Lieutenant: 2/Lieuts. J. H. Fisher, C. H. Howgill, R. J. Miller, I. M. H. Moore, D. C. L. Rowe, A. F. Whitehead, B. J. Ackroyd-Hunt, D. J. Clapson, A. R. Dudley-Smith, 1.9.60.

RETIREMENTS

Col. H. F. C. Kimpton, 29.9.60; Lieut. Col. M. Pound, 25.12.60; Major F. Furlong, 1.9.60; Capt. (SD) E. G. Coleborn, 25.11.60; 2/Lieut. J. H. Jemmett, 22.7.60.

APPOINTMENTS

Royal Marines Office

Lieut. Col. F. C. Barton, 12.9.60; Major J. A. C. Uniacke, 8.8.60.

Portsmouth Group

Lieut. Col. F. N. Grant, JSAWC, DTBR; Major R. B. Loudoun, Eastney, DTBR; Capt. (SD) F. T. Coppard, PRORM; 14.10.60. Capt. (SD) (B) A. E. Pottle, RMSM, 11.4.60. Lieut. V. N. Stevenson, Eastney, 25.4.60. 2/Lieut. (SD) A. G. T. Chambers, Eastney, 1.10.60. Ty 2/Lieut. D. W. Brown, Eastney, DTBR; Lieut. R. A. M. Seeger, JSAWC, DTBR; 2/Lieuts. J. H. Fisher, C. H. C. Howgill, R. N. M. Johnstone, R. J. Miller, I. M. H. Moore, D. C. L. Rowe, A. F. Whitehead, B. J. Ackroyd-Hunt, D. G. Clapson, A. R. Dudley-Smith, Eastney, DTBR; Capt. P. G. Davies, JSAWC; 25.4.60. Lieut. D. A. Pentland, JSAWC, DTBR; Lieut. Col. N. H. D. McGill, Eastney; 30.8.60. Capt. G. A. Hamilton-Meikle, Eastney, 7.6.60. A/Lieut. R. D. Lewis, JSAWC, 29.4.60. Lieut. Col. Allenby, PRORM, 29.8.60. Major P. le S. Harris, Eastney, 28.11.60. Capt. F. L. Luscombe, Eastney, DTBR; Capt. C. G. Bellamy, Depot, DTBR; Lieut. R. F. Gray, Depot; 13.5.60. Lieut. (SD) Kemp, JSAWC, 22.8.60. 2/Lieut. (SD) (B) J. H. Jemmett, RMSM, 24.6.60. 2/Lieut. (SD) C. H. F. Eames, PRORM, 5.9.60. Ty 2/Lieut. P. J. Smith, Eastney, 28.7.60. Major S. D. Smith, JSSC, 20.6.60. Major P. J. F. Whiteley, Eastney, 16.11.60.

Plymouth Group

Major L. G. Marsh, ITC, 6.4.60. Capt. M. A. H. Marston, ITC, 6.4.60. Capt. T. Morgan, ITC, 6.4.60. Lieut. M. R. Marchant, ITC, 6.4.60. Lieut. B. Ashby, ITC, 6.4.60. Lieut. A. P. Downton, ITC, 6.4.60. Lieut. R. M. A. Brind, ITC, 5.4.60. Lieut. A. W. A. Hazeldine, ITC, 25.4.60. Ty 2/Lieut. A. Overton, ITC, 29.4.60. Capt. T. D. Hunton, Gp. HQ, 31.5.60. Capt. G. J. C. Smith, Gp. HQ, 31.5.60. Capt. (SD) S. Boyd, Gp. HQ, 31.5.60. Capt. R. M. K. Kelso, ITC, DTBR; Capt. F. Robertshaw, Gp. HQ; 31.5.60. Capt. F. C. T. Priest, ITC, 31.5.60. Capt. M. H. Denyer, Gp. HQ, 31.5.60. Lieut. R. M. Blackah, ITC, DTBR; Lieut. A. C. Christie, ITC, DTBR; A/Lieut. R. D. Lewis, Gp. HQ; 28.4.60. Lieut. P. J. Saunders, ITC, DTBR; 2/Lieut. I. F. Lamb, ITC; 1.4.60. 2/Lieut. A. J. Sewell, ITC, 1.4.60. Ty 2/Lieut. G. M. Simmers, ITC, 28.3.60. Capt. D. W. Michell, ITC, DTBR; Capt. M. J. Baizley, ITC, DTBR; Lieut. H. Y. La R. Beverley, ITC, DTBR; Lieut. E. G. R. Sale, ITC, DTBR; Lieut. A. B. Smith, ITC, DTBR; Lieut. M. Weller, ITC; 6.5.60. Lieut. R. Murphy, 41 Cdo., DTBR; Capt. N. S. E. Martin, ITC, DTBR.

3rd Commando Brigade—Headquarters

Lieut. Col. P. Beeman, DTBR. Lieut. S. L. Syrad, DTBR. Capt. R. G. Ferguson, DTBR.

42 Commando

Capt. G. H. Hennessy, DTBR. Lieut. Oliver P. Robinson, DTBR.

45 Commando

Capt. M. A. Robinson, DTBR. 2/Lieut. I. F. Lamb, DTBR.

HM Ships

Capt. R. J. E. Bavin, **President** (Saker), DTBR; Capt. J. M. Halford, **Victorious**; 24.2.60. Capt. P. Pennell, **Ark Royal**, 24.2.60. 2/Lieut. (SD) (B) J. R. Mason, **Victory**, DTBR; Lieut. P. A. C. Howgill, **Striker**, DTBR; Major T. C. H. Macafee, (Saker) DTBR; Lieut. T. J. M. Wilson, **Aphrodite**, DTBR; Major D. C. Mahoney, **Meon**, DTBR; Capt. B. A. Weldhen, **Ariel**, DTBR; Major R. B. Loudoun, **President**; 21.11.60. Major E. H. Griffiths, **Saclant**, DTBR.

NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS PROMOTIONS

Colour Sergeant to Quartermaster Sergeant

Ply/X4152 P. G. Willis, 1.3.60, HQ 3 Cdo. Bde. Ply/X4379 E. R. Harrison, 3.3.60, Plymouth. Po/X2605 W. H. Hoskins, 5.3.60, Depot. Po/X3410 C. C. R. Gilbert-Wood, 7.3.60, 42 Cdo. Ply/X4697 F. G. Spicer, 9.3.60, ITC. RM 10233 D. C. Cross, 1.4.60, JSAWC. Ch/X4533 A. W. Aird, 3.4.60, Plymouth.

Clerks Section

Po/X6417 J. J. Barry, 3.3.60, 42 Cdo.

Group "A" Trades

Po/X3708 A. P. Thorns, 1.2.60, ITC.

Cooks Section

Ch/X3160 R. O. Prosser, 3.4.60, Depot.

Drivers Section

Po/X3792 A. V. Green, 1.4.60, Eastney. Ch/X3713 H. L. G. Harrison, 3.4.60, Eastney.

Sergeant to Colour Sergeant

Ch/X4184 J. R. Brady, 1.2.60, 45 Cdo. Ply/X4384 R. A. Moyse, 3.2.60, 45 Cdo. Po/X6011 A. E. Clegg, 1.3.60, Plymouth. Po/X5699 G. E. Fordham, 3.3.60, 42 Cdo. Ply/X5146 A. W. E. Impett, 5.3.60, 41 Cdo. Po/X6620 R. W. Smith, 7.3.60, 45 Cdo. Po/X6221 J. E. Perkins, 9.3.60, Plymouth. Ch/X5165 R. E. Daubney, 11.3.60, ITC. Po/X5029 F. Howe, 1.4.60, RMFVR Tyne. Ch/X4223 S. Hanson, 3.4.60, ITC.

Clerks Section

Ply/X5308 S. J. McAlindin, 1.3.60, PRORM. Ply/X5187 S. McCaughan, 3.3.60, ITC. Ch/X4602 P. Bristow, 1.4.60, 42 Cdo.

Signals Section

Po/X5852 J. H. Davis, 3.2.60, 40 Cdo.

Cooks Section

RM 10385 F. Temple, 1.3.60, 42 Cdo. Po/X6082 R. Wright, 1.4.60, 41 Cdo. Ply/X4552 S. T. Venables, 3.4.60, HQ 3 Cdo. Bde.

Drivers Section

Ply/X4203 P. H. Evans, 1.3.60, 40 Cdo. Po/X5453 K. G. Smith, 3.4.60, Plymouth.

Group "A" Trades

Ch/X4115 R. H. Usher, 1.2.60, Eastney.

Corporal to Sergeant

Po/X6272 J. R. Shaw, 1.2.60, **Bulwark**. Po/X6680 D. W. Sheppard, 1.3.60, **Vanguard**. RM 10430 C. W. D. Atkins, 3.3.60, 42 Cdo. Ply/X4717 P. J. Tucker, 7.3.60, **Loch Insh**. RM 9064 C. Blackman, 7.3.60, 42 Cdo. RM 15650 J. E. Hayes, 11.3.60, HQ 3 Cdo. Bde. RM 8827 R. J. Staff, 3.4.60, **Dieppe**.

Clerks Section

Ply/X5612 S. Butler, 1.4.60, RMO.

Signals Section

RM 12327 A. C. Barnes, 4.3.60, Eastney.

Cooks Section

Po/X6896 J. F. Ward, 1.4.60, Depot. RM/16686 W. McCarthy, 3.4.60, HQ 3 Cdo. Bde.

Group "A" Trades

RM 11843 A. C. Harper, 1.4.60.

Marine to Corporal

RM 16649 J. H. Gane, 2.1.60, 45 Cdo. RM 14286 C. E. Hammond, 1.2.60, 40 Cdo. RM 15912 J. T. Bass, 3.2.60, ITC. RM 17001 M. J. Alexander, 5.2.60, ITC. RM 17600 J. A. B. Keir, 7.2.60, 42 Cdo. RM 19309 H. S. Rice, 23.3.60, ITC. RM 14201 W. M.

Logue, 3.4.60, Plymouth. RM 15500 F. E. Salmon, 5.4.60, ITC. RM 16000 E. Booth, 8.4.60, Depot. RM 16217 P. J. Mulervy, 10.4.60, ITC. RM 16217 J. A. Pyatt, 11.4.60, ITC. RM 15758 R. G. Kear, 13.4.60, Depot.

Clerks Section

RM 13519 C. R. Robinson, 9.2.60, Plymouth. RM 15976 P. D. Deane, 11.2.60, Plymouth. RM 13161 G. L. Davis, 1.4.60, PRORM. Ply/X5382 R. V. Rundle, 3.4.60, 41 Cdo. RM 14854 R. B. Ranger, 5.4.60, PRORM. RM 17019 D. J. Cosway, 7.4.60, ITC. RM 17085 J. D. Marshman, 9.4.60, RMO. RM 17377 A. D. C. Phillips, 11.4.60, ITC. RM 15272 C. J. Thompson, 13.4.60, PRORM.

Signals Section

RM 16366 K. Taylor, 5.2.60, 42 Cdo. RM 12311 J. E. W. Stripp, 7.2.60, 42 Cdo. RM 16382 T. C. Radley, 9.2.60, 42 Cdo. RM 16420 I. C. Gold, 11.2.60, 42 Cdo. RM 15432 R. Fox, 1.3.60, Loch Ruthven.

Cooks Section

RM 12172 R. E. Gains, 9.2.60, ITC. Po/X6566 A. Bond, 1.3.60, Eastney. RM 9246 G. D. Thompson, 1.4.60, Plymouth.

Buglers Section

RM 15759 J. Boffin, 1.3.60, Eastney. RM 16373 W. Allen, 3.3.60, 41 Cdo. RM 16153 G. W. Bourne, 5.3.60, Eastney.

Group "B" Trades

RM 14089 A. P. Hemming, 1.2.60, 45 Cdo. RM 11205 C. R. H. Short, 1.4.60, Depot.

Group "A" Trades

RM 9475 J. H. Nevey, 1.4.60, 41 Cdo.

OLD COMRADES

We announce with regret the passing of the following Old Comrades, whose deaths were notified during the last two months.

- A: RMB 272 Musn. S. Atkins, 7.3.60.
 B: Ply/X256 Sgt. L. Bradley, 16.2.60. Po/5680 Pte. E. Barton, 13.3.60. Ply/15579 Mne. H. Brown, 27.2.60.
 C: Ply/21603 Mne. T. W. Capes, 29.2.60. Ch/10420 Pte. W. R. Collins, 5.3.60. Ply/10820 Cpl. W. A. Cull, 7.3.60. Ch/15924 C/Sgt. A. N. Clarke, 16.3.60. Ch/15700 Mne. A. J. Cumings, 4.3.60. Ply/21901 Mne. A. Cross, 22.3.60. Ch/23129 A/Cpl.

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 F: Ply/14861 Mne. W. J. B. Fowell, 16.2.60. Ply/9963 Pte. E. J. Fellenor, 28.3.60.
 G: Ch/24268 Mne. E. C. Godden, 22.2.60. RMA 6941 Gnr. B. Gatrill, 19.3.60. RMA 6429 Sgt. W. E. Griffiths, 14.4.60.
 H: Po/14605 Sgt. W. B. A. Harbert, 23.2.60. Po/201747 Cpl. T. W. Hill, 16.3.60. Ch/9395 Sgt. H. J. Hulland, 31.3.60. Po/X644 Mne. H. F. W. Hipkiss, 1.4.60.
 K: Ch/13785 Mne. D. Kitchener, 9.3.60.
 M: RMB 1099 Bandmaster J. N. Messer, 17.2.60. Po/212885 Mne. A. S. J. Martin, 28.3.60. Po/10222 C/Sgt. A. W. May, 28.3.60. Po/X62 Mne. W. R. M. McGregor, 31.3.60.
 O: Ply/10321 Cpl. W. J. C. Osborn, 9.4.60.
 P: Po/7261 Pte. D. Pringle, 5.3.60. Ch/6459 Cpl. H. W. Pye, 26.3.60. Ch/15995 Mne. J. R. Prendergast, 13.3.60. Ply/9273 Pte. W. A. Parsley, 28.3.60. Po/212909 Mne. H. Pierce, 13.3.60. Po/11501 Cpl. F. Parkins, 15.4.60. Po/213463 C/Sgt. A. R. Perkins, 29.4.60.
 R: Po/211359 Mne. C. E. Rooke, 7.3.60. Po/11364 Pte. S. Richardson, 23.3.60.
 S: Po/13167 Sgt. J. Shatwell, 12.3.60. Ch/7196 Pte. J. Spooner, 21.3.60.
 T: Po/21783 A/Sgt. P. Tilbury, 23.3.60.
 W: Ch/22438 Mne. H. C. Worne, 26.2.60. Ch/17189 Mne. G. A. Williams, 7.3.60.
 Y: Ch/17085 Pte. D. H. G. Yeo, 11.3.60.

Book Reviews

"We saw the Sea," by John Winton. Michael Joseph, 12s. 6d.

Here are the team we met in "We joined the Navy" in a cruiser on the Far East Station with the Bodger as First Lieutenant and the remainder as two Strippers. The RM Band Beating Retreat is hailed as a "rain making rite of supernatural efficiency" at the annual festival in one of the lesser known ports of the Far East.

Despite the Bodger's stated intention of retiring, we can only hope he is not passed over and that we meet him again wearing his brass hat in command of a frigate far away from the nearest Flag.

"Two Fleets Surprised," by Ronald Seth. Geoffrey Bles, 21s.

An excellent account of the Battle of Matapan. The author has had access to Admiralty and Italian records and has consulted the two C in C's who fought the battle. Good illustrations and diagrams. Well worth reading.

"The defeat of John Hawkins," by Rayner Unwin. George Allen & Unwin, 25s.

Hawkins sailed from Plymouth to the West Coast of Africa to load slaves for sale in the West Indies. Forced by storm damage to shelter in a Spanish port he lost his flagship in a battle and ultimately returned home only after landing a large number of men to get home if they could.

The accounts of the way of life on board ship and the battles Hawkins accepted are fascinating as are the stories of some of those left behind and their ultimate fate.

Above all, the ability of Hawkins as a sailor, diplomat, trader and fighter is amazing.

"The Liberation of the Philippines," by Samuel Eliot Morison. Oxford University Press, 45s.

This is Volume XIII of the History of United States naval operations in World War II. It was during this period of the Pacific War that the Kamikazes achieved their greatest success and the US Navy began its sweep into the South China Sea. Also described is the typhoon which sank three destroyers.

An easy to read history though it would help if more pull-out maps were included.

* * * * *

DONATIONS

The Editor wishes to express his thanks for the following donations:

£25—Unit Institute Fund, Eastney.

£1—H. Brock.

10—L. Pollitt, HMS Centaur.

6/—D. L. Mayston.

5/—Mrs. B. M. Clarke, H. J. Milton, Miss A. McLachlan, Capt. E. J. Griffiths, T. Wilding, W. P. Thompson, D. H. Pantlin, P. Hine, Capt. Palfrey.



ROYAL MARINE FORCES

VOLUNTEER RESERVE

SCOTLAND

*Hear, Land o' Cakes and Brither Scots,
Frae Maidenkirck to Johnny Groats;
If there's a Hole in a' Your Coats
I Rede You Tent It:
A Chiel's Among You Takin' Notes,
And, Faith, He'll Prent It!*

This being the writer's first attempts at authorship take heed, for he writes with the knowledge that what he writes will get into print, complete with exclamation marks, question marks and dubious remarks.

Weekend activities since the last article in February have tended to become more frequent and with the appearance of the sun again the hardy Scots have buckled on their kilts, and leaving their wives to cook porridge and herring for one, have headed for the great outdoors on various nefarious enterprises.

With Major Lawries' appointment as Training Officer we have a new training "Plan." Briefly this is to concentrate the detachments with Unit HQ for training by Wings. Suspected by some as a blow at the autonomy of those from Dundee and Edinburgh it has nevertheless been put into practice with good results.

Reduction of numbers in both Amphibious and SBS Wings in Unit HQ and the concentration of SBS training in Dundee and LC training in Edinburgh, had already permitted all training to be carried out by the specialist PSIs in each wing, and no changes were indicated there.

Weekends have included watermanship training for Commando Wing at a place, very appropriately, named Drip. How wet can you get? Further Commando activities included a night raid on RNAS Abbotsinch, which would probably have been very successful if the demolition party had not been so ambitious and tried to launch a commando attack on the way to their objective. Still it would have been very impressive for four men to have returned with sixty-odd prisoners. The Navy, as ever, blindly confident of the prowess of the Royal Marines, assumed that 15 to 1 odds was normal Commando opposition and were most sympathetic at their bad luck in being taken captive.

The final snow warfare exercise unfortunately had to be cancelled for various reasons and Lieut. Alistair MacNab, having put so much hard work into the preparations, packed his bags in disgust, and went to play hockey in Spain. He came back loaded with handkerchiefs, table cloths, mats and d'oylies, all, as he so proudly declared, embroidered most beautifully with his initials. It looks like the churches in Barcelona will have been rather bereft of trappings this Easter—Ave Maria.

The SBS have also been quite active in the Dundee area and staged a wild demonstration of canoe bucking in heavy surf at Carnoustie for the benefit of the Officers of 153 Highland Brigade (TA). The demonstration ended with a most realistic capsizing by both canoes which impressed the spectators very much. What they didn't know was that it impressed the canoeists even more and the imprints of four pairs of clutching hands are visible on the canoes to this day. Promises of massive press reports and the application of double rums in quick succession, soon put the boys on their feet and if the tales are true, Carnoustie has not seen the last of the SBS.

A full report of the incident may be read in the *Daily Express* for the following day between the story of "A Ploughman's Find" (Oh puir wee tarnished Roman Bronzie) and the funeral of Mr. Robertson.

Balloon jumping with the TA, promised for early April, has so far been postponed but balloons have come into the fore on the rifle range where for a reason known to some but not to others (viz: the writer) they replaced tiles in the year's rifle meeting held at Monifieth (Tiles being forbidden by Range Orders—Ed). Congratulations to Mne. A. Ferguson for winning the Open, to Mne. A. Cassie for leading the Young Soldiers, and to Edinburgh detachment for retaining the Tile Shield.

Unfortunately the day chosen for the Unit Rifle Meeting was the

same day chosen for the RMFVR Officers Annual TEWT held this year at Bristol. Scottish representation was therefore small but their keenness on the usual night exercise made up for any lack of numbers and Bristol were most congenial hosts. We only await the news that the next one will be held in Glasgow.

Congratulations are due this month to C/Sgt. Bowie who receives the award of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal and to Mne. S. E. Vincent of the Initial Training Wing, who has been awarded the Queen's Commission as 2/Lieutenant.

We are sorry to lost Lieut. Muirhead (List II) on termination of his engagement. His smiling countenance will be missed at Annual Camp—which raises the question, "Where are we going?" With so many of the Unit away on SQ Courses, numbers at annual camp this year will barely support a cricket team and the venue is not yet settled. We may yet find ourselves joining RMFVR Tyne to train on our own doorstep at Garelochhead.

Forsan et Haec Olim Meminisse Juvatsat

Which being translated means "Perhaps even these things it will someday give pleasure to recall."

PARACHUTING IN THE RMFVR

It was in 1957 that parachuting first took hold in the RMFVR and since then every TA course at the RAF Parachute School at Abingdon, Berkshire, has had a proportion of Marines. Lasting fourteen days and counting as annual training it covers every aspect of parachuting and after completing eight jumps, ranks are awarded the coveted wings of the qualified parachutist.

Over 80% of the ranks in the Commando Wing at London have done this course including, by the end of 1960, all the Senior and Junior NCOs and most of the Marines.

Royal Marines are well thought of at the Parachute School and their presence provides an additional element of challenge to the trainees from parachute units, many of whom never knew, until then, that Royal Marine Commandos existed! A Service too silent perhaps?

Continuation training after the course is carried out with the co-operation of local units of the TA Parachute Brigade. At the London RMFVR Centre, with the unstinted help of the 10 Bn. (TA) The Parachute Regiment, and 289 Para. Lt. Regt. R.A. (TA), total of jumps by Marine Reservists is rising steadily, many having done over twenty jumps either in the evenings or at week-ends.

The RMFVR regards this as yet another indication of their true Marine versatility and as an additional recruiting attraction, both as regards the general public and the ranks they seek to recruit from the Regular Corps.

Sgt. R. H. NEDLANDS, RMFVR.

BRISTOL

General

The most notable event of recent weeks has been the RMFVR Officers Annual TEWT held on the outskirts of Bristol over the weekend 30th April/1st May. The Unit had the pleasure of acting as host during the exercise which was attended by a total of forty-eight Officers from Headquarters RMFVR, the Officers Training Wing, and all RMFVR units. We were fortunate indeed to have two days of wonderful spring weather for the TEWT which was found most profitable and enjoyable by all who took part.

Unit activity at the time of going to press is directed towards giving the teams for the RMFVR Rifle Meeting adequate range practice with the SL Rifle. To this end a range weekend was held at Lymptone and we succeeded in obtaining a share of the range at Pilning the following weekend with a local TA unit. We are all looking forward to the Meeting at Altcar over the weekend 21st/22nd May, eagerly hoping that the weather will be kind.

Thoughts of annual training are well to the fore once again. We now have only a bare five weeks to wait before going to camp at Garelochhead with RMFVR Tyne on the 18th June.

Commando Wing

History was made over the weekend 5th/6th March, when we fired the SL Rifle at Straight Point for the first time as a unit. The weather held out for us on this occasion, but the second weekend on the range was made a wash-out by continuous rain. ITCRM stepped in here and opened up the Corps Weapon Museum, this being the first time most of us have had the opportunity to see such a wonderful collection of different weapons.

At Easter a long weekend was held by a few of the wing around Keswick and the Ambleside areas. The training consisted of compass and map reading over difficult country. We made our HQ at the Keswick TA drill hall, which was in a good position for our operations. The weather was glorious for our stay, and we saw the Lake District at its best with all its spring colours.

Three of the wing were walking home through Bedminster main street one Tuesday evening when a constable riding a bicycle called over to them to stop. Apparently he was an ex-Royal and wanted to know where they were from, etc., etc. He said if he had to go in the Services again he would pick the Corps "for a man's life." By now quite a crowd had gathered waiting for an arrest, and were surprised when the constable said goodnight and expressed the hope of seeing them again.

Talking of the police, there are quite a few of our lads in the Bristol force who spent a long time in the Commando Wing.

We would like to congratulate Mne. Bob Saunders on his great effort in the boxing ring and hope that when he leaves the Corps he will rejoin the VR.

We bid farewell to our PSI, Sgt. (Pony) Moore and thank him for all the hard work he put in, not only for the Wing but for the Unit generally. We wish him luck for the future. In his place we welcome C/Sgt. Hackett who, we hope, will have a long and enjoyable stay with us.

Lymstone Detachment

The outstanding event of our activities in recent months was the visit to Bristol for the study weekend. This was a welcome change

for us, both socially and from a training point of view. The programme was realistic, and was just the thing for many of us who have forgotten over the course of years (or else never knew!) some of the elementary and commonplace features of our basic knowledge. Hats off to Capt. Lee who, like Atlas, shouldered the job alone, and did so well. One thing remains to be done—to teach the Lymstone Detachment how to read a railway time-table.

Apart from that we have been devoting our energies to understanding the Self-Loading Rifle, and before this is printed we shall have sent a few bullets whizzing into the sea from Straight Point.



Mnes. Kettle, Lucas, Cpl. Simpson, Mne. Dach.
"Cairngorms down the rushy glen."

CITY OF LONDON

General

The Postmaster General has once more been swamped with some five hundred envelopes summoning the unit to attend the Director's Inspection on 10th June, and mentioning the dire penalties that are incurred by those who absent themselves.

The unit has now become quite a popular site for annual re-unions and during April and May these have included the MNBDO and 44 Commando re-unions and an RMA dance.

The Officers also have taken the main social hurdle in their stride, the official cocktail party having been held on 22nd April and annual training will shortly leave little time for play.

Our first recruit squad, 592, has completed its training and the members have now passed to their wings, whilst the unit rifle team is practising hard and is aiming to ensure that the Nuremburg bowl will remain, as in the past, at London.

QMS Hardy has arrived to assume the duties of Sergeant Major and together with the Adjutant is resisting the process known locally as RuMFVRisation.

We are sorry to see that after so many years with the unit Major Bill Cunningham is finally to be retired in June.

Commando Wing

With the coming of fine weather, the training programme has really got under way. 19/20th March saw the parachutists jumping near Aldershot, while on Sunday the 20th and the 27th Officers and NCOs assisted in an endurance test for Sea and Marine Cadets. This was appropriately named the "Chosin Cup" competition. We were very impressed with the cadets' efforts in this quite gruelling event, especially the diminutive lad who remarked to the thirty-four year old Sgt. Pendrigh "This running is alright for you, I've got to go to school tomorrow."

The CA Section went to Sennen both on the 26/27th March and at Easter and have a heavy programme in the coming year. In early April the Wing visited Eastney to fire the Annual Range Course, our first with the SLR and scores were much improved with this most effective weapon.

On 23rd/24th April, "S" Troop held an exercise with the Inns of Court Regiment (a recce regiment equipped with scout cars) and working with an armoured unit was a new experience for many. The idea was, briefly, to locate their OPs and dislodge them, the former proving easier than the latter. One Section located a concealed troop of Dingos just after dawn and put in a most spirited attack with bangs, yells and thunderflashes. Baffled by the absence of opposition they eventually were reduced to knocking



"If anyone asks, you haven't seen me. Understand?"

on the side of the armoured car. Finally a bleary-eyed figure explained that the war did not start until after breakfast.

NCOs' Cadre and Green Beret Course held a map reading exercise in Epping Forest. This, in addition to being useful training, gave Sgt. Garrard a chance to deliver his "Danger from Deer" lecture. This consists of a blood curdling account of the fate that befalls people who disturb the stags in Epping Forest. The fact that the local inhabitants are lucky to see one once in their whole lives is not taken into account. On reflection, one wonders that the deer are not more numerous as, no matter what time of the year we use the area, it is always—according to Sgt. Garrard—their mating season.

Social events in the Wing have been somewhat restricted but usually a social evening is fitted in at some time over a training weekend. At Bisley Sgt. Brown's introduction of judo into an eightsome reel proved a surprise to the London Scottish. "S" Troop are proud to relate that at the end of the evening their social stamina had proved more than equal to their army opponents.

Amphibious Wing

Weekend training has, over the last two months, been hit by the storms of late winter. "April Flight," the first exercise arranged for our two LCAs based at Shoreham, did not "take off."

Crew members, however, spent a busy weekend working on the craft, which having had their hulls re-built, are now in working condition. A second exercise with the 6th Battalion East Surrey Regiment called "Operation Horse Eye" proved more fortunate, and the craft by dint of improvisation did all that was asked of them although at some cost to Capt. Smith's nerves and pocket.

A party of Officers braved the storms, taking a weekend's navigational training aboard the TRSB at Poole. This followed a guest night and proved a satisfactory method of combating a "hangover."

The climax of an RMFVR year is undoubtedly Annual Training; plans are well ahead for this year. The Wing will be somewhat scattered. One party is due to complete the LC2 Course at Poole; a further party will be exercising along the south coast based on HMS Rampart, and a third will be assisting a territorial unit of the Royal Engineers, including the construction of a road somewhere in the Highlands of Scotland. This last venture has brought all our expatriate Scots and veterans of "Inverary" well to the fore with warnings of the dangers which prevail in the Highlands. These, no doubt, will be faithfully recorded for a future edition.

We offer our congratulations to Cpls. Ingram and Waller on passing the NCOs' Course and being substantiated in their ranks.



"Hello, Drafting Office?"

No. 4 Special Boats Section

The death of Paul Farrant has been a great shock and loss to this Section. In him we have lost a friend and a first class Swimmer Canoeist.

The Devizes/Westminster canoe race this year saw Lieut. M. J. Heaton and Sgt. J. Watts paddle into eighth place. They covered the 125 miles course in the time of 28 hours 14 mins. Our other entries were forced to retire when their boats were holed.

We are now training for a cross-Channel paddle at Whitsun. If conditions are favourable an attempt on the record crossing will be made. A suggestion that a faster time would be ensured if Brigitte Bardot were to meet them at Calais has been reluctantly turned down.

At the time of writing our CO is defying death at Abingdon. We wish him luck and hope he will not have too many three point landings (heels, backside and head).

Our list of forthcoming events includes helicopter training and the Portsmouth Navy Days demonstrations.

Our next report will come to you on a French postcard—a clean one of course!

Sea Service Wing

"Ubique—per mare, per terram" was the motto of the Royal Corps in 1896. "Per Coelum" could well be added in these days, as three SNCOs, Sgts. Gammon, Harding and Leaver, are attending a parachute course (TA) for annual training. No doubt that there will be many interesting anecdotes related to the Mess on their return.

HMS President has recently returned to her mooring at the Embankment after an extensive refit. As a result we have returned to President for our evening drills and have found that structural alterations have in no way reduced the warm welcome that has always been given us.

The recipients of the PSI's instructions and tirades on gunnery subjects will provide the Wing with a nucleus of gunnery specialised ranks when they qualify at Whale Island during the summer.

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PAUL FARRANT
(Marine RMV 103434)

The Easter road casualty toll has been brought tragically home to this unit. Paul Farrant of No. 4 SBS died in South Middlesex hospital on Easter Sunday, 17th April, as the result of a tragic accident involving his moped and a motor coach.

Paul was well known to his fellow members of the SBS in the Corps and also in all canoeing circles, and was a member of Chalfont Park and the Royal Marines canoeing clubs. His achievements speak for themselves.

In 1953 he represented Great Britain in the Slalom event of the World Canoe Championships at the age of eighteen, and again in both 1955 and 1957. Finally in 1959 he gained the title of World Slalom Champion by a superb second run despite the fact that his first run had left him as, frankly, an outsider.

He joined the Royal Marines for his National Service in September, 1955, and on completion of his basic training at ITCRM he went to Poole where he qualified as a swimmer canoeist in June, 1956.



Marine Paul Farrant

Photo: Portsmouth "Evening News"

He then served with the SBS units in HMS **Royal Prince** at Krefeld until August, 1957. Whilst in Germany he joined a local canoe club and thereby contrived the distinction of entering the German National Championship as a British citizen. His service in the Rhine Squadron also enabled him to prove that his skill at the slalom was not limited to canoeing but could also be applied to skiing.

In 1957 he returned to the United Kingdom to take part in the Devizes-Westminster canoe race in which he was partnered by Cpl. Tom Shenton, one of the winners and record breakers of the 1959 race. On this occasion their placing was fourth.

On completion of National Service Paul Farrant joined the RMFVR (City of London) and figured prominently in its SBS and canoeing activities. He was also the mainstay of the many demonstrations that have been required of the unit over the last three years, and for which his skill in the handling of a canoe made him so suitable.

It was whilst in this unit that he carried out the highly concentrated training for the World Championships which eventually gave him his victory at Geneva.

He entered this year's Devizes race with Lieut. Robin Challis, and together they made an excellent time as far as Henley, where they were forced to withdraw owing to damage to the canoe. It was later on the same day after he had followed and given encouragement to the other teams of the unit, that the tragic accident occurred.

We offer our deep sympathy to his family in their loss and also would add that we too have lost both an outstanding canoeist and good comrade.

NOTES OF INTEREST

RM BANDS IN NEW ZEALAND

In April the last RM Band serving with the Royal New Zealand Navy was withdrawn. Since 1951 when the last detachment served in the RNZN the Band have been the only Marines left in New Zealand and their leaving ends an association lasting 117 years. Ten of the Band are settling in New Zealand.

* * * * *

INTERNATIONAL RUGBY

During the past season the following ex Royal Marines have represented their countries: T. J. Davis, D. I. E. Bebb (Wales), R. A. W. Sharp (England), G. H. Waddell (Scotland). In addition, H. J. Mainwaring played for the Barbarians during the Easter tour.

* * * * *

BERMUDA RACE

Capt. G. N. Wheatley is one of the crew of the yacht **Belmore** which is taking part in the Bermuda Race and the Transatlantic Race from Bermuda to the Skaw Lightship in June/July.

The last news received from **Belmore** reported a passage during which she encountered gales, was struck by lightning and finally arrived in fog. This was considered a good "shake-down" by the skipper.

* * * * *

"COCKLESHELL HERO" TO SAIL ATLANTIC

Colonel H. G. Haslar, the ex-Royal Marine Officer who in 1942 led the "Cockleshell Heroes" 10-man canoe raid 70 miles up the River Gironde to blow up enemy shipping, is entering his 25ft. boat **Jester** for the Transatlantic race which starts from Plymouth on 11th June.

* * * * *

General Sir Campbell Hardy, former Commandant General, became full-time director of the Coal Utilisation Council on 2nd May.

* * * * *

Second Lieutenant (SD (B)) J. H. Reynolds whom readers will remember from his article on the Band of the Royal Ceylon Navy, will be interested to learn that he is now on his way to serve with the Royal Australian Band Service.

* * * * *

SWEEPSTAKE

A Sweepstake on the Regimental Race at Cowdray Park was held for the first time this year. There were 392 tickets sold at a shilling each. However, of the five starters only two finished and prizes of 50% and 25% were paid to:—

Chief Wren M. A. Spriddle (RMO), £9 16s. 0d.

Lieutenant J. N. A. Goldsworthy (45 Commando), £4 18s. 0d.

The remaining 25% was credited to the Saddle Club's fund.

* * * * *

ROYAL MARINES SAILING CLUB REGATTA, 1960

The annual Regatta will take place at the Sailing Centre, HMS **Excellent**, Portsmouth, on 8th and 9th September, 1960.

Full details will appear in RMROs and also in the next issue of the **GLOBE AND LAUREL**.

The Annual General Meeting of the RMSC will take place at the Sailing Centre after sailing on 8th September, 1960.

* * * * *

Captain R. H. Grant led the party to reach the summit of Annapurna II (26,041 feet) in the Himalayas.

* * * * *

Loch Killisport Salvage Money

Salvage money for **Loch Killisport's** rescue of the tanker **Argea Prima** in the Persian Gulf in 1955 has now been awarded. The share of a Marine is over £39.

* * * * *

Queen's Birthday Parade

The brothers Mackie carried the Queen's Colour and Regimental Colour on the Queen's Birthday Parade on Southsea Common.

This is believed to be the first occasion on which brothers have been Colour officers.

THE EDITOR'S MAILBAG

Dear Sir,

I have heard for at least the last five years about a proposed new walking out uniform for the Royal Marines, and I would be obliged if you could enlighten me on a few points.

Has a design ever been submitted to, and accepted by the Board of Admiralty? If so, when can we expect this dress to come into general use?

R. A. Ings, Cpl.

The provision of a new uniform is being considered by the Admiralty and an official announcement will be made when a decision has been reached.

Dear Sir,

English sea-side towns are taking an interest in a proposal to amend the Betting and Gaming Bill so that they can run casinos for profit; so it seems worth while to pass on a system which never failed me at Boule, which will probably be one of the games played in the casinos.

For three years I took my summer leave at St. Briac in Northern France, and each year I took a taxi two or three times to the casino at Dinard (I think twenty miles), played Boule for an hour and made more than enough to cover the expenses of the two of us for the evening, including the taxi both ways.

Boule is like Roulette but only has nine numbers and a zero. I based my system on the assumption that over a period each of these digits should turn up on an average once in every ten spins of the wheel. I added 50% making 15, and then, starting with a number which had just won, I waited until it had failed to turn up for fifteen spins of the wheel. I then started to back it with an even stake each time from the sixteenth spin. If it turned up during the fifteen spins, then I started the count over again. As a precaution against a freak run, I decided to cut my losses and start on a new number if my original number failed to turn up during the ten times of backing it. This never happened, and the number usually turned up during my first three times I backed it.

Actually by mistake the first time I forgot the zero, took $9 + 4\frac{1}{2}$ (50%) = $13\frac{1}{2}$, and started staking on fourteenth spin. As this was satisfactory I decided to keep to fourteen, as it made the winning quicker. If it had failed me I would have changed to the correct sixteenth spin, but it never did.

Using two or more numbers, each worked individually by the system would of course hasten the winning, and would be advisable at Roulette, where it takes an hour at Monte Carlo before staking begins.

You won't break the bank, but you ought to make the casino pay for your amusement.

A. G. Bourne

Sir,

Is 42 Commando actually the first to embark as such? The word "Commando" is borrowed from the Boers of the South African War. But somewhere in the early 1900s a light battalion was embarked in a cruiser in similar circumstances. 300 Marines formed the entire crew except for engine room and navigating parties. The trouble spot, then, was the West Indies; and it was to that station they were sent. I spent several years at the other end of the world and never heard what happened to them; or how long they lasted. I cannot find anything about them in Corps history.

Incidentally it was queer to see 42 marching at the shoulder as we did when I joined. I may yet live to see the return of the long-shoulder and the disengaged arm held stiffly down. The swinging arm came in with the Slope and was hated by the Drill Sergeants. And I do not think we ever succeeded, up to 1914, in keeping a perfect line; it has taken the more modern Marine to do that, as can be seen in any old photo.

My First Drill, Chantor, told us that the practice had been to hook the little finger of the disengaged arm into the hand holding the rifle-butt of your next file, in a march past. All this arm-swinging was bound to throw the line out of straight.

Yours,

C. F. Jerram.

Dear Sir,

Please use the enclosed US Postal Money Order for a one-year renewal of my subscription to your magazine.

I find it a very professional and enjoyable publication and look forward eagerly to its continued arrival

Sgt. George P. Bond, USMC

Dear Sir,

Herewith P.O. 15/- for another year of the "Globe and Buster." In June, 1930, I left Eastney, to pension, so on reading through the G & L, with no RM Association within 25 miles, what has the G and L to interest me; think it over, try this question on some about my age and see if my question is frivolous.

Yours,

Matthew Young,

Ex Po 15435 C/Sgt.

Dear Sir,

I feel I must write and ask why we have such awful pictures on the cover of the GLOBE AND LAUREL. They used to be something to be proud of with the crest etc.—but alas, they have gone from bad to worse and this is the limit! Even the words "Globe and Laurel" aren't on the level!

So I have torn it off—I feel sure that you must agree that it is horrid?

Major P. le S. Harris writes:

Your story of the Ghost at Chatham reminded me of another one about "spirits" there. The January, 1941, batch was taught military law at Chatham, in the autumn of that year, by Lieut. Col. Jones (were his initials H. L. S. and was he in "Lion" at or soon after Jutland?) Anyway, he entwined the law with his own reminiscences, and he told us that when he was a young officer the Commandant lived in the house at the corner of the parade above the Officers' Mess (this was the Divisional office in 1941). As the Orderly Officer was returning across the parade from the guard room on a fine morning, the Commandant would call him over to join him in a glass of whisky. The Commandant had his breakfast out of doors, and a keg of whisky beside him. I suppose this is a vignette of Edwardian barrack life.

Dear Sir,

I feel I must contest a phrase in 45 Commando's article in the St. George's Day edition of the Corps Journal. Quote: "By the time you receive this article the unit should be acclimatising itself, basking in the hot sunshine of Aden. *It will be soldiering in a theatre where Royal Marines have not soldiered before.*"

Who's kidding who? Just around the corner—Trucial Oman area and the whole of the Persian Gulf—Royal Marines have been sweating it out for the past four years. Men in the small detachments in the little "Loch" Class frigates can tell the writer a few things about soldiering in this theatre. Continuous exercises ashore and patrolling off the coasts of Oman, Saudi Arabia, etc., must not go forgotten.

Royal Marines serving on board these frigates are not just "seamen with cap badges", as I so often have heard them called. They have to be always aware of this fact, daily they try to do the smallest of jobs better than any seaman, their part of ship, messdeck and personal appearance, must be continuously in mind. It is so easy to fall into "Jack's" way of life when living so closely together and working together as these Marines do.

"Jack and Co." love the chance of getting a dig at the "Bootnecks". Things that are taken so much for granted in barracks and Commando units out here require that little extra effort for the name of our Corps. In no other arm of the Corps do Marines have to be so much a Marine. To many these men are the "shop-window" of the Corps; by the standards set by the Marines of the "Loch" Class frigates so is the Corps judged. It requires constant alertness to detail and hard work, and a great deal of esprit de corps, and that is exactly what it is getting—and that is soldiering, and a good job they are making of it too!

Read your GLOBE AND LAUREL more closely and you will read of the men who you will undoubtedly meet if you arrive here.

J. Rudkin, Corporal.

CORPS SPORT

MOTORCYCLING

The advent of the warmer weather has brought out our motorcycle enthusiasts from their sheds and workshops into the strong sunlight!

Land's End Trial

Three members of TTW spent the early part of their Easter weekend competing in the Motor Cycling Club's Land's End Trial. This started at 2015 on Good Friday from London Airport and was a combined road and cross country trial. C/Sgt. Groves, Sgt. Terrell, and Mne. Moat made up the Corps team, and were the only Royal Marines in a large Army field.

As the team, led by a navigating vehicle, left Northolt the rain started, and this continued into the night, only stopping some forty miles from Taunton. Arriving safely at this first check point, an hour's halt was called for breakfast (at 0230) which was well served by Maynard's Restaurant. After Taunton, the route led towards Lynmouth, Porlock and Minehead, thick mist was encountered on Exmoor. However, the time allowance was generous and, on arrival at Bude, the team were still intact despite a puncture on Sgt. Terrell's machine. One hill section was climbed in darkness.

The daylight well established, the weather promised to be really hot. All the riders were becoming weary, and many machines fell by the wayside. After some half dozen more cross country sections the very tired and muddy riders checked in at Newquay at about 1600 on Easter Saturday.

The results were not as favourable as in the Exeter Trial, C/Sgt. Groves winning a 3rd Class Award. The final results have not yet been published, and it is hoped that although we did not win the team event, we came well up in the field.



Sergeant J. L. Terrell

Photo: F. J. Brymer

Aldershot District 3rd Preliminary Trial

This trial was held in the all too familiar area of sand and pine trees near Farnborough. It was a fine day, and there was a large entry of Army, RM and Police riders. In this event the RMs rode in a separate class. The results were as follows:

C/Sgt. Groves—Expert Award.
Mne. Arminger—Expert Award.

This was a fine ride by Mne. Arminger, who has shown that he is a skilled and capable trialist.

RM Motor Cycle Display Team

A team from RMB Eastney and TTW RM has been formed to give shows during the summer season. Our first show is at RAF Thorney Island on 21st May, 1960. We hope that this year we may produce some acts and tricks that have not been seen before. It is interesting to note that the members of the team are by no means all from the Driver Branch, but contain a Platoon Weapons Corporal, two General Duty Marines, and one Officer.

ROYAL MARINES RIFLE ASSOCIATION

Inter-Unit Miniature Cup 1959/60

Individual and Team Results

The season's .22 shooting from September, 1959 to March, 1960 was well supported by units in the United Kingdom, and the Home Fleet entered this competition for the first time, but once again 42 Commando were unable to compete. We did however close the gap in the Inter-Services Match to fifteen points out of 8,000 HPS behind the Regular Army. Only fifty-four points divided the five regular services. The match was fired by teams of forty on the new targets and the team averages were as follows:

Royal Air Force 98.51; Royal Navy 98.46; Territorial Army 98.13; Regular Army 98.00; Royal Marines 97.83; Royal Naval Reserve 90.37.

The lesson to be learnt is that it only takes *one* point more per firer to win or lose any competition. On form we should, and could, have beaten the Regular and Territorial Armies to be third. However, our team of *forty* from the smallest Service did very well indeed to get the result obtained with an average of 97.8 on this difficult target.

Inter Unit Miniature Cup

Position	Unit	Period					Total
		1	2	3	4	5	
1	ITCRM	1971	1965	1970	1971	1974	9851
2	RMB Eastney	1964	1958	1957	1981	1986	9846
3	RMB Plymouth	1951	1959	1974	1970	1963	9817
4	Depot RM	1953	1943	1959	1954	1967	9776
5	RMFVR	1935	1911	1904	1892	1906	9548

The ITC again won this competition but congratulations to RMB Eastney for a two month spurt of the highest team scores to close the gap to only five points.

The RMFVR team has almost solely been represented from the Merseyside Unit and did well to produce their results.

The Individual Cup

C/Sgt. Skippings with a score of 1,196 out of HPS of 1,200 lost only four points from twelve cards and scored a possible in the Inter-Services Match. This result is all the more creditable when one compares it with last year on the Decimal type target (which has a larger size scoring area) when the highest score was 1,192.

Portsmouth Group Individual. HPS 1,200

1st: Cpl. K. D. Stone, Eastney—1½" Silver Medal—Score 1188.
2nd: QMS H. Scott, The Depot RM—1½" Bronze Medal—Score 1188.

All ties are decided on the Inter-Services Match. Cpl. Stone's score was one short of a possible.

3rd: Sgt. L. D. Wilson, Eastney—1" Bronze Medal—Score 1181.

Portsmouth Group Young Soldiers. HPS 1,000.

Mne. R. Walker, PRORM—1½" Bronze Medal—Score 972.

Mne. Walker was trained at RMB Eastney and represented the Corps as a Young Soldier in the Inter-Services Match, firing his cards shortly after joining PRORM.

Plymouth Group Individual. HPS 1,200.

1st: Major D. L. S. Langley, Mons OCS—1½" Silver Medal—Score 1190.

2nd: QMS W. J. Kitchingham, ITCRM—1½" Bronze Medal—Score 1189.

3rd: QMS D. P. O'Byrne, ITCRM—1" Bronze Medal—Score 1186.

Plymouth Group Young Soldiers. HPS 1,000.

- 1st: Mne. A. J. Gillard, RMB Plymouth—1½" Bronze Medal—Score 993.
 2nd: Mne. Grierson, RMFVR Merseyside—1" Bronze Medal—Score 922.
 3rd: Mne. A. Youd, RMFVR Merseyside—1" Bronze Medal—Score 901.

Mne. A. J. Gillard, a Young Soldier, with a score of 1,190 equalled the highest in his group and was only bettered by C/Sgt. Skippings in the whole Corps.

Royal Marine Forces Volunteer Reserve. HPS 1,200.

- 1st: Lieut. P. C. Banks, RMFVR Merseyside—1½" Silver Medal—Score 1172.

The Royal Marines Volunteer Cadet Corps

First Reserve Challenge Trophy. HPS 2,400.

- 1st: RMVCC Plymouth—Score 2,284.

First Reserve Challenge Cup

Highest Individual Cadet Score: HPS 400: Cadet Sgt. A. A. Claydon—Score 394—RMVCC Portsmouth.

RMVCC Competition. HPS 2,400.

This was again a most interesting competition over the winter period and Plymouth won by two points out of 2,400. Progressive results:

Position	Unit	Period			
		1	2	3	4
1	Plymouth	567	1142	1718	2284
2	Deal	569	1143	1716	2282
3	Eastney	554	1113	1678	2254
4	Chatham	543	1099	1654	2198

Last year Deal beat Eastney by one point, and Plymouth had difficulty in finding a team. Now, in one year, Plymouth have shot to the top in a very able manner. Eastney had an excellent result in the last period by scoring 576 out of 600, the highest to date, with two Cadets scoring the first possibles in the competition—Sgt. A. A. Claydon and L/Cpl. D. Coppard. Congratulations to Sgt. Claydon who scored 97-98-99-100 to win the Cadet Championship in a truly progressive manner.

RMRA Non-Central Events**3rd Period**

The 3rd period results are again encouraging. Units have made 190 entries for this period (a little less than the last two periods) and results have shown considerable progress in raising the standard of shooting with the SLR.

RMTC (Med) and JSAWC are to be congratulated on scoring possibles in the Emperor of India SMG Competition. RMTC (Med) also had the highest score in the Aegean Competition.

CORPS HOCKEY 1959/1960

The most notable triumph of a very successful hockey season within the Corps was the victory of 42 Commando over RNAS Arbroath in the final of the Navy Cup. This is the first time since the war that a Royal Marine team has won the Navy Cup, and certainly the first time the cup has travelled overseas as 42 Commando left in HMS **Bulwark** two days later. The final was played on the Park Royal ground in London, and although trailing three times during the match, a splendid solo effort by Lieut. Cook in the closing minutes gave 42 Commando victory.

The other main achievement during the season was the gaining of Navy caps by Lieuts. R. G. Stevens, D. B. Ellis and S. J. Cook. The fact that the Royal Navy had one of their most successful seasons since the war reflects very favourably on their play in the key positions of centre half, left back and centre forward respectively. As two of them are now abroad with 42 Commando, it bodes well for their future both in the Middle and Far East.

Of the Corps matches we played 8, won 4, drew 2 and lost 2. The leading goal scorers were Cook 11 and Oakley 8. The last match against Mid Surrey at New Malden was played on a very rough pitch and with a much weaker team. The score of a 4-3 loss did not reflect the true picture of the game.

Looking back on the season, it was pleasing to see the soundness of the defence with Stevens, Ellis and Bugle Sgt. Hawdon outstanding. The fact that four different goalkeepers were used for the Corps matches means that although there are a number of players knocking at the door of the Corps side, we are still lacking the brilliance of a Burgess or Morris of a few years back. Lieut. Davis and Sgt. Campbell formed a sound defence on the left, but have sometimes faltered under heavy pressure.

The forward situation is still acute. Cook, of course is excellent, and still in his early twenties, and he should remain a tower of strength for many years. Mne. Stuart (inside right) is still immature

in his game, but has excellent potential when he puts his full effort into it. He needs to anticipate his fellow players more and look for the gaps. Capt. Oakley is just getting too old (?) However his brilliant distribution and hockey sense have contributed greatly to the success of the Corps side.

But it is on the wings that the Corps was really weak, despite some good moments from Capt. Gardner, Sgt. Watson and Cpl. Savage. We do not seem to have the speedy and thrusty wings of the past, and the positions must remain open for future years. It has meant that most of our attacks have been down the centre which has been all too easy for the enemy to contain.

Maybe this article has been too critical, and some players have not been mentioned, but it is felt that it is only fair to point out the mistakes and shortcomings of players lest they feel themselves beyond reproach. There is always something new to learn as we have discovered from the excellent coaching of Mr. Brownlee and his never ceasing flow of tactical ideas.

A final word about umpires within the Corps. There is a shortage of good umpires, but in order for the Corps to use them, individuals must make their own arrangements to become RN Probationers and then to qualify. When there are sufficient available we shall use them for both the Halse Cup and all Corps fixtures.

ROYAL MARINE GOLFING SOCIETY

The results of this year's championships were:

RM Open Championship

Winner—Major A. D. MacPherson.

RM Handicap Competition

Winner—Major-Gen. M. C. Cartwright-Taylor.

Other Results**RN Handicap Competition**

Winner—Major. Gen. M. C. Cartwright-Taylor.

Presidents Prize (Young Officers and Ratings)

Winner—Sgt. J. H. Ridyard.

RN Foursomes Competition

Major Gen. H. D. Fellows

Instructor Capt. Mackay

Inter-Command Championship (6 Players)

1 Nore Command

2 Portsmouth Command

3 Royal Marines

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41 COMMANDO

Springtime! The awakening, and the promise of better days to come. Some of us are now losing the bruises and aches caused by the hard games of winter, notably Lieut. Storrie, our Sports Officer, whose two "shiners" obtained on behalf of Devonport Services are now beginning to fade. We all look forward to the leisurely games of cricket and the other varied pastimes afforded by the good weather. However the more serious sportsmen have already seen to it that the presence of 41 Commando is felt. Mne. Sanders and Bugler Chippendale represented the Navy in the Inter-Services Boxing Championships although unfortunately both lost their fights in close decisions on points. Nevertheless it is a comfort to have two Naval Champions in the Unit.

RMTC (MED)

Our soccer team have not been wasting their time whilst other members of the staff have been occupied with shooting. Yes, RMTC have done it again, winning the Navy League Group III trophy, the St. Angelo inter-part trophy, and the RM inter-detachment trophy. These trophies have not been won without some very closely contested matches; with several team changes to compete with, C/Sgt. Gibbons is to be warmly congratulated on leading his team to victory in the triple crown. The trophies were presented by the Captain, HMS St. Angelo and the FRMO on completion of the annual Administrative Inspection.

It was a great disappointment to all ranks that HMS St. Angelo athletics meeting was cancelled due to lack of entries. Many members of the staff had been training hard for this meeting. However one compensation is that Mne. Dorrington has been selected to represent the Royal Navy in the Discus and at putting the shot for the inter-Services athletic meeting.

By the time of the next issue the cricket and water-polo will be in full swing. The cricket talent is as yet unknown, but there are several hefty and experienced water-polo players available, and RMTC (Med) are said to have one of the best goalkeepers in the island on the strength, so we are looking forward to a successful season.

The ladies .22 shooting team continues to flourish, and apparently they are so keen that they intend to continue shooting once a week throughout the summer. Let's hope they will not use up our allocation of ammunition before the winter! The ladies .22 winter trophy was won by the Commandant's wife.

JSAWC

Soccer: The result of the Dorset Intermediate Cup Final between the Centre and Poole Generators was a draw 1-1. The Centre face the replay without the services of Corps goalkeeper Mne. Hemmings, who has now left for 40 Commando. Both teams have been outstanding this season and their meetings so far have ended in honours even.

By winning the final game of the season, we became runners-up in the Dorset League Division 2, and so are promoted to Division 1 next season.

Cpl. I. F. Newton (SB Coy) has been playing regularly for the Royal Navy, Dorset County, the Corps and Portsmouth Command. *Soccer Inter-Dept. League Result 1959-60.*

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts.	Pos.
SB Coy. ...	5	4	0	1	29	8	9	1 <i>Champions</i>
95 AOR ..	5	3	1	1	20	11	7	2 <i>Runners-up</i>
MT Dept.	5	3	2	0	17	19	6	3
HQ Coy.	5	3	2	0	11	16	6	4
RN Sec. ...	5	1	4	0	9	19	2	5
LC Coy. ...	5	0	5	0	6	19	0	6

Boxing: Mne. R. Larbey (LC Coy.) has boxed for Portsmouth Command against Slough ABC and Leonis ABC, Jersey.

Swimming: The Centre swam the first match of the season on 29th March versus Bovington Garrison and enjoyed a victory, 19 points to 11 points. The records now read, JSAWC—two matches won, Bovington Garrison—one match.

Rugby—Inter Unit Record

The Unit Rugby Team record for Season 1959/60 is as follows:—

P	W	D	L	F	A
24	12	1	11	238	223

Second Lieutenant K. I. Ross has played regularly for the Royal Navy, Hampshire and the Corps.

Hockey—Inter Unit Record

The Unit Hockey Team record for Season 1959/60 is as follows:—

P	W	D	L	F	A
26	11	3	12	76	71

Lieutenant S. H. B. Cook has been selected regularly for the Royal Navy and the Corps.

Devizes to Westminster Canoe Race, 1960—Result

Rigid Class

1st Capt. Hardy and Sgt. Cann 22nd SAS

Record time of 23 hrs. 1 min.
2nd Sgt. Edmonds and Sgt. Howe JSAWC
24 hrs. 25 mins.

Folding Class

2nd QMS Richardson and Cpl Mitchie JSAWC

The 125 miles long race with 77 locks to portage attracted a record entry of 131 crews and entries for future races may be limited.

Table Tennis—Poole and District League, Div. 2.

The Unit Table Tennis Team record for Season 1959/60 is as follows:—

P	W	D	L	F	A	P
22	10	2	10	119	101	22

PRORM

Inter-Departmental Trophy: The Competition for the Inter-Department Sports Trophy has now been concluded for the season 1959/60 and the 1960/61 competition has already started with the inter-department cricket competition.

The Trophy was won by Records with an overall total of sixteen points, Supply running a close second with fifteen points followed by Camp, Ledgers and Manning in that order.

The final inter-department competition for the trophy was football, which was won by Supply, with Records second, Camp third and Manning fourth, Ledgers filled the fifth place.

The final overall points for the Trophy are as follows:

	Cricket	Athletics	Deck Hockey	Football	Total
Records	4	4	4	4	16
Supply	5	2	3	5	15
Camp	2	1	5	3	11
Ledgers	2	5	2	1	10
Manning	2	3	1	2	8

Hockey: After a series of defeats PRORM finished the season with a win over the Depot, Royal West Kents at Maidstone.

In the Nore Command Knock Out Tournament we were eliminated at an early stage, being beaten by the Royal Naval Barracks Physical Training Staff.

Football: With the completion of the last match of the inter-departmental competition the football season at PRORM has ended, although the RM Ground on the Great Lines continues to be used by several local leagues for their cup finals. The future of this very fine ground is still uncertain, but it is to be hoped that it will continue as a service football ground after the Royal Marines leave Chatham.

The Unit has not had a good season. Our meagre league successes were three wins.

Most units that play teams in the US league are much stronger numerically and the Army teams with their usual sprinkling of professionals were generally too good for us.

Cricket: Cricket has started strongly and to judge by the talent and numbers seen at the nets in the evenings, there should be a good nucleus on which to form a well balanced side with strong competition for the last places in the team. We have a bye in the Mead Cup, and have high hopes of defeating either the RMO or Eastney on our first outing.

HMS GAMBIA

Our three months' stay in Gibraltar enabled the ship for the first time to really get going on all the interpart sports and we have managed to hold our end up well.

Football: We reached the semi-finals of the interpart knockout and four members of the detachment have played for the ship.

.22 Shooting: Unfortunately our handicap in the .22 knockout was too severe. We reached the final only to be beaten by the POs on handicap.

CADETS' NEWS

Peterborough Detachment

Since last writing the detachment has made considerable progress and we are now beginning to feel part of the ship's company.

Our headquarters, "TS *Gildenburgh*," is a three-storey building which is scheduled as an ancient monument and is owned by the Peterborough Corporation, which means that very little can be done in the way of structural improvements without the consent of the owners. Our immediate need on formation was a part of ship as a "Barracks," part of the third floor was given over to this and the Peterborough Corporation constructed two classrooms and an office, which now gives us ideal accommodation. TS *Gildenburgh* is ideally situated for our needs being alongside the River Nene and within easy reach of areas of country for field training.

Two trophies have already been given to the detachment for annual competition, one a cup, called the "Birthday Cup" (28th October, 1664), to be awarded to the best cadet of each Recruit Squad, and the other a shield called the "Globe and Laurel Shield" for the best annual record of parade attendances. It is hoped in the near future to obtain another cup to be awarded to the "Cadet of the Year."

Since our formation much help has been given by a number of people and to them we convey our thanks, particularly to the Commanding Officer of TS *Gildenburgh*, Lieut. R. Shelford, RNR.

Lincoln Detachment

During the Easter holidays Cdt. Cpl. Uzzell carried out an initiative test, which involved visiting HMS *Royal Arthur*, the Joint Amphibious Warfare Section at Poole, ITCRM Lympstone, RM Barracks, Plymouth, and finally the RMFVR unit at Bristol. He completed this exercise in sixty-four hours. For the duration of the exercise he was restricted as to type of transport and only allowed 7/6d. in money. He returned tired, but pleased with the result. Easter Sunday also had its share of activity. A party of senior cadets under the command of Sgt. Cook, took one of the Mark VII canoes and spent the day on the Fossdyke, covering a distance of about twenty-four miles during the day.

Regarding future events the detachment has been asked to take part in a Youth Rally held on the 21st May in Lincoln. It is planned to provide a guard and a party to demonstrate canoe drill.

There are two promotions to record. Cadets Lusby and Chambers to Cadet Corporal.

RMVCC Plymouth

The RMVCC Parents Association is going from strength to strength and considerable amounts of money are being raised for Cadet Funds. C/Sgt. Jones, the Adjutant, entertained all the parents to a social evening in the Sergeants' Mess on Thursday, 7th April,

The various activities are progressing, with the .22 team doing well, football nearly finished and the summer display team getting into its stride.

Summer camp will be held at Porthpean from 20-27th August with everyone hoping for a repetition of last year's weather.

Unit Sports—continued

WRNS

On the 6th April we had an "end of the season" friendly match against the PRORM RMs—needless to say, we didn't win, but changed the teams around at half time to make the game more even. We all enjoyed getting a breath of fresh air, and there were no "serious" casualties!

Three members of the Unit managed to get into the Service Badminton Team, i.e. Second Officer Baldwin, PO Wren Perry and PO Wren Pain. The Inter-Service Championships took place at the Wimbledon Squash and Badminton Club in London, and the event proved to be most enjoyable. The WRAF swept the board by winning twenty-four points, and the WRNS and the WRAC tied with six points each. Although there is such a difference in the numbers of games won, there were some very close and exciting matches. PO Wren Perry has now just gone in for the Kent County Cricket Trials, and we hope she has been successful. D. BALDWIN.

Photographic Competition

Photographs may be of any subject and suitable for inclusion in the magazine.

The copyright of any photograph submitted for the contest must be vested in the Commandant General.

Prizes will be as follows:

1st Prize Three Pounds
2nd Prize Two Pounds

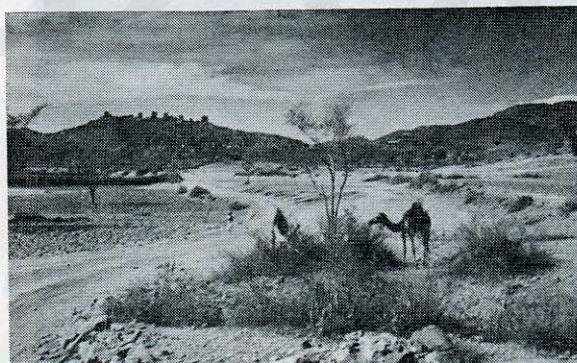
Any additional photograph which may be used for recruiting or publicity purposes will win the sum of One Pound.

The judges' decision will be final.

Prizes for June-July competition are as follows:

1st PRIZE. CPL. T. J. BROOMHAM, 45 Commando.

2nd PRIZE. MAJOR M. E. B. Banks.



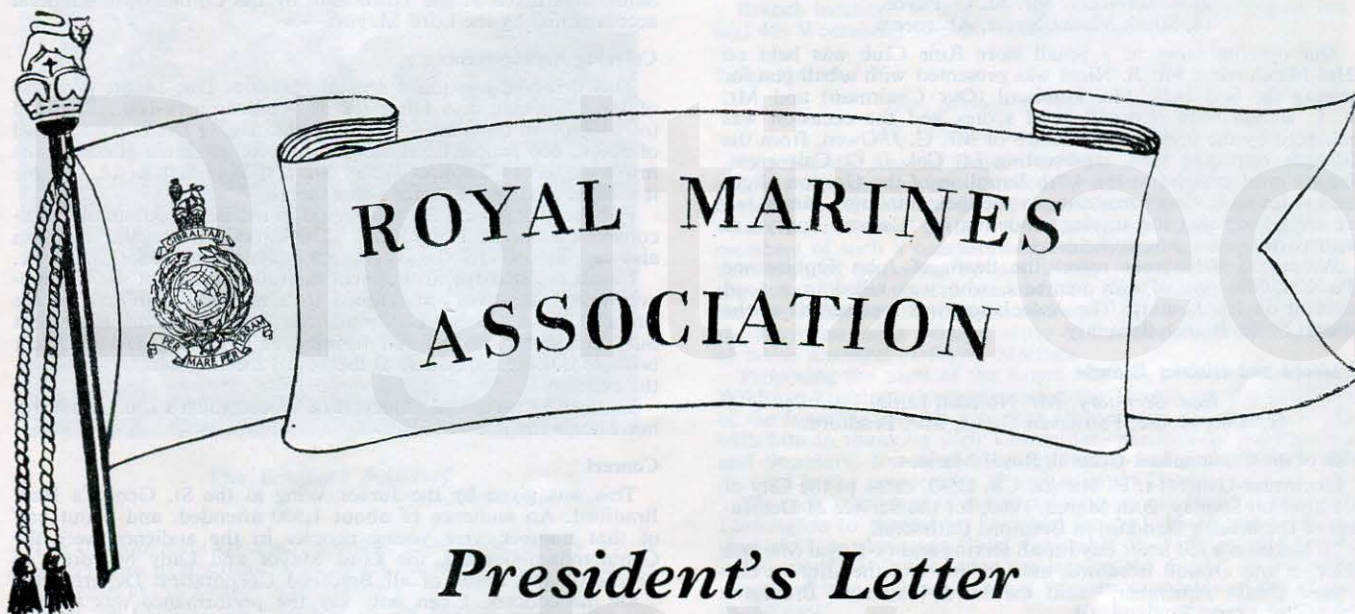
"Early morning in Dhala"

1st Prize - Cpl. Broomham



"Spring is in the air"

2nd Prize - Major M. E. B. Banks



President's Letter

Thanks to the generosity of a few individuals (Generals Sir Lewis Halliday and Sir Leslie Hollis and Miss Beausire, CBE) we now have a sum of £400 available to devote to some special purpose(s). Whilst the sum is too substantial for us to allow it to be frittered away on unending prospects it is not large enough to cover the cost of a major enterprise such as the initiation or provision of an Association Club in some area where one is badly needed and could serve the needs of many of our members—Exton for example—or some similar major enterprise. Each of the donors in making the gift authorised me, as present President of the Association, to devote the money to whatever purpose I thought most suitable to serve the interests of the Association. It was not I am sure their intention that these gifts should become absorbed in our invested capital. Quite naturally not wishing to act in an autocratic manner I invited the Executive Committee to make recommendations. From their last meeting I have received a suggestion which appeals to me as being eminently common sense and practical. It is to form a "President's Fund" into which any unconditionally acquired moneys can be paid and accumulated until we have sufficient to finance an important undertaking. The question then arises; how do we encourage its rapid growth? Let me offer at least one practical suggestion. Many of us are entitled to post war credits. Some have already drawn them, others—myself included—will shortly be doing so. This month I will give 10% of my Post War Credits to the Association under unconditional terms such as those of the three donors mentioned above with the suggestion that it might be credited to "A President's Fund," if the formation of such a fund is recommended by the Governing Committee and approved by the AGM. I hope that this idea may appeal to others who will follow this example. There are of course numerous other ways of helping to build up such a fund; bequests, percentage of Pools, Sweepstake betting or Premium Bonds winnings or even straightforward gifts when the spirit moves you. No gift is too small, no gift is too big. I hope this idea may appeal to many of you as a good, practical, common sense way to help your own Association.

I went to Leigh, Lancs., for their St. George's Day Dinner and Social. It's a long way but it was so well worth while. Leigh is a small Branch but a very active and a closely knitted and happy one under the active leadership of Mr. Frank King of Wigan and the untiring zeal of their Honorary Secretary, Mr. S. Hulme. Mrs. Wildman-Lushington and I both thoroughly enjoyed ourselves.

I was very sorry to hear that London's splendid endeavour to run a St. George's Day party at the RMFVR Centre was not as well supported as had been hoped. The trouble seems to have been too many such parties, quite naturally, concentrated into that one week-end. I hear that it was a very well arranged and enjoyable party and I do hope that despite the disappointment over numbers attending that the organisers will not be discouraged from further attempts. I want particularly to thank General C. Horton, CB, OBE, Major E. W. King, MBE and Messrs. Jordan and Wilden for all the voluntary effort they put into it. This like many other similar functions lacked the support of officers—what a shame! I am most grateful also, to the Commanding Officer of the RMFVR (City of London) for the personal interest and practical assistance which contributed so much to the enjoyment of those who attended. This is the most encouraging response we have had so far from the Commandant General's recent plea for closer co-operation between the Corps and the Association.

I would like to remind everyone of the dates of the AGM and London Church Parade, 9th and 10th July respectively, and to exhort all to make a special endeavour to attend them. Both are important events; both deserve all the support we can give them. Please come.

G.E.W-L.

NEWS FROM BRANCHES

Aberdeen Branch

Hon. Secretary: Mr. M. G. Payne,
18, South Mount Street, Aberdeen.

Our opening shoot as a Small Bore Rifle Club was held on 23rd March when Mr. B. Nicol was presented with a ball pen for scoring the first bull. Mr. Hubbard (Our Chairman) and Mr. V. L. Raffan both returned good scores and the occasion was enhanced by the surprise attendance of Mr. C. J. Owen, from the Glasgow recruiting staff, representing Lt. Col. J. C. Cairncross. We are most grateful to the 4/7th Battalion of the Gordon Highlanders for their kind permission to use their miniature range, but we are hoping that the stirring rendering of "Colonel Bogey" as we departed was a pure coincidence!

We record with great regret the death of John Elphinstone (Po.X/123969) one of our members, who was killed in a road accident on 7th January. The Association was represented at the funeral by the Branch Secretary.

Bradford and District Branch

Hon. Secretary: Mr. Norman Little,
41, Ailsa House, Fairhaven Green, Idle, Bradford.

Visit of the Commandant-General, Royal Marines

Lieutenant-General I. H. Riches, CB, DSO, came to the City of Bradford on Sunday, 20th March, 1960, for the Service of Dedication of the Branch Standard in Bradford Cathedral.

"It has been a red letter day for all serving and ex-Royal Marines living in and around Bradford, also for me and the City—a day I shall always remember," said the Lord Mayor of Bradford, Councillor Ernest England, JP.

Those words were spoken for the first-ever visit to Bradford of a Royal Marines Band; it was the Band of the Royal Marines School of Music, Deal, Junior Wing, under the directorship of Capt. Ernest Smith Ough, LRAM.

The Parade to the Cathedral was under the command of Maj. A. E. Ebsworth, Recruiting Staff Officer, Manchester, assisted by Lieut. Cdr. A. G. Burnett, RNR (SCC), Mr. Cecil Lingwood, British Legion and "Jock" Livingstone (in his kilt!).

The Colour Party for the Standard were Colour Sergeants from the York and Leeds Royal Marines Cadet Corps under the command of Lieut. Roy Mead, Royal Marine Cadet Corps, Leeds. The Standard Bearer was our own Bill Ash. The Regimental March of the Royal Marines was played on the famous carillon of the Bradford Town Hall whilst the Parade was being formed.

Units taking part:

Royal Marines Associations: Hull and East Riding, Nottingham, Manchester and Salford, Tyneside, Halifax, Leeds, Bradford, Blackpool, Wigan, Leigh, Merseyside.

Royal Naval Associations: Hull, Castleford, Mexborough, Bradford, Birmingham, Crook, Durham City, Barnsley, Chesterfield, Nottingham, Wakefield, Sheffield, Halifax, Doncaster, Bury, Blackpool, Stockport, Burnley.

Army Associations (Local): Blighty Club, Dunkirk Veterans, West Yorkshire Regimental Association, Royal Artillery Association, 6th West Yorkshire Regiment OCA, Royal Corps of Military Police, Women's Royal Army Corps, Auxiliary Territorial Service, Bradford Pals Comradeship Association, Legion of Frontiersmen, Burma Star Association (Darlington), British Legion (all Bradford Branches).

Sea Cadet Corps Units: Bradford, Leeds, Huddersfield, Wakefield, Keighley, Barnsley, Dewsbury, York, Sheffield.

Marine Cadet Corps: Leeds and York.

Army Cadet Corps: 148 Coy., REME.

Air Training Corps: Bradford.

St. John Ambulance Brigade: Bradford.

City Police Mounted Section: PC 129 Miller, riding Angus IV, PC 184 Reaney, riding Don.

Service of Dedication

The service was conducted by the Provost of Bradford, the Very Reverend John G. Tiarks, MA, assisted by the Rev. Alaric D. St. John Hurst, MA, Vicar of St. Paul's, Stanningley (Royal Marines Commandos, 1943/45).

The Commandant-General read the Lesson and our President, Lt.-Col. J. A. Thompson, RM, handed to the Provost the Standard for Dedication. The Band of the Royal Marines School of Music, Junior Wing, played for the Service.

About 1,100 people were in the congregation, and 200 extra chairs had previously been placed in the Cathedral to accommodate them, as the Cathedral has seating for only 900.

March Past

After the Service, a Ceremonial March Past was held, and the Salute was taken at the Town Hall by the Commandant-General accompanied by the Lord Mayor.

Catering Arrangements

This deservedly requires special mention. Due to the kindness of the Chairman and Directors of Woolcombers Ltd., Bradford (of which firm our President is Joint Managing Director), a crowd of 500 to 600 people from the parade were given tea at one of the firm's canteens—Thomas Henry Shaw's, Wapping Road. (To me it seemed as if half Bradford was there!)

For the VIP guests, tea was served in the Board Room of Woolcomber's Ltd., at Daisy Bank, Duckworth Lane, and the firm also supplied cars for the guests, and heavy transport for chairs, etc.

I must say that the firm upheld the full tradition of the Corps—everything "spot on" and timed to a nicety. At no cost to the Branch, Woolcomber's Ltd. made our day. I have no doubt that our President, with his full training as a Royal Marine Officer brought out these qualities at the board meeting which sanctioned the expense!!

To the Chairman and Directors of Woolcomber's Ltd., Bradford, our sincere thanks.

Concert

This was given by the Junior Wing at the St. George's Hall, Bradford. An audience of about 1,500 attended, and about half of that number were young people. In the audience were the Commandant-General, the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Bradford, and heads of all Bradford Corporation Departments.

Of the concert, I can only say the performance was superb, and judging by the thunderous applause, the whole audience must have thought the same.

Prior to the Concert, bouquets were presented to the Lady Mayoress by Master Charles Kelly, and to Mrs. J. A. Thompson (the wife of our President) by Miss Joanna Jefferies. Mrs. N. Little (wife of our Secretary) presented to the Commandant-General a suit length of the finest worsted cloth manufactured in the West Riding.



Clothes for casual occasions

Sports jacket, Hacking style,
Scotch tweeds £11.19.6,
West of England Saxonomies at
£14.14.0. West of England
Cavalry twill trousers, slim
line with cross pockets
£7.15.0. Two-piece suit with
centre vent, in fine quality
West of England Saxonomies
and Scotch tweeds £19.19.0,
to £23.10.0.

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BRANCHES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY



The Bradford Standard

Photo: "Yorkshire Post"

The Commandant-General remarked afterwards that he would have to return to Bradford to let us see the suit made up. This can be arranged at our Dinner in the autumn.

After the Concert, all members of the Branch entertained the guests at our Headquarters—The Market Tavern, Godwin Street, Bradford 1.

To conclude, it must be said how much the Branch appreciated the work done by Major A. E. Ebsworth, RM, and the valuable assistance given by C/Sgt. F. Leighton of the Royal Marines Recruiting Office, Leeds.

To the above mentioned and to all others who assisted in making the day such an undoubted success, our grateful thanks.

Zeebrugge and Walcheren Memorial Service on board the MV **Royal Iris** at Liverpool on Sunday, 24th April, 1960, in the presence of the Commandant-General.

Sixteen members of the Branch attended the Service, and wreaths were laid in the River Mersey by our Secretary, Mr. N. Little, and Mrs. C. Kelsall whose brother went down on HMS **Cossack**.

The General Secretary adds:

"It is necessary to make good an important omission from the foregoing contribution. It makes no reference to the outstanding part played by Mr. Norman Little, the Hon. Secretary, who, without seeking or needing any assistance from the Central Office so ably organised this impressive ceremony."

Dartford

Hon. Secretary: Mr. T. F. Barrett,

60 Cold Blow Crescent, Dartford Road, Bexley, Kent.

As one gets older, the annual events seem to come along much quicker than they did, so that the Remembrance Day Dinner found us gathered together at the Bull's Head, Dartford on 22nd April.

Unfortunately, this was arranged before the promulgation of the "Zeebrugge" Buffet Dance and could not be cancelled.

Owing to medical reasons we had at least three notable absentees, the first occasion since our inauguration 12 years ago. Our Vice Chairman, Lieut. W. J. Flanagan, Major and Mrs. Darlow and Lieut and Mrs. C. Helps. They were sadly missed. However, we were able to welcome Mr. and Mrs. Ferratt from Portsmouth—a great pleasure, as throughout his long and distinguished career in the RM Police and Admiralty Civil Police, he has visited us from all parts of Great Britain whenever possible, and now in retirement must be as penurious as the remainder of we oldsters.

Our grateful thanks are due to Mrs. Warwent who came the long way from Sheerness and provided the musical entertainment which made the evening so successful. It would not be the same without her.

We were delighted to welcome to one of our meetings John Ellis, on leave from 45 Commando, Malta, who was a most charming and unassuming young man. A credit to the Corps I'm sure. He actually read of our existence in the **GLOBE AND LAUREL** and so came along. He made a point of the difficulty of getting the Corps journal as seemingly demand exceeds supply.

Finally, a bouquet to Central Office for a very interesting and informative news letter and for running the sweepstake on such favourable terms to all concerned.

Branch meetings as usual at the Bull's Head, Dartford on 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month, 8 p.m.

Leigh Branch

Hon. Secretary: Mr. H. Hulme,
17, Lingard Street, Leigh, Lancs.

Our Fourth Annual Dinner held on 23rd April was a great success, the occasion being honoured by the attendance of Major General G. E. Wildman-Lushington and Mrs. Lushington, to whom we are most grateful for coming so far to join with the members of such a comparatively small Branch. We hope he left us convinced that what we lack in size we make up for with enthusiasm. Others present were Mr. F. King, our most active and zealous President, the Mayor of Leigh (Mr. J. Sumner, JP) and the Mayoress, who, being a native of Portsmouth, was very much at home amongst ex-Royal Marines.

Proposing the toast of the Royal Marines Association, General Wildman-Lushington congratulated the Branch on the excellence of the function and felt sure that all members would wish to join with him in thanking their Committee, particularly the President and Secretary, for the hard work which had so obviously been devoted in the preparation of such a happy occasion.

We took advantage of the opportunity to ask General Wildman-Lushington to present an inscribed tankard, bearing the Association crest, to Assistant Chief Constable R. J. Wigginton, of the Admiralty Civil Police, who was leaving the district on his retirement and who had been such a staunch supporter of the Branch in the past.

Nottingham

Hon. Secretary: Mr. S. Wright,
10 Colville Street, Sherwood Street, Notts.

As we start off our Spring Session of Social Activities, I am pleased to welcome a new member to our Committee. He is ex-Ch/X4418 G. Goddard, a member of the RMFVR.

Older Royals might be interested to know of one of our more ancient committee members, Po/X17725 Percy Lake, Ex. 4th Division at Zeebrugge, and Bantamweight Champion of the Royal Marines in 1923.

On Sunday, 20th March, we took a bus party to Bradford to join the local Branch at the Dedication of their new Standard. We had a very pleasant outing and everyone praised the Junior Royal Marine Band, they were a credit to the Corps.

On 30th March we joined forces with the Nottingham Branch Royal Naval Association to hold a joint Dance at the Sherwood Rooms.

On 9th April we attended the Annual Dinner of the Dunkirk Veterans Association along with our President, Col. J. K. Cordeaux, MP. We have been friendly with the DVA since they joined us last November in our rebel stand against moving the Remembrance Service from the Cenotaph to the Market Square. The result of our protest was, 300 ex-servicemen at the Cenotaph and 25 at the Market Square.

A short time ago we made a presentation of an inscribed Bugle to the Nottingham Marine Cadets in a local cinema. Our Branch Chairman, "Gran" West is SM to these budding Royals, and he tells us they will be a credit to some future Kings Squad.

It is with regret that we announce the death of one of our members, Ply/X101261 Mne. S. Leaper.

We send greetings to one of our serving members, Cpl. W. Holden, C in C's orderly, HMS **Phoenicia**. He keeps in touch with us and we look forward to seeing him on his next leave.

On behalf of this Branch, I extend a hearty invitation to any Branch of the RMA to visit us; we hold a social on the last Saturday of every month, except July and August, but if we know you are coming, we will bake a cake.

Portsmouth Branch

Well, another re-union weekend has passed, during which time we were happy to swap a yarn and a pint with old ships from other Branches who were represented.

At the re-union party in the clubroom on the Saturday evening, we had the privilege of entertaining the Association President and his lady, Major-General and Mrs. G. Wildman-Lushington. Our many other guests included Major-General and Mrs. W. B. F. Lukis, Brigadier J. H. G. Wills, Colonel and Mrs. H. F. C. Kimpton and Major Davidson.

The clubroom is now taking on a "new look" and is being completely refurbished. We hope to see many visitors during the coming summer months when a warm welcome will await them.

Our congratulations go out to Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Hollis of Morden who celebrated their golden wedding recently. Mr. Hollis first joined the Royal Marine Artillery during the South African War and we are told that the couple first met on our home ground, the promenade at Southsea.

Our members are looking ahead now to the London Church Parade on the 10th July when we will be able to renew further friendships.
W.T.

Leicester Branch

Hon. Sec.: Mr. L. D. Mee

57 South Kingsmead Road, Knighton, Leicester

We congratulate the Corps Fencing Team on their victory over the Leicestershire Fencing Union Team at Leicester on 31st January.

At our Fourth Annual Reunion Dinner/Dance at the Empire Hotel, Leicester on 13th February 1960 we were honoured by the presence of the Commandant General and Mrs. Riches. Other guests included the Lord Mayor of Leicester (Alderman Bertram Powell) and the Lady Mayoress, Capt. C. C. Hardy, DSO, RN (Vice President) and Mrs. Hardy, the Provost of Leicester Cathedral (The Very Reverend M. Mayston) and Mrs. Mayston, Major G. C. Ogden, RM (Town Clerk) and Mrs. Ogden and Capt. S. J. Kidd of the United States Air Force. The presence of Mrs. B. N. Elliott, our President, means a great deal to every member of the Branch, and it is mainly to her influence that we leave these functions feeling how close are the links which bind us to the Corps.

It is with very sincere regret that we record that Ken Smith has been forced by ill-health to resign the Secretaryship, in which office he has served us devotedly during the past six years. We take this opportunity of thanking him for all he has done so well and wish him a very speedy recovery. We were fortunate in being able to obtain a worthy successor in Mr. L. D. Mee, to whom we offer a hearty welcome and our very sincere thanks.

South Australia

Hon. Secretary: Mr. H. Chapman

13 Macquarie Avenue, Hillcrest, S.A.

The year has been quite successful in many ways. We had our first Ladies Dinner last July 24th. This was such an outstanding success that it was decided on the spot that this would become an annual affair. That evening we learned that hypnotists as well as Royal Marines Sergeants can make people do the impossible.

The date of the members' Annual Dinner was altered from April 23rd to October 31st. Members very thoughtfully refrained from giving the committee this instruction until after they had the dinner in April, thereby getting *two* Annual Dinners in one year. After the dinner in October one or two unexplained mysterious events happened. One member is still worried as to why he was found in his own bathroom at 0130 hours, in company with half a bottle of beer, a bottle of scotch, a cigar and a ten-bob note when he should have been at another house about ten miles away for a continuation of the celebrations. Another member was seen approaching this celebration on a course bearing approximately ninety degrees, going to the wrong house and knocking up the local Salvation Army Captain. Here he was given a correct course and eventually arrived at his destination. However, he still maintains that, when first sighted, his course was 270 degrees. He has since been issued with a new compass.

A new trophy for the darts matches between the Guards Association and ourselves will be fought for on 31st March. The trophy consists of a highly polished coffin with silver handles and a badge of both clubs on each side. Inside the casket is a tie, half of which is a Royal Marine Tie and the other half a Guards Tie. The trophy will be presented to the winning side by Major General R. A. L. Hopkins.

Our Christmas party was a huge success with members coming in from far away places. Furthest travelled was Mr. H. Anderson, who came from Loxton with his daughter and son-in-law, 170 miles away.

The children's Christmas Party was held in a temperature of about 108°. Naturally the swimming pool was very popular, but members and their wives still found the energy to play tennis etc. The children performed their usual astronomical gastronomical feats with the sweets, ice cream, sandwiches and cakes. Soft drinks were in great demand of course, and fifty-three children and thirty-five adults got through twenty-three dozen bottles.

We have with us these days Major Lukis, who is Inspector of Naval Ordnance at Salisbury, about fifteen miles from Adelaide. Major Lukis is, we believe, the only active service Royal Marine in Australia.

Mr. and Mrs. Fairs are back from UK where Mr. Fairs has been on an exchange teachers course. We congratuated them on having found time to add to the family whilst they were over there.



Members of Tavistock Branch marching to Remembrance Day service.

Photo: J. Waldridge

Tavistock Branch

The Tavistock Branch is to carry on. That was decided at a pleasantly informal little dinner attended by some sixty ex-Royal Marines and their wives in Tavistock Town Hall on Zeebrugge Day.

Major V. W. Davidson, General Secretary of the Royal Marines' Association, who presided, told the meeting that they must decide if they really wanted a branch of the Association. If they did so, it would be because they had several in the Corps and were proud of it. "But you must not regard the Association as a big benevolent uncle which is going to maintain you from the cradle to the grave. These benefits can be obtained elsewhere," he declared.

Mr. W. T. Hobbs recalled that the Tavistock branch had once been one of the most active in the country. "We are the only ex-Servicemen's association left in Tavistock, except the British Legion," he said, "and we should try to keep 'all of one company.' So long as we get a good few solid men behind us we should carry on."

The possibility of new branch headquarters being made available at the British Legion House in King Street was mentioned by Mr. J. R. Philpott, who organised the dinner, but after discussion it was agreed to leave the decision regarding a meeting place to the new committee.

The Hon. Treasurer, Lieut. Col. J. C. O. Benyon, said that last year—"the worst in the history of the branch"—the accounts showed a deficit of over £21.

Nevertheless they still had a balance in hand of £27 2s. 6d., a deposit account of £65 2s. 5d., and £300 in Defence Bonds which was earning the branch £15 a year.

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It was announced, amidst applause, that the Vicar of Tavistock, the Rev. George Hodgshon, had consented to become Hon. Chaplain of the branch.

Officers elected were: Chairman, Capt. G. B. Glossop; Hon. Secretary, Mr. W. T. Hobbs; Hon. Treasurer, Lieut. Col. J. C. O. Beynon; Committee—Messrs. Eva, Skelton, Saunders, Simmons, Stenlake and Chatterton.

On Sunday April 24th the branch, commanded by Capt. Glossop, supported by the British Legion and headed by the Tavistock Town Band, marched to the Parish Church for a Remembrance Day service.

The colour parties were: Royal Marines—Mr. J. Halliday (bearer), Mr. L. Eva (escort); British Legion—Mr. D. Jackman (bearer), Mr. A. J. Sillick (escort).

On Sunday, May 8th, the branch joined with 41 Commando at Bickleigh Parish Church for the Corps Day of Remembrance.



Major-General Fellows talking to members of the Deal Branch.

Photo: Basil M. Kidd

RM ARTILLERY (SERGEANTS) REUNION

Owing to the absence of our chairman, Fred Berry, due to sickness, Gordon King ably stepped into the breach at our Annual Reunion held at the Chatham Rooms on Saturday, April 30th, 1960.

After standing in silence to the memory of members who had passed on since our last meeting, grace was said and the company sat down to a splendid meal, admirably served.

At the end of the meal the loyal toast was duly honoured and the Chairman went on to thank the members present for their attendance, especially the two newcomers, Arthur A. Attwood and Tim Blackman.

After some discussion it was agreed to carry on with the reunion next year and the Hon. Secretary was called for his remarks. At first he congratulated the Chairman on his appointment as "Captain of the Year" of the All-England Shooting Team, such honour never held before by a ranker of the Royal Marines Artillery. Apologies were then read for absence, due to "anno domini" and sickness from P. Adams, F. C. E. Benham, J. Bach, J. Cooper, G. Dyer, T. Emanuel, C. Ellis, A. E. Eatwell, S. Follett, S. Holliday, E. Morgan, J. Rance, A. Woodhouse, A. White and F. Berry.

Before the "roll call" was called Harry Kimber proposed and Gus Turner seconded a hearty vote of thanks to the Hon. Secretary for his endeavours in keeping the members together for the past sixteen years. The adjectives used by the proposer nearly caused the Hon. Secretary to ship a pair of wings and a halo. The proposition was carried with musical honours.

The roll call was then called and a happy evening ended with the intention of getting more members together on Saturday, April 29th, 1961. Those present were: A. A. Attwood, T. Blackman, T. Brady, E. Carpenter, H. P. Everett, N. Finch, VC, C. W. Harding, S. Hadley, H. R. Kimber, G. King, R. Locke, W. J. Pilcher, R. E. Payne, A. E. Paget, R. Ridding, A. Turner, W. J. Verdon, G. S. Wood, G. Workman.

CHURCH PARADE—10th JULY, 1960

The Annual Church Parade for 1960 will be held on Sunday, 10th July, 1960. It will follow the lines of the 1959 Parade, *i.e.* form up at Wellington Barracks at 2.10 p.m., march to St. Martin's, where the service will start at 3 p.m.; after the service, march to the Cenotaph, where a wreath will be laid, return to Wellington Barracks for a general re-union, tea and refreshments. We feel sure that all who attended last year will need no inducement to come again and enjoy not only the parade and service but the excellent hospitality offered by the Guards Battalion occupying Wellington Barracks. The Commanding Officer is hoping to be able to avoid in 1960 inconveniences arising from the fact that over 500 members and their guests arrived simultaneously in 1959 for the tea and buns. This ceremony is a "must" for all ex-Royal Marines who can possibly attend. Please come and wear your medals.

The salute will be taken by the Commandant General, Lieut. General I. H. Riches, CB, DSO.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This is being held at 2.30 p.m. on Saturday, 9th July at the Admiralty main building. Although voting powers at this meeting are limited to Branch delegates and members of the Governing Committee, other members are cordially invited to attend and voice their opinions on any of the items discussed. The entrance to the meeting room is in Spring Gardens, that is, on the northern side of the Admiralty main building.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Mr. G. R. MacKenzie served in the 1914/18 War with the Royal Marines Artillery. His eldest son, John, did his National Service in the Corps and now assists (his father) in a wholesale ironmongers business in Forres. Mr. MacKenzie was brought to his high standard of discipline by Sir Denis Daley who is still referred to as "my old Sergeant!" After enlistment in World War I, Mr. MacKenzie found that he had inadvertently signed on for twelve years. He protested to the Recruiting Sergeant who said "Don't worry, there will be no difficulty about getting out when this war is over." But it wasn't all that simple. Still as a medical student in civilian life he did manage to get disembarked from HMS *Iron Duke*, before that ship went off to the Black Sea, and succeeded in getting demobilised. Since then he has led many mountain rescue teams, in all weathers, with great skill, leadership and success. He is an original and active member of the Royal Marines Association. He did once go to sleep as Key Board Sentry, but this is another story. The eleventh Commandment was not broken.

We congratulate Mr. C. E. Marshall who served in the Royal Marines under official number CH/5679 from the 16th April, 1890 until 16th December, 1912 and who on the 14th April, 1960 celebrated the 70th (almost) anniversary of his enlistment by being privileged to receive from Her Majesty the Queen his first well-earned ration of Maundy pennies. At the age of 85 he is still an active member of the London Branch of the RMOCA and quite unperturbed by the four flights of stairs leading to the RMA offices.

We much regret to record the death of RMA/6736 Gunner John Tomkins who joined the Royal Marines Artillery on the 14th June, 1897, and was invalided on the 15th November, 1905. He

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joined the Territorial Army in 1915 and served with the 8th Battalion of the Middlesex Regiment and the 16th Battalion of the London Regiment Queen's Westminster Rifles, being discharged from the latter as a corporal after being severely wounded on 16th November, 1917, until his death at the age of 85, he insisted on remaining a subscribing member of the Association.

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A transistor is a tiny thing that is destined to play an increasingly important part in our lives. It is replacing the valve in our radio receivers and in many other forms of electronic equipment.

Why is it so important?

Firstly, because of its size; present-day transistors are usually about half an inch long and they can be made very much smaller if need arises.

Secondly, they need a much lower voltage. The old 90-volt or 60-volt batteries are replaced by a 6-volt or a 9-volt battery and no L.T. battery is required at all. The transistor also requires less power. A battery radio using valves can be expected to use 30 times as much power as a similar transistor radio which means, incidentally, that the latter is at least 30 times cheaper to run. It is possible to drive such a set from solar cells, cells which convert light into electrical energy; the present high cost of such cells unfortunately precludes commercial use at present.

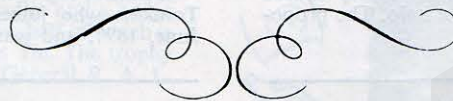
Thirdly, the reduced power needed by a transistor to do its job means that the other electronic components may be reduced in size. As an example, one firm in this country has made a multivibrator, a piece of circuitry containing two transistors, two capacitors, and four resistors, which has an overall size of $\frac{1}{4}'' \times \frac{1}{4}'' \times \frac{1}{32}''$. As you can imagine, a microscope is required to see the circuitry. It is small wonder that deaf aids can be made so inconspicuous. Miniturisation to such an extent, expensive though it is, has a very great value for

artificial earth satellites, where the cost of putting each ounce into orbit is immense.

A fourth advantage is the reliability of a transistor. A transistor will outlast a valve by many times and will normally last as long as the equipment in which it is used. I feel I should mention that a transistor is sometimes destroyed due to failure of some other component in a circuit. The really miniature circuits such as were described above are extremely reliable and failure of any sort is very rare indeed.

The inside of a transistor may be of some interest. It is essentially quite simple. The commonest type consists of a small wafer of a single germanium crystal which is extremely pure. A small ball of indium (a metal) is fused into each side of the wafer. Three wires are attached, one to each ball and one to the wafer; the unit is placed in a glass or metal container along with some silicone grease. We now have a device which will amplify tiny currents coming from, say, a microphone or an aerial.

Transistors are still very much in the development stage which means that we have not heard the end of the story. At the moment they may replace all the valves in radio receivers, in television sets, in loud-hailers in computers and so on; but they cannot replace all the valves in a transmitter unless of very low power. It is possible now to equip a man with a walkie-talkie housed inside his helmet with a range of a mile or so, and perhaps in the future we will see this extended. With it there would be an end to the batteries which signalmen know so well and an introduction to much smaller ones.



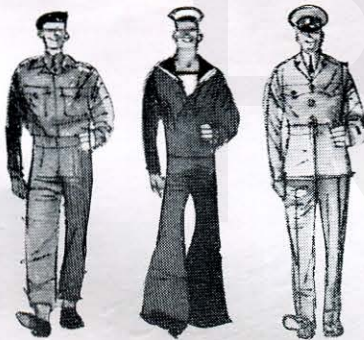
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