

## THE CITY ROYAL

The Newsletter of the City of London



Branch Royal Marines Association

Per Mare

Per Terram

### Branch Officers

President

Lt General Sir Robert Fulton KBE

Chairman: Graeme Golightly - Secretary: Tony Luckens BEM -

Treasurer and Membership Secretary: : Stephen Gilkes -

Welfare Representative: Norman Saints - City Royal Editor: David Harris

### A WORD FROM THE CHAIR



Dear Friends,

I trust that this latest newsletter finds that you and your families are still continuing to keep well and safe?

This month as a country we celebrated Armed Forces Week. I was emailed a link to become a participant in viewing the flag raising ceremony at the London Guildhall. It was very professionally put together and of course in keeping to the COVID19 isolation restrictions. It did seem rather strange that normally our branch always contributes the largest number of RM veterans to this event. Something to do with I am sure, the free drinks and buffet that is always provided after the ceremony!

Our very efficient CR editor David emailed the on-line link to all our members and if you have yet to view this video I would strongly recommend it to you. It clearly shows the on-going real strong connection between our great City of London and our armed forces.

At a local level, Crawley W. Sussex, myself and my wife Sharon along with another branch member, Andy Merry, were invited to take part in a video and read some lines from the poem by A. Lawrence Vaincourt 'Just a Common Soldier'. This was for the town's contribution to AFW2020.

I attach last years 2019 photo, which was taken at the Guildhall.



In keeping with our strong connections within London, the NFA published their 2019/20 annual review book. Some of you may recall that as a branch, a number of our members volunteered to help with collections at Victoria Station in March, after the NFA requested some help. One of our members, Paddy Wilkes, was photographed accordingly and included in this publication. Our RM presence is seen from all angles in the square mile!

A little teaser for you can anyone tell me the connection between the NFA's current Chief Executive, Brigadier James Stopford CBE and our RM family? No prizes unfortunately but whoever tells me first will get a free 'wet' on me, when we eventually meet back up.

Talking about meeting back up. If you are members of the Union Jack Club, if you are not why not, you will have no doubt received an email from the club announcing the re-opening of its club, on the 4<sup>th</sup> July, with the lockdown measures being relaxed. Our club secretary, Tony Luckens, has been looking into our branch requirements for forthcoming meetings etc. This is being done with the input of your committee to totally ensure that we are able to safely and confidently hold such meetings.

KEEP SAFE, HEALTHY, CHEERFUL AND CARRY ON.

With Very Best Wishes,  
Graeme Golightly  
Branch Chairman,  
[www.rmacol.co.uk](http://www.rmacol.co.uk)

**UNITED WE CONQUER**

**Once a Marine Always a Marine**



**The Raising of The Flag Ceremony at Guildhall Yard 24th June 2020**

## The Lord Mayor of London's Address

### SIRIUS BUSINESS 4 - Mike Pinchen continues:-

HMS *Sirius* relived HMS *Londonderry* at sea taking the latter's place with the NATO 'Standing Naval Force Atlantic' which had the acronym of STANAVFORLANT. This 'force', on a rotating, basis, comprised of ships from the various NATO countries. At this particular time the countries represented were USA, Canada, Holland, Norway, Denmark, West Germany, and, of course the Royal Navy. The Commodore was Dutch, but soon to be replaced by a Canadian. It was said that when either the Dutch or British wore the Commodore's Pennant, one did a lot of sea time. On the other hand, when the Yanks or Canadians were in charge one seemed to be alongside a lot, particularly on their side of the pond! However memory can be fickle and rumour is rife at sea, particularly when the company is multinational. Our first port of call was Newcastle, and what a great run ashore that place was! Tiffany's nightclub was the place to go in those days.



Our next destination was Halifax, Nova Scotia, via the Azores. Whilst on route we encountered the beginnings of a huge Atlantic storm, which had caused concern with some of the ships in our company. While taking on fuel and stores at Ponta Delgada and after some discussion, it was decided that the majority of the squadron would by-pass the storm and proceed to Halifax by a different route. However the Dutch and the British would steam through the storm and head there direct.



When we arrived at Halifax it was icers! In fact it was so cold the sea was steaming off. *Sirius* had taken a fair battering and many of us had been seasick. The upper-works had orange and brown rust streaks defacing the paintwork, and the Buffer's Party were particularly busy on arrival. It was the only time I saw water freeze in the bucket before it could be used. We had been alongside for about a week before the 'also rans' finally arrived. No rust on their paintwork or broken and bent fittings; no, but they had a lovely suntan, for they had gone via Bermuda!

So, down to business and the changing of Commodores. The Dutch were to hand over to the Canadians. A parade took place in the naval base in Halifax. All the ship's companies provided a guard of honour; we Royals representing *Sirius*. As the Dutch were handing over to the Canadians, they were out in front separate from the rest. We were lined up on the right flank. To our left was the US Navy then the other nations. The petty officer in charge of the US contingent became indignant that we, as mere marines were on the right flank, and taking the senior position. He thought that as he was navy, and senior to marines that the US Navy should be on the right flank. He approached the DSM Bill Eades and remonstrated. Bill eyeballed him from under the brim of his pith helmet and said calmly:





*"What you say may or may not be true. However, what is true is that my Corps is older than your country, so piss off and stop wasting my time".*

At that moment the OCRM approached asking if there was a problem. With that, the Petty Officer saluted and returned to his place in a huff.

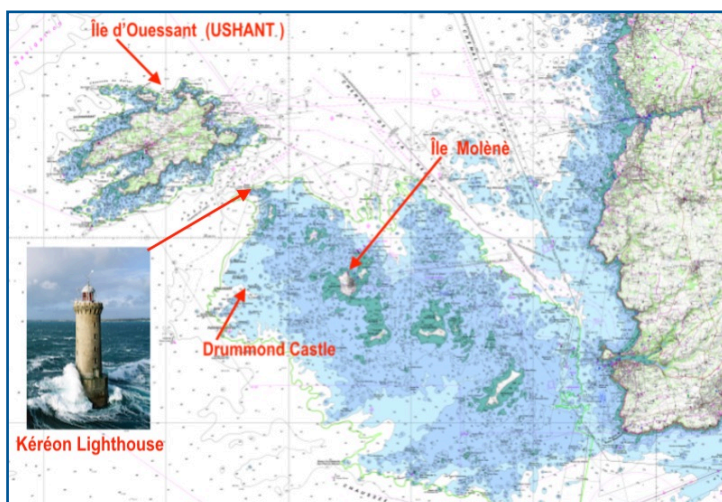
### Epilogue

HMS *Sirius* had been built in Portsmouth and commissioned in 1966. On 1 August 1970, she took part in rescue operations, when the ferry *Christena* sank off St. Kitts. Some 233 people died, some from shark attack. Only 91 people survived. For her actions, *Sirius* was awarded the Wilkinson Sword of Peace. In 1975 she began a modernisation programme which included the removal of her twin 4.5", (113mm) gun turret in favour of the Exocet anti-ship missile system. With that RM detachments were no longer required. So ended 'Royals' association with a fine ship. On 17th February 1992, despite having undergone a £25m refit, *Sirius* was paid off. Should she be sold, should she been scrapped? Neither of these; instead she was to be used as a target. In 1998 HMS *Sirius*, the 7<sup>th</sup> ship to bear that proud name, (after the brightest star in the Northern hemisphere), was towed out into the Atlantic and finally sunk, receiving a torpedo amidships from HM Submarine *Spartan*. She now lies in the deep, home to the fishes.



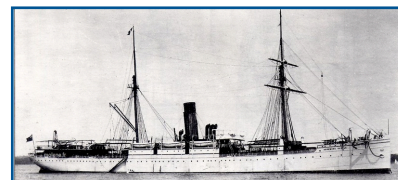
Mike Pinchen  
PO28051Q

**ONE THING LEADS TO ANOTHER (1)** - Recently a video entitled "Lighthouse Crew Change" was circulated to a few of our members. A copy was subsequently sent on to Colin Appleby, following which he made contact and was persuaded to write the following:-



The video you shared grabbed my attention, it is the French lighthouse Kéréon, in the Iroise Sea off southern Brittany. This particular region is well noted for its fabulous coastline as well as hosting some terrible storms. I have journeyed on this stretch of water on many occasions by Kayak, visiting the islands of Molène and Ouessant (Ouessant is better known as Ushant in English). The lighthouse itself marks the Channel Fromveur, which has quite a reputation for its dangerous currents, and was the site of the tragic sinking of the passenger boat

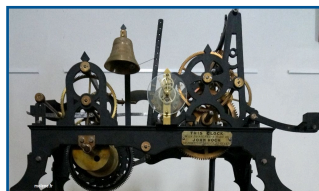
"Drummond Castle" on 17 June 1896. It was never established just how many passengers were on board, the capacity was 380 passengers and 102 crew, however it's believed the boat did not have a full complement, but indeed there were 137 boarded at Cape Town (mostly women and children fleeing the Boer war.) Only three survivors made it to



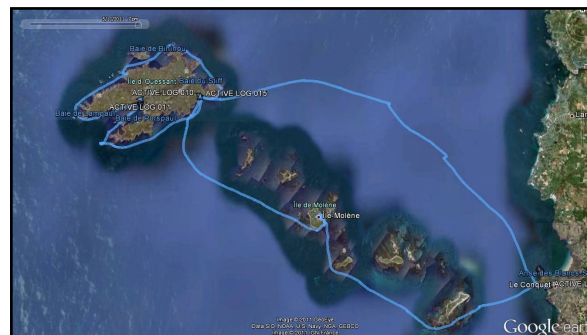


shore where all the local population set out on the sea to search for further survivors, none were found and just 29 bodies were recovered and subsequently buried on the Island Molène.

The search and rescue mission was rewarded by Queen Victoria, with a number of decorations awarded. Additionally, the currents gratitude to the islanders was rewarded with a "reservoir" or cistern to collect and hold rainwater as the island had no supply of fresh water. The Cistern is still in use and functioning today. The other pressing need for the island fishermen was an accurate timepiece to allow them to predict the tide and currents around the island to help then fish in greater safety, the islanders were presented with a three dial clock designed and built by the Master clockmaker John



Hoch of London. Despite deeply divided religious views between Catholics and Protestants of that time, all the victims recovered were treated with dignity and hurried in like manner regardless of their religious denomination and the Archbishop of Canterbury saw fit to present a golden Chalice.



**DRUMMOND CASTLE BRETON FUND.**

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MORNING POST.

SIR,—I am deeply grateful for your kindly reference to the "Drummond Castle Breton Fund" in to-day's paper. The aims of the fund are in the first place to provide a water supply to Molène, which suffers from the want of good water; a scheme for this is now being studied by competent persons. Also to present a clock for the church tower, there being no clock on the island, and only two watches. If funds permit it is proposed to build a spire to the church at Ushant, which it is thought will be a great benefit as a landmark to fishermen and others at sea, while, should there be sufficient money left, a fund would be established for the benefit of the relations of shipwrecked and retired fishermen and for the education of their children.

The impression made upon the public here at the time of the sad event, seemed to warrant the expectation of a better response than the appeal of our Committee has met with, and now that the meritorious nature of the proposals are again brought prominently forward by your kind assistance, it may be hoped that prompt and efficient aid may be afforded to carry out our schemes.—Yours, &c.,

F. J. MIRRIELES, Hon. Secretary.

3 and 4, Fenchurch-street, Sept. 3.

**DRUMMOND CASTLE BRETON FUND.—A**

National Gift to the Peasants and Fishermen of the Breton Coast and Islands, in recognition of the kindness, sympathy, and respect shown by them to the survivors and the dead.

It is estimated that a sum of £3,000 will be required to deal practically with the scheme. The amount at present collected is £597 7s., the following subscriptions having been received in addition to £163 19s. already advertised:—

Sir. Donald. Currie.	£200 0 0	Geo. N. Maule	£2 2 0
K.C.M.G., M.P.		Dr. Donald and Mrs. Hood	1 1 0
Sir Robt. G. W. Herbert,		Anonymous	1 0 0
G.C.B.	15 15 0	Louis Forbes	2 2 0
W. G. Soper, J.P.	21 0 0	H. T. M.	2 0 0
F. J. Mirrieles	52 10 0	S. H. Curtis	1 0 0
Capt. G. A. K. Wisely	21 0 0	Mrs. and Misses Baxter	1 0 0
P. A. Molteno	21 0 0	G. E. Matheson	1 1 0
G. W. Strong, C.B.	5 0 0	Major Mountstephen	1 0 0
R. H. Wisely	5 0 0	Col. W. T. Eden	1 1 0
Col. W. M. Leckie	10 0 0	Viscount Clifden	5 0 0
G. F. Neame and Co.	5 5 0	Lady Jane and Misses	
Collected by Miss S. Beale	12 13 0	Swinburne	2 5 0
Lord Hotham	15 15 0	Mrs. Amendroy	1 0 0
Admiral Sir A. Hoskins,		A. C. Allen	1 1 0
G.O.B.	10 10 0	Miss Whitfield	2 2 0
Wm. Flockhart	5 0 0	S. B. Bancroft	2 2 0
E. G. Francis	2 2 0	Sir Dyce Duckworth, M.D.	1 1 0
Col. J. Spence	1 1 0	Sundry small sums	0 19 0
G. C. Thomson	1 0 0		

DONATIONS will be RECEIVED for the Drummond Castle Breton Fund by Messrs. Coutts and Co., 59, Strand; or the Union Bank of Scotland (Limited), 62, Cornhill; or at 3, Fenchurch-street, by F. J. MIRRIELES, Hon. Sec.

**DRUMMOND CASTLE BRETON FUND.**

SUBSCRIPTIONS will be Thankfully RECEIVED at Messrs. Coutts and Co., 59, Strand, W.C.; the Union Bank of Scotland (Limited), 62, Cornhill; and by the Hon. Secretary, F. J. Mirrieles, 3, Fenchurch-street, E.C.

Many thanks to Colin for providing this very interesting article.

## NEW COMBAT KIT FOR RM COMMANDOS

Royal Marines Commandos are to get a brand new uniform under the most significant transformation and rebranding programme launched since World War 2.

Elite commandos of the Royal Navy are undertaking a bold modernisation project - known as the Future Commando Force Programme - which will overhaul the way world famous Green Berets operate around the globe.

As part of this restructuring, Royal Marines will have a new uniform, fit for a new era of warfare, that is in keeping with the maritime tradition of the corps, and also honours their commando forebears.

The NATO procured uniform, which is being procured from the USA based firm Crye Precision, is lighter in weight, has a higher tear strength, is faster drying and is more breathable than typical 50/50 cotton/nylon kit.

It has a subtle change in camouflage design - instead of the previous multi-terrain pattern - the uniform now uses the Crye Precision's MultiCam pattern.

And, in the week that saw the 80th anniversary of Operation collar, the first commando raid of World War 2, the marines have drawn on their heritage by returning to the traditional Royal Marines commando insignia, just like the design first worn by commandos when they launched daring raids into Nazi-occupied Europe.

The flash with red writing and navy-blue background will be worn once again, as commandos evolve to conduct more raids from the sea, persistently deployed to counter the threats of the modern-day battlefield. For the first time the White Ensign features on one sleeve, as a clear indication of the Royal Marines' integration with the Royal Navy.

The iconic Fairbairn-Sykes Dagger patch of 3 Commando Brigade Royal Marines has been redesigned and is based on the first pattern of the legendary fighting knife made in 1940.

The practical benefits to this uniform should not be underestimated. It has been specifically selected to serve commandos as they carry out operations throughout the globe in the most extreme environments.





**DID YOU KNOW?**

That the statue of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in Crowborough, East Sussex, is unique - there is not another in the world; there are several of Sherlock Holmes though!

The statue was commissioned by the local council, sculpted by former Royal Marine David Cornell, approved by Sir Arthur's daughter, Dame Jean Conan Doyle, former Commandant of the W.R.A.F. and unveiled in 2000. Sir Arthur, lived in Crowborough for 23 years until his death in 1930 and captained the Crowborough Beacon Golf Club in 1912.

There is a Sherlock Holmes bar in Budapest!



**WHAT WERE/ARE YOU DOING IN LOCKDOWN** - is there anyone out there willing to share examples of their lockdown experience? I'll be brave and kick it off! I have mentioned my new greenhouse which I would have put up easily in a weekend sixty years ago! Well, I finally managed it and I think I'm beginning to reap some reward. One very big mistake though; I planted a whole packet of basil seeds and EVERY one came up - "there's no fool like an old fool", my father used to say.

**Jan/Feb****Now****First Harvest**

So turn to and let's have a few words or pictures of what you have been up to ..... or, how about a **"Where do you read your City Royal"** - could be picturesque!

I hear that the G & L is looking for photos of 'yourself' reading the G & L - give it a go and send 'em in.

**THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**

*If you think you are too small to make a difference, try sleeping with a mosquito.*

*Dalai Lama*

**QUOTE OF THE MONTH**

*The whole history of the world is summed up in the fact that, when nations are strong, they are not always just, and when they wish to be just, they are no longer strong.*

*Winston Churchill*



**THE WEEKLY QUIZ** - The weekly quiz continues apace, thank you Ritchie, which I'm sure is very much appreciated by the participants. One of our members, who shall be nameless for the time-being, regularly submits his personal result. To date he's won the original 'Tony Luckens Award' and the odd 'wet' here and there; he's well on the way to being legless at the bar without putting his hand in his pocket - watch this space!

**ONE THING LEADS TO ANOTHER (2)** - You may recall an article in the June/July 2019 issue regarding Royal Marine Leonard Waygood (47 Commando) who lost his life on the 6th June 1944 at Normandy. This was picked up by Peter Rogers of the Commando Veterans Association and I'm pleased to say that Marine Waygood's details are now fully recorded on the Commando Veteran's Site - [www.commandoveterans.org](http://www.commandoveterans.org)

**THE PANDEMIC** - We are where we are and it must be hoped that a recovery to some semblance of normality will be realised. We are all encouraged to stay alert and this must be our mantra for the foreseeable future. Those of us who are retired, have gardens to work or relax in are indeed fortunate compared with many who do not. Despite all the restrictions we face, it is encouraging to note the the Corps family continues to tick over for the benefit of its members and associates.

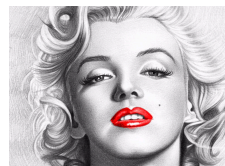
The latest government information can be found on [www.gov.uk/corona](http://www.gov.uk/corona)

Remember, nothing has changed, Covid-19 is still out there -  
**stay alert, be vigilant, take precautions, stay safe and take nothing for granted.**



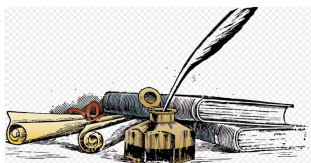
Women who seek to be equal with men  
lack ambition.

Marilyn Monroe



## HOT NEWS

Both the Union Jack and Victory Service Clubs will open on the 4th July - both with government restrictions.



Should you have any items suitable for publication in the City Royal  
(including cherished/memorable photographs)  
please contact me at [davidharris73@sky.com](mailto:davidharris73@sky.com)

**BRANCH INFORMATION****NOTICE**  
**2020 Annual General Meeting**

Contingency plans are underway to make September's A.G.M. a virtual meeting; a separate communication with further information will follow in the first week of July.

&gt;&lt;

**Due to the continuing situation all branch events remain cancelled or suspended for the foreseeable future, members will be informed as and when the situation changes.**

Check the weekly RMA Reporting Network

Branch website [www.rmacol.co.uk](http://www.rmacol.co.uk)

For any queries contact Branch Secretary Tony Luckens BEM  
Mobile 0756 836 8977  
Email [tony.luckens@gmail.com](mailto:tony.luckens@gmail.com)



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CITY OF LONDON



BRANCH ROYAL MARINES ASSOCIATION