



## Corps Remembrance Service and Corps Birthday Lunch Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2007

Congratulations to each and every one of you. Your turnout for our combined Memorial Service and Corps Lunch was exceptional!

After a cold, wet and windy start to the day, the weather was eventually kind to us as we assembled on Fremantle Memorial Hill for our annual memorial service. Representation from other kindred associations proudly displayed their Standards as our Parade Commander, Gordon Norton, put our Standard Bearers, Mike Page and Graham Chapman, through a rehearsal for the parade. The parade was assembled on the west side of Monument Hill before stepping off under the guidance of Gordon and the unmistakable sound of our Regimental March played superbly by the band of the Royal Australian Navy Reserve. The parade came to a halt in front of our many supporters mainly wives and families but also included our sponsor Chris and Urszula King and dignitaries from other associations.

The service was conducted by our Padre, the Reverend Tim Harrison, who as usual gave a stirring ceremony reminding us all of the gallant efforts of the Royal Marines in 3Cdo Brigade during the Falklands Campaign some 25 years ago. Those brave men who made the supreme sacrifice during that campaign were proudly remembered and their names were read out by our Branch Secretary Bert MacDonald. Our Patron of some 23 years, Commodore David Orr, reverently took the salute as our members proudly marched passed to a resounding round of applause for their immaculate appearance and marching prowess.

We then all adjourned directly to the East Fremantle Yacht Club (well most did, some went to other Yacht Clubs only to be redirected). Proceedings for our Corps Lunch started with pre-lunch drinks before everyone was seated under the direction of

our Master of Ceremonies, Mr Steve Jones. The Standards were marched on while the Royal Australian Navy Reserve Band played the Preobrajensky March and that set the theme for the afternoon. The usual formalities were concluded before leading into the informal part of the luncheon. Our MC was superb, he had everyone on the edge of their seats with stories and dits that JK Rowling would have been proud of. A

from a very proud Royal Marine. It was good to see Bill and Shirley Agate the previous day; he is on the mend and we hope he is back in the fold very soon. A hearty thank you goes to Shirley for creating the splendid birthday cake; a task undertaken in obviously challenging times.

Thank you and well done Shirley!



*Commodore David Orr inspecting the Parade*

huge thank you Steve, you made our day. Congratulations go to Jim Wood on winning the Ron Mason trophy for his selfless work behind the scenes in the welfare department, a worthy winner. Well done, Jim!

Absent friends were remembered as usual with a special toast.

Our thoughts as usual are with Ron Trunkfield and Jane Short and it was absolutely uplifting to see them at the Memorial Hill for our parade; a great effort

On a slightly different note, we unfortunately had a few vacant seats on the day. As the event was planned and paid for on the information and bookings received by Sandie Reid and myself, unfortunately no refunds can be made and those who booked and haven't paid will have to do so. In conclusion, I would like to thank all the committee members for their hard work and commitment to make Sunday the 28th of October a day that augments a satisfying period in the Association. Bravo Royals!

Keep well, Jim



*A Proud band of Brethren in Arms.....*



*The Royal Australian Navy Band (WA Det) supported the RMA WA at both the Parade and Luncheon....*



*New Life Members receive their Certificates.....*



*Commodore David Orr and Lt Cdr Peter Radburn*



*.....well, you've got to, don't you?.....*



*Brian Milton, Allan Buckley and Tim Harrison swing the lamp....*

*LADIES NIGHT*  
*Saturday 15th December 2007*  
*Generously sponsored by Ron Trunkfield*

*Venue:* Navy Club, Fremantle  
*Time:* 6.30pm to 9.30pm  
*Dress:* As appropriate to complement your Lady.  
*Entertainment:* Carols and perhaps a light revue. Men will be obliged to sing for their Ladies - and supper.



*MEAT*

*ENTRÉE*

*An exotic selection of canapés which will include:  
smoked Tasmanian salmon and caviar - sliced plover's eggs topped with persil beurre - fromage en salada - sushi.*

*MAIN COURSE*

*Traditional Christmas fare  
Waneroo turkey, Harvey beef and Osborne Dark ham  
Delaware potatoes roasted to perfection in extra virgin olive oil  
Seasonal vegetables fresh from the market gardens of Waneroo  
Red wine gravy and cranberry sauce*

*DESSERT*

*Christmas pudding with delicious Olde English custard  
Or  
Fresh fruit salad sourced from the shelves of Whitford's Woollies*

*It is hoped that Irish coffee will be available from the kitchen on conclusion of this delicious repast*



# Minutes of the Monthly Meeting, RMA WA at the Navy Club, Fremantle on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2007

The meeting was opened at 20 00 hrs by the Secretary in the absence of President and Vice President and the Padre recited the RM Collect.

## Apologies were received from:-

Jim Lewis, Sandie Reid, John Watkin , J. Symes, David Minear, K. Reed, A. Agate, Karl Guppy, Jenny Rae, F Mason, Jason Swales, Mike Sibley, G.Perkins, P.M.Shiner, Dave Harris, Don Purchase, S Jones, Andre De Barr, Dave Reid, G Wright, G Chapman, F. Walsh, C Hooper, C W.Agate, Buster Brown, David Wilkes, G Bowden, R. Trunkfield, Andy Cads Johnson, B. Milton, Tom Hunter, Jim Wood, E. Dunn, Mick Page , Kris Lowden, J. Herd, Garry Nutter, T Lynn, A Moylett, G. Norton,

## Those attending

C.J. Reid, Tim Harrison, Paul Patterson, J Clancy-Lowe, A. Buckley, Nick Bell, N Miller, Jim Rea, Garry Williams, Dave Devries, P Trevis, N. Aimson, Jane Short, John Smith, Ken Burt, and Bert Macdonald.

## Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were held to be a true record and there were no matters arising.

Proposed Norm Millar, seconded Clancy

## Mail Report

Mail was received from interstate RMA's and RNs as per usual.

Letters from HM the Queen and HM the Duke of Edinburgh have been received and were read out during the Corps Birthday lunch.

The Nelson Society has written expressing their thanks for the Standards and those Members attending their function.

## Treasurer's Report

In the Treasurer's absence, there was no financial report this month.

## Welfare Report

Ron Trunkfield would appreciate visits or

phone calls. It was great to see him and Jane at the Memorial Service.

Bill Agate is now at home and would appreciate visits or phone calls.

Vera Walsh has had some medical assessments.

Gordon Norton has been involved in a car accident and has possibly broken some ribs.

## Social Report

Members were reminded of the Remembrance Parade at the Cathedral, Sunday 11th Nov - 11.45 at Concert Hall, then Burt Hall for refreshments \$5 per head.

There were several comments from Members, regarding the Corps Luncheon and all were very favourable. The slight difficulty with parking was mentioned but was agreed to be a very minor issue. Pat Trevis mentioned altering the balance between formal and informal to allow more time to dance etc. The Band was excellent said Nick Bell.

Secretary commented that his charges for the day thoroughly enjoyed themselves and feel a part of the Royal Marine family. They look forward to further occasions where they can have the opportunity to meet Members passed their thanks to all of those Members who took the time to say a few kind words.

Lt Cdr Pete Radburn, who kindly lent us his Pusser's Rum Tub for the afternoon, has asked me to pass on his thanks to the RMA for a very enjoyable day in general and the excellent Luncheon in particular.

Jim Rea mentioned the next active event would be at Boya Quarry on Sunday 18th November - details nearer the time.

Taff Williams mentioned there will be a four man team competing this Sunday in the Anaconda Adventure Race in Geographe Bay. Their main competition would be a four man team from Airborne Forces. Go Royal!

## AOB

Allan Buckley (in his capacity as UK Ex Forces rep) informed the meeting of strong concerns regarding certain Associations who were unable to continue to function due in part to the age of their membership.

One possible solution may be the formation of a "blanket organisation" to look after their needs or perhaps each Association within the UK Ex Services should "adopt" one of the ailing associations.

There followed an intense discussion on this subject and the following points were raised.

- Who will look after these Association's traditions?
- Who will hold their Standards?
- Who will be responsible for administering their funds, particularly welfare funds?

General feeling was that this isn't an RMA problem and the UK Ex Services should take charge; however maybe each Association could provide a rep to help with this? It was agreed that the Committee would discuss at the next meeting.

Clancy mentioned the Ladies Night as being on Saturday, 1st December. Names to Clancy for gash hands, galley slaves, providers of scran, sod's opera stars, etc, soon as please.

Taff Williams gave the team details for Anaconda:

Team name, Anacommando  
1.8K swim in the Oggin, Garry Nutter  
12K paddle in the Oggin, Paul Patterson  
13.5K Bush Run, Kris Lowden  
22K Bush Mountain Bike, Taff Williams  
1.8K Beach Run, All

There being no further business, the Secretary recited the Ode and he closed the Meeting at 20 35 hrs

# Minutes of the Monthly Meeting, RMA WA at the Navy Club, Fremantle on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2007

The meeting was opened at 2000 hrs and the President recited the RM Collect, prior to welcoming our visitors, Boots (John) Allistone and Chris Townsend.

## Apologies were received from:-

J. Symes, David Minear, K. Reed, A. Agate, Karl Guppy, Jenny Rae, F Mason, Jason Swales, Mike Sibley, G.Perkins, Nick Bell, P.M.Shiner, Dave Harris, Don Purchase, S Jones, Andre De Barr, Dave Reid, G Wright, G Chapman, F. Walsh, C Hooper, C W.Agate, Buster Brown, David Wilkes, G Bowden, R. Trunkfield, J Clancy-Lowe, Andy Cads Johnson, N. Aimson, B. Milton,

## Those attending

Tim Harrison, Tom Hunter, Paul Patterson, Jim Wood, E. Dunn, A. Buckley, J. Herd, , Jim Rea, Jim Wood, Mick Page , Kris Lowden, Garry Williams, Garry Nutter, T Lynn, A Moylett, N Miller, C.J. Reid, P Trevis, G. Norton, Jane Short, John Smith, Ken Burt, Chris Townsend, Boots Allistone, Jim Lewis, Sandie Reid, John Watkin, and Bert Macdonald.

## Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were not read

## Mail Report.

Mail received from interstate RMA's and RNs as per usual.

Letters to HM the Queen and HM the Duke of Edinburgh have been sent.

Letter/e-mail sent to Australian Defence Attaché, Brigadier Jobbins RM, welcoming him to Australia and sending best wishes for his tour.

## Treasurer's Report

Sandy gave us a detailed statement of our accounts and once again we are well in the black.

## Welfare Report.

Ron Trunkfield continues to be unwell and is hoping to attend the Memorial Service. Bill Agate now has trouble with the other leg and will remain in sick bay for a further three weeks. Jim Woods suggested a "gopher" for Bill and Ken Burt has kindly offered the use of a wheelchair.

## Social Report

The weekend of 8/9th September proved another success with the combined thirty miler and family nature ramble. Taff, Paul and Kris all completed in record times with Taff managing six hours twenty, a magnificent achievement.

Jim mentioned the next active event would be at Boya Quarry on Sunday 18th November. Details nearer the time.

Sandy asked for names and menu choices

for those intending to support the Corps Luncheon.

The Airborne Forces Association have asked if we would consider a social joint venture and the Members agreed this would be a good idea. President is to liaise with Pat Ward.

## AOB.

Vice President mentioned the quest to find us a more suitable permanent home and how that is progressing with the Army Museum Board "keen to support"

President has ordered 4 000 poppies and asked Members to try and support the Association in selling them.

SF Associations Coordinator gave us a heads up on the recent SAS franchise's Fiftieth Birthday celebrations which lasted for one week. Golf days, winery tours river trips etc, culminating in a Grand Ball at which the guest of honour donated \$200K to SAS Welfare funds, the top raffle prize was a thirty thousand dollar white diamond and Qantas donated a round the world trip. The President asked why we can't have raffle prizes like those! The event was attended by many luminaries from the SF world .....

There being no further business, the Ode was read by the President and he closed the Meeting at 20 35 hrs

## AMAZINGLY SIMPLE HOME REMEDIES

1. If you are choking on an ice cube simply pour a cup of boiling water down your throat. Presto! The blockage will instantly remove itself.
2. Avoid cutting yourself slicing vegetables by getting someone else to hold while you chop.
3. Avoid arguments about lifting the toilet seat. Use the shower.
4. For high blood pressure sufferers: simply cut yourself and bleed for a few minutes, thus reducing the pressure in your veins. Remember to use a timer.
5. A mouse trap, placed on top of your alarm clock, will prevent you from rolling over and going back to sleep after you hit the snooze button.
6. If you have a bad cough, take a large dose of laxatives, then you will be afraid to cough.
7. You only need two tools in life - WD-40 and Duct Tape. If it doesn't move and should, use the WD-40. If it shouldn't move and does, use the duct tape.
8. Remember: Everyone seems normal until you get to know them.

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen  
You may be interested in the following:

### TV Programme with RM interest

The TV programme "In Living Memory" will, on 4 Nov 07, focus on the stories behind a few individuals who are named on the newly dedicated Armed Forces Memorial. It is expected that one of those featured will be a Royal Marine, Marine David Wilson, who on the eve of his 19th birthday was killed in action in the Radfan, Aden, on 26 May 1964, while serving in 45 Commando RM. With his mother now deceased and no other family, it is three of those who knew him, served with him and were alongside him when he died, that will tell his story.

BBC1, 4 November, 5.55 pm.

### Holiday Homes in France with a warm RM welcome

My name is Jonathan and I was medically discharged from the Corps two years ago after twenty years service, mainly in 45 Cdo, 42 Cdo and SBS. Along with my brother Richard also an ex-bootneck, 42 Cdo & 40 Cdo, we started a new venture in France, converting an old farm on the Somme Battlefields into three individual self-catering cottages. We have now finished all the work and have been open for business for nearly a year. We have already had many bootnecks staying in our accommodation and think it would be of interest to many more. Our new business is called:

#### **CHAVASSE FARM SOMME BATTLEFIELDS SELF-CATERING**

[www.chavasseferme.co.uk](http://www.chavasseferme.co.uk) &  
[www.snowdenhouse.co.uk](http://www.snowdenhouse.co.uk)

Your members are welcome to come and visit us.

The reporting network is not normally used to promote businesses, nor can we let it become such. However I am content to promote small initiatives, like this one, in its infancy to give former Royal Marines a helping hand as they start up. I would be very grateful if members did not deluge me with advertisements if they do not hit this simple criterion.

The newsletter is available for adverts for members if they wish to use it.

Kind regards  
Charlie Hobson

Dear Members,  
I am trying to find out if anyone knows a Ken Murgatroyd, a former Royal Marine, or indeed his whereabouts. I would be grateful for any help.

Kind regards  
Wendy Sheen  
Admin Assistance, RMA Central

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Dear Members,  
RMA Central has sent out a list of seniors serving in various Units in Ganners over the next few months. The purpose is for RMA Members in UKERS to send them a "red cross parcel" of goodies like wet wipes, toothpaste, pot noodles etc so that they (RMA in UK) can abuse the "free postage for family" routine.

We don't get free postage out here and when I've sent packages of porn and rum plus essentials, in the past, it has cost me far more for the postage than it has for the contents.

One Booty I know sent Jed Thommo from 40, a bottle of water and some lettuce seeds during Gulf Two, good effort that man!

If you would like the BFPO and names and numbers, please either phone me or shoot me a mailie and if you've been copied in on the e-mail from RMA Central, please respect the comments ref PERSEC.

I sent one parcel containing several packages of pot noodles, wet wipes, bundy disguised as coke, gay porn, the menu from the local take away pizza, and some glow-in-the-dark sex lube (on the basis that as it's water based it would be ideal in a survival situation, since it glows in the dark it would be a handy Cyalume replacement, it makes an interesting hair gel, plus those camels look really attractive Royal and you might get lucky!) Cost was prohibitive, though.

If you would like details of what to send and where to, please drop me a line ;)

Yours, aye  
Bert Mac'

P.S. Gay Porn?  
See Paul Patterson for details!

Hi All!  
Just been reading your newsletter thing on the internet. I enjoyed doing so too. I wondered if you would like to see the words of the Corps' Regimental Marches. I must admit that after doing 23 years I didn't know them. (I knew a few rude words to several other marches though). Maybe it will fill a page in your newsletter? See attachment.....

Love to my mate Gordon Norton.....  
Thomas "Bing" Crosbie

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### A LIFE on the Ocean Wave

A LIFE on the ocean wave,  
A home on the rolling deep,  
Where the scattered waters rave,  
And the winds their revels keep:  
Like an eagle caged, I pine  
On this dull, unchanging shore:  
Oh! give me the flashing brine,  
The spray and the tempest's roar!

Once more on the deck I stand  
Of my own swift-gliding craft:  
Set sail! Farewell to the land!  
The gale follows fair abaft.  
We shoot through the sparkling foam  
Like an ocean bird set free;—  
Like the ocean bird, our home  
We'll find far out on the sea.

The land is no longer in view,  
The clouds have begun to frown;  
But with a stout vessel and crew,  
We'll say, Let the storm come down!  
And the song of our hearts shall be,  
While the winds and the waters rave,  
A home on the rolling sea!  
A life on the ocean wave!

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### Sarie Marais

My Sarie Marais is so far away from my heart,  
But I hope to see her again.  
She lives in the district of Mooiriver,  
Since before the war began.

*Refrain:*

Oh, take me back to my dear Transvaal,  
To where my Sarie lives:  
There down by the maïsfelds near the

*(Cont'd on page 6)*

*(Letters to the Editor Cont'd)*

green thorn tree,  
That's where my Sarie lives.  
There down by the maisfields near the  
green thorn tree,  
That's where my Sarie lives.

*Refrain:*

I was so scared that the English would catch  
me,  
And send me away across the sea;  
That's when I fled in the direction of the  
sandflats near Upington,  
There down by the Orange River (formerly  
Great River)

*Refrain:*

The English are just like crocodiles,  
They always drag you down to the water.  
They throw you on a ship for a very long  
trip,  
Only the Lord knows where to.

*Refrain:*

Liberation came, and it was time to return  
home,  
Back to my dear Transvaal.  
The person I love will certainly be there,  
To reward me with a kiss.

G'day John,

We have spoken recently about 41 Cdo MT  
Troop and personae' therein!! From that era  
of illustriousness in D3's do you remember  
a John Fitzpatrick who was also seconded  
to Recce troop along with myself, 'Dizzy'  
Darvill and Allan Horsley?

Well John is coming out to WA for a  
holiday later this year; he will be here from  
21st December for a few weeks. For the  
most part he will be staying with me in  
Bunbury but will no doubt want to see a bit  
of Perth .....

Chris Reid also knows 'Fitzy' so I thought  
we might try to arrange something for when  
the bold Fitz gets out here. Maybe a BBQ in  
Bunbury or a trip over to Rotto, or both.  
Involve a few other RM's perhaps. What  
do you think? .....

Maybe announce in the bulletin in case  
anyone else might know John who also  
served in Aden with 45 Cdo before joining  
41.

Regards

Paul Bosas

## Corps and Unit Memorable Dates – October and November

### **The Landing at Termoli – 3 October 1943**

In the early hours of 3 October 1943, 40  
RM Commando (Lieutenant Colonel J C  
Manners) with No 3 Commando and  
elements of the Special Raiding Squadron  
landed under cover of darkness at Termoli,  
a seaport town on the Adriatic coast, north  
of the River Bifurno and behind the German  
lines. 40 Commando penetrated well into  
the town before the enemy were alerted and  
brisk close-quarter fighting with German  
parachute troops ensued. By 0800 hours, 40  
Commando had captured the town and  
controlled the approaches. So complete was  
the surprise that German vehicles and motor  
cyclists still drove into a Commando  
ambush position until noon. The Germans  
retaliated in strength and 40 Commando  
with 3 Commando, the Special Raiding  
Squadron and some reinforcements from  
the 78th Division, held off repeated and  
heavy infantry and armoured counter-  
attacks by the 26th Panzer Division until  
eventually the 8th Army linked up with  
them on 6 October. The operation was an  
outstanding success. They had overcome all  
attempts, by a force vastly superior in

numbers and armament, to dislodge them  
and in so doing, won a valuable harbour:  
they caused the enemy to withdraw from  
the natural defence line on the Bifurno and  
denied them the use of the important lateral  
road from Naples, thereby forcing them to  
retreat further northwards.

### **The Battle of Trafalgar – 21 October 1805**

The Corps was present at Lord Nelson's  
victory over the combined fleets at  
Trafalgar, the most decisive sea fight in  
British history. Ninety officers and over  
3,600 NCOs, and men of the RM at their  
traditional stations on the upper decks of the  
British ships bore a brave and important  
part in the success of the day. The losses  
were particularly heavy on board the  
leading ships; in Lord Nelson's flagship, the  
Victory, 4 RM officers and 27 men of the  
RM detachment were killed or wounded.  
The total RM casualties during the battle  
were 4 officers and 117 men killed or died  
of wounds and 14 officers and 226 men  
wounded.

### **The Birth of the Corps – 28 October 1664**

King Charles II sanctioned the formation of  
the Duke of York and Albany's Maritime  
Regiment of Foot - the first Regiment to be  
formed specifically for service afloat. The  
Regiment was raised mainly from the  
Trained Bands of the City of London from  
which the RM derive the privilege of  
marching through the City of London with  
Colours flying, drums beating and bayonets  
fixed. The yellow stripe in our present-day  
Regimental flash commemorates the yellow  
uniforms of the Duke of York and Albany's  
Regiment.

### **The Assault on Walcheren – 1 November 1944**

The leading troops in the successful  
seaborne attack on Walcheren in November  
1944, were the 4th Special Service Brigade  
(Brigadier B W Leicester DSO) consisting  
of Numbers 41, 47 and 48 Commandos and  
Number 4 Army Commando. The three RM  
Commandos attacked Westkapelle with  
little support, owing to the weather, other  
than that provided

# TEAM ANACOMMANDO

## “A Bootneck’s perspective on the Anaconda Adventure Race”

by Garry “Taff” Williams

Taff Williams sent out the following email to RMA WA members on the ‘net.

.....For those of you that may be interested I’ve attached below the official race program for the inaugural Bootnecks v Paras Adventure Race to be held in and around the Geographe Bay area, Dunsborough at 0730hrs on Sunday November 4th 2007.....this is the main event on the card; however there will be approximately 1500 others coming along to race in a support event called the Anaconda Adventure Race!!!!

The RMA team is “Anacommando”. I think the Para team are calling themselves “I wish I’d been a Bootneck”!!!

For more information, log on to the following internet site:

<http://www.rapidascent.com.au/PDF/WAProgram.pdf>



Teams Anacommando and Airborne Forces.....



Paul Patterson powers up the beach.....

It was during another momentary loss of mental functionality that I said to Paul “Paddles” Patterson that in light of us being Bootnecks, a mob of physically motivated (some arguably not so articulated!!) and

highly trained amphibians, that the Anaconda Adventure Race would be a perfect forum to challenge our many talents, particularly given that it would epitomise the motto of our Corps – “Per Mare Per Terram”.

I’d originally asked Paul if he would do the entire race with me as a pair. Unfortunately the answer he gave me in that “aye oop, it’s grim oop north” brogue of his cannot be put to print, suffice to say that it involved his paddle and my posterior! However, being the good hand that he is he didn’t need any persuading to stick that paddle in a much safer direction and volunteer to have a crack at the 12.5km open water paddling leg of the race.

Since I felt that my trusty steed, a modern day equivalent of a Penny Farthing complete with shopping basket on the front, would see me through the 22km mountain bike leg, we set about pinging another two victims....I meant team members!

Given the Royal Marines’ association with the Royal Navy and considering that the Corps has been carrying matelots since Sergeant Secker RM carried Lord Nelson to his death bed so Hardy could give him a lip lock, I thought it appropriate that we recruit a former member of the ‘senior service’ into the team. To that end, Garry “nuttier than a bag of Nobby’s Nuts” Nutter succumbed to the long standing



*Taff Williams at the start of the bike section*

tradition of Bootnecks taking the piss out of Jolly Jack and duly volunteered to do the 1800m open water swim. This proved to be extremely brave (or stupid!!) of him as Garry was still using inflatable arm bands even to get into the bath up until a few weeks prior to the race!

That left us to find an appropriate candidate for the 14.2km run. The selection criteria was simple – a good set of Pusser’s pegs, a heart as big as a lion’s and a pair of lungs like inflated Tesco carrier bags. In the absence of a locally available Nepalese Sherpa I asked Kris “I look essence” Lowden if he’d be interested. After telling me that he would be on holiday in Thailand right up until the eleventh hour and that his pre-race training would involve stacks of loopy looney juice and bagging off, I thought he’d be perfect! I always knew Kris would be the ideal runner for us after unwittingly seeing him back in 1992 as a kid running around my feet when I was in the bar at the Happy Valley married pads in Hong Kong while his Dad was drafted there as a matelot!

After discovering that some of our Airborne brethren were entering a mixed team called “Beauty and the Beasts”, so it transpired that on the 25th anniversary of the re-taking of the Falkland Islands, former Bootnecks and Paras would be re-enacting the epic race to get to the pub in Port Stanley before last orders.



*Garry Nutter crossing the swim section finish*

First up for us was Garry Nutter for the swim, and it was with an air of anticipation that we all gathered at the race start at the Old Dunsborough Boat Ramp at 0700hrs as those not swimming looked out towards a very uninviting and choppy Geographe Bay with that “thank Christ I’m not going in there” look on our faces as we recalled the ‘balls in your throat’ feeling that all of us that have deployed to NATO’s Northern

Flank remember so well during ice breaking drills.

The large gathering of competitors was an impressive sight with all shapes and sizes lining up to start the race; from seasoned speed machines to those with more chins than a Hong Kong phone book.

After a quick farewell to family, friends and team mates, Garry responded to the pipe “hands to bathe” and made his way out for a deep water start at 0730hrs. The siren sounded and they were off towards Dunsborough in a wave of madly thrashing arms, kicking feet, and one ex-Chief Petty Officer who was probably wondering what the hell had possessed him to ever associate with Bootnecks!

During the leg it became apparent that some of the competitors had elected to cheat and had not swum around a course marker buoy. Hats off to Garry for having the integrity to swim back to round the buoy when he realised the mistake. Next time mate, do the

Bootneck thing – cuff it, then deny everything!!

The order of the day for those not racing the leg was to be waiting anxiously for a team mate to arrive into the next transition area, and it was to that end that we skagged seaward at the start of the paddling leg for Garry’s arrival for his hand over to Paul.

Garry belied his lack of open water swimming experience, particularly considering the trying conditions on the day, and exited the water like a Tomahawk missile destined for downtown Baghdad. He did a phenomenal job of swimming the 1800 metres in 42 mins 08 secs, which put our team just over 7 minutes behind Lisa Elder who swam a strong leg to position the Airborne team into a healthy lead.

The transition from swim to paddle was a free-for-all (or bun fight as John Clancy-Lowe described it!!) with bodies everywhere and was more reminiscent of the mad scramble for the bar after the call for last orders down Union Street. Garry married up with Paul, exchanged race bib and timing device, and then Paul was off like a runaway gun, paddling like a man possessed towards Bunker Bay.

Sea conditions proved to be extremely difficult for the paddlers as the high pressure that was forecasted didn't eventuate until much later in the day. As a result, Paul had to contend with peaking and troughing beam on greenie goffers for the majority of the way. Just trying to avoid being capsized, he was to later recount, gave him one of the biggest abs sesh's that he's ever had. It was an outstanding performance considering he hadn't had the opportunity to get many miles under his belt immediately prior to the race due to a recent trip to the UK on a six-week Newcastle Brown Ale tasting banyan.

Paul dug out blind in the testing conditions, he had rock all left to give by the end, and was well and truly flakers when he hit the beach and ran the few hundred metres into the transition area. He'd been dumped off his ski at least five times and had had to clamber back on unassisted, which for anyone who's been in that situation will know exactly how much effort that actually takes and energy it saps. He paddled the 12.5kms in 1 hour 52 mins 49 secs and would later describe the leg in his own inimitable way as a "real ball bagger".

Ex-Para Regt member Jase Swales, one of our associate members, had paddled a blinder and put their team just over 23 minutes ahead of us going into the run leg. He was probably spurred on by the fact that he'd been gasping for a fag since leaving Dunsborough and hadn't perfected the art of rolling them and paddling at the same time!!

The pressure was on Royal and the team were now racing for the pride of the Corps. Who better to have running the tough, unforgiving coastal terrain for us than a fella who was standing in the transition area bronzing himself whilst ogling the surrounding women for suitable candidates for a gronks board and looking every bit the stacks rating that he tells us he is, complete with a white baseball cap worn back to front, a pair of Dame Edna's cast off white framed sunglasses and a white vest that looked something like Alf Garnett would wear down the beach.

us and had passed 122 other competitors, he brought us into the bike transition area in 218th overall in a time of 1 hr 32 mins 27secs!

To put that further into perspective, Kris ran down Mick Hale from the Airborne team who had just over a 23 minute head start on him and who had been going hard at it and had certainly not been out for a Sunday bumble in the bush. Kris passed Mick about 3kms from the bike transition area to come in 4 minutes ahead of the Airborne team having completed the leg at an average speed of 9.21 kms/hr (or 5.72 miles per



*Team Anacommando – the Victors.....*

Once the changeover was made Kris took off like a Schermuly and was rapidly showing those he overtook a clean pair of heels.

The run course was 14.2kms of mixed terrain encompassing beach, coastal scrub, rock and boulder hopping, a water crossing, sand dunes, farm land and the odd copse leading into the bike transition area.

In a demonstration of perfect timing, Sylvia Clancy-Lowe and Kris' girlfriend Bee arrived in the nick of time at the water crossing stage of the run to keep Kris going with a well earned goffer.

To say that Kris did an absolutely amazing job on the run leg would be a complete injustice to his efforts. Going into the run leg our team were 339th overall, but after the racing snake had done the business for

hour for those of us who are stubbornly still Imperial). A legendary bit of running over a very tough course!

There was still a job to be done however and gauging that big Rob Cable from the Airborne team didn't look like a bumbler on a bike with those extra long legs of his I took receipt of the race bib and timing device from Kris and legged it towards the start of the bike leg proper as if old Lucifer himself was chasing me.

What lay ahead for me was a 22km mix of slow, grinding uphill sections, fast open farm land, pea gravel tracks, narrow technical wooded sections, stream crossings that had turned into quagmires by the time I got there, soft sand, jumps and rocky descents through forests; along with the ever present threat of being chased by a giant 7 foot ex-Para who was frothing at the

mouth whilst trying to catch me up!!

It was going through one of the aforementioned narrow technical wooded sections that my mind wondered back to many years ago to my first winter whilst learning how to ski on Pusser's planks in Norway under the weight of a fully laden bergen. While I was merrily creaming my bike into logs that were laid across the track and clipping trees with my shoulders I remembered the time honoured Bootneck art of the yeti and tree stop! Needless to say that I was glad that my couple of hundred dollars worth of bike was able to get me through the leg relatively unscathed, particularly when I came across a fellow competitor who had completely shredded his back tyre and was trying to ride the extremely flash looking bit of kit that he'd cocked his leg over to the finish on its wheel rim. Who says you need a bike that costs more than my family car?!!

I headed into the team run transition area like Lance Armstrong on steroids to be greeted by the rest of our team eagerly

waiting to see who out of myself or Rob would materialise out of the woods first. I'd cracked the 22kms in 1 hr 30 mins 45 secs and had managed to increase our lead by a minute over the Airborne team to give us a five minute lead overall.

After being told to dump my runners and run barefoot due to dieback disease control, I joined the rest of Team Anacommando for the 1800m speed march along the beach to the finish where we were met by one of the next generation of Bootnecks, my 11 year old lad Sam, who ran in with us and crossed the line with his old man and the boys to the cheering and clapping of the crowd in 204th position from a starting field of 399 individuals and teams. Our overall time was 5 hours 48 minutes 2 seconds. BZ boys!

The Airborne team put in a solid performance throughout and gained a minute on us on the run into the finish to eventually come in only 4 minutes behind Team Anacommando overall. No one would have predicted a closer race. Well

done to both teams on an absolutely outstanding effort all round!

We'd all had a great time thrashing around the south west corner of Western Australia; however, the real unsung heroes of the race were our support crew. John and Sylvia Clancy-Lowe did a tremendous job ensuring that we were looked after and that our team members and their equipment were where they had to be. Jimmy Rea, our resident club swinger, constantly cast his eagle eye over proceedings to ensure that our race went to plan and he was always on hand with the selfless advice, support and encouragement that personifies him.

But the real winners of the weekend were our families and partners. They immersed themselves in the action, mucked in when it was required, were all over the course to show their support, and who enjoyed each others company while we were out doing our bit.

Roll on Anaconda 2008!

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## ITV follows Royal Marines recruits in Commando series

or

### “I always thought "War Cry" was a Salvation Army newspaper???”

ITV is launching an eight-part series, which tracks 50 recruits undergoing months of gruelling training to become Royal Marine Commandos and follows them onto the frontline in Afghanistan.

'Commando: On the Front Line', which will be shown on ITV1 and ITV4, delves into the lives and minds of the young men who sign up as novices, and are transformed physically and mentally into an elite force of specialists in expeditionary warfare.

The series was filmed over a 12-month period by director/cameraman Chris Terrill, who followed and trained with the recruits of 924 Troop in Lympstone, Devon, who were seeking to win the famous Green Beret.

Terrill and the recruits learned ambush techniques and carried back-breaking loads

in the searing heat of subtropical jungles as part of the Commando tests. Terrill was also awarded a Green Beret and subsequently followed the men onto the front line and into battle in the Helmand region of Afghanistan.

Some of the recruits featured in the documentary include Terry John from the Caribbean island of St Vincent, plasterer James Williams, ex stunt man Adam Collins and 17-year-old Jordan Slatter.

In addition to the recruits from the 924 Troop, the series also follows the progress of officers undergoing training at the same base, in particular 22-year-old Second Lieutenant Bertie Kerr, who within days of passing out is sent to the frontline in Afghanistan. Kerr leads 11 Troop of M Company (42 Commando) and must deal with attacks from the Taliban and the death

of one of his troops. Terrill said: "What I did realise when we were under heavy fire was that the Marines, probably like other soldiers, aren't fighting for a cause or a flag, a monarch or a leader. They are fighting for each other, for their comrades...for their brothers in arms."

The eight-part series will begin in autumn with a one-hour introductory episode, followed by seven half-hour editions.

TV have confirmed that the series will now start on Thursday 20th September on ITV1.

I know from the Globe and Laurel, that Royal and ITV were in talks about the naming of the series and there were some disagreements.

At first ITV wanted to call it Sea Soldiers but then thought about it and decided "War Cry" was better.

# Battle of Chosin Reservoir

*From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia*

*For those of us who served in 41 Commando, the Battle of Chosin Reservoir and the US Presidential Citation that proudly flew from our Unit Colours, was a memorable part of our history. And yet the Royal Marines web sites do not record this is a Corps or Unit Memorable Date..... So to commemorate this battle, 57 years ago this November, the following article has been taken from Wikipedia.*

The Battle of Chosin Reservoir was a battle in the Korean War, in which 30,000 United Nations troops (nicknamed the "Frozen Chosen") under the command of American General Douglas MacArthur faced approximately 70,000 Chinese volunteers. Shortly after the People's Republic of China's entry into the conflict, large numbers of Chinese soldiers swept across the Yalu River, encircling the United Nations (UN) troops at the Chosin Reservoir, in the northeastern part of North Korea. A brutal battle in freezing weather followed. Although they inflicted enormous casualties on the Chinese forces, the Americans were forced to evacuate North Korea after they withdrew from the reservoir to the port of Hungnam

## Overview

By mid-October 1950, the Korean War looked like it was nearly over to many UN leaders. Most of North Korea had been captured by the American-led UN forces. However, on October 25, 1950, communist China entered the war and huge numbers of Chinese soldiers poured across the border into Korea. The UN command, under General Douglas MacArthur, was slow to appreciate the implications of this new reality. MacArthur ordered his ground units, the U.S. Eighth Army in the west and the X Corps in the east, to continue their offensive to the Yalu River, the border with China. The X Corps—commanded by controversial Major General Ned Almond, U.S. Army—was widely spread out over northeastern Korea, its units far apart and out of supporting distance from each other. The X Corps troops at Chosin, mainly the US 1st Marine Division, elements of the US 7th Infantry Division, and 41 Independent Commando Royal Marines were, by late November, surrounded by units of the Ninth Army Group of the People's Liberation Army (designated "

Chinese People's Volunteers" by the Chinese government). The Chinese launched heavy attacks that halted the UN offensive. MacArthur and Almond ordered Major General O.P. Smith, commander of the 1st Marine Division and associated forces in the Chosin area to fight his way out of the trap. Starting on November 26, 1950, the UN troops began a fighting withdrawal to the south, towards Hungnam.

## Battle

Around 30,000 UN troops clashed with approximately 70,000 Chinese soldiers. In fierce fighting that lasted until 11 December, there were 15,000 UN casualties (7,500 to cold related injuries) and possibly 40,000 Chinese casualties (mostly to cold related injuries) as the UN forces withdrew to Hungnam.



## *A column of the U.S. 1st Marine Division move through Chinese lines during their breakout from the Chosin reservoir*

On the eastern side of the Chosin Reservoir however, a 3,000-man composite U.S. Army task force from the 7th Infantry Division, RCT 31 (Task Force Faith), was isolated by two reinforced Chinese divisions (over 17,000) which were en route to finish off the garrison at Hagaru-ri. Worn down by incessant attacks, RCT 31 was virtually destroyed. Nine members of RCT 31 were awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the Army's second highest award for valor. Survivors from this unit reached Marine lines at Hagaru-ri on December 2, 1950. Some survivors of RCT 31 and other army units including an army tank company and combat engineers, joined Smith's forces and participated in the breakout. Keeping his

units concentrated and moving deliberately, Smith made an aggressive assault to break out of the reservoir. When asked if the Marines were retreating, Smith explained that their fighting withdrawal through Chinese lines did not constitute a retreat. His explanation was abbreviated into the famous misquote, "Retreat, hell! We're attacking in a different direction!" (recalling the famous quote from Captain Lloyd Williams at Belleau Wood during the First World War, "Retreat, hell! We just got here!").

## Task Force Drysdale

In mid-November 1950, the roughly 300 men of 41 Independent Commando, Royal Marines, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Douglas B. Drysdale, were attached to the U.S. 1st Marine Division. This marked the second time that U.S. Marines and Royal Marines had served together. (The first time was during the Boxer Rebellion.)

41 Commando had been at Koto-ri with Colonel Chesty Puller's 1st Marine Regiment when the Chinese attacked. On the morning of November 29, Major General O.P. Smith, Commanding General of the 1st Marine Division, ordered Puller to send a task force to open up the road between Koto-ri and Hagaru-ri, where the majority of the division was. The breakthrough force was composed of Drysdale's 41 Royal Marine Commando, Captain Carl Sitter's G Company, 3rd Battalion 1st Marines (G/3/1), B Company, 31st Infantry Regiment, and various Headquarters and Services Marines. All totaled, the task force was around 900 men and 140 vehicles.

The task force struck out of Koto-ri at 0930 hours on November 29 and by 1630 hours, had advanced only half way to its objective, due to stiff enemy resistance—halfway to Hagaru-ri the Chinese ambushed the task force and cut it to pieces. The units of the Task Force had become bogged down, separated and were not in radio contact in an area later named "Hell Fire Valley" by Lieutenant Colonel Drysdale. After being reinforced by tanks from D Company, 1st Tank Battalion, Drysdale contacted Smith at Hagaru-ri and was told to "Press on at all costs." Drysdale responded by stating,

“Very well, then: we’ll give them a show.” He passed word that they were going to run the gauntlet to Hagaru-ri.

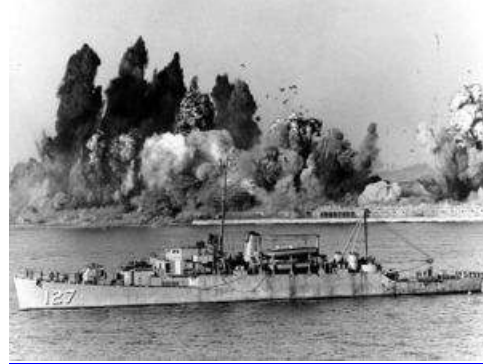
Later that evening, most of the men from 41 Commando, Sitter's Marines, and the tanks from D Company arrived at Hagaru-ri, with a wounded Drysdale entering the division command post to announce “41 Commando present for duty.” In the confusion along the road, roughly 400 members of Task Force Drysdale were still left stranded and out of radio contact in Hell Fire Valley and completely surrounded by vastly numerically superior Chinese forces. For his leadership and valor, Captain Sitter was awarded the Medal of Honor, one of eleven Chosin Marines so honored.

The still-stranded forces were composed of about 60 Royal Marines, most of B Company 31st Infantry Regiment, and the assorted Headquarters and Services Marines, strung out in four pockets along roughly two-thirds of a mile. Most of these men were killed, wounded or taken prisoner. A few were able to pass through Chinese lines and make it back to Koto-ri. During the night, army Lieutenant Alfred J. Anderson of B Company, 1/31 Infantry, regrouped those of his company that he could find into a defensive perimeter. Twice, he closed with enemy soldiers and killed them at arm's length, deflecting their weapons with one arm as he used his pistol. Early on the morning of November 30, Anderson received orders to withdraw those troops under his control. He led them back safely to Koto-ri.

Of the 900 men of Task Force Drysdale, approximately 300 arrived at Hagaru-ri, 300 were killed or wounded and about 135 were taken prisoner, with the rest making it back to Koto-ri.

Seventy-five of the 141 vehicles were also destroyed. Some considered the mission poorly conceived and doomed from the start. Major General Smith was not so quick to write it off however, saying that it was at least a partial success because it delivered over 300 seasoned infantrymen and a tank company to the beleaguered defenses at Hagaru-ri.

Photo # 80-G-424297 USS Begor stands by during demolition of Hungnam, Korea, Dec. 1950



*USS Begor observes the destruction of Hungnam's port facilities.*

### Final phases of the battle

In their withdrawal, US troops were either attacking—conducting numerous assaults to clear Chinese roadblocks and overlooking hill positions—or under furious Chinese attack themselves. The sub-zero temperatures inflicted even more casualties than the Chinese (who also suffered greatly from the extreme cold). US forces enjoyed total air supremacy, with Navy, Marine, and Air Force fighter-bombers flying hundreds of sorties a day against the encircling Chinese.

Over 4,000 wounded were flown out and 500 replacements flown in during the operation, contributing considerably to its success.

The Marines and soldiers were able to destroy or effectively disable all seven Chinese divisions that tried to block their escape from the reservoir. Despite the effort of many Marines, whose plight attracted world-wide attention and was seized on by the western media as a "moral victory" in the midst of defeat, the strategic situation was now highly unfavorable for UN forces and it was decided to withdraw the entire X Corps from North Korea. The Marines, the rest of X Corps, and thousands of civilian refugees were soon evacuated by ship from the port of Hungnam, which was then destroyed to deny its use to the communists.

### Aftermath

While the Chinese were able to expel the UN forces from the reservoir, U.S. forces inflicted heavy casualties on the Chinese as they fought for their own survival. The Marines' breakout was helped in part by Chinese American Marines who overheard the People's Liberation Army battle plans in Chinese. After their departure from North Korea, the Marines were returned to the South, where they continued to fight as part of UN forces until the armistice in July 1953.

To this day, the U.S. Marines consider the Battle of the Chosin Reservoir to be one of the proudest parts of their own history despite the heavy losses. Likewise, the Chinese People's Liberation Army considers the Battle of the Chosin Reservoir an honor.

This campaign, with the simultaneous victory against U.S. forces to the west, was the first time in a century a Chinese army was able to defeat a Western army in a major battle, despite the heavy losses.

## Remembrance Day

11<sup>th</sup> November 2007

We will remember them...



Once again, a stalwart few gave of their time on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November to sell poppies on behalf of the association.

After paying for the poppies and paying the RSL their share of the proceeds, the Association was able to swell the Welfare Fund by just over \$2,000.

A very special thanks to those who helped out – Jim Rea, Allan Buckley, Mick Page, Jim Wood, Tony Lynn, Nick Bell, Sandie Reid and Brian Milton. You have done us proud – again!

# The 30 miler - Where the rubber meets the road

by Jim Rea

It is 06.30 hours on Sunday the 9th of September and our dedicated 30 miler camp at North Bannister is a hive of activity. The intoxicating smell of sausage, bacon and eggs sizzling in the frying pan mixed with the street cafe aroma of freshly brewed coffee all bathed in wisps of smoke from our now re-energized camp fire causes the olfactory receptors to go into a series of back flips, somersaults and handsprings at the joy of it all.

While we enjoy all of this three of our fellow campers are taking life much more seriously. They know that in the coming hours they are going to subject their bodies to what is recognised amongst Her Majesties Royal Marines as the ultimate endurance test know simply as the ' 30 Miler '.

Chris, who was having his 1st crack at the distance since arriving in Australia is racing fit and is using this as a recce yomp to get a feel for the track with a view to recording a time of around 5 hours at a later date. Paul, who is a three timer and holds a present record of 6 hours and 20 minutes, is going to be pace man for Taff who is on load carry today setting himself the task of hauling 20kgs plus over what is a very challenging course. This is a personal endurance test and is well up there with what is expected of serving members of the Special Forces. He has set a target time of 8hrs plus.

Breakfast is now completed, backpacks are checked - all walkers take sufficient emergency equipment to enable them to remain in the bush in safety and comfort for at least 24hrs. On the previous night I asked Chris what he was taking as emergency gear and quick as a flash he replied "A Safeway's bag and a pair of sandals " !. He is of course a master survivalist having done time with Mountain Rescue etc. We gave him 10/10 for his Royal Marine sense of humour. At 07.19 precisely Verna, has marshaled our trekkers on the start line, the index finger of her right hand exerts a downwards pressure of exactly 200gms on the trigger mechanism of her all singing, all dancing, picture machine. A surreal flash of retina wrecking proportions lights up the mist enshrouded bush and the 3 lads are on their way.

As they leg it into the distance my mind drifts back to a late evening 4 years ago. Jim Ward, an ex Para had put a notice in the West Australian inviting any Brit ex service personnel to meet for a drink at the Sportsman's bar at Greenwood Hotel. As I made my way from the car park to the bar entrance I noticed 2 likely lads emerge from the gloom. They were wearing Middlesbrough colours and walked in that way described by media types as a display of latent aggression. They were of course Paul and Jason who have since become major players in our outdoor activities group. At our Greenwood meeting I mentioned I would try to organise Camping, Shooting, Abseiling, Canoeing and shock horror a ' 30 Miler '. This idea caused those present to take a sudden interest in the floor tiles, others gazed at the light fittings with undisguised enthusiasm. Breaking wind in church did not even come close. Paul and Jason locked on immediately and the rest is history.



*Taff Williams, Masochist.....*

Immediately after this the Corps stalwarts came on board, Bert, Clancy and Sylvia, Eddie and Paul Dunn, Shannon, Taff W, Chris, and Paras, Mick H, Mick B, and Andy. A total of 14 people have successfully completed the ' 30 Miler ' unbroken and unassisted on the very challenging Bibulman Track. And times have varied between Paul's time of 6hrs 20 , to the 10hrs plus taken by the

more mature yompers. We know that there are 8 members of the Association who can complete the distance inside the 8hrs allowed to a present day Royal Marine at the end of Commando Training. And they are Paul, Chris, Taff W, Garry N, Andre, Kads, Steve J and Jon S. Our target is to get 20 members of the Association to successfully complete the yomp in the not too distant future.

Meanwhile back at base camp Eddie has left on his 20 Miler, and the rest of us are getting rigged for our nature and picnic trip to Flat Rock Hotel otherwise know as Bonnering Hill. On this trip Clancy and Garry team up to do an in depth study of the wild orchid, Sylvia and Jane excel once again on the catering front while Ffion and Nadine bring a great sense of fun to the whole adventure, Nadine shows tremendous courage on the walk back to camp, never complaining while completing the whole distance.

On our way back to camp we were overtaken by our Alpha racing dog, Chris, who had now settled into that jogging action well know to endurance runners which seems to say " I can keep this up for ever ", outstanding effort, Chris!!.

Having returned from our little stroll, we set about dismantling the various bits and pieces ready to break camp before last light. This chore completed it is now wets all round as we settle down for the arrival of the real walkers. For this we set out our DICKERS and wait for the shouts of " here they come " , on hearing this the whole camp 'Turns To' and forms a guard of honour to applaud the boys home, photos are taken to record the exact time etc etc. Eddie rolls in having done his 20 Miler in 6hrs, fantastic effort!. Taff and Paul are next in to huge applause and many "well done". Taff removes his backpack and each member of the reception committee checks the weight and it is only then that we all appreciate his supreme performance in having hauled this load up hill and down dale for 30 miles, 'absolutely awesome'!!. Taff then gives us a demo of what can only be described as a supreme example of excruciating exfoliation by ripping a piece of 25 x 6 centimeter plaster from his lower back and tossing it into the fire with an "

I'm glad that's off" kind of flourish it had served its purpose of preventing what is commonly called BERGEN RASH where the backpack bites into the hips during a load carry.

To sum up this has been another very enjoyable bush camp with outstanding

contributions from all involved.

Garry, Taff, Chris and Paul kept the beers circulating, Clancy and Sylvia looked after the infrastructure, Eddie brought a sense of solidarity to the team with Verna's call of "Coffee or Tea anybody" music to the ears. Ffion and

Nadine bought a sense of happiness to the whole scene in a way that only children can do. And finally who can forget the damper and chocolate infused bananas created by Jane, eat your heart out Mr Oliver. All our camps work on the John West principal ie passengers and snipers go over the side - end of story.

## 'The 30 Miler' Weekend - A Family Perspective

by John Clancy Lowe

It was a great pity that the weekend designated for the 30 miler (and lesser yomps) clashed with one of the 'dinners' on the military calendar. Despite the long range planning it was an oversight and is unlikely to happen again.

On arrival at the North Bannister campsite on Saturday lunchtime the usual welcoming vision of a well established fire and a boiling billy was overshadowed by a canvas edifice rivaling a Bedouin chief's tent! Closer inspection revealed that it was the 2007 version Heads. Its creator, Jimmy Rae, has progressively raised the tempo on these bush toilets over the years - but this!! The first heads were nothing more than a shovel behind a bush which steadily developed into 'star picket and tarpaulin enclosures' that even the movie star 'Kenny' would have considered passable. But things have ascended to very sophisticated levels and cater for the needs of the most demanding campers and yompers.

The Bibbulmun Track at this busy junction on Albany Highway could be thought to be an improbable spot to find exotic orchids or extremely rare plants. Common sense would lead one to conclude that 'the greater the number of people traipsing by, then the greater the probability of a flower being picked' and thus to extinction - (there must surely be a Confucian saying covering this)! So it was that we had low expectations of finding much on the botanical front. Imagine our surprise when, within a short period of their arrival, Fionn and Nadine Nutter reported back that we were virtually surrounded by unusual and exotic flowers. On investigation they were found to be right on the money! These two



*Happy Campers at the 30 Miler weekend*

little girls had found, among many other flowering plants, several Wispy Spider Orchids, Dancing Orchids and some Flying Duck Orchids. (Yes, that IS their real name!)

After seeing Paul, Garry and Kris off on their '30 miler' on the Sunday morning, the follow up patrol of Mums, Dads and kids, set off on a more modest 15km yomp to the top of Boonering Hill. In pretty short order the whole party arrived at the summit spluttering with excitement. A bush walk on the Bibbulmun can be a lot more than just 'sweat and blisters'. True, you are climbing up hills, down valleys, over logs, in fact you're going up and down like Dolly

where 360° views to the horizon were to be had. It was here that one of the members discovered a rare 'resurrection' plant, 'Cladia Ferdinandii', a coral lichen, that would have had David Attenborough Parton's boobs at a trampoline contest but at the end of the day there are few people who would say it's not worth it. Throw in along the track the many carnivorous 'sundew' plants munching their way through the micro fauna and the RMA could have made a movie for the ABC! Special mention has to be made of the children who made this journey, with Fionn(9) and Nadine(6) the youngest, showing grit and determination of heroic proportions.

# A Short History of HMS Albion

By ex Albion Royal Marine

Allan Buckley

Though none of the former ALBIONS are ships which are mentioned in history, the seven Battle Honours now carried were won by four out of the five previous ships to bear this name. The "black sheep" started life as a 360 ton ship belonging to the Transport Office, from whom she was purchased in 1796 for conversion into a 20 gun sloop in Deptford, the second ship to bear the name. She was based on Sheerness and sold again out of naval service only seven years later.

The first Albion a 74 gun third rate ship of the line, was commissioned at Chatham in 1770 seven years after being launched (so it happened in those days too) and was present at the first Royal Review of the Fleet by King George III at Spithead three years later. This Albion took part in two well known battles against the French in the West Indies, both of which feature in our Battle Honours. The first was the battle of Grenada in 1779, and in the next year Albion led the van in Rodney's three actions which are known as the battle of Martinique. Her demise was somewhat tragic as she was converted to a floating battery in 1794 and lost on the Swin three years later.

The third Albion was another 74 gun third rater who gained us no fewer than three of Albion's battle honours two of which were towards the latter part of her life, at the bombardment of Algiers in 1816 and the battle of Navarino in 1827 against the Greeks. However, she had an eventful life before this, and it seems to have got around the world in the process. Launched in 1802 on the Thames she had within four years captured the French 40 gun frigate Franchise off Brest and the heavily armed French privateer La Chavisse in the East Indies. In 1814 and 1815 she took part in many actions in the American War of Independence, including capturing Leonardstown. As a result of these actions a "medal" as it was then called, for Washington 1814 was awarded. At the bombardment of Algiers Albion was the Commander in Chief Mediterranean's Flagship and fired over four thousand rounds in the course of the action. Again this Albion's latter days seem to have been somewhat tragic as she was a hospital ship

at Leith between 1831 and 1835 and was broken up at Deptford a year later. A ninety gun, 3,110 ton ship of the line, the fourth Albion was launched at Devonport in 1842 and in 1854 took part in the Crimean war, including the bombardment of Sevastopol where her Captain Stephen Lushington, commanded the Naval Brigade. In 1861 she was fitted with a propeller and a steam engine of 1,835 h.p which kept her going for another twenty three years before she was broken up.

The sixth Albion was a steam propelled aircraft carrier which although laid down in 1944 during the Second World War was not completed until ten years later. She was the first aircraft carrier in the world to have an aid to deck landing known as "the mirror" fitted. Her jet aircraft and their weapons were what in those days were known as "conventional" as compared to "atomic". She seems to have covered most of the world in her time, but by modern standards appears to have been quite appallingly hot,



*The 5<sup>th</sup> Albion, launched 1895*

The fifth Albion was a twin screwed armored battleship of 12,950 tons launched in 1895 by the then H R H The Duchess of York subsequently to become Her Majesty Queen Mary. She saw service in the China Fleet as Flagship of the Second In Command, the Channel, Atlantic and the Home Fleets, and on the outbreak of war was Flagship of the Second In Command, the Third Fleet, The Nore.

She took part in the action in the Dardanelles in 1915 returning home next year to U K. where she served under the Admiral Commanding East Coast of England until she was broken up at the end of 1919.

unpleasant to live in and uncomfortable. Although she took part in Suez in 1956 she gained no battle honours and despite infinite research and crystal ball gazing what happened to her after 1960 is far from clear.



# General Sir Jeremy Moore – a Thank You

*General Moore's daughter posted this letter on the net.*

.....On behalf of Jeremy Moore's family I would like to say how much we have appreciated the messages that we have read on the Once a Marine website. They have been extremely moving and comforting at the same time. Of course we knew that he was a special man but to have read your tributes, from the people that he admired most (i.e. his men) was something really special - the highest praise he could ever have wished for.

About 8 years ago, I recorded his "memoires" with him. I thought you might like to read the following, in his own words (literally - so it doesn't read very smoothly!), about an event that took place in his training. It is of course one of many but I happen to have this one to hand...

"There's an incident in those days that is, especially on reflection is very important, in my development I think. I've said to you that I was I think pretty underconfident. I was certainly petrified of having to give orders to marines and that sort of thing and I remember very clearly one day when we'd been drilling, we were drilling that morning with a recruit troop so there were 12 of us and 100 of them and we were marched off the parade ground into the drill shed, which was a great big hangar thing in which one could drill in inclement weather or sometimes the drill instructor would take you there in reasonable weather because it reverberated and could be helpful to getting time right and things. Anyway we were marched in there by the first drill and our 1st drill Packhorse was with him, they were there together - because it was the squad's 1st Drill was actually taking us- and they marched us in and said "Right fall out, 10 minutes smoke over in that corner" and he then said "Mr Moore, come here!" so I went over there and reported to him and Packhorse said "Mr Moore, go over to where all the blokes are, get on the bench in the corner call them all round you and tell them for two minutes why it's necessary to have a shit in the morning!" {look of horror!} I mean one's naive; we were learning words like shit! Sort of thing, pretty well, so we were very callow and

straight out of school, I, as I say was very under confident and there suddenly, never happened before, all we'd ever done in the way of talking to people was amongst ourselves. And I was sent to go and get on that bench and talk to 100 young marines. First to get their attention and then to talk about this! And I marched over to the corner trying to look confident thinking {pulls face}. Petrified! Climbed on the bench and called them around. I said something like "Right everybody, gather round here, I want to talk to you" and so I said what I was there to do and I said what I knew about it, which wasn't much and it probably took 45 seconds or something, I don't know, or anything else and they all looked at me and I could see in the marine's eyes, actually an awful lot of them were thinking "Poor little bugger!" You know, Christ if that was me, sort of thing. That's what it means being a young officer.. you know, going through a lot of the minds, and being made to do this. And so then, when I'd said my piece, Packhorse called out "Right then, down off there, well done



*General Sir Jeremy Moore*

Mr Moore come over here" so I went over there and he then said look here are ways going to be as frightened again!" I was the

first one that that had happened to. I really you could improve it and things but "I know that was bloody frightening but you're never believe that was because Packhorse had pinged that I was probably the most underconfident and to be blunt I think with less reason than some! Not all. Many of them had every reason to be more confident than me, but not all of them did. And remembering also that of course as you will remember with Andrew, at the age of 18 as I then was, I probably looked about 14 and that doesn't help to give confidence. It was a tremendous lesson really, because I suddenly found that I'd done it and furthermore that none of the others had done it! I was the first. None of the others probably remember it. But by golly I do, and I think that was dear old Packhorse recognising that if he did that with me, and he was tremendously encouraging about it... He said before I started "don't worry, you can do it sir" and that was terrific. He gathered us round afterwards, after we'd finished drill and things and said "right, now Mr Moore's had to get up and he's done it, well done Mr Moore. Now have the rest of you started thinking about how you'd gather the marines around and what you'll say to them" You know and he then helped us a bit. And I do believe that was a big step, although I wasn't recognising it at the time, as a big step towards building some confidence."

And "I think the main motivation for [being a Marine came] partially through the course of training and partially at the end of training as one got on with the job, the more one saw of the marines one served with, the more they provided one with the motivation for doing ones own job."

He didn't achieve what he did alone...

We would also like to thank all of those who came to the funeral. It was a truly beautiful occasion our only regret being that we were not able to meet everyone who had made the effort to be there. THANK YOU ALL.

Yours

Helen Arthy



*MC Steve Jones guarding the rum barrel.....*



*President Jim Lewis and Commodore David Orr, Patron of our Association*



*Jim Wood, winner of the Ron Mason trophy for his selfless support and camaraderie to Alex Richards*



*Mick Page and Graham Chapman marching on the Association Standards*



*Gordon Norton and his daughter, Linda*



*Eddie and Verna Dunn*



*John Clancy Lowe and Norm Aimson*



*Urszula King, generous co-sponsor of this Newsletter and Gillian Papalia*



*Mick Bettridge, trapping.....*



*President Jim Lewis and Phil Keary, step-father of Cpl Ben Novak RM*



**Royal Marines Association, Western Australia  
Branch Diary**

Month	Important Dates		Branch Activities			
	Date	Event	Date	Event	Place	Timings
<b>November</b>	11 <sup>th</sup>	Remembrance Day	11 <sup>th</sup>	Remembrance Day Parade	St George's Cathedral	start 11 00
			27 <sup>th</sup>	Monthly Meeting	Navy Club, Fremantle	7.30 pm
<b>December</b>	12 <sup>th</sup>	School holidays start	15 <sup>th</sup>	Ladies Night	Navy Club	6.00 for 6.30pm
	25 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Day				
	26 <sup>th</sup>	Boxing Day				
<b>January 2008</b>	1 <sup>st</sup>	New Years Day				
	28 <sup>th</sup>	Australia Day P/H	29 <sup>th</sup>	Monthly Meeting	Navy Club, Fremantle	7.30 pm
<b>February</b>	4 <sup>th</sup>	School holidays end		Canoeing and Family Day (TBC)		
	14 <sup>th</sup>	Valentines Day	26 <sup>th</sup>	Monthly Meeting or AGM (TBC)	Navy Club, Fremantle	7.30 pm
<b>March</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Labour Day P/H				
	21 <sup>st</sup>	Good Friday		Monthly Meeting	Navy Club, Fremantle	7.30 pm
	24 <sup>th</sup>	Easter Monday	26 <sup>th</sup>			

**Personal Funerals**

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