



# NZ BRANCH OF THE ROYAL MARINES ASSOCIATION

AUGUST/SEPT 2009

LOCAL PATRON: HIS EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE SIR ANAND SATYANAND, GNZM, QSO, THE GOVERNOR GENERAL OF N.Z.

[http://www.royalmarinesassociation.org/nz/rma\\_nz\\_home.html](http://www.royalmarinesassociation.org/nz/rma_nz_home.html)

## **PRESIDENT:**

Peter Collins,  
634 Papakura  
Clevedon Rd,  
Ardmore  
09 296 7648  
[petercollins@xtra.co.nz](mailto:petercollins@xtra.co.nz)

## **VICE PRESIDENT & WEBMASTER:**

Phillip Ayling,  
19 Miramar Pl,  
Pakuranga, Ak  
09 576 4869  
[ticker2000@xtra.co.nz](mailto:ticker2000@xtra.co.nz)

## **SECRETARY & NEWSLETTER:**

Colleen Ellis  
3/136 Trafalgar  
St, Onehunga, Ak  
09 622 1733  
[royalmarines@vodafone.co.nz](mailto:royalmarines@vodafone.co.nz)

## **TREASURER & SUBS:**

Noel Harker  
18a Acacia Cres,  
Glenview,  
Hamilton, 3206.  
07 843 6471  
[Nobar@xtra.co.nz](mailto:Nobar@xtra.co.nz)

## **Presidents comments.....**

It has not been a good time since the last newsletter in respect of the number of our members that have crossed the bar. Following the recent passing of one of our stalwarts Eddie Edwardson (PO/X 1787), as announced in the previous newsletter, John Glaze produced an outstanding obituary for publication in the Globe & Laurel. A copy is enclosed within this newsletter. We have also lost a couple of other members since the last newsletter. Fred Williams (PO/X124920) died in Taupo on the 24<sup>th</sup> of June. His funeral was on the 6<sup>th</sup> of July and Jock Munro represented the branch and passed on our condolences to the family. Robert (Bob) Murray PO/X 121027 crossed the bar on Monday the 27<sup>th</sup> of July after a long illness at the grand age of 84. The funeral was held at Purewa Cemetery in Meadowbank on Friday, 31st July. Several members represented the branch and fulfilled the service aspects of the funeral. Bob's son, Jack Murray is now looking to take up associate membership of our branch. It is also my sad duty to report the passing of Charles (Jock) Fraser (RM13849) who lost his short battle with cancer. Jock was not a member as he was not aware of the existence of the branch. John Glaze represented the branch at the funeral in Kaitia and produced another superb obituary that is also enclosed within this newsletter.

It is a pity that a number of members still remain outstanding for their subscriptions despite a number of hasteners from our Secretary Colleen. Can I please make a final plea for all defaulters to pay their subs ASAP.

I took the opportunity to formally welcome Colonel David Bailey OBE RM Retd to the **branch at our August meeting. A resume of David's Service History is included** in this newsletter. He is a former CO of 40 Cdo RM, Commandant of CTCRM and Honorary Colonel of RMR Bristol. I would also like to wish George Spann all the very best on behalf of the branch on his permanent return to the UK.

Jock Munro has sent out the Warning Order in respect of a reunion gathering in Taupo over the weekend of the 26th of February 2010. Confirmed details and costs will be sent out once finalized. \$2000.00 was voted in at our meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> of August to subsidize some of the costs. We do need good numbers to make this a viable weekend so please get your return slips back to Jock ASAP.

We have received a letter from Lt Col C J Parsons, MNZM, NZLAR, confirming his attendance as our guest speaker at our Annual Corps Birthday celebration on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November. Lt. Col Parsons has served with 3 Cdo Bde RM on a number of occasions. He will be accompanied by his wife, Hayley. At our last meeting we set a cut off date for notifying of attendance as the 28<sup>th</sup> of October but in fairness to our caterers we should give them as much notice as possible. Payment to Noel Harker please @ \$20.00 per person. Raffle prizes will also be most welcome, either in advance, or on the day.

We are in the process of making up an inventory of the contents of our memorabilia cabinet at the Point Chevalier RSA. If any members are in possession of any items that

should be contained within this cabinet please ensure that they are forwarded to Edwin Barton or brought along to the next meeting.

Many thanks to all our members for their continued support of the branch.

**Once a Marine Always a Marine.**

### **RIP Sergeant 'Eddie' Edwardson**

Alfred Fairclough 'Eddie' Edwardson was born in St Helens, Lancashire during the First World War and was destined to experience more than his fair share of action in the Second World War. He was one of seven children and growing up in the industrialized North-West of England was probably a far cry from the New Zealand environment that formed the backdrop for most of his post-war adult life.

He enlisted in the Royal Marines at Liverpool in 1934 and began recruit training at Deal before being drafted to the Gunnery School at Portsmouth Division. He then joined HMS DESPATCH in 1936, a light cruiser of the Mediterranean Fleet, before being drafted to the battleship HMS ROYAL OAK in Scapa Flow in 1938. He was fortunate enough to have joined HMS ACHILLES before ROYAL OAK was sunk at anchor by the German submarine U-47 on 14 October 1939, with the loss of 833 lives.

However, Eddie's seemingly lucky escape to the South Atlantic Fleet in the Leander class cruiser HMS ACHILLES was to provide an epic experience in itself; as ACHILLES, along with HMSs AJAX and EXETER, became embroiled in the Battle of the River Plate, the first major naval battle of World War 2. This engagement led to the scuttling of the German pocket battleship GRAF SPEE and must have been a major boost to public morale during late 1939 when the tide of war seemed to be turning against Britain. ACHILLES is reported to have fired 1242 6-inch shells during this engagement and ships' gunners, such as Eddie in 'X' turret, would have been on constant alert as ACHILLES and AJAX shadowed GRAF SPEE into Montevideo while trying to stay out of range of the Germans 11-inch guns.

Eddie had an earlier encounter with danger in 1939, while he was gangway sentry in the Port of Aden. He noticed an Arab had fallen in the water and appeared to be in imminent danger of drowning. He stripped off as much of his gear as possible before diving in to rescue the hapless local; although his immediate thought on hitting the water was: "What am I doing? There are sharks everywhere." His selfless and courageous act resulted in the award of a commendation from the Navy Board and, no doubt, plenty of ribbing from his messmates. He remained in ACHILLES for four years, during which time it was transferred to the New Zealand Navy from 1940 to 1943.

Eddie was promoted to Acting Corporal in 1942 and by the end of that year HMNZS ACHILLES was supporting troop landings at Guadalcanal as part of the American cruiser group Task Force 67. The ship was attacked by Japanese dive bombers on 5 January 1943 and 'X' turret received a direct hit, killing 13 men and wounding 8, with Eddie being one of the wounded.

Eddie could recite their names by heart and it's something he never forgot. He was promoted to substantive Corporal later in the year and was then drafted to the light cruiser HMNZS GAMBIA, which had been transferred to the New Zealand Navy as a replacement for ACHILLES.

Eddie married Lena at Plymouth Registry Office on 27 January 1944 but within days GAMBIA sailed from Liverpool to begin two and a half years of active service. The ship deployed with the British Pacific Fleet searching for blockade runners off the Cocos Islands and later saw action off Formosa and Okinawa. GAMBIA was actually under air attack at the moment the ceasefire was announced and therefore fired some of the last shots of the Second World War. By 2 September 1945 HMNZS GAMBIA was in Tokyo Bay and Eddie, by now a Sergeant, had been landed in charge of a section of marines; amongst the first British troops to be ashore during the signing of the Japanese Instrument of Surrender.

Eddie completed his twelve-year engagement on 5 June 1947 and was released from Eastney Barracks and placed on the Fleet Reserve. He was awarded the Naval General

Service Medal(Palestine), the 1939/1945 Star, the Atlantic Star, the Pacific Star with Burma Clasp, the War Medal and the Royal Fleet Reserve Long Service Medal. He also fought tirelessly to ensure that British servicemen attached to the New Zealand Navy during the war years were not disadvantaged by either government and with the help of a close friend, who happened to be a barrister, he eventually overcame petty bureaucracy to make sure that medals earned were duly awarded.

Lena and Eddie migrated to New Zealand in 1948 to raise two daughters, Patricia and Julie, and enjoy four grandchildren; all still living in New Zealand. He enrolled in the Police Training School in 1952 and after graduation was posted to Auckland; serving in a number of stations and working on plain clothes inquiries for a large part of his police career. He gained two commendations for his contribution on a couple of very prominent cases and had numerous arrests and convictions to his credit. He was awarded a 21-year clasp to his Police Long Service Medal and retired in 1977 after twenty-six years service.

**Eddie's well documented attributes of conscientiousness, loyalty, dependability, forthrightness and moral courage** were also evident in everything that he did on behalf of the New Zealand Branch of the Royal Marines Association. He was a fastidious editor of the newsletter and regularly attended Branch meetings despite being wheelchair-bound; especially enjoying the extended company afforded during Corps Birthday lunches.

He was also a devoted husband and family man and lovingly cared for Lena, who **pre-deceased him. Eddie 'crossed the bar' after a short** period in North Shore Hospital and a service attended by family, friends and former colleagues was held at the Hibiscus Chapel of Faithful Services, Red Beach, Orewa on 29 June 2009. Major Peter Collins Royal Marines recited the Corps Prayer and the RMA Standard was paraded prior to a private family cremation.

Eddie was a memorable man with high standards that he maintained throughout his life. He belongs to a group of men who, through their selfless contribution, made history while witnessing momentous events that shaped the World.

Written by our member John Glaze 28036R.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **RM13849 Sergeant "Jock" Fraser**

Charles Fraser was born on 21 September 1936 at Mill O Stern near Ballater. He was the youngest of four children born to Charles and Constance Fraser and suffered the early rigours of diphtheria and pneumonia that prevented him walking until the age of three. However, the grit and determination displayed as an infant hanging on to the fur **of the family dog's hind end and using it as a form of walking frame was evident** throughout his life as he pursued Service careers on different sides of the Globe. He, not surprisingly thereafter, was seldom without a canine companion, which was often **named "Bessie" after the dog that had supported him in early childhood; but it was "Brisket" that was present when Jock was laid to rest on 21 July 2009.**

The Fraser family moved to Ardmnach, a croft on the Balmoral Estate, while Jock was still quite young and it was here that his strength grew as he helped his father with work on the farm, played football and delivered mail locally. However, by the age of fifteen **he'd been noticed by the future Queen and was selected, after interview, for employment at Clarence House to train as a valet/footman to Prince Charles.** A member of 626 Squad, who went through training with Jock, recalls:

**"Jock and I joined the Royal Marines in April 1954....and Jock was quite a celebrity having worked for "The Royals" he looked after Prince Charles and Princess Anne, standing on the balcony at Buckingham Palace when Queen Elizabeth II waved to the people after her coronation. Even though he was a raw recruit when he joined 626 Squad he was in good company with Harold Macmillan's (the British Prime Minister) nephew in the same squad the rest of us "ordinary blokes" didn't hold it against them."** **Jock's ability to stand his ground was also evidenced** during this early part of his Service career when he was invited to explain who had given him permission to wear a Coronation Medal while still a lowly recruit. To which he calmly replied: "Prince Philip".

Basic training was carried out at Deal and recruits of that era recall plenty of drill and running during this initial three- month period, before moving on to Lymptone for field training interspersed with speed marches. Many had dropped out by this stage so it was a much smaller group that embarked upon the six-week Commando Course at Bickleigh, **which was followed by seamanship training in HMS VANGUARD and, finally, King's Squad** training and pass-out from Eastney Barracks. Three squads were then selected to take **part in 1955's Royal Tournament, where Jock's former employers were able to witness him scaling cliffs as part of the Corps' contribution to the event.** This hectic period did not stand in the way of romance as Jock had met the love of his life while working at Clarence House. Gwyneth was employed as an upstairs maid within the Royal Household and they were married at Woking in 1957; although Jock managed to fit in an operational deployment with 40 Commando during the Suez Crisis in 1956.

Jock served in the Signals Branch and left the Corps with the rank of Sergeant before embarking, in 1964, on a Bristol freighter with Gwyneth and daughter Danna for a ten-day journey to New Zealand. They had two suitcases, twenty pounds and a job opportunity with the New Zealand Army. He was allowed to retain his rank and specialisation and must have quickly settled in as twins Mark and Leh were born in 1966 and promotion was imminent. His new career encompassed two years service in Malaya with the Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment, a tour in Vietnam and a variety of home postings around New Zealand that resulted in him attaining the rank of WO1.

**Jock's post-**Service career was equally varied as he took on a mail run, ran a coffee lounge, worked for Ford Motors and became a courier driver before retiring to Fraser Cottage in Kaitaia. He and Gwyneth tended their large garden, maintained the old villa and basked in the warmth of entertaining grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He was also partial to a good yarn; often with an accompanying glass of whisky and his dog by his side. He led an interesting and varied life and was the beloved head of an expanding family. His tenacity was evident until the end as he fought a short battle with an aggressive cancer, passing away in Kaitaia Hospital on 17 July 2009.

The funeral service was very well attended by family, friends, former Service colleagues **and Royal Marines Association representation. Attendees entered the service to "Flower of Scotland" and verbal tributes and Service anecdotes presented a clear picture** of a much respected family man and friend to many. Respects were paid by the Returned **Servicemen's Association before Jock's casket, adorned with his green beret, was carried** out of the building and given the formal tribute of a haka. He was a fine man who provided family and friends alike with many cherished memories. JWG

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **General Housekeeping Notices.....**

Philip is still keen to receive photos for the website. Time to dust off the cobwebs on the **old boxes and see what you've got tucked away.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**The non email members will receive a special mail out with the newsletter comprising...** The UK *College Farm pub* fund raising event email, an email from the RMA UK sent in by Dennis Harvey, and a detailed Repatriation Report for Sgt Stuart Miller and Pvt Kevin Elliot both from The Black Watch 3<sup>rd</sup> Batallalion Royal Regiment of Scotland. These are sent to help keep them in the loop of communications.

\*\*\*\*\*

Our Welfare Visitor, Dennis (Ticker) Ayling would like to hear from anyone in Auckland who **is** unwell and in need of a visitor. Please contact Ticker or Colleen.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Corps Birthday church service & luncheon, 1<sup>st</sup> of November 2009 @ the Birkenhead RSA, North Shore City, rsvp date will be decided at the next meeting.

\*\*\*\*\*

Does anyone have an interesting tale for the newsletter ?

\*\*\*\*\*

Click on this list for military casualties suffered in Afghanistan. We're unsure how often it updates. <http://afghanistan.pigstye.net/> This site covers all casualties from all countries participating in this Afganistan.

\*\*\*\*\*

If anyone is planning a trip to the UK and wants to visit the Royal Marines Museum, which is on the old site of the barracks at Eastney, Hants, we have an ex Royal's Grandson working there who is happy to meet you. His name is Stuart Haven and he works in front of house as a Visitor Services Assistant. He meets and greets ex Marines, and civvies, from all over the world visiting there. He works part time Fri to Mon, 9am – 1pm. Please let me know and I'll make sure he's aware of your visit.

\*\*\*\*\*

Have you seen Mr Phil Warren's Matchstick Fleet [www.nothefort.co.uk](http://www.nothefort.co.uk)  
He's created an entire fleet !!!!!

\*\*\*\*\*

Does anyone remember being billeted at Havant ? I have received this question from a family member of an ex Royal in the UK.

\*\*\*\*\*

The President of the Pt Chevalier RSA, , Jim McArthur, 1136 Great North Road, Pt Chevalier has offered our **paid up** members "Complimentary Membership" to the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009. All those who are up to date with their subs will receive an official RSA membership card which enables entry into all RSA's. Please advise me if you would like the membership.

\*\*\*\*\*

Philip Ayling has given me a price list & brochure from The Gold Wire Badge Company which has a selection from their products range of Fridge Magnets, Sword Knots, Wall Plaques, Ties, Berets, Lapel & Blazer Badges, and many more items of interest. You can visit their website at [www.thegoldwirebadge.co.uk](http://www.thegoldwirebadge.co.uk) for more information or contact me if you require their ordinary mail contact details.

\*\*\*\*\*

**We have been contacted by the Gambia Association, if you have any information/photos or updates of servicemen who have crossed the bar, who were on Gambia, please contact by phone, mail or email, the editor Bill Hartland, 8 Sheppy's Mill, Congresbury, North Somerset BS49 5BY, UK**

Ph 01934 860186



\*\*\*\*\*

## The Monarchist League Welcomes the Visit of Prince Edward

The Monarchist League of New Zealand welcomes the **Government's announcement** that Prince Edward will be visiting New Zealand from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> of November. He continues the tradition of his father, Prince Philip, in supporting young kiwis through the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme.

**The League encourages the government to invite New Zealand's Royal Family** to undertake more activities in this country. It is important to note that the Royal Family can only undertake trips throughout New Zealand at the request of the government. Prince Edward last visited New Zealand in 2007 and prior to that was in the country in 2005. The Prince lived and worked in New Zealand as a tutor at Wanganui Collegiate School in the early 80's.

Professor Noel Cox, Chairman, 7 Cotter Avenue, Remuera, Auckland 1050,  
ph: 64-9-523-4408, MOB: 027-636-4499, fax: 64-9-523-4405,  
email: [noel.cox@xtra.co.nz](mailto:noel.cox@xtra.co.nz)

The info below pertains to the eligibility and how to apply for the **Bletchley Park Commemorative badge**. The website for more information is [www.gchq.gov.uk](http://www.gchq.gov.uk)

Who is eligible . . .

Surviving veterans on 1 July 2009:

who were employed by the Government Code and Cypher School (GC&CS) at Bletchley Park or its outstations during WWII;

who served in the Armed Forces at Bletchley Park or its outstations during WWII;

who served in the "Y" Services of the Armed Forces collecting material which was sent to Bletchley Park during WWII;

who served in SLUs or SCUs;

who served in the RSS; or

who worked for the GPO in the COLOSSUS team at Dollis Hill.

How do I apply? . . .

Download a copy of the Bletchley Park Commemorative Badge form and post it to: Bletchley Park Commemoration, Room B2g, GCHQ, Hubble Road, Cheltenham Gloucestershire, GL51 0EX . Email it to [commemoration@gchq.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:commemoration@gchq.gsi.gov.uk) or

You can also obtain an application form by writing to the above address.

Please use these addresses for any queries regarding this award (i.e., not moi).

When will the badge be available? . . .

You will not receive acknowledgement of your application before it has been processed. Badges will be despatched through the post. This process is expected to begin in September and will take a while to complete.

\*\*\*\*\*

The construction of the Armed Forces' new aircraft carriers has pressed forward as Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal performed the steel cutting for the first of the Queen Elizabeth aircraft carriers at BVT Surface Fleet's shipyard in Govan, Glasgow. The ceremony marked the start of the manufacture of the Royal Navy's largest ever warships. Together with the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) aircraft and the brand new Type 45 destroyers, they will form the cornerstone of Britain's future ability to jointly project air power worldwide from land or sea at a time and place of UK's choosing. The Minister for Defence Equipment and Support Quentin Davies said:

*"The MoD is committed to ensuring the UK's Armed Forces are modern, versatile and well equipped for present and future operations. The versatility of the design together with the long service life of these ships will ensure that we will be able to deal with the uncertainties of the future for years to come, and they will deliver the support to deployed UK forces around the globe.*

*"It is an honour to mark this historic moment with Her Royal Highness here in Govan. We also must not forget the ongoing work of legions of people in industry in regions across the country who are all delivering vital elements of this truly national project. "*

First Sea Lord Admiral Sir Jonathon Band said:

*"The QE Class, together with the supporting aircraft forming the Carrier Strike, represent a step change in defence's capability, enabling Britain to deliver airpower from the sea wherever and whenever it is required. This strategic effect, influence and, where necessary, direct action will give us an unprecedented range of options to deal with the challenges of an uncertain world at a time and place of our choosing."*

*"These ships are not just spare airfields, they are an instrument of national power: the 'big stick' which can be waved by the Government in areas of strategic interest to influence, coerce and deter."*

Guided by Scott Ballingal, a 21 year old BVT apprentice from Erskine who will be working on the Carriers, Rear Admiral the Princess Royal pushed the button to start the computer guided laser that cut the first piece of steel for the hull of these immense new ships.

Scott is one of 70 new apprentices who have been taken on by BVT to support work on the carrier. The programme has reinvigorated apprenticeship schemes at the prime shipyards and provides a solid workload for the coming years.

Three other major sections (called lower blocks) of the ship will be assembled at yards at Portsmouth and Rosyth. Other fabrication work will be done at the Appledore shipyards in Devon. Each block will be transported to Rosyth dockyard where they will be joined together to form the hull of the ship.

While construction is just beginning, the project has moved on apace since the manufacture contract was signed in July last year, with £700M worth of sub-contracts placed for the equipment and furnishings that will kit out the ships from the weapons systems to the galleys and cabins. UK industry has also benefited from the development phase of the Joint Strike Fighter aircraft and is well placed to win further work as this programme progresses well into the 21st century.

Taken from the Royal Navy Newsletter July 2009.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Message from The Commandant General of the Royal Marines ..**

It is a privilege and an honour to be your Commandant General and I would like to put **on record the Corps' considerable thanks to Major General Garry Robison for his** guidance over the last frenetic 3 years. Out reputation is deservedly high, after a series of extremely demanding operations, especially in Afganistan, but also in Iraq and elsewhere at sea and on land. Through your consistent efforts you have displayed the hallmarks of any world class organization: operational excellent and innovation.

We will need to continue to deliver both of these as we face future uncertainties and challenges, at home and abroad. In doing this, we will need to find the right balance between the fight in Afganistan and our core amphibious role, and between high operational tempo and building lives at home.

Of course, we cannot operate on our own. We are a fully integrated and proud component of the Naval Service and rely on being joined up with our Army and RAF colleagues across Defence. As a Corps family too, we depend on veterans and friends who help us look after those who bear the physical and mental scars of combat.

But, whatever the challenge, remember there is always one constant and that is you, the Royal Marine, who continues to soldier across the globe with courage, resilience and humility – I thank you for that. I know that I can also count on your support as we embark upon what will be a particularly challenging period for the Corps, where strong leadership, advocacy and influence will be key.

Maj Gen Andy Salmon OBE.

The people of Exeter showed their support for 3 Commando Brigade on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2009, when the brigade held a service of remembrance and commemoration in the city's cathedral after their recent deployment to Afghanistan. Almost 700 troops marched through the city centre to the cathedral where, during a service attended by around 1,600 friends and family of the Task Force's personnel, the names of the 33 members of the brigade who died in Helmand over the winter of 2008/09 were read out.. Among other guests to honour the men and women who served on Op HERRICK 9 were the Secretary of State for Defence, Bob Ainsworth. The Commander of Task Force Helmand, Op HERRICK 9, Brigadier Gordon Messenger, said:

*"This parade and service are about remembering our fallen and giving thanks for our return. We are very proud to be marching through Exeter in front of our families and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh.*

*"It is a fitting opportunity for everyone who has been involved in the deployment, at home and overseas, to come together and commemorate what has been a memorable and emotional experience for us all."* (see below for Brigadier Messenger's full speech)

Troops from 3 Commando Brigade marched through Exeter to the Guildhall where His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh took the salute, after which the parade continued to the cathedral where there was a service of remembrance and thanksgiving.

Sergeant Christopher James Kirkham of the 1st Battalion The Rifles said:

*"We are here today to recognise the good work of 3 Commando Brigade and salute the job that we did. We will also recognise all the soldiers who didn't come back and show our respect for them and their families. "It is heart-warming to see people lining the streets to support us."*

Leading Hand Lucy Richards, a dental nurse with the Commando Logistic Regiment, added:

*"It's good to know that people are behind us. The public have been coming up to us and shaking our hands and patting us on the back and that makes you enormously proud.*

*"You can forget when you're out there that you do have the backing of people back home."*

One of the key achievements of 3 Commando Brigade's deployment was Operation SOND CHARA which was planned as a result of heavy attacks by enemy forces on Lashkar Gah in October of 2008.

The main phase of the operation took place between 27 November and 29 December and involved 1,500 troops over an area of 180 square kilometres. The operation successfully cleared Taliban forces from the town of Nad e-Ali and its environs and created a secure environment to promote stabilisation and economic growth.

Brigadier Messenger's full speech at Friday's ceremony:

*"If I had to highlight the one thing that defined the HERRICK 9 Task Force more than anything else, which made it such a pleasure and privilege to command, it was the quite exceptional teamwork on display every moment of every day. "The brutal nature of operations and patrolling meant that soldiers had to depend wholly on their mates around them and the common bond generated by living closely together in the danger and austerity of the operating bases is something that those involved will never forget. However, the teamwork went much farther than those working directly alongside each other. "The wider Task Force team was one great mix of cap badges, specialisations and nationalities, working to achieve common goals. Every man and woman in the Task Force demonstrated tremendous courage, skill and determination in the most challenging of environments to contribute their piece to the collective endeavour. The trust, camaraderie and friendship that was built up across the Services, regiments and nations was genuine and deep-rooted.*

*"Our international partners - the Danes, Estonians and Americans - were a fully integrated and hugely effective part of the Task Force, and I would absolutely include our Afghan friends and partners who literally shed blood, sweat and tears alongside us in combat. On the home front, so much part of the overall effort, our largely unsung rear parties were magnificent throughout; an emotionally draining experience for many, yet so vital in preserving the morale of those deployed and their families.*

*"The families, who have put up with so much and were such a critical component of our success: I know how difficult it has been for you, but I also know how much it has mattered to us. And I extend my definition of our team to the individuals and communities across Britain who have been so supportive. "The scale of the support from our veterans and the broader public at the funerals and parades across the country has been truly humbling and it is difficult to over-state the positive effect that has on those*

*deployed. So - we have been a broad and varied team, but what a great team!  
"And it delivered notable success. Our tour saw a sequence of devastating tactical  
defeats imposed upon the Taliban; a considerable increase in the population of Helmand  
that are now living in secure areas; a significant reduction in poppy cultivation; and,  
most importantly of all, huge strides forward in developing the capacity of Afghans to  
govern themselves and to provide their own security. This is a campaign that is starting  
to show real signs of progress, yet none of it would be possible were it not for the  
security and stability provided by the Task Force. "But such success was not achieved  
without loss, and too many of our friends and comrades have been killed or badly  
wounded in its pursuit. Each loss affected us all deeply and we will never forget those  
who paid the ultimate price, nor their families, nor those who continue to struggle  
against the odds in overcoming serious injury. They are part of our family and will  
always be so. "And so, as this day draws a curtain over the HERRICK 9 deployment, I  
wish to express my heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you and to congratulate  
you on a job well done.*

*"As it says on the Order of Service, we meet here for three reasons: to give thanks for  
the successes achieved and for our safe return to our loved ones; to remember those  
that did not return and to pledge our support to those they left behind; and to express  
hope - hope that the people of Afghanistan can begin to put their torrid past behind  
them, and hope that we, through the experience and emotions we have undergone over  
the last few months, whether at home or deployed, have become better and wiser  
people as a result." This was taken from the Royal Navy News July 2009.*

**Welcome aboard to our new member .....**

COLONEL DAVID BAILEY OBE RM (Retd)

Colonel Bailey joined the Royal Marines in September 1945 as a probationary 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the September 45 batch of young Officers. It was the first post-war batch of regular commissions. The training took 2 years at various RM and RN establishments around the UK starting at Eastney with basic training on the parade and gym.

On completion they were all sent to sea appointments, as was the custom at that time. Colonel Bailey was appointed to HMS Nigeria based in Simonstown, South Africa, as the detachment subaltern. In the course of that commission the Nigeria was sent over to the Falklands where the ship was employed visiting all the Argentinean and Chilean **bases on British territory down in the Antarctic to express Her Majesty's displeasure at their presence!** Apart from enjoying the social life in Capetown.

On return to the UK he completed the Commando Course at Bickleigh and was posted to 40 Commando, in Cyprus, as a troop subaltern for a 2 ½ year tour of duty. The Commando moved to Imtarfa Barracks, Malta, then to Hong Kong, where he was made Intelligence Officer, and to Kuala Kangsar, Perak Malaya.

His next posting was as AdC to the Major General at Plymouth, Major General Frank Cornwall, for two years, in Stonehouse Barracks. While there, in June 1953, he was attached to the Plymouth Street Lining Battalion for the Coronation ceremonies in London. First in Bridge Street for the procession to the Abbey, then around the corner by the Cenotaph for the procession from the Abbey.

Next from 1953 to 1956 he was at ITCRM, Lympstone as a recruit training officer of both regular and NS recruit squads and on promotion to Captain, as a staff officer in ITCRM HQ and then acting Parade Adjutant.

Then it was back to sea as OCRM in HMS Jamaica for a year in the Mediterranean. This included being present in Alexandria when Nasser announced the nationalisation of the Suez Canal and subsequently watching the landings at Port Said from a safe distance out at sea.

In 1957 he was back at ITCRM for a tour instructing at the Officers School, after which he attended the RAF Staff College at Andover. Then he went to JSAWC, Poole as a staff officer and instructor in Joint Warfare both there and at Old Sarum.

Promoted Major at the end of 1963 he was appointed as AA&QMG at Portsmouth Group HQ, Eastney, which included helping with the planning for the Corps Tercentenary celebrations in London in 1964.

Sent to Aden as Z Company Commander in 1966-67, a tour which included spells in Little Aden, Dhala, big Aden and also supporting the Sappers building the road up through the gorge northwards from Aden.

After the Joint Services Staff College, No 35 Course, at Latimer in 1978 he was appointed GSO2(Plans) in the Department of CGRM at the end of which he was

promoted Lt Colonel and appointed as CO of 40 Commando for the last year in Singapore. The Commando was left behind when 3 Commando Brigade returned to UK to help cover the final withdrawal at the end of 1971 of British forces from Singapore and the Persian Gulf, after which they returned to the UK at Seaton Barracks, Plymouth in early 1972.

As Colonel he was then sent to attend the NATO Defence College in Rome before joining the International Military Staff, Operations Division at NATO HQ in Brussels. His final appointment was as Commandant of CTCRM from May 1975 to July 1978 when he retired from the Royal Marines.

After leaving the Corps he was Chief Executive of Elmbridge Borough Council, Surrey, England from 1979 to 1983. Later he served as Honorary Colonel to the RMR at Bristol. **He was also involved as a district chairman of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme in Taunton, Somerset.**

Married in October 1953 in the Chapel at Southwell School, Hamilton, NZ to Heather. They have two sons and two grandchildren in the UK. They came to live in NZ in Hamilton in 1995.

\*\*\*\*\*

**From Exeter RMA.....** Captain Nick Smith has crossed over the bar. Nick will be dearly remembered throughout the Royal Marines family especially within the ranks of 40 Cdo RM (1969 – 72) the AE Branch and RN Security. He was a character larger than life in all **ways. Nik's funeral was at St Mary's Church, Charlton King**, on South East side of Cheltenham on Monday 7 September at 1300hrs. His wife Janet is happy to receive telephone calls. The family address is 10 Beechs Retreat Road Charlton Kings, Cheltenham Gloucestershire GL 53 8NQ Tel: 01242230183.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Wonderful news.....**

Our past member, John Dawson Ex RM 42Cdo, who as you know went to USA a couple of years ago, has married. **His comments** " We had a great evening with 15 friends. Even though so many friends and families could not be with us you are all in our hearts. Regards, John and Meg Dawkins.

I have a photo if you would like it emailed to you, please ring or e-mail me, Colleen.

\*\*\*\*\*

You may be interested in the following books by Royal Marines:

\*Another great book from Ian Gardiner. Title is The Latpack Bombers and it is about the Royal Navy and the Zeppelin Menace. Available from Pen and Sword.

\*Do the Birds Still Sing in Hell - by Horace Greasley - a 90 year old POW who tells the story of his love affair with a German Interpreter. Available from Amazon.

\*A Life in the Day of a CRA - The story of a Cold War Soldier - by Richard Mountford who has close links with the Corps. Again available from Amazon.

\*\*\*\*\*

From Charlie Hobson's office, the RMA Reporting Network in the UK.....

### INTERNET SHOPPING FOR THE RMA

**Do you shop on the internet?** If so you could raise money for the RMA at no extra cost to you and at the click of a button to set up - it takes hardly any time. Chris Stubbings has found this ingenious way of raising money for the Corps. All proceeds will be split between the RMA and the Royal Marines Charitable Trust Fund (overspent by £300,000 last year). All you have to do is go on [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/rma](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/rma) and log on and use it as a front page. This firm have done a deal with thousands of big chains to shop through them and they donate a % of the transaction to a charity. If you use this log in link every time you shop on line. the Corps profits. If you read the advice on the home page it explains everything. The chains that support it are M&S, all supermarkets, Amazon - in fact all the common internet shopping names. Their overheads are reduced and they share the extra profit with us.

### UNCL: Requesting help with Russian convoy veterans

I am a serving Naval Officer, working for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office at the UN in New York. The Russian delegation to the UN has approached us to ask if we can help to put them in contact with veterans of the WW2 Russian Convoys. They are organising events to celebrate the 65th anniversary of the end of WW2 and would like to honour British veterans of those convoys. I see from the internet that there are/have been Russian Convoy Clubs in existence in the UK. Would you be able to help me get in touch with contacts for those associations - or indeed broader associations that might be able to provide assistance? Through me if you know of any.

### Royal Marines Christmas Cards for 2009

This year we have reproduced 2 cards from previous years which have proved to be the most popular, and which we have been asked to reprint, along with the addition of a new card to mark the Beating Retreat ceremony on Horse Guards Parade in June. Cards will be on sale at the RMA Reunion Weekend in Lympstone. Prices & order forms will be on a flyer in the Sept/October G & L.

### PROJECT FORTITUDE

Project Fortitude is an RN/RM initiative that is aimed to look after the wounded and seriously ill Royal Marines in one centre until they are either re-assimilated into the Corps as fully fit Royal Marines or manage their transition to civvy street. This is to be run from HMS DRAKE in Devonport and comes operational on 7 September. The HQ will control where the guys are, what they are doing and what they want/need to do next. They coordinate all activity from medical issues to AT and holidays. This is similar to the H4H homes, but more of an all encompassing venture. The Corps would like RMA involvement in the following areas: mentors for the guys from their home towns, inclusion in some of the AT activities, hospital visiting and extending the hand of friendship for these youngster who can be bored and lonely as they travel from specialist hospital, back home to specialist hospital again. I know that the RMA will rise to the challenge. There is nothing to do yet, but it will eventually be run through Len Huff, our welfare POC and the regional/Branch welfare officers. I will give you more details once they have been ironed out after main leave.

There is a fund raiser for the project at the Museum on Fri 2 October. Tickets are £50 each from WO2 Rob McIntyre on 07859 995735 or [rob.macuk@btinternet.com](mailto:rob.macuk@btinternet.com)

\*\*\*\*\*

**This is the latest Globe & Laurel submission for the August/September edition.**

Following the passing of our member [Eddie Edwardson](#), John Glaze produced an outstanding obituary for publication in this edition. We have also lost a couple of ex Royals since our last article. Robert (Bob) Murray PO/X 121027, a long time member, crossed the bar on Monday the 27<sup>th</sup> of July after a long illness at the grand age of 84. The funeral was held at Purewa Cemetery in Meadowbank on Friday, 31st July. Several members represented the branch and fulfilled the service aspects of the funeral, orchestrated superbly once again by Ticker Ayling, to give him a true Royal Marine send off. Bob joined the Corps in 1943 and served until 1946 on HMS VANGUARD and in 41 Commando. The family **arrived in New Zealand in 1967 and Bob's wife, Maureen passed away in 2005.** Bob's son, Jack Murray is going to take up associate membership of our branch. I must also report the passing of [Charles \(Jock\) Fraser](#) (RM13849) who lost his short battle with cancer. Jock was not a member as he was not aware of the existence of the branch. John Glaze represented the branch at the funeral in Kaitaia (North of the North Island) and produced another superb obituary that is also included within this edition. We formally welcomed Colonel David Bailey OBE RM Ret'd to the branch at our **August meeting. A resume of David's very impressive Service History was available.** He is a former CO of 40 Cdo RM, Commandant of CTCRM and Honorary Colonel of RMR Bristol. We would also like to wish George Spann all the very best on his permanent return to the UK. Jock Munro has sent out the Warning Order in respect of a reunion gathering in Taupo (central North Island) over the weekend of the 26th of February 2010 and we are optimistic that we will have a very good response to that. We have received a letter from Lt Col C J Parsons, MNZM, NZLAR, confirming his attendance as our guest speaker at our Annual Corps Birthday celebration on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November. Lt Col Parsons has served with 3 Cdo Bde RM on a number of occasions. He will be accompanied by his wife, Hayley. We are in the process of making up an inventory of the contents of our memorabilia cabinet at the Point Chevalier RSA and hoping to consolidate all our items in one place. There is a definite spring feel around in New Zealand at the moment as the days are getting longer and warmer. As always we would relish the opportunity to meet up with any visitors to these shores for a few beers and some serious swinging of lamps. We would also welcome any feedback on our newly created web site. [www.royalmarinesassociation.org/nz/rma\\_nz\\_home.html](http://www.royalmarinesassociation.org/nz/rma_nz_home.html)