



# ROYAL MARINES ASSOCIATION (NZ)

APRIL/MAY 2009

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

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President, Bob Reay's comments, April 2009 .....

Our elected officers for the year ended 08/09 have worked well and helped our Association to make good progress. Our subscriptions have remained the same, \$20.00 for Auckland and \$15.00 for the rest of the country.

Early in the year, we had a number of inserts in the RSA Review, thanks to our Vice President Peter Collins. The idea behind them was to attract new members. It worked, Cdr Chalky Carr RNZN an Ex R.M. Officer himself, contacted Peter saying he would endeavour to trace any serving RM's in the NZ Defence Force.

We do have to welcome 2 new members who have rejoined, Max Beare Ex RMB and Len Doran Po/x 1266862, but John Dawkins Po/x 45472Y left us for an indefinite period in the USA. Sadly we lost 6 of our well known members this year; Gerald Bickers PO/X 108913, Edward Palmer CH/x 105887, Walter May PO/x 117882, Patrick Hickey PO/x 109600, Bas Van Hof Royal Netherlands M.C. 22498 and Andrew Brown(see below). We were also advised of the passing of Ron Brown PL/x 3760 & James Nuttall PO/x 16039 who although not members may have been known to some of you.

On a brighter side we welcomed the following visitors, Bill Houston and Dennis Wilkinson from Australia. Dennis our ex secretary even worked hard for us while he was here! He put in a hard sell of raffle tickets at our Corps Birthday lunch and together with another stalwart, David Glenn, they proved they were of "Barrow Boy" stock --- very efficient & entertaining. Great. Thanks went to both of them.

\*\*Colonel Peter Babbington MC and his wife Kay were here on a 6 week camper van tour of NZ. As President of the Exeter R.M.A., he presented our Association with an Exeter shield and we reciprocated by giving the Babbington's a banner for their wall at home and another for the Exeter RMA. My wife and I spent a very pleasant couple of hours with them on their arrival in Auckland. They were looking forward to their travel through NZ as a holidaying couple with no set itinerary although they did plan to spend time with our member Bill Trollope at Blenheim and another R.M. friend of theirs.

John Kimbrey (WO1 PTI) & Dick Stokes (C/Sgt) both ex R.M.'s were in the country climbing Mt Cook and Mt Ruapehu. Unfortunately, we had no prior knowledge of their arrival or itinerary, we were unable to make contact. Tom Griffin from the RM Band Service was here on a 5 months' exchange with the RNZ Navy. He was contacted by Brendon Johnson and Noel Harker when they represented us at the Vice Regal Patronages Garden Party at Government House in Auckland on the 5<sup>th</sup> of June 2008.

The Corps Birthday Celebration was held in the Birkenhead R.S.A. in Nth Shore City on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2008. Brendon Johnson was our after dinner speaker and proved himself to be very informative and entertaining. The entire time together was a huge success, well attended by members and friends. It was good to welcome a group of the Guards Association to our celebration, just like old times. The response to goods for the

raffle was fantastic and the amount of money raised totalled \$425.00. Thank You, to all involved.

Members of the Association attended the Auckland Anzac Parade & service in the Auckland Domain on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2008 & the Armistice Day Parade followed by a Service at St Matthews Church in Hobson St, Auckland. Our Standard was carried by Gordon Moore.

Bi Monthly meetings were held at the Pt Chevalier R.S.A., 1136 Great North Road, Pt Chevalier on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month. Attendance is not always in the numbers we would wish for, but they are growing.

Since the last AGM we have moved forward in leaps and bounds benefiting from the work of our secretary Colleen Ellis and Web Manager Philip Ayling, who have done sterling work to get our Association onto the Australian website. Colleen has also made contact with all our members bringing our records up to date. We are fortunate to have an efficient treasurer in Noel Harker who has maintained good records and a very healthy bank balance. Peter Collins as Vice President has kept our Association alive here in N.Z. with his contacts in the U.K.

I would like to thank all those who have helped me in my position as President over the last 3 years. It was good to have such a dedicated team. I was not standing for the position of President this time as I felt a younger member is required. Over the years I have held a number of positions namely, Vice President, Committee member, Standard Bearer and Newsletter compiler, many at the same time. It is heartening to see younger ones at our meeting so we can only move forward, something we can all work towards. Bob Reay.

RIP Andrew Brown CH/x 3439, who crossed the bar on 18 March 2009 .This article was sent in by his Great Nephew Daniel Cairns ..... " Uncle Andy or 'Paddy' as he was known, had been ill for some time when he passed. His wife died some years ago and he had no children. He was born in Belfast, Northern Ireland in 1922 and joined the Royal Marines in Feb. 1940. He served on H.M.S. London '41 to '43 then the Bellona from '43 to'51. He transferred to the Royal NZ Navy in Dec. 1951 then retired from the service in 1961. He was awarded the 1939-45 Star, the Atlantic Star, France and Germany clasp, and the 1939-45 War medal. He also received a medal from the Russian government for his service on convoys to Russia.

As a footnote to the Babbington's visit Colleen received this email.....

**\*\*Thank you NZ RMA for all your help. We have just arrived home after a fantastic 6 weeks and are now collecting the pictures together to start showing off to the family. Kay and I were delighted to meet Bob and Hilda Reay and his taking me to the AA to get the relevant paperwork to assist us with our travels on arrival was most useful. We had two very happy stays with Dave Boyd and Will Trollope so some RM gossip did go on. Anyway thank you again.\***

**and this email about the Globe & Laurel insertion written by Peter Collins.**

Please convey my thanks to your scribe and to the Branch for their kind words regarding the Exeter Branch plaque and its delivery by the Branch President. I enjoyed the read about your Branch, whilst I was enjoying a break on one of the beaches in Cyprus.

Thank you for your pennants, which are being displayed in our HQ. Cheers.  
Jumper Collings, Chairman, Exeter Branch, Royal Marines Association.

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS - AGM 18 APRIL 2009

President : Peter Collins                      Vice President & Web Manager : Philip Ayling

Secretary: Colleen Ellis                      Treasurer: Noel Harker

Committee: Steve Ritson, Martin Kavanagh, Jock Munro, Jacqui Melamphy.

Standard Bearer: Gordon Moore

Globe & Laurel Representative & Sick Visitor Representative : Dennis(Ticker) Ayling

Entertainment Officer: Brendon Johnson.

After the election of officers, Bob Reay vacated the chair to the new President, Peter Collins.

Angus McKellar, the past President of the Pt Chevalier RSA joined us at this point and reiterated how welcome we are to continue our meetings there. We were joined by the new President of the RSA, Jimb McArthur who reminded us that any current RMA service member, over the age of 75, is entitled to free membership of the Pt Chevalier RSA.

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Colleen Ellis asked Peter Collins to put down a few words for those of you who were not able to attend the meeting.....

I was delighted to assume the Presidency of the New Zealand Branch of the Royal Marines Association at the AGM on Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup> of April 2009. It is an honour and a privilege and I am looking forward with great enthusiasm to working to maintain and promote the esprit de corps and comradeship amongst all our members and the wider Corps.

I have been encouraged to see that our membership is increasing and our communication base is both improving and widening. The number of "younger" members that are coming through and taking active participation is heartening and bodes well for the future of the Branch.

Colleen and Noel are making huge contributions as secretary and treasurer respectively and I look forward to working with Philip Ayling as the newly elected Vice President. Philip's enthusiasm and work ethos on behalf of the Association will be invaluable and his creation and development of our web site is already serving to raise our profile to a much higher status.

It is timely for me to say a big thank you on behalf of all our members to our outgoing President, Bob Reay, for his 3 years tenure and his considerable contribution in ensuring that the branch is very much on the up. I look forward to continuing that trend.

I would like to finish by plugging our bi-monthly meetings that are held at the Point Chevalier RSA in Auckland on the second Saturday of the month at 1400. Our next one is due on the 13<sup>th</sup> of June. Our big annual event is the Corps Birthday Church Service and Luncheon; this year's will be at the Birkenhead RSA commencing at 1030 on Sunday the 1<sup>st</sup> of November. *This submission is on the front page of our website.*

Colleen also asked Peter for some service history.....

### **SERVICE HISTORY – PETER COLLINS PO29614A/N028367Q**

Born in Hull 22<sup>nd</sup> of March 1954 - joined RM directly from school in October 1971 with 12 Troop at Deal – Sgt Keith Pittock and Cpl Graham Dear as Troop Instructors. Passed out on 18<sup>th</sup> birthday in March 1972 and joined 42 Commando Royal Marines 1972 to 1974 – 42 Commando Royal Marines – 4 x Northern Ireland tours

1974 to 1975 – HMS MINERVA including 9 months Caribbean deployment  
1975 to 1976 – Royal Marines Poole  
1976 to 1978 – HMS WARRIOR – passed Junior Command Course and promoted to Corporal  
1978 to 1979 – 42 Commando Royal Marines – Northern Ireland  
1979 to 1983 - Royal Marines Poole – passed Senior Command Course and promoted to Sergeant – remustered to the Clerks Branch  
1983 to 1984 - HMS CENTURION  
1984 to 1987 – Assistant Naval & Air Attache Bangkok-promoted to Colour Sergeant  
1987 to 1988 – Headquarters 3 Cdo Brigade Royal Marines as Chief Clerk  
1988 to 1989 – 40 Commando Royal Marines as Chief Clerk – Northern Ireland – passed Advanced Command Course & promoted to Warrant Officer Class 2  
1.1.1990 – Commissioned to the rank of Acting Lieutenant Royal Marines  
1990 to 1993 – 3 Commando Brigade Air Squadron Royal Marines as the Administration Officer– promoted to Lieutenant  
1993 to 1999 – Royal Marines Poole as the Imprest Holder and Quartermaster– promoted to Captain and to Major  
1999 to 2005 – Headquarters Royal Marines as the Corps Pay, Records and Cash Officer  
March 2005 – retired from the Corps and emigrated to New Zealand

Member of the NZ Branch of the RMA from March 2005 to March 2008  
Vice President of the NZ Branch of the RMA from March 2008 to April 2009

Married to Gill since 1977 with a daughter (Marie) aged 31 and son (Wayne) 29 both living in the UK.

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After all the work that has been done to create the website, I hope you visit it...

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

From now on, we ask that you view the latest minutes and newsletters on our website and the previous 3 are on there now. These newsletters contain all our contact information so it's a valuable resource when looking to contact a committee member. It will save sending the large attachments through the email and I'll advise all the email members when the new ones are up on the site. Access them via the Calendar & News area as well as the RMA Rules, 19<sup>th</sup> series dated November 2006. Please save the link for future use.

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This is our new ad that Peter Collins has put together for the RSA review...

**NEW ZEALAND BRANCH OF THE ROYAL MARINES ASSOCIATION** meets bi-monthly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month at Pt Chevalier RSA at 1400. Full membership is open to any serving or former RM, RMR and RN and associated or affiliated membership to any member or former member of HM Forces who served with an RM unit or formation, family members of RM, RMR & RN, and Royal Marines Cadets (aged 18 and over). The current President is Peter Collins. Further details are available from the Secretary, Colleen Ellis [royalmarines@vodafone.co.nz](mailto:royalmarines@vodafone.co.nz) 09 622 1733 or 3/136 Trafalgar Street, Onehunga 1061 Auckland. New members are most welcome. Visit our website @ [http://www.royalmarinesassociation.org/nz/rma\\_nz\\_home.html](http://www.royalmarinesassociation.org/nz/rma_nz_home.html)

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On Anzac Day, Colleen sent a NZ Herald website link, to all our RMA comrades in Europe & Canada, which featured the Commemorative events of the day. There were a few emails in return wishing us well with with the day and a very interesting article from our friend John Mellor, OBE, QSM. Thank you John ☺ .....

Cannock Chase is a vast forested area, formerly a royal "chase" or hunting forest. The last private owner was the Earls of Lichfield. Patrick, Earl of Lichfield, cousin of HM The Queen, and his wife, Leonora, helped me and the MHS during the early years, of us all reviving Anzac Day. During the great War(not World War 1)the area was made into a vast military, camp, with its own church, railway station and hospital. The New Zealand Rifle Brigade were stationed at this camp, before and after its campaigns in France and Belgium. During the flu epidemic in 1917/8, many New Zealanders died. The flu did not help their war wounds. When the New Zealanders left Cannock Chase, they were followed to the nearest Railway stations by vast crowds, and they had endeared themselves to the local population.

A service was held on Cannock Chase at the British War Cemetery, which ironically, now has a new neighbour, the largest German War Cemetery in the United Kingdom. As a child I was taken to the cemetery, by my spinster aunt, who had courted, a New Zealander, who had died at Cannock. She never married. My father, accompanied us. This service, lasted until 1953, when it fell into disuse. In the interim period, I had served in the Royal Marines, and became interested in military history. I had joined the Military Historical Society, West Midlands and in 1971, I assisted the Whitehouse brothers, to recommence the Anzac Day Parade and Service including the Dawn Parade (sometimes joined by the local deer) Assisted in re-kindling the service until 1973, when I became the sole co-ordinator. Attendance figures soared from 110, to 6.500. We became, we believed, the largest Anzac Day celebration in the world, second only to Sydney. In 1980, I became ill. The Royal British Legion, came in to do the administrative work, I undertook Public relations and Parade Marshal. I continued in this role till 2000. I have been unable to attend the Parade since 2003, through illness. In my role of Public Relations officer, I contacted New Zealand and Australian Newspapers, and informed them of the Parade. This brought veterans from Australia and New Zealand, who were always given the place of honour. Letters from families, regarding flowers, information has been maintained. The RBL stopped the newspaper notifications in 2000. The Dawn Parade was missed after 1999. New Zealand veterans, continued to contact me, those resident in the UK. They were assisted from local British funds, only in recent years, have pension problems been referred, to the 2 governments in Australasia. My last Second world veteran, who lived about 4 miles from me, RNZAF navigator died 2 years ago. I have received no letters from New Zealand or Australia this year. Anzac day is not forgotten in the UK, I have knowledge of at least 3 others. All are declining as the veterans of the Second World War slip away. John P Mellor, OBE., QSM., Ridder van den orde orange-nassau... The Wayside, 118, Birches Barn Road, Wolverhampton WV37BG 01902338904. President Royal British Legion Wolverhampton Central.  
President Royal Marines Association City of Wolverhampton.

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This is a reminder that membership of the UK RMA is free to those over 80, yes even to NZ as confirmed by the Chief Executive, Charlie Hobson. For the over 80's the application process can be much easier, feel free to ask me. The cost to others is on their website, and is cheap as chips for the wealth of information that would be sent to you. I have the application form that Charlie sent through the email or you can visit the UK RMA website and process it from there. If you contact me, I can post it to you if you don't have access to email. Colleen 09 622 1733 or send me a letter.

I asked our member John Glaze, who is currently a member of the UK RMA if he could explain the benefits of membership for our newsletter and he's also commented on the British Legion which may be of interest to some. He has kindly sent this for us to peruse...

You asked me to provide a synopsis of the benefits of being a member of the RMA (UK). This came through on the Officers' net but is bound to appear in the other sections as he was a former CGRM. "Obituary notices are an unfortunate aspect of the regular on-line communication system but are an example of the system keeping people in the picture re what's going on. There are often former RMs trying to trace each other and there's regular information about reunions and parades eg Graspan. The way in which the UK's public is becoming more appreciative of the Service community is also a feature and there are regular updates on initiatives to provide a Veterans' ID card that will give access to discounted travel and accommodation, free travel within London, and priority treatment under the National Health Service. I am also a paid-up member of the Royal British Legion, which also provides a very informative newsletter that states the range of initiatives being pursued at the highest levels of government to ensure that those who have served, are serving and will serve are appropriately looked after. For instance, funds have been secured from the Lotteries Board to pay for WW2 people to visit their respective zones of conflict at virtually no cost to themselves. All of this might benefit those of our members visiting UK. Another point is the existence of a Veterans Badge that was raised at the AGM. They are all entitled to it!

## LATEST OPERATIONAL HONOURS IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN

The first Bar to the George Medal to be awarded in 26 years is amongst a catalogue of prestigious honours given to brave British Armed Forces personnel.

The posthumous award to Warrant Officer Class 2 Gary O'Donnell, who died in September last year whilst attempting to disarm an improvised explosive device, was announced in the presence of his widow Mrs Toni O'Donnell.

WO2 O'Donnell, who at the time of his death already held the George Medal for his work defusing bombs in Iraq, was recommended for the further honour in recognition of his remarkable actions in two separate incidents, in May and July 2008.

On both occasions WO2 O'Donnell - who during his last tour in Afghanistan disposed of more than 50 IEDs - placed himself in immense personal danger in order to protect his comrades.

Another historic moment in today's ceremony was the award of the Conspicuous Gallantry Cross to three members of the same regiment - the first time this has happened. Acting Sergeant Alwyn Stevens, Corporal Robert McClurg and Lance Corporal Jon Toge, all members of the Royal Irish Regiment, demonstrated great personal courage whilst mentoring colleagues from the Afghan National Army in Helmand.

These recipients are amongst more than 100 brave service personnel to be included in Armed Forces Operational Awards List No.32, for the period April to September 2008. Those honoured include members of the British Army's 16 Air Assault Brigade and 4 Mechanised Brigade, the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force, as well as civilians. Acts of bravery in the operational theatres of Afghanistan and Iraq, as well as in the UK, are recognised.

At today's event the award recipients were congratulated by senior representatives of their services: Rear Admiral Simon Charlier from the Royal Navy, Lieutenant General Sir Graeme Lamb from the Army, and Air Vice Marshall Gregory Bagwell from the Royal Air Force.

### A SELECTION OF AWARDS ANNOUNCED , **AFGHANISTAN** CONSPICUOUS GALLANTRY CROSS

#### CORPORAL ROBERT WILLIAM KERR McCLURG R IRISH

Corporal McClurg's calm, selfless leadership style & great personal courage repeatedly salvaged deteriorating situations, which would have led to the loss of Afghan National Army and UK lives.

#### ACTING SERGEANT ALWYN JOHN STEVENS R IRISH

As an Afghan National Army platoon mentor Stevens displayed extraordinary courage, personally engaging and neutralizing several enemy ensuring they never again appeared in such strength in the area during Op HERRICK.

#### LANCE CORPORAL JONE BRUCE TOGE R IRISH

After his commander was incapacitated Toge took command of the Operational Mentoring Liaison Team which was supporting the Afghan National Army to the south of Musa QaI'eh. He gallantly led his men and personally extracted four injured soldiers from a killing area as well as the lead Afghan National Army sergeant following a RPG strike.

#### BAR TO GEORGE MEDAL

#### WARRANT OFFICER CLASS 2 GARY JAMES O'DONNELL GM RLC (Killed in Action)

During his tour in Afghanistan O'Donnell disposed of over fifty improvised explosive devices. He repeatedly placed himself in immense personal danger and saved an untold amount of lives with his skill and selfless determination.

#### GEORGE MEDAL

#### STAFF SERGEANT STUART WALTER DICKSON RLC

As an Improvised Explosive Device Disposal Operator and shouldering the greatest risks alone, time after time, Dickson's rendered safe more than 40 explosive devices in his 4 month deployment. His conduct during his tour was the epitome of professionalism and personal bravery.

## DISTINGUISHED SERVICE ORDER

### LIEUTENANT COLONEL NICHOLAS ROBERT MACRAE BORTON MBE SCOTS

No matter how demanding the circumstances, Borton's inspiring example while commanding two battlegroups in Helmand Province, lifted the morale of his soldiers and imbued his commanders with the fighting spirit and resilience to defeat a ruthless enemy.

## MILITARY CROSS

### CAPTAIN RUSSELL ARCHER RE

Isolated and under extreme pressure Archer took command of a company sized group of disparate Afghan Forces and fought a fierce defensive battle. His remarkable bravery and exemplary leadership under regular, sustained and intense fire was nothing short of exceptional.

### MAJOR ROBERT MICHAEL ARMSTRONG RA

While mentoring the Afghan National Army vehicle patrol Armstrong showed consistent bravery and inspirational leadership. As a result of his calm leadership under fire, losses were prevented and the lives of those injured were saved.

### 2nd LIEUTENANT ALEXANDER BRAMPTON CHARLES BARCLAY SCOTS

As platoon commander of B Coy 5 SCOTS and despite a shot in the leg, Barclay's personal bravery, determination and leadership of the very highest order ensured that three men escaped a Taliban ambush alive.

### MAJOR NICHOLAS GEORGE CALDER SCOTS

Calder led D Coy 5 SCOTS through the most intense dismounted combat experienced in the battlegroup northwest area of operations. He provided an example of unflinching physical and moral courage and ensured the security of Musa Qal'eh.

### PRIVATE PAUL JAMES COLEMAN PARA

Whilst commanding a fire support team Coleman repeatedly placed himself in full view of the enemy in order to ensure the safety of the men he commanded.

### CORPORAL JAMES STEPHEN COOKE PARA

Despite the obvious threat to his own life, Cooke's immediate intervention, disregard for his own personal safety and unflinching courage, undoubtedly saved the life of a comrade who was in mortal danger.

### MAJOR ADAM GUY DAWSON PARA

Dawson has frequently been exposed to intense enemy fire and has proved an inspirational and determined leader, imbuing his young soldiers with his energy, spirit and resolve.

### MAJOR RUSSELL DAVID LEWIS PARA

Resolute in defence, tenacious and courageous in attack Lewis he has set an outstanding example to B Company at significant personal risk & has been an inspiration to all ranks.

### SERGEANT STEPHEN McCONNELL PARA

Whilst in command of 8 Platoon McConnell demonstrated decisive leadership and outstanding bravery. Ignoring his own safety he successfully led his men through a large, well coordinated ambush.

### MAJOR JOHN STUART McDONALD PARA

Whilst covering the absence of the Company commander at Forward Operating Base Inkerman, McDonald skilfully manoeuvred his platoons to suppress the enemy and moved decisively to defeat the Insurgents. He displayed exceptional and overt gallantry in the face of the enemy and inspired the men around him.

### RANGER ALAN WILLIAM OWENS R IRISH

As a mentor for the Afghan National Army Owens carried out courageous individual actions in the face of the enemy and engendered a level of empathy with the local population which no amount of fighting could establish.

**CAPTAIN GRAHAM DAVID BRADLEY RAINEY R IRISH**

Rainey's distinguished leadership and tactical skill whilst commanding the Operational Mentoring Liaison Team patrol base enhanced security North of Musa Qal'eh. He ensured that only enemy were neutralised and achieved extraordinary respect amongst the Afghan National Army and his own team.

**CORPORAL SHAUN WHITEHEAD SCOTS**

Whitehead's performance, initiative and steadfastness in the face of the enemy had an immediate positive effect on all those involved in the battle, allowing Delta Company to make significant gains.

**DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS**

**FLIGHT LIEUTENANT ALEXANDER MARC DUNCAN RAF**

Duncan displayed consummate professionalism and strength of character while recovering an aircraft with a VIP party onboard and pressing ahead with an air assault in the face of intense fire to ensure the force protection of the battle group.

**QUEEN'S GALLANTRY MEDAL**

**CAPTAIN LIAM CHARLES FITZGERALD-FINCH RLC**

Fitzgerald-Finch showed exceptional courage and tireless commitment, ensuring the safety of a convoy on route as part of the Joint Force Explosive Ordnance Disposal Group in Helmand province.

**STAFF SERGEANT JAMES ALEXANDER McCORMICK RE**

McCormick is awarded for his bravery and complete disregard for his own life whilst saving the life of an unknown colleague who was trapped under a 35 tonne vehicle.

**CORPORAL WILLIAM GLYNDWR OWEN PARA**

After a patrol struck an anti-tank mine Owen selflessly and without hesitation raced to reach casualties and administer first aid despite the obvious threat of further mines. He is awarded for his selfless dedication and devotion to duty.

**IRAQ**

**MILITARY CROSS**

**CAPTAIN JEREMY ALEXANDER CROSSLEY RIFLES**

Despite steadily intensifying and accurate small arms fire, Capt Crossley remained with a casualty on a roof to control the extraction of the casualty by a pair of US Blackhawk helicopters.

**SERGEANT CHRISTOPHER PAUL RICHARDS RDG**

In spite of significant threats, Sgt Richards commanded a lead tank, with outstanding nerve, determination and exemplary gallantry in the face of the enemy.

**DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS**

**FLIGHT LIEUTENANT KEVIN HARRIS RAF**

Whilst under significant pressure, Harris led his crew in extracting 30 very seriously wounded personnel and a significant number of other casualties. He operated his aircraft in an exemplary manner despite substantial indirect fire and surface to air threats.

**NON-COMBATANT GALLANTRY**

**AIR FORCE CROSS**

**LIEUTENANT COMMANDER MARTIN NICHOLAS LANNI RN**

Lanni is awarded for his bravery on 28th May 2007 in rescuing climbers by helicopter from Ben Nevis in severe weather conditions.



LIEUTENANT MICHAEL RAOUL PAULET RN

Paulet's contribution as on scene and aircraft commander was absolutely vital in terms of the overall success and safe execution of a very dangerous and challenging rescue mission.

FLIGHT LIEUTENANT LEE ROLAND TURNER RAF

Turner's courage, leadership and outstanding flying skills in exceptionally demanding conditions were in the finest traditions of the service; and saved the lives of 17 people.

QUEEN'S GALLANTRY MEDAL

LEADING AIRCREWMAN KEVIN REGAN RN

Regan, utterly focused on rescuing a vessel's crew, disconnected from a winch in the knowledge that the vessel may capsize with little warning due to the 'mountainous seas'.

MASTER AIRCREWMAN RICHARD MARK TAYLOR RAF

Taylor showed great bravery and put himself in grave danger time after time whilst recovering 8 casualties from the ferry 'Riverdance' then later returning to rescue the remaining 9 crew.

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\*\*A reminder.....our member, Eddie Edwardson would like to receive all used stamps as he sends them to the UK for a fundraising charity. Please send them to him directly, 4 Walton St, Red Beach 0931, Whangaparoa. Ph 09 426 6941 \*\*

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After my traumatic and finally, successful delivery of the last newsletter ( minus some of the very important templates which were AWOL) one of our members, Pip Townend sent me this amusing tale which was a breath of fresh air after my *newsletter trauma* The tale brought laughter to my afternoon. I love it & I think my new aka is Tail-end Charlie.

Pip says..... I am reminded of the minesweepers anchoring under the Forth Bridge. They followed Captain M, intending to anchor in unison. The Navigating Officer miscalculated and led the way round for a second approach. Alas, a second miscalculation. Setting off for a third attempt Tail-end Charlie rang his ship's bell and shouted "Last Lap, Last Lap." It was of course the talk of Port Edgar. The year? Sometime before 1959 when I was in the Fishery Protection Squadron 'fighting' the "Cod War" versus Icelanders, and occasionally berthed in Port Edgar.

Thank you Pip and members, we need more of these stories please, Colleen ☺

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The following 2 articles are reports from our Standard Bearer, Gordon Moore...

The Anzac parade at the Auckland War Memorial Museum in Auckland's Domain, on 25<sup>th</sup> April went well It was somewhat windy on the hill at one stage, I thought I would become airborne with the standard. There were members from our RMA, but the turnout was a little disappointing. It was great to see Philip Ayling, Steve Ritson, and 2 of our other members. We returned to Pt Chevalier R.S.A. for a few sherbets and apart from being windy & showery there were quite a few people in attendance. Those marching on, were warmly greeted by the public.

On Friday 01/05/09 Gloria and I attended the Anzac Day ceremony at Waiuku Primary School where I paraded the standard for the RMA. Those present were members of the Waiuku R.S.A, staff and pupils of the school and guests. The occasion was very well attended, and all were well received, there was a good reception for the Standard on arrival. There were many questions asked about the standard and I was asked to give a little introduction about the meaning of it and why it was paraded after the ceremony. I was thanked for my attendance by the President and members of the R.S.A. and by the principal and staff of the school. Both the R.S.A. and school staff wish to thank the R.M.A for permitting me to parade our standard. On completion of the ceremony a pleasant morning tea was made available for all the guests.

During the last week of April, Colleen posted an envelope with the following articles to all our members who are not on email, in an attempt to keep all members, "in the loop". All these articles have already been emailed..

20/3 Royal Marines take on Taliban in the Fish Hook.

25/3 British Forces attack Taliban in the Snake's Belly.

26/3 Marines Shatter 'illusion of enemy safe haven'.

The Poem, The Rabble comes home by Bernard Hallas aged 91.

17/4 'Honourable Warriors' of 42 Commando Group come home

The RMA minutes & AGM report - 18<sup>th</sup> April 2009.

The RMA Audited Accounts - Statement of Financial Position.

The April edition of the Bootneck Bugle from the NSW RMA.

Accompanying this newsletter, maintaining "the loop", the members not on email will receive ...

An email about the welcome at the airport for the Soldiers and the article about Red Fridays. (author unknown)

20/4/ 2009 Marines and Navy train in Saudi desert.

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The President and Secretary of the Onehunga RSA have most generously offered to process all the photocopying and put it into the envelopes and even post them to the non email members which will save Colleen quite some time. A huge thank you to them for this most generous offer of assistance.

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This article was sent in by John Glaze...

I've just been reading about Armed Forces Day in my Royal British Legion magazine and the date may be of interest to some of our members. In the UK it will be celebrated annually on 27 June to honour past, present and future service personnel, and has been merged with what was previously known as Veterans Day.

MOD has contributed GBP400,000 towards the cost of events nationwide, with a flagship event taking place at Historic Dockyard Chatham. Music to the ears for our Chatham ratings.

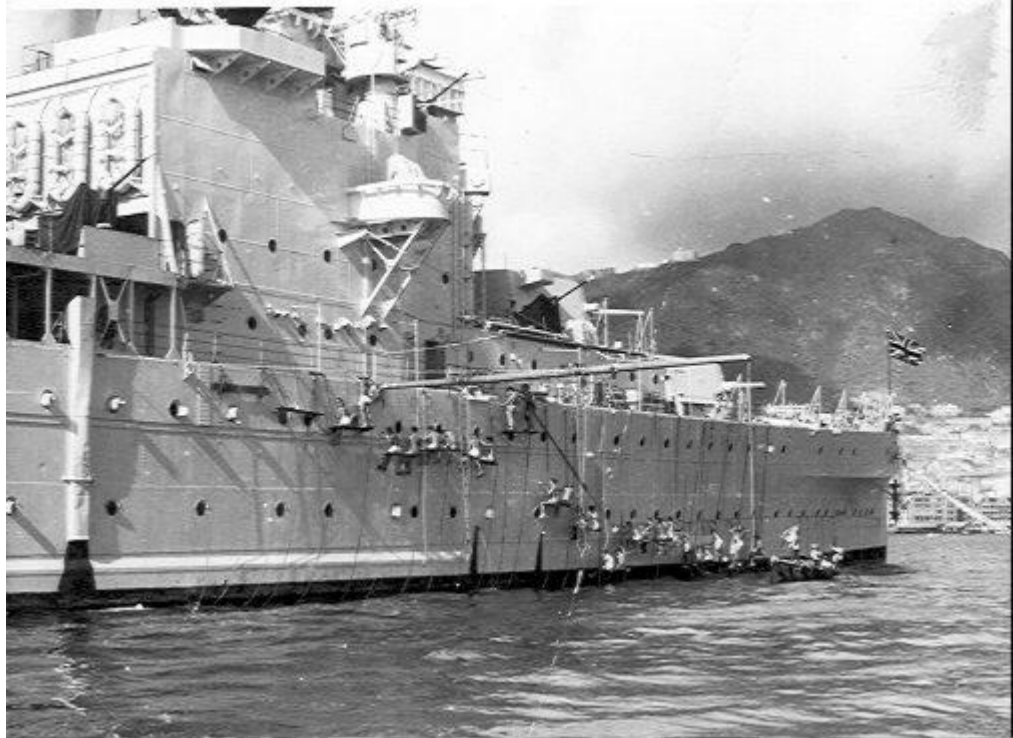
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I have contacted our member Colin Campbell today( 11<sup>th</sup> of May). He has just come out of Hospital after having his, extremely painful, left knee reconstructed and he is very pleased it's all over. He is partially bionic now, his knee is titanium!! Colin is resting at home, if anyone would like to contact him, I'm sure he would appreciate it. Contact Colleen if you would like the phone number. Get Well Soon Colin, we look forward to seeing you at the meetings again ☺

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### **Jenny's Side Party.**

On arrival in Hong Kong Jenny's side party were permitted to attach themselves to HMS London. They came highly recommended by Belfast and a number of other ships in the Far Eastern Fleet. The girls were very popular and adept with a paint brush. Their pay consisted of spare food, bits of rope, tin, bottles, in fact anything that would usually have been jettisoned overboard.



( above) Jenny's girls supervise 'painting ship'.

When not armed with a paint brush the girls could be found at various points around the ship washing clothes, darning socks, stitches badges or ironing for one shipmate or other.

When it was finally time to go home the girls turned out in force in their sampan to wave the ships company goodbye.

The speed & efficiency with which her team of 'girls' could paint a warship from stem to stern was simply amazing.

JENNY, BEM Generations of sailors who visited Hong Kong will mourn the death of Jenny. She was a much loved figure and an incomparable institution for well over half a century. She died peacefully on 18 February 2009 at the age of 92.

Much of her life was an enigma. However. The authors of her 27 Certificates of Service generally agreed that she was born in a sampan in Causeway Bay in 1917. Her mother, Jenny One, according to her 1 surviving Certificate of Service, which was copied in 1946 from an older, much battered and largely illegible document, 'provided serviceable sampans for the general use of the Royal Navy, obtained sand & was useful for changing money'. Behind her perpetual great gold-toothed grin Jenny complained; "I velly chocker. All time work in sampan. NO learn to lead or lite." But what she lacked in education she made up more than a hundredfold with her immense & impressive experience in ship husbandry. Her unfailing thoroughness and apparently inexhaustible energy. Her unquestionable loyalty and integrity, her infectious enthusiasm and her innate cheerfulness.

Officially Jenny's Date of Volunteering was recorded as 1928. From then until 1997, when the colony became a Special Administrative Region of China and the Royal Navy moved out. She and her team of tireless girls who at one time numbered nearly three dozen, unofficially served the Royal and Commonwealth Navies in Hong Kong by cleaning & painting their ships, attending their buoy jumpers, and, dressed in their best, waiting with grace and charm upon their guests at cocktail parties. Captains and Executive Officers would find fresh flowers in their cabins and newspapers delivered daily. Many a departing officer received a generous gift as a memento from Jenny. For

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We ask our members to support them where possible.

all of this she steadfastly refused ever to take any payment. Instead she and her Side Party earned their keep selling soft drinks to the ships' companies and accepting any item of scrap which could be found on board.

Jenny's huge collection of photographs - too big, she said, to be put into books - she stored in a large envelope. They dated back to the mid 20th century and showed her in the ships she so faithfully served, with Buffers and Side Parties, and with grateful officers, many of whom became distinguished admirals. In two thick albums she proudly kept her letters of reference, all without exception filled with praise and affection for her. One was a commendation by the Duke of Edinburgh for her work in the Royal Yacht during her visit to Hong Kong in 1959. She had a Long Service and Good Conduct Medal presented to her in 1938 by the captain of the heavy cruiser HMS DEVONSHIRE, and a bar from the frigate HMS LEANDER in 1975.

Most treasured of all Jenny's distinctions was the British Empire Medal awarded her in the Hong Kong Civilian List of the Queen's Birthday Honours in 1980 and with which, under her formal name Mrs. Ng Muk Kah, she was invested by the Governor of Hong Kong, Sir Murray MacLehose.

In later years Hong Kong was no longer visited by the great fleets of warships which gave Jenny and her Side Party their livelihood and she found it increasingly difficult to make ends meet. Yet she stayed fit and always willing to undertake any work available. To the end of the Royal Navy's presence in Hong Kong there could be seen in the shadow of the towering Prince of Wales building within the naval base, a small round figure in traditional baggy black trousers and high-collared smock, with a long pigtail and eternal smile who, regardless of time, remained it seemed for ever - just Jenny.

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