

# 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 VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE



It was really encouraging to see in the New Year with a well attended branch meeting, including Mike Pinchen, our former City Royal editor and branch historian. Jim Ross had celebrated his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday earlier in January, and was duly encouraged to get the wets in on his milestone celebration! Our Chairman Emeritus, Jim Ellard, also presented an update on his planning for Zeebrugge 2020 remembrance trip. We were also joined by Steve



Crawley of the RMA Windsor branch, along with some invited guests from BLESMA, The limbless veterans charity, courtesy of Peter Brown, who found them drinking in the main bar. Sadly once again some of our members attended the funeral of a former branch member Charles 'Henry' Harris. Thank you to Chas Timms, Don and David Mott, Peter Orchard and Jim and Joy Ellard. **The funeral for Keith Fordham will be held on the 31st January 3.40 at Worthing Crematorium. It would be good to have a good turnout for Keith, past Trustee, South East Rep, Chairman and Treasurer. In sorrow Maureen Copelin – Secretary Brighton & Hove**

As you will have read our President's Christmas message you will recognise some of Sir Rob's quoted words, which I would like to use.

*"I can reflect on so many examples of camaraderie, selfless support and willingness to step forward that I have seen here – and I know that I have only seen a fraction of them".*

Our branch secretary Tony Luckens quickly put out a help request for one of our members, John Wilmott, who was offered an immediate hospital appointment at short notice in St Albans, as he needed to be driven and picked back up from hospital. No sooner had Tony done this that Adrian Dodds, whom lives in Chingford, answered the call. Thank you to Adrian who epitomises the above statement, I would also like to thank Les Pyke who also volunteered, but was beaten at the post. I am really proud to say what a fantastic branch we really do have in our members looking after each other. **OARMAARM**

L/Cpl Harden of the RAMC was awarded a posthumous VC while serving with 45 Cdo in Holland on 23 January 1945. To mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the award, two events are being planned. On **26 Jan 20**, a service is being organised by the RAMC Association at All Saints Church, Northfleet, Kent, DA11 7BY at 1230. A RM Bugler will sound the Last Post and a wreath will be laid by a serving officer on behalf of the RM. Our branch is being represented

by at least six members. If you would also like to attend please email Tony Luckens: [tony.luckens@gmail.com](mailto:tony.luckens@gmail.com)

The RMA/TRMC is holding a 'Thank You' to all its volunteers in helping out with collections last year. This will be on **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February** between 1800-2000 at the Patron Office in London. This is your chance to meet the charity staff, as well as a drink and lunch. There will be an update from Jonathan Ball, the CEO, and other guests. If you would like to attend can you please email Lucy Butcher: [L.butcher@RMA-trmc.org](mailto:L.butcher@RMA-trmc.org)

The Deal RM Heritage Trail wish to re-publish "RM Deal – A Pictorial History" but need 300 orders (@ £30 per book) by **30 Jan 2020** to make the initiative viable. It ties in neatly with the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Corps being granted the Freedom of Deal this year. The RM will mark this by exercising its Freedom on Sun 5 Jul 2020 to coincide with the annual bandstand concert. Further details and an order form can be found at <http://www.rmht.uk>

Another date for your diaries. We will be holding our annual branch dinner in the Gascoigne Suite at the UJC on **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March**, further details to follow.

We now have a new branch web-site editor in the form of Colin Appleby, who in only a short space of time has made some refreshing changes regarding our social media pages. If you have not visited our web-site recently please do take a look. BZ Colin.

<http://www.rmacol.co.uk>

**Royal Marines Association**  
City of London Branch

*Enjoy similar Corps experiences and stories of both serving and former 'Royals'*  
— Graeme Golightly, Falklands, Northern Ireland.

WELCOME ABOUT CAMARADERIE EVENTS WELFARE CORPS FAMILY MEMBERSHIP CONTACT US

**Events**

**Welcome**

Welcome to the Royal Marines Association, City of London Branch (RMA CoL), your local Branch offering comradeship and a friendly face with local knowledge. Members travel from far and wide to **our events**; attracting former and serving Royals, and former members of other Armed Forces.

**Join Us Today**

**LATEST**

**Our Branch Presidents Christmas Message 2019**  
PRESIDENT'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2019 ... [\[More...\]](#)

Members and Guests were then asked to rise for the Toast - '**ABSENT COMRADES**'

*Graeme Golightly*

**THE 2019 UJC CANDLELIT CAROL SERVICE** was well attended by members of the branch and other associates of the UJC despite the inclement weather. This was followed by mince pies and mulled wine back at the Club (seemed to be many more there!) where the Christmas spirit 'kicked in'. BZ to the Club for once again producing a memorable occasion.



**CAMARADERIE CAME TO THE FORE** following the mulled wine and mince pies. A packed reserved bar reflected the genuine warmth of the branch as members came together in a spirit of friendship and good will and welcomed a former member of the USMC who was just "passing by". The surprise of the evening came when Chairman Emeritus Jim stated that he now wished to be in the background, but, not really knowing what to say at the time of his retirement at the AGM, expressed his feelings at the "honour bestowed upon him". As a token of his past chairmanship and his deep affection for the branch, he presented a Corps Finial for display atop the Branch Standard. He was warmly thanked by President Rob.



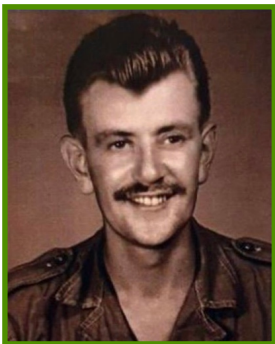
### **PHOTO OF THE YEAR** **'Our Harold' must be a contender!**



Those serving in the 1960's may well recall the BFBS (see the mike)  
'British Forces Broadcasting Service'



**CORPS FAMILY** When branch members or friends of the branch are in need of support, it is customary for Branch Welfare Officer Norman Saints to send an appropriate communication, normally a card. Branch member Chris Nunn has recently undergone surgery and a 'get well' card was duly despatched. Chris has expressly asked that his best thanks to all members be recorded in this journal. It is hoped that Chris's recovery will be one hundred per cent.



The funeral of former Royal Marine Charlie Harris took place on the 7th January at Weeley in Essex. The Branch was well represented by Chairman Emeritus Jim and Joy Ellard, Chas Timms carrying the Branch Standard, Don and David Mott. Branch Chairman Graeme, unable to attend due to work commitment, sent his apologies and confirmed that Charlie's name had been entered in the Branch's Book of Remembrance.



Not many of our present members will recall Charlie Harris (RM 15510) and his wife Joan a former WREN. They moved from East Ham way out to Clacton some years ago and the journey was too far for our meetings.

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January saw a few of our Branch at Weeley Crematorium for Charlie's funeral including the Branch Standard proudly carried by Chas Timms MBE, Don Mott, David Mott, myself and all the way from Exeter especially for the day, was Peter Orchard. The Chapel was full with a further two RBL Standards behind Chas Timms carrying ours.

Both Charlie and Joan were good members of the City of London Branch and were the first to offer help with any event we organised, we were really sorry when they moved way out to eastern Essex.



In the tribute, we learned that Charlie, then a corporal had saved the lives of his patrol in the jungle when they were ambushed. Using his training, intuition and sense of direction, he gave swift orders for their escape out of the immediate danger zone and got them all safely back to base.

I was privileged to do the Corps Prayer but with just one minutes notice the Vicar asked Peter Orchard to do the Bible reading. To his credit he accepted and read it superbly, the Vicar was most impressed. A Corps Bugler from Portsmouth Band sounded Last Post and Reveille.

Joan and their son Peter have asked me to express their appreciation for the turnout by our Branch after they had been gone for so long. I explained Royal Marines do it for Royal Marines.

**Once a Marine always a Marine**

*Jim Ellard MBE*

#### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**1230 on 26th January  
L/Cpl H E Hardern VC (RAMC)  
Service of Commemoration at  
All Saints Church Northfleet DA11 7BY**

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**Thursday 13th February  
Branch Meeting 1900**

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**Thursday 12th March  
Branch Meeting 1900**

**Friday 20th March  
Annual Branch Dinner  
UJC**

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**Zeebrugge  
17 - 19th April**

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**Graspan  
Sunday 17th May**

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**Old Comrades Association Parade  
Sunday 7th June**

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**Armed Forces Day Flag Raising  
Monday 22nd June**

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





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

### FINALLY

A momentous day for Chairman Graeme  
“from Black to Green”  
April 1960



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