



NZ BRANCH OF THE ROYAL MARINES ASSOCIATION

November/December
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

Presidents comments.....

Both Harold Robinson and Edwin Barton have not been too well of late and we wish them all the very best for a speedy and full recovery.

The Corps Birthday Church Service and Luncheon was again a great success with the highest attendance to date. Our Guest of Honour was the CO of the NZ SAS Group and I am sure that all in attendance would agree that his speech was both fascinating and enlightening. Well done to all who made such considerable contributions to a great day. And some much needed revenue was raised from the raffle. Lt Cdr Chalky Carr RNZN, ex Captain Royal Marines, also organized the inaugural South Island Corps Birthday get together which is a real indication of the way that the branch is growing. Myself and some of our members paraded in Auckland on Sunday the 8th of November to commemorate Remembrance Day. The whole parade was marshaled perfectly by Ticker Ayling, resplendent in his full lovat uniform, but minus his **pace stick!** Gordon Moore carried our Standard and Bob Battersby the Union Flag. A member of the Royal Artillery Band commented that he was amazed that Ticker at the age of 81 can still hold his own on the parade front!! We were also represented at the Armistice Day Memorial Day Parade and Service at the Point Chevalier Returned Services Association Club Rooms on the 11th of November. Ticker Ayling, Gloria Moore and Gordon Moore as the Standard Bearer were present.

We are looking forward to the visit to NZ of ex WO2 Jeff Trail and his wife and friends in mid December and early January and arrangements have been made for them to meet up with some of our members in Auckland, Taupo and Christchurch. Jeff tells us he will be bringing an Exmouth Branch Plaque to present to us.

Arrangements are well advanced for the Taupo reunion weekend 26 to 28 February and attendees are requested to get their deposits to Noel Harker ASAP. We currently have approximately 45 subscribers and we can accommodate more. **A plug also please for attendance at our last bi-monthly meeting of the year on Saturday the 12th of December at the Point Chevalier RSA. Nibbles and refreshments will be served on completion and we have invited a number of guests including our Padre, Auditor and the President and Secretary/Manager of that RSA.**

I wrote to the Department of Internal Affairs in respect of some kind of representation from the Association during the visit of Prince William in the second half of January. I had a call from them yesterday to say that it was only a short visit but that they were working very hard to accommodate us.

Gill and I will be in the UK over the period from the 17th of December to the 14th of January so it only remains for me to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2010.

PRESIDENT:

Peter Collins,
634 Papakura
Clevedon Rd,
Ardmore
09 296 7648
petercollins@xtra.co.nz

VICE

PRESIDENT & WEBMASTER:

Philip Ayling,
19 Miramar Pl,
Pakuranga, Ak
09 576 4869
ticker2000@xtra.co.nz

SECRETARY & NEWSLETTER:

Colleen Ellis
3/136 Trafalgar
St, Onehunga, Ak
09 622 1733
royalmarines@vodafone.co.nz

TREASURER & SUBS:

Noel Harker
18a Acacia Cres,
Glenview,
Hamilton, 3206.
07 843 6471
Nobar@xtra.co.nz

General Housekeeping Notices.....

The web site is a work in progress, improving all the time and we are receiving 1 – 2 contacts a week through it from Booties here or heading to NZ. Philip Ayling is still keen to receive photos for the website photo album and any from the Corps Birthday, Armistice etc would be very much appreciated please. If you have any calendar dates we should have noted, please contact Philip or myself please so we can get up right up to date for 2010. ☺

Ted Downes in Christchurch is off to the hospital on the 14th of December, we wish you well and are thinking of you. If anyone would like to visit Ted please contact me for his details.

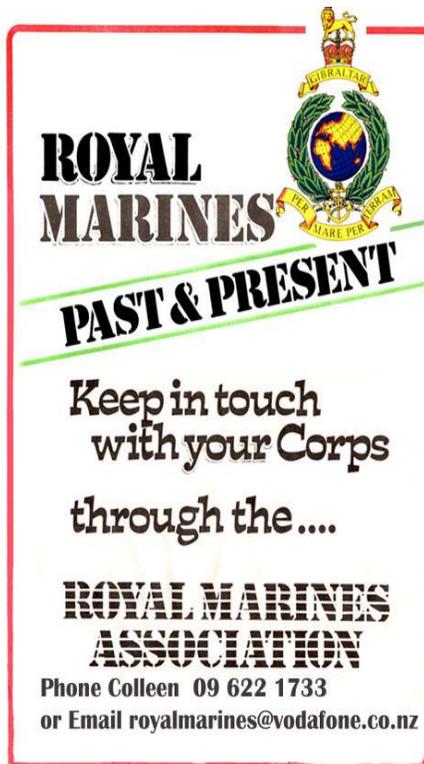
The President of the Pt Chevalier RSA, Jim McArthur, 1136 Great North Road, Pt Chevalier offered our **paid up** members "Complimentary Membership" to the 31.12 09. All those who were paid up and requested the cards have now received them.

Have you talked to your RM mates about the Association, we're always looking for new members and being so inexpensive to join, the more the merrier and the better the Association will become with more personal contacts etc. Please either contact me yourself or ask them to get in touch and I'll send a letter to them followed by a phone call if they're interested explaining what we're doing.

We're advised there is a new RMA Membership application form and a separate Globe & Laurel subscription form. Please contact me if you require these, I can post or email them to you.

Two ideas of Recruiting Posters to be placed in the local RSA's etc

Can you assist by placing one/some in your locals ????





TAUPO REUNION – FEBRUARY 2010

Many of you who have shown interest in attending the Reunion will have received a letter from Jock Munro recently and this is a further plea to post your \$25.00 per head fee to Noel Harker a.s.a.p. All monies must be in by 9th Feb and the latest cancellation date is 22^{3rd} of Feb so if you are concerned about paying and then not being able to attend, there is time to re-access your situation closer to the time. The point is to get the money in please, it's best not to leave it all to the last minute for the organizers to be constantly requesting the payments.

This is your last chance to purchase the RMA Xmas Cards @ \$1.50 each. Contact me a.s.a.p. so I can post them to you and thank you to those who have already purchased them.

The CORPS BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON.....

We offer great thanks to the following sponsors for their most generous raffle prizes donated to our organisation via our Vice Presidents' plea for assistance. We are very lucky that Philip Ayling has such a good relationship with these people, especially in the

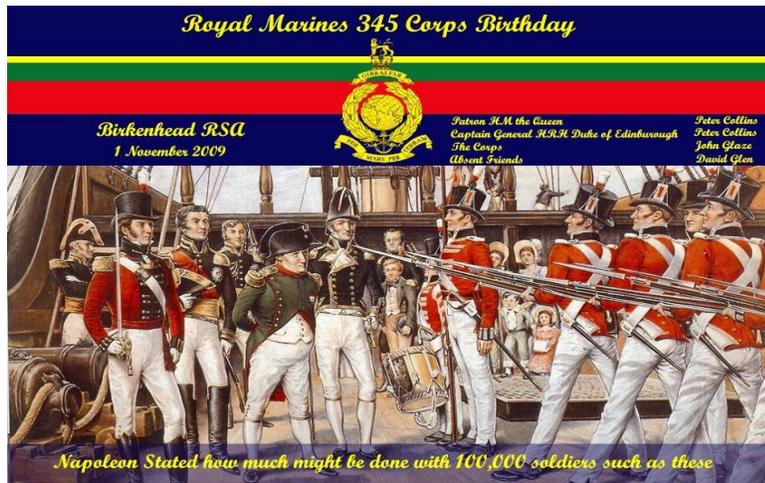
current economic downturn that prompted these company's to fill our raffle table with a fantastic array of prizes which brought in \$569.00

Robyn Kurth, Brita Water Filters, 23 William Ave, Takapuna ; Darren Newland, Dulux, Private Bag 99928 Newmarket; Paul Goodall, Selloys, PO Box 1109 Auckland; Mark Harris. Neil Cropper & Co, PO Box 9987 Newmarket; Ben Moore, Yates, P O Box 1109, Auckland; Andrew Piggin, Mitre 10, Private Bag 102 925 North Shore City 0745;

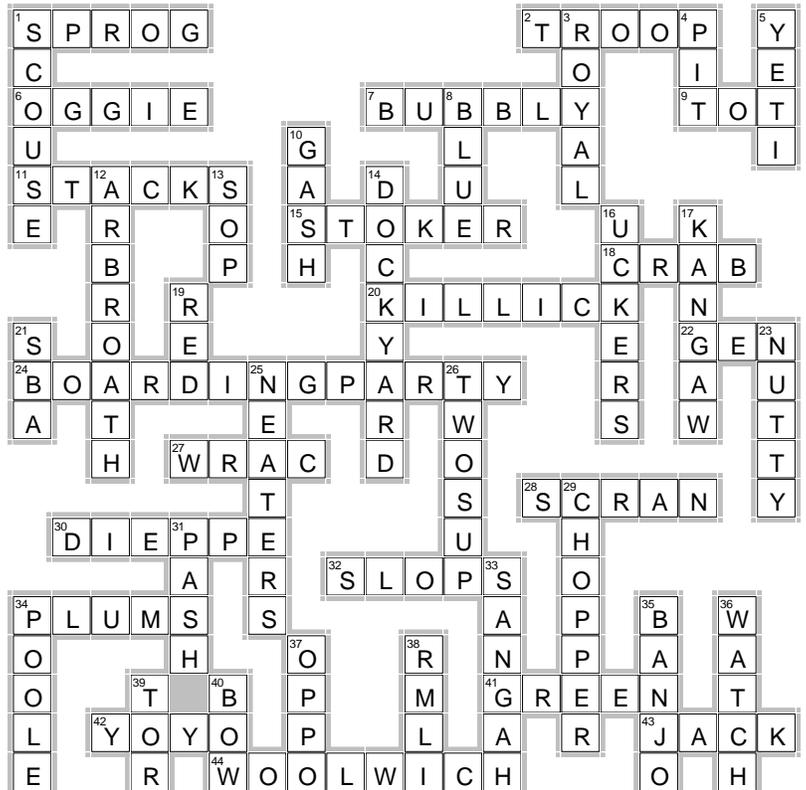
Tamara Rubanowski, Multi Media, PO Box 147486, Ponsonby; Rex Lim, Sharton International, PO Box 82 351, Highland Park.

Many other members and non members donated prizes to contribute to the annual fundraising exercise which is very much appreciated by all in the Association.

Below is the brilliant coloured, laminated tablemat produced by Philip Ayling



Here's the answers to the crossword on the back of the colour tablemats. The crossword was supplied by the Queensland RMA.





The Corps cake....

Armistice Day... The parade held at the Point Chevalier Memorial RSA at the 11th Hour 11th Day 11th Month, November the 11th.

The members of the NZ RMA, were invited to attend the Armistice Memorial Parade and Service, held at the Pt Chevalier RSA, Auckland, on the 11th hour of the 11th day, of the 11th month; November 11, 2009. The service was held in the club rooms and commenced at 10:00 hours.

The President of the Pt Chevalier RSA, Jimbo McArthur, made us very welcome indeed. The RMA members in attendance were Ticker Ayling, Gordon & Gloria Moore. Uniformed members of the NZ Forces, Royal Navy, NZ Army and the Royal Air Force, also were in attendance, along with 3 senior members from each of the Consulates of America, Denmark, Canada, Australia, Great Britain and Norway.

Gordon Moore and Ticker Ayling were invited by the President to be included in the VIP group, and be seated in the front row, which was an honour for us. The service was conducted by the Rev. Father Mario Derado (RNZAF), and the service commenced with the singing of the NZ National Anthem, in both Maori and English.

Wreaths were laid at the Cenotaph by members of the Consulates, followed by the NZ services and then the RMA. Several people complimented Gordon Moore on his turn out and his excellent drill. The President of the RSA gave a speech of welcome and another, excellent speech was made by Ensign Shaun McAuley, Royal New Zealand Navy. This was followed by the first hymn, Abide with Me, then the ships bell struck six bells followed by the Last Post, the Ode and Reville, finishing with the hymn Amazing Grace. The Reverend Father recited the blessing, then all were invited to partake of the excellent refreshments provided by the lady members of the RSA.

I would like to thank the President and members of the Pt Chevalier RSA for such a well conducted service, and the welcome we received on our arrival at the club rooms. By Ticker Ayling.

The Remembrance Day Parade 8 November 2009 – Auckland.

Attendees : Parade Marshall Ticker Ayling, President Peter Collins, V.P. Phil Ayling, & Jacqui Mellamphy, Standard Bearer Gordon Moore and his good wife Gloria. Union flag bearer Bob Battersby, Steve Ritson , Martin Kavanagh and his partner Kim.

The weather was great, a bright sunny day, all seemed well with the world as we all met at St Mathews cathedral in Hobson Street. We chatted with such dignitaries as Len Brown the Mayor of Manukau who was very interested in the history of the Corps. This was brought about when he made the comment that he thought the Americans had

started the Idea of Marines. Gordon Moore soon put him right as well as a Corps history lessen to boot. Ticker fell the troops in at the top of Hobson Street and once he had placed every one in their correct positions gave the Order to quick march. It was fantastic to March behind the Royal Artillery band as their music was as always of a very high standard. The parade halted at St Matthews and we fell out into the Cathedral for the Church service and Our standard bearers along with Ticker marched to the Altar where the standards were laid up and at the appointed time. The Last post was sounded and the standards were lowered, Ticker recited the Ode. After the parade we beat retreat to the Albion Pub across the road and partook in a few amber refreshments. A good occasion was had by all. By Philip Ayling.

Press Release, 12 November 2009 - **Prince Right Person to Open Supreme Court**

Monarchy New Zealand (also known as the Monarchist League of New Zealand) welcomes the news that Prince William will be returning to New Zealand in January 2010.

Chairman Professor Noel Cox said "visits from members of our Royal family are always welcome, and to have the second in line to the New Zealand throne, is a great way to begin the new year."

While here, Prince William will be opening the new Supreme Court building in Wellington. That a representative of New Zealand's Royal family presides over the opening is a powerful symbol of the independence of the Courts. The Prince will represent all New Zealanders on behalf of our Head of State, The Queen.

Professor Cox noted, "Our Royal Family stands above partisan politics and remains one of the great constitutional strengths of New Zealand's democracy. The opening of the permanent new home for the highest appellate court in the country is a great opportunity for the Prince to contribute to our constitutional and legal life." Professor Noel Cox, Chairperson. For more info contact Noel 027 636 4499 or chairperson@monarchy.org.nz

October 21st:- Battle-scarred: The Union Jack flag flew from the jackstaff of the HMS Spartiate (Charles Miller Ltd).

The only surviving Union Jack from the Battle of Trafalgar has sold at auction in London for nearly \$700,000 after being found tucked away in a drawer in a Sydney home. The battle-scarred flag, which was flown from the mast of HMS Spartiate during the battle, was given to Lieutenant James Clephan by his crew mates 204 years ago as a reward for his bravery during the fighting. The 1805 naval engagement pitted the British fleet under Lord Nelson against the combined French and Spanish fleets, and the ensuing British victory was seen as a turning point in the Napoleonic Wars. Lieutenant Clephan's relatives moved to Australia in the 1960s and the flag was tucked away in the bottom drawer of a home in Castle Hill, Sydney for safe-keeping. A London auction house was stunned when the flag sold for a world record of **384,000 pounds**

During a fierce bidding war the price climbed more than 30 times the original estimate, setting a new world record for a British flag. The buyer is an American collector who wants to remain anonymous. He said by phone from the United States that he hopes he can negotiate a deal with the British government to keep the historic flag in the UK. "I'm a collector and I've been collecting flags for over four decades, and I work on keeping the story and the relic together," he said. "So this is a passion I've had for history and many of these artefacts people often do not keep the story and the history together. "We understand the concern people may have in the United Kingdom about the flag going to America, but we're working on a plan to work with the British government to accommodate that concern. "In the United States it would have a nice home and if we're not able to work something out with the British government, we of course will give it a good home in the US. I'm sure it will be on view in the US for people to see." The buyer

says he finds the story of Lieutenant Clephan "intriguing", which is what attracted him to the flag. "It's one of the most historical flags, certainly in the Western world, that's well documented from a historical event," he said. "We're familiar with the history of the lieutenant who was given the flag at the time right after the battle. "This is a man who worked himself up through the ranks of the British Navy and became one of only 16 captains to do that in the history of the Royal Navy." A giant shot-scarred Union Jack that was flown at the Battle of Trafalgar has sold at auction for nearly £320,000, more than 20 times the pre-sale estimate.

The 11ft by 7ft flag (3m by 2m) from *HMS Spartiate* was bought by an anonymous American collector bidding against the National Maritime Museum and other would-be buyers from around the world. The new owner of the flag, which is believed to be the last surviving Union Jack to have flown at Trafalgar — 204 years ago yesterday — paid a total of £384,000, including buyer's premium and tax. He said last night that he hoped the flag would go on display in Britain. In the short term however, it may become the object of a battle to prevent it leaving the country. The Department of Culture, Media and Sport is considering a three-month ban on its export to give museums here the chance to raise funds to buy it. The flag was made from 31 pieces of bunting by the *Spartiate*'s crew shortly before the victory over the French fleet off the Spanish coast in 1805. After the battle it was taken down and presented to Lieutenant James Clephan, a singular honour for one of the ship's junior officers. The flag has remained in Clephan's family since and had been preserved in a drawer.

The current owner decided to sell it after moving to Australia and was delighted with the pre-sale estimate of £10,000-£15,000. Afterwards he was said to have been "blown away". The flag is riddled with holes from shot and splinters, and still has a whiff of gunpowder. News of its sale, [first reported in The Times](#), attracted interest from institutions as well as private collectors. The bidders included a representative of the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich. A spokesman said: "We were nowhere near getting it. We gave it our best shot but the final amount was far in excess of our capacity." Charles Miller, the London auctioneer who sold the flag, said: "It was all quite exciting. We are a small auction rooms and we were packed in like sardines. There were about 100 people in the room and all 12 telephones were taken up. When the hammer eventually came down there was a huge round of applause.

"The price is way above anyone's expectations but does reflect the historical importance of the flag and the battle it fluttered in 204 years ago today." Mr Miller added: "Naturally, it would have been nice had a British institution been able to purchase it but the buyer expects to make an approach to the Government very soon with a view of displaying the flag somewhere in Britain." A spokesman for the Department for Culture, Media and Sport said there was a chance that the flag would not be allowed to leave Britain. He said: "It depends on numerous factors and will not be considered unless the new buyer plans to take it overseas. If this is the case, they will have to apply for an export licence. The case will then be considered by an independent panel."

A press-ganged hero - James Clephan, from Fife in Scotland, began life as a weaver, but was press-ganged in 1794, aged 26, into the Royal Navy. At the battle of Trafalgar in 1805, the *Spartiate* and another ship, the *Minotaur*, served to block an attack on the centre of the British fleet, and captured the Spanish warship *Neptuno*. Clephan retired a captain in 1840. He is thought to be one of only 16 men in naval history to have risen so high after being press-ganged

The UK is building two new Aircraft Carriers for the Royal Navy, to be named HMS Queen Elizabeth and HMS Prince Of Wales, the Queen Elizabeth Class due to enter service in 2014 and 2016, respectively. The carriers will be the biggest and most powerful surface warships ever constructed for the Royal Navy and represent a step change in capability, enabling the delivery of increased strategic effect and influence around the world. They will be a key component of the improved expeditionary capabilities needed to confront the diverse range of threats in today's security

environment. The ships will be delivered by the Aircraft Carrier Alliance (ACA) – an innovative alliance comprising industry participants and MOD – in which MOD acts as both client and participant. For the Manufacture Phase the Industrial Participants will be: the BAES/VT planned Joint Venture, Thales, Babcock and BAES (Surface Ships & Insyte).

The Bellona 1760 – 1814

I have recently had the pleasure to chat via email with Mark Tindall, the builder of this masterpiece of maritime history. Mark wrote this brief article for our newsletter.....

Firstly she is Loa, 79 inches!! It was to have sailed, but alas, I am no longer fit enough to handle such a big model. The following is an extract from my article in the model shipwright no 125 which started to describe the building of her. Quote;' The famous eighteenth - century designer of warships of the period, Thomas Slade, was attributed with having designed *Bellona* at a time when a new type of ship of the line was becoming a critical necessity. This was because the English were well behind in their ship technology, and other nations such as the French were producing better ships. *Bellona* was one of three ships ordered in 1757 but not completed until Feb 1760 at Chatham where the *Victory* was built. She had an unusually long and varied career, the highlight of which was undoubtedly her single-ship action with the French 74 *Courageux*, during which engagement she was triumphant although damaged. *Courageux*, having lost her main and mizzen masts and losing 240 men and 110 wounded in the action was subsequently taken to the River Tagus for repair and was also influential as *Bellona* on ship design, being copied many times. After a long career in various roles, *Bellona* was finally broken up at Chatham in September 1814 in the very yard where she had been built. Many of her timbers may still be there in some of the original dockyard building which contain several old and interesting structural features. I built it for several reasons not the least of which is because it was made very near to where I was borne and overseen by a Shipwright from where I live here in Sheerness. She is also very beautiful in my opinion.



Reunion of Ex Royal Marines Bandsmen in Australia, March 2010

Following a very successful 2009 reunion of ex Royal Marines Bandsmen in Adelaide, South Australia, the consensus was to meet again for another exRMB reunion at same venue in Adelaide, Australia, last weekend of March 2010. Wives, partners, or a friend are welcome and included. Tentative accommodation has been reserved for those who may require it at Glenelg Motel, 41 Tapleys Hill Road, Glenelg, Adelaide, South Australia - Bob Chumley [on email below] once advised of your requirements, has kindly offered to attend to securing Motel bookings. (continued on next page)

Prices are as follows : -

Double or twin share or single is \$95-00 per room per night

Deluxe Spa room at \$120-00 per night

Continental Breakfast - \$12-00 per person or full cooked breakfast \$16-00 per person

Fully catered dinner is available in the dining room as well as bar facilities.

All functions to be held at this venue apart from Saturday's Official Luncheon to be held onboard HMS Buffalo [within walking distance] a replica of the first ship carrying immigrants which arrived Adelaide, South Australia.

Program for the reunion is : -

Friday, 26th March, 2010, assemble at Glenelg Motel Dining Room at 1730hrs for meet and greet and meal, price approximately \$15-00 per head plus drinks.

Saturday, 27th March, assemble at 1130-hrs at HMS Buffalo Restuarant for photos before boarding for lunch at 1200hrs [price to be advised but approx \$35-00 per head plus drinks].

Saturday evening free to make own arrangements.

Sunday, 28th March, 1130hrs meet for 1200hrs BBQ by the pool at Glenelg Motel, price t.b.a. but approx \$15-00 per head plus drinks.

Due to following weekend being Easter it would be advisable for those travelling by air to make bookings ASAP and to advise either myself at jananderic@aanet.com.au , phone 03 54472226 or Bob Chumley at chummers@optusnet.com.au , phone 08 83379514 your arrival and departure dates for Motel bookings, also flight details as can arrange collection at airport.

Why not come earlier and make a holiday of it ??? If any exRoyal's would like to joins us they would be made welcome. If any exRMB's unable to make it this time, please advise your contact details and can include you on database for future reunions.

Regards , Eric Hayward RMB/X 3051

Thousands turned out on the banks of the Clyde today to cheer on the latest ship to make up the Royal Navy's formidable new [Type 45 destroyer class. Defender](#) sailed for the first time recently. (see next page)

Command-in-Chief Fleet Admiral Sir Trevor Soar said: *"The thousands gathered here today to witness the launch of Defender is testament to the pride Scotland rightly takes in its shipbuilding industry which has seen a resurgence in recent times with the Type 45 build programme and the manufacture of the Aircraft Carriers that they will defend. "Defender's affiliation with her 'home town' of Glasgow will ensure these strong links live on and gives the Royal Navy the chance to give something back to the community that worked so hard to deliver her and her sister ships. "The launch of the fifth ship is an exciting milestone as we draw nearer to the first of class HMS Daring entering into service in the New Year to begin her duties with the Royal Navy."*

Defender was launched amid a cloud of balloons and fireworks by Lady Massey, wife of the Deputy Head of the Navy Second Sea Lord Sir Alan Massey, to the fanfare of the Band of the Royal Marines.

Chief of Materiel (Fleet) Vice Admiral Andrew Mathews said: *"The Type 45 class is a most formidable ship. Her world-class Sea Viper missile system which can defend against multiple attacks by the most sophisticated anti-ship missiles bears out the title 'destroyer', while Defender's name hints to her main*

future role in providing air defence to the Navy's new aircraft carriers.



"Defender will be capable of carrying out a wide range of operations, including anti-piracy and anti-smuggling activities, disaster-relief work and surveillance operations as well as high intensity warfighting."

As versatile as they are powerful, the Type 45s will have a range of capabilities. They will be able to carry up to 60 Royal Marines Commandos and their equipment, and operate a Chinook-sized helicopter from the flight deck. The standards of accommodation are also able to exceed previous classes thanks to the ships' size.

[Defender](#) is the fifth ship of six in the Type 45 destroyer class. Good progress is being made on the programme: [HMS Daring](#) (ship one) has been commissioned into the Royal Navy and is on her final trials prior to her entering service, planned for February 2010.

[Dauntless](#) (ship two) has recently completed two very successful sets of sea trials while [Diamond](#) (ship three) has just begun her sea trials. [Dragon](#) (ship four) was launched in Scotland at the end of 2008 and [Duncan](#) (ship six) is under construction in Govan. This article was taken from a recent Royal Navy News....

TAPS.....

Reportedly, it all began in 1862 during the Civil War, when the Union Army Captain Robert Ellicombe was with his men near Harrison 's Landing in Virginia . The Confederate Army was on the other side of the narrow strip of land.

During the night, Captain Ellicombe heard the moans of a soldier who lay severely wounded on the field. Not knowing if it was a Union or Confederate soldier, the Captain decided to risk his life and bring the stricken man back for medical attention. Crawling on his stomach through the gunfire, the Captain reached the stricken soldier and began pulling him toward his encampment.

When the Captain finally reached his own lines, he discovered it was actually a Confederate Soldier, but the soldier was dead. The Captain lit a lantern and suddenly

caught his breath and went numb with shock. In the dim light, he saw the face of the soldier. It was his own son. The boy had been studying music in the South when the war broke out. Without telling his father, the boy enlisted in the Confederate Army.

The following morning, heartbroken, the father asked permission of his superiors to give his son a full military burial, despite his enemy status. His request was only partially granted. The Captain had asked if he could have a group of Army band members play a funeral dirge for his son at the funeral. The request was turned down since the soldier was a Confederate. But, out of respect for the father, they did say they could give him only one musician. The Captain chose a bugler. He asked the Bugler to play a series of musical notes he had found on a piece of paper in the pocket of the Dead youth's uniform. This wish was granted. The haunting melody, we now know as 'Taps' used At military funerals was born.

The words are:

Day is done. Gone the sun. From the lakes From the hills. From the sky.
All is well. Safely rest. God is nigh.

Fading light. Dims the sight. And a star. Gems the sky. Gleaming bright.
From afar. Drawing nigh. Falls the night.

Thanks and praise. For our days. Neath the sun. Neath the stars. Neath the sky

As we go. This we know. God is nigh



*May Peace be your gift at Christmas
and your blessing all year through!*

*May we ask, as you sit with your friends and
family at this special time, offer a prayer and
a toast for all the service people currently in
action and retired . God bless.*