



*Prince Philip, Captain General of the Royal Marines unveils the redesigned Royal Marines National Memorial*



*Massed Standard Bearers make a colourful and impressive picture*



*The poppy laying at the redesigned Graspan Memorial at the Admiralty Arch end of the Mall was a bitter-sweet poignant experience*

## PRINCE PHILIP HONOURS FALLEN ROYAL MARINES

Prince Philip, Captain General of the Royal Marines, unveiled the only memorial in London to honour the 11,000 members of the Corps who died on active Service in the 20th century.

The ceremony was followed by a march-past by more than 800 people representing the past, present and future of the Royal Marines. The Fleet Royal Marines Protection Group, formerly Commachio Group, provided the guard of honour. Also taking part were veteran members of the Royal Marines Association and members of the RM Cadet Corp from Portsmouth, Chatham and Milton Keynes.

The memorial at the Admiralty Arch end of the Mall, was recently redesigned to become the Royal Marines National Memorial, after a voluntary appeal and a substantial donation by the Falkland Island Government.

The edifice was originally known as the Graspan Memorial and it was erected near Horse Guards in 1903 to commemorate the Royal Marines who died in the Boxer Rebellion campaign and the Boer War. It was moved to Admiralty Arch in 1946. Although it is a memorial to the fallen, it is also a tribute to all the Royal Marines who have served around the globe throughout the 20th century.

More than 10,000 Royal Marines were lost during the First and Second World Wars but the Corps has been in almost continuous service since 1945, including campaigns in Palestine, Malaya, Korea, Cyprus, Suez, Aden, Borneo, Northern Island, the Falkland Islands and Iraq.

At the time of the unveiling of the national memorial, 3 Commando Brigade and 45 Commando Group was deployed in Kosovo, 40 Commando Northern Island and 45 Commando was embarked in the ships of the Amphibious Ready Group which was steaming towards Sierra Leone in West Africa.

JULY



2004

## THE ROYAL MARINES ASSOCIATION Western Australian Branch

Patron: Commodore D.J. ORR, RAN (Rtd.)

### *Dear Members*

*Frank Walsh noticed in the English press that a Veterans Badge was available to those who were involved in the D-Day landings and so at our last general meeting I had the honor of presenting these to four of our members namely, Graham Perkins, Frank Walsh, George Bowden and Alec Richards. Alec was unable to attend the meeting but we will ensure he gets his badge as soon as possible. Thanks for arranging this event Frank.*

*Anne and I were sorry to miss the gathering in the forest the other weekend, we believe they had a great time in the woods (enough said). Maybe next time folk! Last Sunday the RAFA warmly welcomed us back to their Mount Lawley Venue for our Annual Games Day. The refreshments were greatly appreciated and a t credit to those involved. You will be glad to know that we retained the Trophy. My thanks to all those of our members and families that attended. The next inter-association games are when we take on the Royal Navy Association in September.*

*President - Allan Buckley*



*Christmas in July at the Langley Plaza had a special significance this year because it coincided with the 200th Anniversary of the capture of Gibraltar by the Royal Marines. The festivities were enjoyed by a party of 45 comprising members, families and friends.*

## MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF THE ROYAL MARINES ASSOCIATION, HELD AT THE NAVY CLUB TUESDAY, 29 JUNE 2004

Apologies, Gordon Norton, Ron Trunkfield Jane Short, John Moore Ken Reed, Jim Woods, Tony Lynn, John Herd, Karl Guppy, Jim Lewis, Graham Chapman, John Symes David Harris.

Those attending, F Walsh, P Wheeler, N Aimson, G Bowden, Mick Page, John Clancy-Lowe, P Trevis, N Miller, N Bell, J Rea, J P Patterson, J Swales, C J Reid, P M Shiner, Tim Harrison, E Dunn, B Milton, Frank Mason, Mike Sibley, Bill Agate, G Perkins, Sandie Reid, Allan Buckley and Bert Macdonald.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved, proposed F Walsh, seconded J C-L. Matters arising, the date of the AGM will revert to February. The Movie Night will be Tuesday 17 August in the Navy Club, 1830 hrs (and not 1700 as per June Bulletin).

### MAIL REPORT

We have received letters from Gordon Norton and Graham Perkins praising the Association's support for the Normandy Veterans Parade. Gordon asked for thanks to those members who attended and of course to the Standard Bearers. He complimented us on our turnout (the largest contingent by far)

Graham was writing in his capacity as Vice-President of the Normandy Veterans Assoc and wrote: -

"I wish to thank you for the tremendous support your Branch gave the Normandy Veterans at our recent Parade and Service of Memorial and Thanksgiving, through the presence of your Branch Standard, the Union Flag and your Standard Bearers, together with your marching contingent, *which was quite an exceptional turnout.*

In addition the Association is very much indebted to two members of your Branch who made special contributions towards the events arranged to celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the D-Day landings. I refer to Mike Page who spent so much time in selecting material for the place mats, menus and Commemorative Badges and ultimately in producing these items. Secondly to your member, Karl Guppy who once again paraded our Standard". Bravo Zulu to all who turned to and in particular to Mike and Karl, well done Royal"!

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Sandie gave her usual concise financial picture of the Association's accounts, proposed Mick Page, and seconded Bill Agate.

The President thanked the Vice President for purchasing "stock items" on the Association's behalf, during his recent World Tour.

### WELFARE

John Moore is recovering from recent thrombosis operation on his leg. Bill Agate has visited John, and the President asked for members to try and visit John.

### SOCIAL

Games Night with R.A.F.A. is on Sunday, 18 July at Mt Lawley.

Movie Night 17 August 1830 Navy Club "An Ungentlemanly Act" a Drama Documentary telling the story of N.P. 8901 in the events surrounding the Argentine invasion of the Falkland Islands.

back in dock for some more tests but is progressing satisfactorily, collecting fines at our monthly meetings.

Vera Walsh, Franks lady wife is making good progress with her new hip. The Branch Vice President Chris Reid and our bulletin editor Nick Bell have both just returned from the UK.

Nick was privileged to be invited with his squad mates from 858 NS (1954) to attend the passing for duty of Kings Squad 861 troop also to march on the Graspan Parade.

Chris caught up with several of his SBS mates and brought back one of the first of the new cap badges for the new Special Forces set up.

It was wonderful to hear first hand accounts of how the modern day Corps is going, and with what regard past members are still held.

**Please alter your contact details for our Branch Secretary, Bert Macdonald 0423026256.**

### The Battle of Trafalgar - 21 October 1805

The Corps was present at Lord Nelson's victory over the combined fleets at Trafalgar, the most decisive sea fight in British history. Ninety officers and over 3,600 NCOs, and men of the RM at their traditional stations on the upper decks of the British ships bore a brave and important part in the success of the day. The losses were particularly heavy on board the leading ships; in Lord Nelson's flagship, the Victory, 4 RM officers and 27 men of the RM detachment were killed or wounded. The total RM casualties during the battle were 4 officers and 117 men killed or died of wounds and 14 officers and 226 men wounded. Next year 2005 will be the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar and the death of Lord Nelson and the Nelson Appreciation Society of Australia is planning to make it a memorable occasion.



Rear Admiral Sir Horatio Nelson (1758 -1805)  
Painting by Lemuel Francis Abbott on display at the  
National Maritime Museum London



*'The cutting edge'*

*In the heat and noise of battle. "No captain can do very wrong if he places his ship alongside that of the enemy" - Horatio Nelson*



*Royal Marines were very much at the forefront of the action at Trafalgar. Sniping from the mizzen tops and on deck ready to repel boarders. Royal Marines played a vital role in the greatest ever sea battle fought by Sail of the Line.*



View taken at the commencement of the fresh water Swan River 1826 by Frederick Garling

A detachment of Royal Marines serving on HMS Success landed at Fremantle with Captain James Stirling when he explored the Swan River and the coast of Western Australia in 1827.

While exploring the Swan River, the gig and cutter employed by Stirling's party of 18 men including a corporal and 3 marines became grounded on sand banks in shallow water near the present causeway. Here they were delayed for 2 days while attempting to drag the boats over the bank to deeper water. By noon on the 10 March they were once again afloat.

Stirling wrote "At daybreak on 11<sup>th</sup> March we were sailing upwards through a beautiful reach of the river. At 7 o'clock we entered a very long reach; the Sandy Hills we were to see lay on our left, the distant blue Mountains were before us, and smoke from many fires was rising on different Points of view – At this place the river is not above 100 yards wide, and the Channels not more than 7 or 8 feet deep, the water is still brackish but no longer salt". The observations made and recorded by Captain Stirling of the favourable climate for Europeans and the proximity to Cape Town to provide respite to troops, the glowing reports about the abundance of water and the ease with which crops could be grown from his botanist, Charles Frazer, and the water colour paintings depicting a "Rich and Romantic Land", painted by the expeditions artist, Frederick Garling, were the driving force that led to the settlement of Western Australia and the arrival of the first settlers in 1829 on board the *Parmelia*.

The RMA-WA is proud to maintain the link that was established by Captain Stirling's Royal Marines boat crew in 1827, former Royal Marines that served in the Pensioner Guard and today's society.

David Suchet who is currently taking the lead part in 'NCS Manhunt' on ABC TV has also done a series playing the famous Belgian detective Hercule Poirot. This series is now being shown on the ABC. An article him adds:

Recently a proud David (57) and his wife Sheila, were at Sandhurst, to see their son, Robert, fulfil his ambition to join the Royal Marines. "I was so proud", says David "That I broke down and cried, the very sentimental old dad that I am".

Extract from 'Yours' April 2004 (a UK magazine aimed mainly at the ladies)

Marines at Sandhurst! What next?

Mike Sibley RM 129483

## GLOBE & LAUREL REPORT

by Mick Page

Greetings once again from the West. We have been very busy over the last two months with Jim Rea our PTI leading the way, persuading some of our younger and not so young members to take part in a bush walk of 14K, to be followed in July with a 20K Yomp.

The D-Day Remembrance service took place in St. George's Cathedral, and was packed. The association supplied the main standard bearers for the parade and 37 members including 3 of our D-Day Veterans, Graham Perkins, George Bowden and Frank Walsh marched down St George's Terrace. Former First Drill, Gordon Norton, as always directed the Parade. On Saturday 6th June 29 members and there guests joined 180 British Ex-service men in a lunch at the *Parmelia* Hilton. Graham Perkins gave a well-received account of action on the day as seen from the eyes of a landing craft officer.

On the social side we are due to do battle with the Royal Air force Association at our games day on 18 July. I am pleased to report that our sick parade is very small this month apart from the usual winter ailments. John Moore has been in hospital for a few days but seems to be on the mend; Ken Reed has been

The Nelson Society has written with their proposed timetable of events to commemorate the forthcoming 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary and have asked us to consider having a joint Trafalgar Night/ Corps Birthday Dinner with them. Proposed C Reid, seconded F Walsh.

Secretary spoke about the Society's proposals and asked for a volunteer to liaise with the Nelson Society in these matters and to see that our interests are well represented. Chris Reid stepped forward. Well done Chris, one volunteer is worth ten pressed men!

There will be a Games Night with the Navy Assoc on 18<sup>th</sup> September.

Ref: previous discourse about wheelchairs, the President has provided a price list, and mentioned that Mrs Joyce Gillespie of Esperance has made a donation of fifty dollars towards the cost. Well-done Joyce!

Mick Page provided samples of menus, place mats for consideration.

## A.O.B.

Pat thanked members responsible for the superb organization for the recent Yomp to Boonering Hill.

Jim Rea spoke again ref the subject close to all our hearts, our active aging programme. Following a description of the recent yomp, Jimmy spoke about the next event, a twenty miler on 11<sup>th</sup> July. As a yomp of such distance is very much dependant on the weather, those attending were asked to contact Jimmy in the event of a front moving in. Following the previous camping activities of the Dunn's, Shiners and Clancy-Lowe's last time, there is a proposal for a "Christmas in The Bush in July" event!

Nick Bell gave us all an enthralling description of his recent sojourn to Ukers for the re-union of 858 Squad which culminated at CTCRM with Nick and his Squaddies watching the current King's Squad passing for duty to the immortal words "Royal Marines, to your Duty, Quick March" Stirring stuff. Nick finished his talk with a description of what it felt like to take part in this years Graspan Parade,

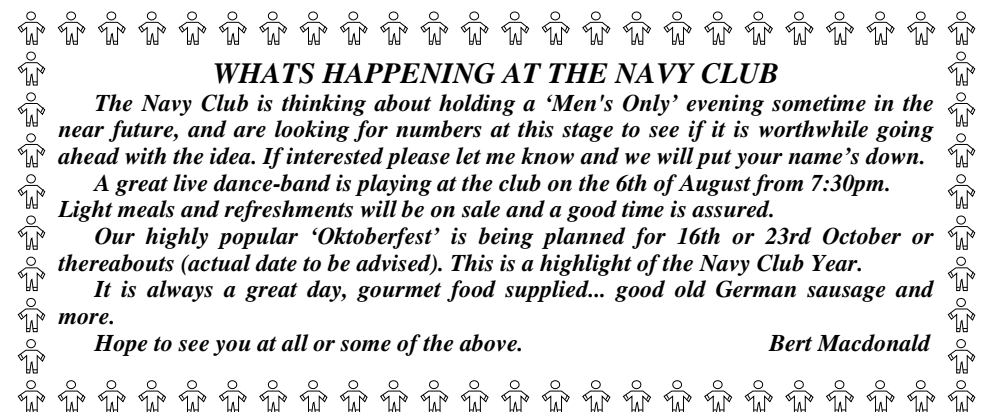
Not to be outdone, Chris Reid gave an equally enthralling version of his recent visit to Ukers and showed us samples of the new SBS cap badge and plaque. Chris gave us a heads up on the current status of UKSF in general and SBS in particular. His description of 40 Cdo going on Spearhead was magic! Stirring stuff once again, Aye.

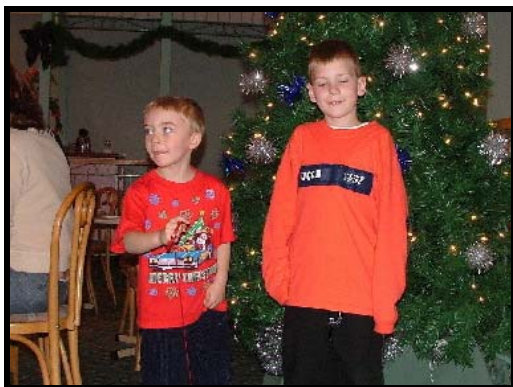
Mike Sibley queried the location of "Limestone"!

Bill Agate proposed a donation of two hundred dollars to Navy Club funds, carried.

Sandie spoke Re: numbers for Christmas in July and reminded members of the ten-dollar gift routine She added to Nick's Graspan tale by heartily recommending that members should try to attend on future visits to UK.

Bill Agate recited the Ode and the President closed the meeting at 2120.


  
**WHATS HAPPENING AT THE NAVY CLUB**
  
*The Navy Club is thinking about holding a 'Men's Only' evening sometime in the near future, and are looking for numbers at this stage to see if it is worthwhile going ahead with the idea. If interested please let me know and we will put your name's down.*
  
*A great live dance-band is playing at the club on the 6th of August from 7:30pm.*
  
*Light meals and refreshments will be on sale and a good time is assured.*
  
*Our highly popular 'Oktoberfest' is being planned for 16th or 23rd October or thereabouts (actual date to be advised). This is a highlight of the Navy Club Year.*
  
*It is always a great day, gourmet food supplied... good old German sausage and more.*
  
*Hope to see you at all or some of the above.*
  
**Bert Macdonald**



*"Hark the Herald's Angels"  
by  
Jack Macdonald and Chas Symes*

*Can all your Christmas  
come at once?*  
**SURE CAN, IF YOU ARE  
IN THE RMA-WA!**

The official Branch Christmas in July held at the Langley Plaza Hotel in the City of Perth on Saturday 24 March was a huge success. Forty five members, family and friends enjoyed excellent Christmas fare in a convivial atmosphere.

On Sunday 11 July the active aging cadre led by Jim Rea celebrated Christmas in July under canvas in the Bush following a Yomp comprising circuits of 16 or 32 kilometres.

The RMA / RAFA Mount lawley Olympics held on Sunday 18th July was a spirited occasion where good food and friendly drug-free competition were predominant features.

Training for our first ever assault on the City to Surf Fun Run is going on and details of the various categories where we will be engaged can be got from Jimmy Rea.

Our annual Games against the Royal Navy Association takes place in September. Now is the time to plan our campaign, select competitors and support crews, and build up momentum to ensure victory.

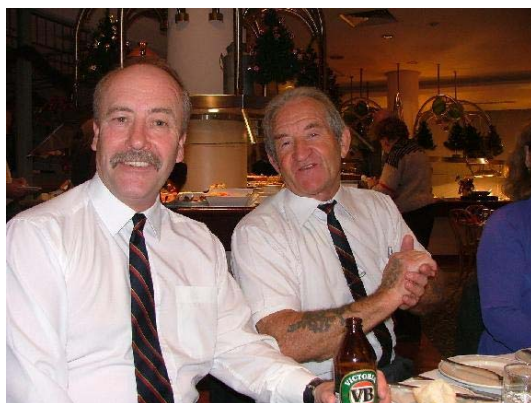
**The Capture of Gibraltar -  
24 July 1704**

The famous attack upon Gibraltar, which led to its surrender to the British, on 24 July 1704 was carried out by a brigade of British and Dutch Marines, 1,800 strong, under the command of Prince George of Hesse-Darmstadt. In the following October,

Gibraltar was besieged by the French and Spanish. The Marine brigade, which had been reinforced shortly before by a further 400 Marines from the British Fleet, held the fortress against repeated attacks until the siege was raised on 9 March 1705. In one incident in this fighting, Captain Fisher of the Marines with 17 of his men, successfully defended the Round Tower against the continued assaults of 500 French Grenadiers. A contemporary report of this noted defence says "Encouraged by the Prince of Hesse, the garrison did more than could humanly be expected, and the English Marines gained an immortal glory."



*Camaraderie of the camp fire*



*Association Secretary, Bert Macdonald with  
Active Ageing Cadre Commander, Jim Rea.*



*Christmas in July under canvas in the Australian Bush*

**MOVIE NIGHT**  
**AN UNGENTLEMANLY ACT**  
**6.30 pm Tuesday, 17 August**  
**at the Navy Club**

This thrilling Drama Documentary is about the Royal Marines NP 8901 and the Argentinean invasion of the Falkland Islands on 1 April 1982' The action begins when Major Mike Norman RM has arrived on the Islands to take command of a detachment of Royal Marines. Unfortunately, His Excellency Sir Rex Hunt the Governor of the Falkland Islands is informed that an Argentinean invasion fleet is merely hours away, and chooses to bravely defend the indefensible Government House against the aggressors. This a must-see mix of comedy and tragedy.

**For Bookings phone  
Bert Macdonald 0423 026 256.**



*"Happy Christmas"*



*"Big Eats"*