

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



'A WORD FROM THE CHAIR' We had a great turn out at February's meeting, as always. We were briefly joined by Ed Moorhouse, a former Commanding Officer of RMR London, before he had to run for his train. His departing words to me were "if I get the London job, I would like to join the branch Graeme." We had two new members who also joined us this month, John Sutton and a certain Mick Wakeman, who after many years of being a good friend of the branch, has now officially become a member. We had a guest visitor, Mike Shillabeer, a former Coldstream Guardsman, whose grandfather had served as a RM with a number of units, which included 46CDORM. A warm welcome was extended to all.

Our annual branch dinner will be held on **Friday 20th March** and once again it will be held in the Gascoigne Suite at our adopted club, that is, the UJC. Booking forms were handed out at the meeting and places confirmed. We are again restricted on numbers, so it's a 'first come first served' booking arrangement. You will find the booking form attached to this newsletter.

The Mountbatten Festival of Music takes place on **Friday 6th and Saturday 7th March** featuring the Massed Bands of Her Majesty's Royal Marines performing over two nights at the Royal Albert Hall including a Saturday matinee performance. Tickets can be ordered on 0207 589 8212 or online at <https://www.royalalberthall.com/tickets/events/2020/mountbatten/>

This year's Graspan Parade will be taking place on **Sunday 17th May**. The Corps is celebrating the formation of Commando Forces in the dark days of WW2. Shortly after the evacuation of the British Expeditionary Forces (BEF) from Dunkirk, Winston Churchill ordered the raising of bands of men and women of the 'Hunter' Class to set "Europe Ablaze". From this decree the world of UK Special Forces was born and to this day continues to lead the world in military excellence.

RMA-TRMC have invited all commando trained ranks from across the military to march with us and other arms of the military who were also born from that order. A reception will be held at the Queen Elizabeth Conference Centre on completion of the parade and march and is only a short walk from Horse Guards Parade.

Tickets for both the marching, which is free, and the buffet which naturally has a cost, are now on sale and may be obtained from the RMA Central Office and online at <https://royalmarinesassociation.org.uk/events/the-commando-80-parade-service-and-reception-sunday-17th-may-2020/>

Our Chairman Emeritus, Jim, gave a briefing on this year's Zeebrugge trip. The dates for the remembrance weekend are Friday 17 - Sunday 19th April. He confirmed that all 40 places had been successfully filled.

Members and Guests were then asked to rise for the Toast -

'ABSENT COMRADES'

Graeme Golightly

Once a Marine Always a Marine



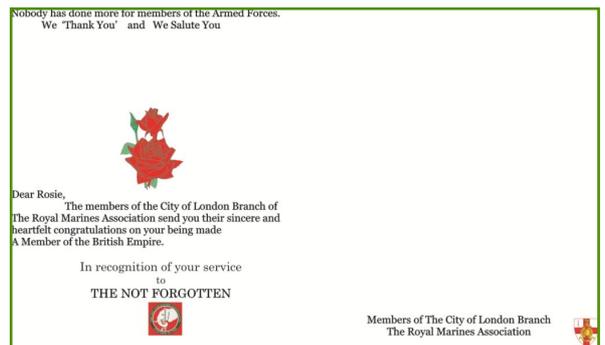
CONGRATULATIONS The City of London Branch RMA congratulates Lieutenant General R.A. Magowan CB CBE on his appointment to the Strategic Command as its Deputy Commander (DComdUKStatC).

General Magowan is a former Commandant General of the Royal Marines and Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff.

ONE THING LEADS TO ANOTHER The branch has had a long and productive association with the Not Forgotten Association which has in the past been represented at the Graspan Parade by Rosie Thompson. At Zeebrugge in 2011 the Friday meal was taken at the Falstaff Restaurant (pre-Ibis) where former Royal, one Alfie Bulgen, known to a few of our number as an 'East End after dinner singer' finished his act with a stirring rendition of "Delilah". Alfie is pictured girating on the restaurant floor with a very good friend of the branch - one thing leads to another.....



..... Members who attended the January branch meeting will recall that they were requested to sign a card of congratulation for Rosie Thompson on her being awarded an MBE in the 2020 Honours List for her meritorious work with the Not Forgotten Association. Rosie has responded as below:-



"It was lovely to hear from you (Jim) and all your members following the announcement of my MBE in this year's Honours. Thank you and them so much for your very kind words. It truly has been a privilege to support so many deserving men and women during my 22 years with the Not forgotten and I am humbled and deeply honoured to receive this Award. Please give everyone my warmest wishes and thanks and look forward to seeing you soon.

*Lots of Love,
Rosie*

THE NOT FORGOTTEN ASSOCIATION was founded in 1920 by the Late Miss Marta Cunningham CBE. Miss Cunningham was a famous American opera singer horrified to find so many wounded servicemen lying injured in hospitals up and down the country a year after the terrible carnage of the Great War. HRH Princess Mary became the first Patron of the Association and remained so for the rest of her life. She was succeeded by HRH The Duchess of Kent, who has since been succeeded by HRH Princess Anne.

The N.F.A. supports any serving man or woman who is wounded, injured or sick and any veteran with a disability, illness or infirmity whatever the cause and whenever it arose. Any former member of the Royal Navy, Royal Marines, The British Army, The Royal Air Force and The Merchant Navy, both Regular and Reserve Forces, may be eligible for help.



Contact - 0207 730 2400 - info@thenotforgotten.org

CORPS FAMILY We recently received an email regarding a former Royal who had returned home from hospital and who might possibly require assistance. A member of the branch responded and a visit took place within twenty-four hours of the email being sent. It turned out that the 'patient' was OK but greatly appreciated the visit. Similarly, a request was received from a branch member for transportation from a London hospital to the his home, following surgery. Again, within a period of twenty-four hours a volunteer stepped forward and the deed was done. Again, the Branch Standard has been presented by our trio Chas, Don and David, on five occasions this year at the funeral of former Royals.

Just a few examples of of what the Corps Family is all about. BZs all round.

HMS PHOEBE Some twelve or eighteen months ago, I, (CR Ed), was 'swinging the lamp' with members at one of our regular branch meetings where I was telling the tale of a family connection with HMS Phoebe and how I had obtained from the museum at the Historic Dockyard a ship's nameplate. One of those in the group said that he had served on the Phoebe - I replied "not possible as she was a WW2 light cruiser and that he was far too young to have served on that ship". It turned out that he had indeed served on the Phoebe, the F42 Leander Class Frigate. Arising from the ensuing conversation I made contact with the Secretary of the HMS Phoebe Association and my wife and myself became honorary members. We attended a very informative reunion at Southsea last year and are off to another one in Bristol this year. I am currently writing a history of HMS Phoebe (C43) for the two years 1942 - 1944, the period of our connection with the vessel. I would be interested to re-acquaint myself with the branch member who served on the Phoebe or any other RM crew members.





DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 12th March
Branch Meeting 1900

Friday 20th March
Annual Branch Dinner
UJC

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Thursday 9th April
Branch Meeting 1900

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17 - 19th April
Zeebrugge

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Thursday 14th May
Branch Meeting 1900

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Sunday 17th May
Graspan

Branch website www.rmacol.co.uk



THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

You need to begin somewhere
and the best time is NOW

Chinese Proverb



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

I have no special talent.
I am only passionately curious.

Albert Einstein

Last month's Deliberate mistakes!
The caption read "Black to Green April 1960"
it should have been



"Blue to Green April 1980"

One response picked out the "blue but failed to get the significance of the year (Graeme's passing our parade date) and another picked up two grammatical errors. You know who you are - make yourselves known.



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



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