



# NZ BRANCH OF THE ROYAL MARINES ASSOCIATION

October 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)

## Presidents comments.....

Kia Ora. As the content of the newsletter has increased considerably over the last few months it has been decided that we will aim for it to become a monthly rather than bi-monthly publication. The exception to this will be if the content is insufficient to justify publication, at which time we will skip a month e.g. probably over the Christmas period. We are always looking for new material and I would ask that you forward anything appropriate to Colleen. There was a healthy attendance again at the October bi-monthly meeting with a number of propositions being proposed, seconded and carried unanimously. We also took the opportunity to donate a green beret to the Point Chevalier RSA for inclusion in its military headdress cabinet. There was also considerable discussion about how we can best market the branch across New Zealand and Philip and Colleen have a few ideas up their sleeves. The full minutes can be accessed on this site.

We welcome 2 new members this month – John Roberts (RM18682) who is Picton based and Jack Murray. Jack is the son of our recently deceased member, Robert Murray, and he is Auckland based. It was good to see ex WO2 (LC) Mick McMahon at the October meeting. Mick has transferred to the New Zealand Navy and is Devonport based.

Can I make a plea that all payments for the Corps Birthday on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November are sent to Noel Harker ASAP. The cost is \$20.00 per person. A further plea from me for raffle prizes, either in advance or on the day. Philip has produced another fine Service Sheet for the Church Service and may have a wee bit of a surprise in terms of the table mats this year. This year we will be exercising the privilege bestowed upon us by Her Majesty the Queen in 1964 and will be remaining seated for the loyal toasts to Her Majesty and our Captain General. To clear up any misunderstanding, I will explain that privilege to the audience on the day.

Good to see that Chalky Carr is knocking the Christchurch splinter group into shape. They are holding their very own Corps Birthday celebration on the evening of the 28<sup>th</sup> of October meeting up at HMNZS Pegasus on Montreal Street at 1800 before venturing out into town.

Jock Munro tells me that we currently have 38 confirmed attendees for the weekend in Taupo 26 to 28 February 2010. Ideally we could still do with a few more. Further details, including costs etc will be notified shortly.

Once again many thanks to all our members for their continued support of the branch. Once a Marine Always a Marine.

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**Colleen's Housekeeping Section.....CORPS BIRTHDAY – CHURCH SERVICE AND LUNCHEON 1<sup>ST</sup> November at Birkenhead RSA - If you are planning to attend, contact Colleen or Noel urgently by phone. Please bring a raffle prize if possible to help the prize pool, the more the better. There will be a large Corps Cake this year. ANYONE IS WELCOME TO ATTEND, it's not just for members ☺**

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**\*\*\*\*\*XMAS CARDS ... We still have style A, B C & F available @ \$1.50 each including the envelope. Please contact me a.s.a.p. to purchase some to help your RMA, ☺**

TAUPO REUNION FEBRUARY 2010 ...

*Are you planning to attend ?????*

*Have you been in contact with told Jock Munro either way ??????*

Some of our members have health concerns, cannot or do not wish to drive the distance to Taupo. They would appreciate a seat in your vehicle and I am sure they would assist with the petrol without hesitation. PLEASE let me know even if you are even just a "possible" attendee at this stage. Thank you

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The non email members will receive .... A copy of the email sent out detailing the Operational Honours List, a photo of HMS Ocean, the newspaper clipping of the Russian soldiers in Dvortsovaya Square in St Petersburg, Xmas Card designs available, the House of Travel brochure for the Edinburgh Military Tattoo in Sydney – Feb 10, October edition of the City of London RMA Newsletter.

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It was suggested by Bob Reay at the October meeting we run a raffle at the Taupo Reunion. Your contributions are sought for this event please; book or petrol vouchers travel well in the post, unaccompanied, to the committee if you are unable to attend.

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Max Beare asked a valuable question at our meeting, "how do we approach new members, what's the process." If you know someone interested in joining, please contact me, I have a standard letter, inviting them and once they have joined Peter Collins officially welcomes them aboard with a personalized letter. We look forward to your contacts, you can help to make your Association better ☺

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Ticker Ayling has asked that we have more attendees at the **Remembrance Day Parade**. Please contact Ticker or myself if you are interested a.s.a.p. or feel free to turn up on the day. The parade & service will be held on Sunday the 8th of November 2009. Muster Cnr of Hobson Street & Cook Street @ 1100hrs. Dress Medals, Headdress, Berets etc. The parade will step off @ 1130hrs for a 5 minute march, down hill, to St Mathews Church with the Band of the NZ Royal Artillery leading. Standards will be paraded. There's free parking in the car park alongside the Church in Hobson St & refreshments will be provided in the Church on the completion of the service. For further information Contact the Secretary, Phone (09) 3779798 [www.stmathews.org.nz](http://www.stmathews.org.nz).

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Philip Ayling has a booklet available from the Royal Marines Historical Society, titled Royal Marines in East Devon ( A History of Lympstone and Dalditch Camps) Special Publication No.9 . It is very interesting and there are lots of old photos in it. If you would like it posted to you to read and return please contact Philip or myself.

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**Did you know that some members have not paid their subs yet. Peter Collins is going to address this personally after the Corps Birthday. May I take this opportunity to remind everyone the subs are due 1 APRIL every year or if you wish, many pay for 2 or more years at a time to save worrying about it. Come on you know who you are and you're letting the team down ... \$15.00 or \$20.00 does not a mortgage make!!!!**

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## MEMORIAL WALL FOR ROYAL MARINES....

### **A memorial wall has been unveiled in Devon in recognition of the sacrifice of Royal Marines killed on active duty.**

The wall was unveiled at the Commando Training Centre, Lymington, near Exmouth.

About 2,000 service personnel and their families attended a private dedication ceremony which ended with the unveiling of the memorial.

The wall bears the names of all the Royal Marines who have died in active duty since the start of the millennium.

A spokesman for the Royal Marines said the wall was commissioned to provide a permanent and fitting memorial.

This is the RM Commando You Tube link for those who wish to look at their videos etc in different categories e.g. Extreme vs Marines, State of Mind, RMC Training, Ambush & Assault plus various others. <http://www.youtube.com/royalmarinesofficial>

### Lost Comrades.....

Does anyone remember Patrick Hopper who lives in the UK ?

He was in the Corps from Sep 58 to July 81. Recruit squad 703, originally a Cliff Assault Leader, but became an MP in the newly formed branch in 1962. 45 Commando in Aden 60/61 and 66/67, Provost Sgt RMB Eastney 67 -70, DSM HMS Warrior, Northwood, 70 – 73. Last jobs within the Corps were CSM G Coy, 41 Commando 73 to 75, IC RM Police Branch 76 to 78 and security work with CinC Naval Home Command 78 to 81.

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This link is to the site where you can find Operation Enduring Freedom which has all the information from 2001 for the coalition casualties by country e.g US, UK and others are individually listed along with their nationality, and the country the casualty occurred in e.g Afganistan, Iraq. <http://icasualties.org/oef/>

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Did you know ..... the first matlot in the Royal Navy to win a Naval Victoria Cross was Midshipman, Charles Lucas, who picked up a live shell and threw it overboard when he served on Steam Frigate "Hecla" in 1854. He later became a Rear Admiral. Ken Weldon RM 12032

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This is the link to the website of the internationally renowned, Royal Society of Marine Artists. <http://www.rsma-web.co.uk>

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The latest update on the Mary Rose.....

Work has just begun on a GBP35 million museum for this 500-year old Tudor warship. To be opened in 2012, it will be one of the most ambitious heritage projects ever undertaken and the ship's hull will be housed in a new boat-shaped museum, where, for the first time, visitors will be able to see a state- of-the-art recreation of the wreck's missing side.

Mary Rose is now withdrawn from view until her new home is ready but a separate museum at the historic dockyards is open with thousands of artifacts from the ship.

<http://www.maryrose.org>

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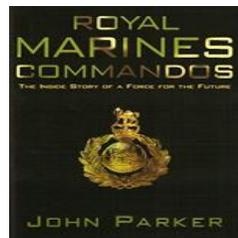
## **Royal Marine Commandos**

### **T The inside story of a fighting force for the future**

In a world where Special Forces have become the linchpin of international military operations, there is one word that sums up reaction to recent operations of the Royal Marines Commandos: RESPECT. Originally formed in 1664, the Royal Marines have a proud yet poignant history. They emerged from an era of relatively low-grade, ill-used and often mistreated sea soldiers to be transformed over time into the elite force that exists today, capable of operating on any terrain or environment, against diverse opposing firepower, moving by land, sea and air or a combination of all three. And indeed, as these words were being prepared, the RM Commando units were in the process of a major restructuring under the project title of Commando 21, signifying a readiness to meet the new challenges that present themselves in the 21st Century. A ten-year programme has been launched to include a vast upgrading of equipment and

deployment potential, aimed at increasing the firepower and mobility of the Commando units so that, by 2010, they will have converged to create an outstanding Amphibious Force capable of handling National and NATO operations through to 2020 and beyond. The first stage of this progressive development to establish a diverse and multi-skilled Commando force, building upon the already well-established 'go-anywhere' traditions, has already been completed. The Commandos have been organised into what is described as a command, logistics, close combat and fire support grouping which represents a complete departure from traditional platoon and company organisation that has been the structure of British infantry units since the end of the Second World War. They will be equipped with new ships and small craft, aircraft, weapons, vehicles and state of the art Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition and Reconnaissance (ISTAR) assets to maximise their deployment possibilities.

Not that the Royal Marines have ever been tardy in their progress into modern warfare. They were using flintlocks when other units were still carrying matchlocks, and through their history, from the days of King Charles II, they have been at the forefront of military activity around the world - so much so that the Globe itself became the insignia of the Corps. Theirs is a riveting story, one that is associated with key events in Britain's world-wide aspirations and conflicts. Available online at Amazon.co.uk or try your local library. Sent to us by our member Max Beare.



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**Taken from the Royal Navy News UK, Live Sept 09. .... Book Launch of the Memoirs of William 'Bill' Stone ,Two World Wars, One Extraordinary Life - The Memoirs of Centenarian, WILLIAM STONE, Foreword by HRH Prince Andrew, Epilogue by the First Sea Lord. Publication Date: 1 October 2009 ,£17.99 Hardback** William Stone died on Saturday, 9 January 2009 aged 108. He received a hero's funeral. Born in rural Devon, he joined the navy during the First World War, travelled the globe just before the British Empire's light began to fade and saw action in some of the most significant sea battles of the Second World War. Afterwards, he returned to Devon to run a barber's shop, an altogether more peaceable existence. As time passed, he became one of a dwindling number of men who had served in the Great War. This meant that for some of the most momentous anniversaries occurring recently, including the 90th anniversary of the end of the First World War, William was a guest of honour. His life bridged two wars and encompassed the remarkable episodes and adventures that fell to a British sailor of the era. Just one among many, he played his part diligently and with distinction to help win the Second World War. He would be haunted for the rest of life by what he witnessed on the devastated beaches at Dunkirk, as the Royal Navy fought off Hitler's Luftwaffe to save the British Army. Memories of being torpedoed by German U-Boats, and enduring the hardships of the Russian convoys amid the sudden enemy attacks from the sea and air, as well as the Baltic winter would also stay with William throughout his life. His roll of honour from service in the Second World War can be viewed only with admiration and pride. It was an ordinary life lived in extraordinary times, and William brushed with many of the significant events of his era. He died at a time when the navy is attempting to embrace new ships that bear scant resemblance to those that William knew so well, and face the challenges of a world that shrinks with every bold technological advance. His was a different kind of boldness. This is his astonishing story. William 'Bill' Stone was born on 23 September 1900 in Ledstone, Knightsbridge, in Devon. He was the last man to have served in both the Great War and the Second World War. He was a career sailor, travelling the globe before the age of modern communications and transport, & sailed on the famous Empire Cruise aboard HMS Hood in 1923-4.

During the Second World War, he endured hardship, and found fear and death all around him. He fought the Nazis at Dunkirk, sailed on the perilous Arctic convoys to supply vital aid to Russia, was mentioned in dispatches at the Invasion of Sicily, and played his part in the Atlantic War against the U-boat threat. Up until his death in 2009, he made countless public appearances to pass on his memories and wisdom and teach new generations the realities of sacrifice, duty and war. William Stone died a national hero.

This article was taken from the Bosuns Chronicle, UK, October 2009.....

Last year very troubling rumours circulated that the Royal Navy would sell HMS "Victory". Following widespread outrage, you can be assured that there is now no chance of this priceless maritime heritage being lost. A new body, the Museum of the Royal Navy, has been created which brings together the four existing Service museums, plus "Victory", into 1 umbrella organization.

"Victory" herself launched this new initiative with an impressive firing of 64 cannon on September 18. The rolling broadside was launched by the ship's commanding officer and consisted of 50 random gunshots running from forward to aft. After a short delay this was followed by a further 14 shots using each of these guns in an impressive finale. Amazingly, given the spectacular nature of this event, the amount of gunpowder used was less than the gunner onboard at Trafalgar would have used for a single shot. And if you're planning a visit to Portsmouth sometime, here's a useful guide <<http://www.bbchistorymagazine.com/visit/portsmouth-historic-dockyard>>

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*On the same note..... The National Museum of the Royal Navy was today launched with a broadside of 64 cannons from HMS Victory. See next page ( From Royal Navy News, UK Live Sept 09)*

Speaking at the launch, Baroness Taylor (Under Secretary of State and Minister for International Defence and Security) stated: *"In a society where direct experience of Service life and culture has naturally diminished over the years, our military museums increasingly represent the public face of the Services, informing and educating the public of the history, achievements and traditions of our Armed Forces."*

Admiral Sir Mark Stanhope KCB OBE ADC (Chief of the Naval Staff and First Sea Lord) said: *"The bringing together of the museums will allow all of us to understand better our cultural identity as an island nation - one with a seafaring tradition, dependent on maritime trade and the freedom of the seas. It creates a single focus for the preservation and show-casing of our naval heritage and better illustrates how closely linked are the fortunes of the Navy and the nation it serves."*

Dr Caroline Williams (Chairman of Portsmouth Historic Dockyard) said: *"The Board of Portsmouth Historic Dockyard warmly welcomes and supports the launch of the National Museum of the Royal Navy as a unique and important opportunity to enhance and promote naval heritage and acknowledges that there are considerable potential benefits to be gained from this. The Board therefore are committed to working with the National Museum to support the development of Portsmouth Historic Dockyard and will be looking to take an active part, including integration where appropriate, in support of this common aim."*

### **NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE ROYAL NAVY (NMRN)**

The creation of the National Museum of the Royal Navy, an initiative fully supported by the Navy Board, embraces the four existing Naval Service museums (the Royal Naval Museum (Portsmouth), the Royal Marines Museum (Southsea), the Royal Navy Submarine Museum (Gosport) and the Fleet Air Arm Museum (Yeovilton)) and is the culmination of over two years' work. It is a core objective of the Naval Heritage Strategy, the aim of which is to ensure that naval heritage as a whole is deployed to its full potential in promoting the Naval Service and that the full range of our heritage assets are appropriately resourced, managed and employed in a coherent manner. The new body will build on the strengths of the existing museums, which will themselves retain a strong individual identity, to improve the profile of naval heritage within the broader heritage sector and establish one which properly reflects the wealth and breadth of the naval collection. Creation of the National Museum will provide a clear strategic focus and enable synergies and efficiencies to be harnessed for the wider benefit of naval heritage. The establishment of the NMRN is a significant milestone in the RN's continuing efforts to make the most of its unique heritage holdings. The National Museum is now the body to which the Department – and the Royal Navy – will look for leadership on naval heritage matters.



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We are pleased to have been given the contact details of Richard Thurston, who has built a detailed and amazing model of HMS Ocean. What a work of Heart !!! If you would like to see more photos . I have 8 more I can email and his email address if you would like to contact him direct. He has kindly produced this for our newsletter...

I am a member of Norwich Model Boat Club, based at Eaton Park in Norwich. I launched my 9½ foot HMS Ocean aircraft carrier which I have built, on Sunday 20 September, it is a unique replica. It has taken me 9 months to build.

This model is dedicated in memory of my late father, Raymond Thurston, who came home on HMS Ocean during the Suez Canal Crisis in 1956. He was a Royal Marine 42 Commando. I have replicated my model based upon exactly how it was when it returned from Suez, using photographs and the Internet for research. This will be one of the largest models at the boat club.

Whilst this is not museum build quality, it is a fully operational radio controlled model and I am really pleased with the build quality achieved. It has 186 lights, the band of the Royal Marines come up on a deck lift (with music, Soldiers of the Sea, Life on The Ocean Wave & Sunset), there are battle sounds, working anchors, two working radars, smoke unit, helicopter blades rotate, with effective start up and idle sound, Morse code lights (flashes with sound) – it's the full works!

Out of interest, coincidentally, my father joined the Royal Marines on 6 November 1951, went into the Suez Crisis on 6 November 1956 and sadly passed away on 6 November 2001; I also started building the ship on 6 November 2008! ( see next page)



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Finally, this link sent in by our member Jock Munro, <http://www.caffuk.co.uk/> is for the official site of the Combined Armed Forces Federation (UK). **The COMBINED ARMED FORCES FEDERATION UK exists to:**

- promulgate, monitor, update, negotiate and make representations to Government Ministers regarding Armed Forces Pay Levels, Pension Rights, Allowances, Life Insurance and Legal Representation etc., in relation to conditions of service.
- make representations to Government Ministers on any other related matters of concern to existing or past members of the Armed Forces.