

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE ROYAL MARINE ARTILLERY

The Royal Marine Artillery, who were formed by an Admiralty Order-in-Council, 18th August, 1804.

ROYAL MARINE ARTILLERY ORDERS 1806-27

The following are a few orders, etc., in connection with Royal Marine Artillery duties and routine dating back to 1806:—

Artillery Orders.—Parole, "Brown." 27th May, 1806. Landguard Fort. Officer of the Day tomorrow, 2nd Lieut. Carroll. Officers for the gun and howitzer practice, 2nd Lieuts Dyer and Walker. The sentence of the Court-Martial held this day to be put into execution to-morrow morning at half-past six o'clock.—R. Williams.

24th June, 1806.—Four gunners to hold themselves in readiness to embark on board H.M. Mortar Brig Desperate.

26th June, 1806:—Parole, "Sunderland," A working party consisting of 16 gunners to assist in laying the platforms for the mortars, commencing to-morrow morning at 6 o'clock.—R.-W.

8th August, 1806. Landguard Fort.—The men in orders for embarkation to march from hence on their route to Chatham tomorrow morning; their accounts to be settled in due time.—R. W.

26th September, 1806.—" The Officers will wear blue cloth pantaloons and half boots on Wednesday next, the 1st October, and continue to do so until further orders.—R. W.-.

5th October, 1806.—Mr. Edwards being absent on leave the Officers are not required to attend the Academy till further orders.—R. W.

Artillery Orders. Sunday, October 12th, 1806. Landguard Fort.—The Artillery Companies to march from hence on Tuesday next on their route to Chatham.—R. W.

Monday, October 13th, 1806.—The mortars, guns, stores, etc., are to be delivered up to the Ordnance Storekeeper immediately. The baggage to be embarked to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock, and the Companies to embark precisely at one o'clock.. The men to parade in marching order.—R. W.

Thursday, October 16th, 1806.—Officer of the Day tomorrow, and Lieut. Moore. The Long Roll, to beat tomorrow morning at 5 o'clock, and the Companies to march precisely at six.—R. W.

The Establishment of the Marine Artillery in 1806 was 4 Companies, 4 Captains, 12 First Lieutenants, 20 Second Lieutenants, 32 Sergeants, 20 Corporals, 32 Bombardiers, 12 Drummers; 248 Gunners.

1809, July 26th.—The drill with the mortars, field-piece, and 24-pounder to be continued without-powder until further orders,

1809. September 18th.—The Artillery will parade tomorrow at half-past one o'clock, and march to the Mortar Battery to be inspected by Lieut.-General Barclay.

1810. February 15th.—Colonel Bell feels much pleasure in communicating the following extract from the general orders issued by Rear-Admiral Sir Richard Strachan, dated from on board H.M.S. St. Domingo, off Bathz, September 1st, 1809, and addressed to the Captains of H.M. Bomb Vessels Hound, Aetna and Thunder, by which they are directed "to assure the Officers of the R.M. Artillery, serving on board their respective vessels, that he had much pleasure in observing the precision and judgment with which the shells were thrown, which did the Officers directing the mortars infinite credit." ...

Memo.—Hound 1st Lieut. Dyer. Aetna, 1st Lieut. Steele. Thunder, 1st Lieut. Bezzant.

1810. March 29th.—First Lieut. Harrison, with two Sergeants, one Corporal, and one Bombardier and twenty Gunners of the Artillery to, embark on Saturday next for passage to join H.M.S. Victory at Portsmouth.

29th April, 1810.—All the Officers are to attend drill at the Mortar Ground every morning by six o'clock, The NCO.'s and Gunners are also to attend in the Brompton Field for the purpose of drill by six o'clock in the morning and from

two to four in the afternoon, either at mortar practice or field artillery exercise. 6th May, 1816.—The Detachment of Artillery mentioned in the orders of the 4th inst. is to consist of 3 First Lieutenants, 2 Sergeants, 2 Corporals, 1 Bombardier, and 30 Gunners, and to march from hence on Tuesday morning at six o'clock for Woolwich, there to place themselves under the command of Colonel Burn. Officers for this duty, 1st Lieuts. Campbell, Buckland and Worth. (The two last-named Officers were killed by the same shot on the 23rd November, 1810, while directing the howitzer boats in an attack on the enemy's flotilla in Cadiz Bay; they lie buried together in the same grave in the " Trafalgar Cemetery " at Gibraltar).

1810, 30th December.—1st Lieut. Perceval and his attendant with two Serjts., 1 Corpl., 1 Bombr. and 19 Gunners to embark on Tuesday morning next for a passage to the Island of Anholt.

1811, 18th July.—Artillery Orders. Captain Lawrence with one Gunner to embark on, Saturday next for a passage to Lisbon, where he is to relieve Captain T Burton in the command of the Detachment of Royal Marine Artillery.

1811, 19th. November.—Capt. Montgomerie and 1 Sergeant to proceed forthwith to Portsmouth, and Capt. Parry and one Sergeant to Plymouth to select such men from each Division that may be found qualified for the Royal Marine Artillery.

1813, 5th March.—One Gunner to proceed tomorrow morning to Woolwich to join the "Rocket Equipment," under the command of Lieutenant Balchild.

1816, 8th. January.—Divisional Orders. Parole, "Dudley" The Artillery will find 1 Captain, 1 Subaltern, 4 Sergeants, 4 Corporals and 56 Gunners for the Dockyard Guard tomorrow. (Signed) R. winter, Major-General and commandant.—Artillery Orders. Lieut.-Col. Sir Richard Williams, in resuming command of the Royal Marine Artillery, feels a peculiar satisfaction in meeting the Officers and men of that respectable Corps. The skill, and valour which they have manifested on various occasions, during the long and arduous contest in which the Nation has been engaged, have not only reached him by common report, but he has in several instances, been an eye-witness of the honourable discharge of their duty; such must ever been the happy result of fidelity to our most gracious Sovereign and of implicit obedience to command. The Lieut.-Colonel is extremely well satisfied, with the appearance of the Companies, and with the perfect cleanliness of all their appointments. (Signed) By order of Lieut.-Col. Sir Richard Williams, KCB. R. gilbert, Lieutenant and Adjutant, R.M: Artillery.

9th January, 1816,—Divisional Orders, Chatham. Lieut.-Colonel Sir Richard Williams. K.C.B.. having arrived, will take command of the Royal Marine Artillery. (Signed) R. winter, Major-General and Commandant. —Artillery Orders. The Parade will be formed in future at the usual hour on Melville Parade. (Signed) By command of Lieut.-Col. Sir Richard Williams. K.C.B.. R. gilbert. Lieut.. and Adjutant. R.M. Artillery.

With reference to the above Divisional and Artillery Orders, it may be of interest to remark that Captain Richard Williams (afterwards Lieut.-Col. Sir Richard Williams, K.C.B.) was the first Commanding Officer of the R.M.A." His first commission in the Artillery was as Captain, dated 1st September, 1804, and on the 1st January, 1816, he was appointed Major-Commandant of the Royal Marine Artillery (vide the Marine Officers List of 1st January, 1816). His commission as Major in the Corps of Royal Marines was 15th February, 1809, and he received the brevet rank of Lieut.-Colonel for distinguished service in America on the 21st January, 1813. He continued in command of the Royal Marine Artillery until the 20th December, 1827 (nearly 12 years), when he was appointed Commandant of the Portsmouth Division Royal Marines, and his name appears for the last time as such in the Marine List of 1835.

Divisional Orders, Chatham, 21st March, 1813.—Major Minto, the Officers, NCO's; Drummers and Gunners, of the Royal Marine Artillery to march at two o'clock tomorrow afternoon into Fort Pitt Barracks, where they are to be quartered until further orders. (H.B. M.-General).

Divisional Orders, 20th July, 1813. Chatham.—The Commanding Officer has been pleased to direct that the new Parade and Walks adjoining shall take the following names, viz.: the Parade to be called " Melville Parade," in honour of the late Lord Viscount Melville, who first, established the Royal Marine Artillery; the Walk to be called "Clarence Walk" in honour of H.R.H. the Duke of Clarence; and the Terrace to be called "Minto Terrace" in honour of Major Minto, Commanding the Royal Marine Artillery. (Signed) T.Lewis, Major-

General.

7th October, 1814.—In consequence of the men of the Royal Marine Artillery being supplied with grey trousers by the Navy Board, the Commanding Officer approves of the Officers wearing the same.

27th December, 1817 .Fort Monkton ,Gosport. Artillery Orders:—

The Lieut.-Colonel Commanding having received complaints .that several men of the Royal Marine Artillery are in the habit of cutting the hair from the cow's tails in the fields for the purpose of making brushes for their musket locks; it is his determination that any man found guilty of such an offence shall be delivered over to the Civil Power for trial at the Assizes.

Fort Monkton, Gosport. 18th June, 1818.—The celebration of His Majesty's Birthday being to take place tomorrow, the Royal Marine Artillery will parade, in the Camp Field at 11.30 o'clock. A Royal Salute of 21 guns will be fired from the Brigade of guns at 12 o'clock, after which the remainder of the troops will commence a running fire from right to left.

14th April, 1820 Artillery Orders, Fort Monkton.—The Officers will wear white pantaloons and Hessian boots. White overalls may be worn by the Officers and men at all drills, and at gun and mortar practice.

4th November, 1826. Portsmouth. Garrison Orders.—Tomorrow being the anniversary of "Gunpowder Plot," the Royal Standard will be hoisted in the morning, and at 12 o'clock, 21 guns will be fired from the Saluting Battery.

20th March, 1827. Portsmouth.—There will be Gun Drill for the Officers of Royal Marines at the "Sea Service Battery" on Southsea Common everyday at 2 p.m. until further orders.

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(Contributed by Captain R. H. Alexander, RMA)

The following short account-of the Royal Marine Artillery, from its formation in 1804, up to 1849, is taken from the Aide-Memoire to Military Sciences, framed from contributions of Officers of the different Services, and edited by a Committee of the Corps of Royal Engineers, 1847-1749 Vol. II., page 339-43.

The Royal Marine Artillery (By Major Stevens, RMA 1847-49).

The Royal Marine Artillery, who were formed by Order-in Council, 18th August, 1804, consisted of 3 Companies, to which a 4th Company was added in 1805.

The principal destination contemplated for the Marine Artillery, as recited in the Order-in-Council, appears to have been for service in bomb-vessels, and to instruct the other part of the Corps of Royal Marines in the exercise of guns.

In 1806 the Marine Artillery completed at Landguard Fort, by extensive experiments, Range Tables for. 13-inch and 10-inch sea-service mortars, the use of which ordnance was especially assigned to this Corps. Circumstances extended the services of the Marine Artillery, who now, besides being employed in bomb-vessels, in mortar-boats, gun-boats and rocket-boats, were employed with heavy and field artillery in desultory debarkations and other cases at sieges and more permanently on shore.

A professor of mathematics was attached to the Marine Artillery, under whose instruction the Officers passed through a course similar to that at the time pursued at Woolwich. After the war a Laboratory of Instruction was added, which indeed includes those usually denominated "Repository Instruction, etc.," as well as those of the Laboratory, essential to be known by artillerymen on service. At the termination of the war the Marine Artillery was increased by 5 Companies.

In 1832, they were reduced to 2 Companies; several augmentations

took place, and in June, 1847, the Marine Artillery was increased to 10 Companies, giving a total of numbers, including Officers, of 1503.

The Officers selected for the Marine Artillery Companies, are now (1847) educated at the Royal Naval College, Portsmouth.

It is possible the great extension of steam navigation (which has in several respects indicated new wants) has influenced the increase of Marine Artillery, since, if furnished with strong detachments of Marine Artillery in each vessel, large numbers of merchant steamers with seamen, even untrained to Artillery exercises, can quickly be converted into steam ships of war, on any sudden outbreak of hostilities.

Note.—Fourteen Companies in 1857, Sixteen Companies in 1859, Fifteen Companies 1888, (at Head Quarters, Eastney). One Depot Company at the R.M. Depot, Walmer, Kent. Sixteen Companies, 1893 (a* Head Quarters, Eastney, Including the Depot Company of Recruits).

The pay of the Marine Artillery Companies was the same with that in the corresponding ranks in the Royal Regiment of Artillery. Non-commissioned officers and gunners of the Marine Artillery, when at sea, had a sum deducted for their rations, as Marines have, not the same, but which bears a like- ratio to their pay, as that which is deducted from the Royal Marines under the same circumstances, does to their pay. The duties of the Marine Artillery Companies are nowhere defined by any express order, except the Order-in-Council alluded to, but they are expected and required to be acquainted with the service of every kind of Artillery afloat. Also to undertake the same on shore whenever this extension of their duties may be deemed necessary for Her Majesty's service. Nor is their service restricted to any nature of vessel. At this moment (1847-49) there is a Subaltern's detachment embarked in the Commander-in-Chief's ship in the Pacific, and, with one or two exceptions, a detachment in each steamer.

In common with the other part of the Royal Marine Corps, their pay, and accounts, when embarked, are entirely managed by the Paymaster and Purser of the ship in which they embark.

The Head Quarters of the Royal Marine Artillery at its formation, were with the Head Quarters of the Division of Royal Marines at Chatham. In 1819, their Head Quarters were removed to Fort Monckton, near Stokes Bay, Gosport, Hants.

In 1822, the Marine Artillery were sent as a temporary measure to the Upper Barracks, at Chatham, in consequence of the fever and ague having broken out to a great extent in the Corps, attended by glandular affection, &c., at Fort Monckton. In 1824, the Marine Artillery moved to Portsmouth.

"The early services of the Marine Artillery, during the war, were in bomb-vessels, for which this Corps was especially formed; but these were soon extended to gun, mortar, and rocket boats; and by the natural exigencies of war, to the usual artillery duties on shore, in the field, in garrison, and at sieges. In 1805, they were employed in bomb vessels, chiefly under Sir Edward Owen, on the coast of France, in opposing the transit of the flotilla of invasion from one port to another—in bomb-vessels at the passage of the Dardanelles, 1807—at the bombardment of Copenhagen, 1807—Bay of Rosas—at Basque Roads—bombardment of Flushing, 1809—in garrison at the defence of Anholt—at Cadiz, during the long blockade or siege—at the defence of Tarifa, afloat—on the north coast of Spain, under Sir Home Popham, 1811—in the Chesapeake, 1812—on the Island of South Beveland, with battery in the field—in Canada, at sieges and attacks, as Fort Erie, Fort Oswego, etc —at the bombardment of Algiers- on the N. Coast of Spain, under Lord John Hay—in the Parana, and in numerous minor operations.

THE ROYAL MARINE ARTILLERY. (RUSI Article 1860)

In the year 1804 it was decided that an Artillery company should be attached to each of the three divisions into which the Marine Corps—but lately created "Royal"—was divided. The intention was, that they should supply the service of the bomb-vessels, which up to that time had been performed by the Royal Artillery and that also, particularly in time of peace, they should be employed at the several divisions in drilling the whole of the marines in gunnery.

But the services of the Marine Artillery were soon made available for other purposes than those originally proposed, and when battalions of marines were formed for service in America, on the outbreak of the war, a large body of Marine Artillery, with a field battery and rocket equipment, accompanied them.

There it was that their conduct obtained the well-merited commendation of the great soldier, who lived to prove himself a master in the art of war. In his private journal, Napier—referring to the horrible acts done at Hampton—wrote: "The Marine Artillery behaved like soldiers; they had it in their power to join in the sack and refused. I said to that noble body of men—'I cannot watch your conduct, but trust you will not join those miscreants.' They called out—' Colonel, we are picked men; we blush for what we see; depend upon us, not a man of the Marine Artillery will plunder. "We are well paid by his Majesty, and we will not disgrace him or ourselves by turning robbers and murderers. Whatever you order we will execute.' Never in my life have I met soldiers like the Marine Artillery. We suffered much fatigue and hardship, but never was seen anything not admirable in these glorious soldiers. Should my life extend to antediluvian years, their conduct at Little-Hampton [USA 1813] will not be forgotten by me."

Such was the character the Marine Artillery had gained for themselves as soldiers. That they had equally succeeded in gaining a reputation for usefulness afloat, we gather from the terms of an Admiralty minute, advocating their augmentation, in 1817. It says: " We are so well satisfied of the great utility of having a considerable body of marines trained to gunnery, that we are inclined to recommend that the Royal Marine Artillery be increased to eight companies, as well for the purpose of encouraging and training the other marines, as to enable us to embark a certain number of well-trained artillerymen in others of his majesty's ships as well as in the bombs experience having proved the great advantage to be derived to the service from this practice, which has been tried of late to a small extent." The remainder of the report, which is a lengthy one, is entirely taken up with the consideration of the means by which this augmentation can be most cheaply effected; there seems to be no room in it for any other idea.

It was probably in consequence of this report that an augmentation to eight companies did take place; the required number of officers and men being transferred from the several divisions, in whose strength a corresponding diminution was at the same time made. A reduction from a war to a peace establishment had left none but approved soldiers in the ranks of the marines, and with the pick of these it is not to be wondered at that for some years the Marine Artillery was composed of men who, for physical strength, soldier-like bearing, and intelligence, were not to be surpassed. The officers, selected from the whole body of the corps, were fully equal to the men. They were inspired with an unusual degree of esprit de corps, and from it emanated a zealous performance of their duties, with a consequent establishment of a state of discipline which became the

theme of universal admiration, and caused the Marine Artillery to be regarded as the most perfect military body belonging to the state. It was in 1821 that Paixhans, in "La Nouvelle Force Maritime," first urged the adoption of a system of artillery, which, together with the extended application of steam as a motive power, was shortly to change the whole nature of naval warfare. The French were the first to adopt his views, and it became necessary for us to make a corresponding change, by the introduction of shell guns into our naval armaments. Reflecting minds at once foresaw that our naval supremacy could be no longer made to depend upon a superiority in seamanship, and that gunnery would become an element of equal if not of greater importance in the economy of our naval system.

It is a matter of well-ascertained fact, that prior to this period our naval officers were, as a general rule, strangely deficient in a knowledge of even the simplest rules upon which all artillery practice is based, and that the indifference, bordering upon contempt, with which the subject was regarded had increased rather than diminished. There were some brilliant exceptions, but a ship in what would be now called "good gunnery order," was rarely to be met with.

Amongst the warmest advocates of some plan which would remedy this serious and growing evil, and convert the officers and men of the Royal Navy into efficient gunners, was Sir Howard Douglas. By his powerful advocacy, extending over a period of many years, he had kept the thinking part of the community alive to the necessity of a change; and the authorities, finding that they could no longer remain inactive, decided upon doing something in the matter. What they did, and how they did it, will shortly be seen.

Sir Howard Douglas, in his writings, had strongly urged the establishment of "Naval Depots of Instruction." He held the opinion that the navy should possess within itself not only the necessary amount of gunnery knowledge, but the means of imparting it; and he contended that "the application of the Marine Artillery to the instruction of seamen in naval gunnery would prove extremely prejudicial, if not destructive, to those facilities which should be offered to naval officers to cultivate artillery knowledge." But whilst holding and propagating these opinions, Sir Howard rendered every justice to the qualities of the corps, whose services as instructors he wished to supersede, and the following extract from his treatise on Naval Gunnery will show in what high estimation he held them: "The Marine Artillery has been raised to a condition of great excellence, by the zeal, talent, and gallantry it possesses; and has certainly performed all the service that was contemplated at its formation. The author has witnessed its efficiency on service, and bears willing testimony to all the talent it has put forth, and all the distinction it deserves. It is well constituted, thoroughly instructed, and ably commanded. It is either a corps of good infantry, of scientific bombardiers, or expert field artillerymen." And a few pages further on he speaks of the depot system, as that "which has made the marines what they are, and which has improved—perfected, indeed—the Marine Artillery."

It was in 1817—the very year in which the Admiralty minute recommended an increase to the Marine Artillery, upon the grounds already stated—that Sir Howard Douglas brought his proposition for the formation of naval depots of gunnery instruction before the notice of the Government; but whatever weight may have been attached to his views, no attempt was made by the naval administration to adopt them; and it was not until the year 1830, when the necessity of a change of system had become imperative, that steps were taken towards putting them into execution. On the 19th of June in that year an Admiralty minute directed that a school of gunnery should be established at Portsmouth, on board HMS Excellent. It seems to have been regarded, in the first instance, rather

as an experimental than as a permanent establishment; but in a very short time the tide of official opinion turned strongly in its favour, and without waiting for its proper development, it was determined to forestall the expectations it had given rise to, and to act as if every object connected with its institution had been accomplished. A year and a half had barely elapsed from the commencement of a system, the operations of which were intended to revolutionize the navy, and in that brief space of time the number of officers and men who had completed their Course of instruction was necessarily extremely small, when the Admiralty, in their enthusiasm for what had now become a pet project, came to the conclusion that any gunnery knowledge in the fleet which did not emanate from the new school of instruction was prejudicial, rather than advantageous, to the service; and at once determined to disband the only trained gunners they could lay their hands on—the Marine Artillery.

On the first establishment of HMS Excellent the services of the Marine Artillery had been put largely into requisition; a great portion of the early instruction fell to their share, and to them the credit is justly due of having introduced a systematic method of instruction, which, however modified, has never yet been wholly departed from. But the time had now arrived when it was thought that the first steps towards what was looked upon as the final extinction of the corps might be safely taken. In accordance with this idea, an order was issued on the 2nd December, 1831, directing, "as the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty had determined that the services of the Royal Marine Artillery were no longer required as a distinct and separate Corps," it should be broken up with the least possible delay. A lurking feeling of distrust seems, however, to have disturbed their Lordships' minds, at the moment of framing this order; for a clause was inserted, which directs "that two companies shall be retained and annexed to the Portsmouth division, of which, though they are to be considered and act as Artillery companies, they are to form an integral part; in order to prevent the total extinction of the artillery science and skill which they have acquired in that important branch of the military profession; and as a nucleus whereon to form any greater body which may hereafter be judged desirable." As if to conceal the existence of this remnant of a corps, which had established in a few short years a world-wide reputation, it was further ordered that the uniform and appointments of the Artillery companies should be the same as the other companies of the division; though in consideration of the exertions and duties that might be required of them, their Lordships were pleased to allow of their continuance on the scale of Artillery pay and allowances. The former part of this order was not rescinded till the 2nd February, 1835, when it was directed "that the clothing of the Royal Marine Artillery be changed to blue, with scarlet facings and yellow lace." The absurdity of clothing artillerymen in red was too glaring to be longer continued.

The services of the discharged non-commissioned officers and men were eagerly sought after, and though at the time there was no great difficulty in procuring sailors for the navy, everything was done to induce them to join it, petty officers' and able-seamen's ratings being freely given to all who chose to do so.

The greatest exertions were made by the authorities to foster and encourage the gunnery establishment on board HMS Excellent. In many respects the results obtained from it were quite equal to the expectations it had given rise to; -but the experience of a very few years was quite sufficient to prove that it was impossible to do more than diffuse a very small knowledge of gunnery, throughout a service whose component parts were constantly shifting. for such a state of things, without a complete change in the constitution of the navy, there was but one remedy; the wisdom of not having thoroughly destroyed the Marine Artillery became apparent, and

gradually, though reluctantly, additions were made to its strength. In May, 1841, a third company was ordered to be raised; and in 1845, two more were added—giving a total strength of 725 officers and men. Another addition of two companies was made the following year, and by subsequent augmentations its strength was raised to fourteen companies, with a grand total of 2618, and two field officers, in 1855. In 1859 it stood at a total of nearly 3,000 officers and men, divided into six-teen companies; and on the 1st of November, in that year, it was ordered to be formed into a separate division, with its head-quarters at Fort Cumberland.

During the twenty-eight years which intervened between the reduction of the corps and its re-establishment as a division, so many difficulties and discouragements had to be encountered, that there were times when even the most sanguine felt disposed to give way to despair. With rapid augmentations, insufficient means of instruction, open and concealed enemies, ill-defined duties, and an unrecognised position, it seemed hardly possible that a state approaching to any thing like efficiency could ever be attained. Fortunately for the public service, the remains of that esprit-de-corps, which had covered the old soldiers of the Marine Artillery with the glory of Napier's praise, could never be entirely eradicated and it is to this course, and this course only, that the Marine Artillery of the present day are indebted for whatever degree of merit they may be found to possess.

The establishment of the Marine Artillery as a separate division, has removed a great number of complications incident to the peculiar position in which it was previously placed. Its internal economy, differed in many respects from that of the infantry division to which it was attached; and the influence of its commanding officers was weakened by the very limited powers they were allowed to exercise. Under such a system, too, it was impossible to prevent the occasional occurrence of irritating circumstances, which tended seriously to impair the unanimity and good feeling which ought to exist between the different branches of the same service. The change has already been a beneficial one, and a mutual feeling of cordiality is, we hope, fast obliterating the remembrance of petty jealousies and dislikes, which ought never to have been entertained.

When the Marine Artillery was first formed, the officers were selected from the Marine Corps, without any particular qualifications being required of them. But it was soon perceived that it was necessary for an artillery officer to possess a certain amount of scientific knowledge; for, in gunnery-, the theory and practice are so intimately connected, that without a just comprehension of the one, it is almost impossible to obtain satisfactory results in the other. A mathematical instructor was, in consequence, appointed to the artillery, and all new appointments were made probationary, being confirmed only when, at the expiration of a given period, the mathematical course has been gone through in a satisfactory manner. On the reduction of the corps, the services of the mathematical instructor were no longer required; but when, a few years later, the vacancies in the junior ranks of the artillery companies had to be filled up, it became necessary to decide in what manner it should be affected. After some hesitation, it was settled that a certain number of second lieutenants should be allowed to prepare themselves for examination on board HMS Excellent; and in the year 1839, several young officers were selected, and sent on board that ship for this purpose. Before they had finished the prescribed course, the Royal Naval College, which had been lately done away with as a preparatory school for the navy, was re-opened as an educational establishment for mates, and it was arranged that, after a certain time, the students for the artillery should be transferred to it, and that their success or failure, after a year's further study, should decide whether they should be appointed to the artillery or sent back to their

divisions. Another modification of this system took place upon the introduction of preliminary examinations for the marines, and the subsequent formation of a cadet establishment on board HMS Excellent. In the event of there being vacancies in the artillery, those who passed the best examinations upon first entering the corps were selected for the college, and no officers were allowed to become candidates for the artillery on any other terms; their final success depending, as before, upon the progress they might make, as students at the College. And this is the plan pursued at the present time.

Cadets for the marines have their period of study limited to two years; they may pass out in a less space of time, but they are not allowed to exceed it. They have to acquire a competent knowledge in Arithmetic, Algebra, Euclid—including the first four books and part of the sixth—plane trigonometry, the use of the sextant, fortifications, English History, and French. To this may be added a practical course of naval gunnery. Their studies are carried on under the direction of a mathematical instructor, and an instructor of fortification. A French master, not belonging to the establishment, attends twice a week. If on obtaining his commission, the young marine officer is selected to qualify for the artillery at the College, he must be prepared at the end of a year to pass an examination in analytical trigonometry, differential and integral calculus, conic sections, statics and dynamics, hydrostatics, and "steam;" besides being required to have an increased knowledge of arithmetic, algebra, and fortification. In a year, it is quite plain, little more than a superficial knowledge of these subjects can be obtained; and it is much to be desired that the time should be extended and the course of instruction revised. But, insufficient as this period clearly is, it is, unfortunately, sometimes curtailed, when, from successive augmentations or other causes, a large number of subalterns are required for the artillery. Young officers have been then appointed who have only completed half their term at the College, a serious disadvantage both to the service and to themselves, for which it is not very easy to compensate.

The idea is very generally entertained, that the sooner a youth enters upon the active duties of his profession the better. It is a great error. Were those duties of a nature to require constant attention and unwearied application, it might be so; but as a knowledge of the ordinary duties of the military profession is easily obtained, and the performance of them soon settles down into a simple matter of every day routine, it will be generally found that the most useful and accomplished officers are those who bring with them into the service the most cultivated minds and the largest stock of general information. Such is a brief outline of the process by which the young marine officer gains his appointment to the artillery; his remaining in it depends upon there being a vacancy or not at the time when his seniority on the general list of the corps advances him to each successive grade of rank. The men are volunteers from the light infantry divisions, possessing certain specified qualifications as to age, height, intelligence and character. The course of training, which is, with a few exceptions, common to both officers and men, is very comprehensive; it includes:—

1. The usual infantry drills, and musketry instruction.
2. The exercise of field guns and rockets, with such field battery movements, as are of real practical importance.
** A Captain of Marine Artillery, who has also to instruct the naval students on board HMS Excellent, and the Half-pay and Marine Officers studying at the College.*
3. The service of heavy ordnance, including guns, howitzers, sea and land service mortars.
4. The Naval great gun exercise.
5. Mounting and dismounting ordnance, with and without machines.

6. The various methods of slinging and transporting ordnance.
7. Knotting, splicing, and fitting gun gear. Use of pulleys &c.
8. A laboratory course, including:—Use and preparation of tubes, rockets, and fuzes; making up cartridges; manufacture of portfires, Valenciennes stars, signal rockets, blue-lights, &c., with instruction in the manufacture and effects of gunpowder and other explosive compounds.
9. A course of practical gunnery, comprising—instruction in the nature and uses of the various kinds of guns, howitzers and mortars ; in the natures, employment and effects of the various projectiles; disparting and sighting ordnance; heating and firing red hot shot j and such matters connected with the theory of projectiles as may have a practical application.
10. Practice from different natures of ordnance, with every description of projectile.

The system of instruction is so arranged, that every officer and non-commissioned officer is qualified, as far as practicable, as an instructor, a registry being kept of each man's progress and capabilities. A spirit of emulation has been created, attended with the happiest results, and the whole course is now gone through in less than twelvemonths without the men being wearied or over-worked.

Unfortunately, the ultimate benefit which the country derives from the employment of officers and men thus carefully and assiduously prepared, is very often made to fall short of what it ought to be. The officers and men of the Marine Artillery are scattered broad-cast over the navy, and as no specific instructions have ever yet been issued for their employment, it becomes a matter of the merest chance whether they may be permitted to perform any of the duties, in which, as artillerymen, their chief pride and pleasure ought to lay. This is an evil which time will probably rectify; for it is impossible to believe that at a moment when the introduction of a new system of artillery, is making a fresh demand upon the service for trained gunners, that the Marine Artillery will be set aside, as has sometimes been the case, merely to avoid wounding the 'amour propre' of their naval brethren. Such cases will, it is to be hoped, become more and more rare, until at length a detachment of Marine Artillery will be no longer found distributed through the quarters of a ship, as handspike-men; or landed as portion of an infantry battalion, whilst field guns and rockets are entrusted to comparatively untrained hands. A striking instance of the peculiar positions which the Marine Artillery have been made to occupy, occurred at the capture of Bomarsund, in 1854. It was at first decided by the Brigadier commanding, that the Marine Artillery belonging to the fleet, should land with guns, but this intention being overruled, and a subsequent one that they should form a rocket party being frustrated by the want of tubes, they were told off as the first company of an infantry battalion.

In the course of the operations on shore, a breaching battery, built by the marines and manned by seamen, being in want of ammunition, forty Marine Artillerymen were told-off as a fatigue party to carry it up from the depot; on arriving at the battery it was suggested that they should give a short relief to the seamen, who had been some hours hard at work; this was refused, and they stood looking on waiting for orders, until, on the arrival of the Brigadier, it was decided that they should be allowed, as a favour, to take their turn at the guns. Many other instances might be adduced—and some of them even stronger than the one just referred to—to illustrate the peculiar relations which sometimes exist between the Marine Artillery and the service with which they have to co-operate, and to which they do, in point of fact, belong. But such relations proceed rather from the difficulties with which the naval officer has to contend, in having to reconcile so many conflicting interests when

apportioning the duties' of the various individuals under his command, than to the existence of any hostile feeling towards the corps. Naval officers are, as a body, far too enlightened not to perceive the advantage of being enabled to make the best use of the means placed at their disposal; and are quite as ready as others to admit, that whilst emulation and a fair spirit of rivalry between the various branches of the service should be duly encouraged, everything which has a tendency to create jealousy, or dislike, should be strongly repressed.

The whole aim of the training which the Marine Artilleryman receives, is to make him useful; he is taught to believe that practical opportunities will be afforded him for the exercise of whatever qualifications he may possess; and this idea inspires him with a degree of ardour in the acquisition of the dry details of drill which greatly lessens the labours of his instructors. But if in the course of his future service he is made to feel that he has no fixed place of his own, but is merely called upon to fill the accidental vacancies of others, it is not surprising that he should at times become disheartened and inert.

The Marine Artillery form, at the present time, the only reliable reserve of trained gunners which the navy can lay its hands on,—more than this, they form a corps of instructors whose services, in the event of a sudden emergency, would be of incalculable value. It is due to their importance as a body, that a proper recognition of their position should be no longer withheld; that their duties, whether on shore or afloat, should be distinctly defined; and that the effects of the long and oft-repeated courses of instruction, to which they are subjected, should not be permitted to be weakened or destroyed by individual prejudices, or misdirection.

The following is taken from the *United Service Magazine*, edited by Lieut.-Colonel C. Cooper-King, late R.M.A. August, 1893 :—

THE ROYAL MARINE ARTILLERY,
(By Lieutenant J. M. Rose. R.M.LI)

I have been so often asked the question, "What do you Marine Artillerymen do?" that I am glad to have an opportunity of replying to it in these pages, not at any length, and not in a very perfect manner, but just jotting down a few details as they occur to me.

To begin with the men.—Enlistment for the Royal Marines is general, all enlist for a period of twelve years, and from the recruits, men may volunteer for the Marine Artillery if they have a minimum height of 5-ft. 9-in., and chest measurement in proportion to height. There is no lack of recruits of good intellectual qualities at this standard, and thus it is that only men of very good character are allowed to re-engage to serve for pension for a further period of nine years. They are well paid, and, as they are, of exceptional physique, and enlisted for long service, they are worth a careful training, and they get it. Their instruction commences with infantry drill, followed by a course of musketry, naval gun drill and target practice, land service drills (consisting of field battery, garrison, and siege artillery drills, and repository and laboratory-work), and ending with an infantry field-training course. The squads are examined by a Field Officer at the end of each course, and recruits are not passed to the next instruction till they have fully qualified in the preceding one; indeed, if they do not arrive at affixed standard of excellence in naval gun drill," they are no longer retained in the Marine Artillery. Having passed these courses, the recruit is now, after some two years work, considered fully trained and ready for his first ship, although on an emergency, or on general mobilization, he may have been embarked after qualifying his infantry, musketry, and naval gunnery. If the recruit takes two years to train, the young Officer takes nearly four, receiving two years theoretical training at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, accompanied by riding and gymnastic instruction, a course of torpedo and one of gunnery in the naval schools, a short fire-masters course at Woolwich, and finally going through, at Eastney, a series of courses identical with those of the recruits. To obtain and retain his commission he has to qualify in twelve distinct examinations, eight of which are tests of his ability to handle men in the various branches of gunnery and infantry; and only after having done this is he also considered ready for service afloat. Now ensues for both Officer and man, a period of constant readiness: they are marked "first for sea," and know not in what hour, in what day, they may be despatched to any quarter of the globe. The detachment having arrived on board a man-of-war, it would appear that the real work for which this long training has been necessary should begin; yet, as a matter of fact, only one page of one drill book has any practical application in the new life—the one which refers to the particular gun at which the man is stationed; yet evidently one must be trained in every type to at once confidently work a gun never before seen.

"What do you Marine Artillerymen do, then, on Shipboard?" Well. I know from experience that if I reply, "We work the guns onboard ship," I shall be met with a second question, "But don't the blue-jackets work the guns?" and on my replying in the affirmative, by the second query, "Then what is the use of the Marine Artillerymen?" The answer is simple.

Let me go back to the origin of the Corps. In the days of Nelson, when gunnery was first becoming an art, the Naval Officer had enough to do to teach the pressed man his sail drill and seamanship, and had no time to study gunnery. Nelson first tried embarking Royal Artillery to work the guns, but this was found inconvenient, and in 1804 the Admiralty formed, an Artillery force to teach the rest of the Marines and the blue jackets how to work the guns. But in 1831, the Marine Artillery Companies having founded naval schools of gunnery and instruction batteries at the Marine Divisions, were reduced to two Companies. However, guns and their fittings became more and more complicated, whilst sail drill was still important, and in 1862 the Corps of Marine Artillery was reconstituted in its present form—that is to say, a separate Division of sixteen Companies, with a strength of some 2,700 men, and with Head Quarters first at Fort Cumberland and then at Eastney Barracks, Portsmouth. The Marine Artillery, then, was started to teach the Navy gunnery, but to-day, with mastless ships, the bluejacket has time to be well instructed in gunnery. If, however, the abolition of masts has almost changed the

seaman-gunner into an artilleryman, it has so altered things that the Marine can do a very great deal of the work of the ship; he can signal or pull a boat, and has been known to sail one, to heave the lead, man the helm, or do stoker, and he is far less costly to the nation than the blue jacket, who has to be trained from boyhood. Therefore a navy manned by blue-jackets entirely, would be unnecessarily ruinous to the taxpayer. Yet the daily introduction of more complicated mechanism in the guns, renders a body of highly-trained gunners an indispensable portion of the ship's complement.

Thus I would argue that the greater importance of mechanics and steam, and the lessening value of seamanship in so far as it concerns sail-drill and sails, has rather increased than, diminished the raison d'etre of the Marine Artilleryman.

I certainly do not wish to advocate any addition to his multifarious duties. He is now ambitious to be as good a seaman as a seaman-gunner at sea, as good a gunner as an Artilleryman on shore, and as good an infantryman as any in the service. That he has some claim to these titles is shown in peace by—

(1.) In the annual competitions onboard ship it is usual for guns worked by Marine Artillerymen under their own Officers to take prizes.

(2.) In the annual 10-inch M.L.R. gun competition at Shoeburyness (the only opportunity given them of competing with the Royal Artillery) the gun-detachment sent from Eastney is always well placed, and has several times been first.

(3.) In all Army Rifle Meetings and Rifle Matches near Portsmouth, the Marine Artillery team is well-known as being one of the best.

(4.) On parade and in manoeuvres they are generally praised for their infantry drill.

So much for peace. Now let us examine how each instruction has been of value when put to the crucial test of war.

In their proper function, that of manning guns on board ship, they have taken part in every naval action since their formation, including in later years the bombardments of Sveaborg, Sebastopol, and of Alexandria. At Sveaborg the Marine Artillery Officers were in command of mortar boats.

As infantry they have been engaged in almost every small war of their century of existence; in the larger war against France they were absorbed by the requirements of the Fleet, and only landed as infantry in forming part of a Naval Brigade. They were in Canada, China several times, New Zealand, Ashantee (where most of the preliminary work fell to their share), Zululand, Egypt, the Soudan and Burmah. 1886.

That their "Land Service Artillery Drill" has not been waste is well shown by examples from History. With field guns they were employed as a Field Battery in the Carlist War in Spain; in 1839, in a Mule Battery with rope harness arranged by themselves in Mexico; in 1804 with a Field Battery in China; and in a Mule Machine-Gun Battery at Suakim in 1885. In 1882, in Egypt, they were not supplied with guns ashore, but served as an Infantry Battalion in all the actions of that brilliant campaign. Yet here again their knowledge of Field Artillery Drill was utilized. In the advanced guard action about Tel-el-Mahuta, on August 24th, only two guns were present belonging to the Royal Horse Artillery. The gunners of this Division, after maintaining for five hours a duel against twelve Egyptian guns, became so exhausted that General Willis ordered a few of the Marine Artillery to assist them, who from this time, shared with the Horse Artillery the severest labours of the day.* Again, in the advanced guard-action, on August 28th, at Kasassin, "the shells from the enemy's Artillery were chiefly directed upon a Krupp gun which, taken from the enemy at Mashama, had been mounted on a railway truck, and was worked by a gun detachment of the Marine Artillery, under the command of Captain Tucker. Four Horse Artillery guns came up to reinforce them, but their file became so slow from want of ammunition as scarcely to relieve the Marine Detachment. Somewhat later these four guns were withdrawn altogether; and the Marine Artillery Krupp gun maintained the fight, as regards artillery

fire, till its close at 7.15 p.m. On September 8th, in the second action at Kassassin, it was this same gun which fired the first shot on our side at 7.15 a.m. This was directed upon a train bringing up some of the Egyptian troops." (Military History of the Campaign of 1882, in Egypt, by Colonel J. F. Maurice, R.A.).

At the battle of El Teb, outside Suakim, in 1884, the Marine Artillery captured a Krupp gun from the Arabs, which Major Tucker was again enabled to work with success, thus accomplishing twice within two years this exceptional feat of employing the enemy's own guns to aid in their defeat. In siege warfare they did good service in the Batteries at Sevastopol, some Officers also being employed as Acting Engineers. It was in the Sandbag battery that Bombardier Wilkinson; R.M.A., won the Victoria Cross, for which decoration he was recommended by the Artillery Officer in Command there. Colonel Dare Dowell, R.M.A., also received the V.C. in the Russian War for saving a boat's crew of the Ruby in the action at Viborg—a fair share of these most esteemed decorations, considering the small effective of the Corps.

For working guns of position in Fortresses, England has had little need of their services, but after the bombardment of Alexandria, the Royal Marine Artillery landed from the Fleet found suitable employment in remounting guns for the defence of the town. Formerly when ships were commissioned, a detachment of Marine Artillery was sent first to mount the guns and rig the tackles and gun-gear, and it seems to me that in case of a great Naval War they will be found invaluable in organising the artillery of the large "liners" to serve as additional cruisers.

They have frequently performed duties of some civil value.

Returning from Egypt in 1882, a force of picked old soldiers were sent to Dublin to aid in police work there, for which arduous duty they were publicly thanked. They were twice sent to Skye to support the police, and this duty they performed with so much tact that, on leaving, the men were entertained at a farewell banquet by the crofters, and parted with mutual regrets on both sides. After forming part of the garrison of Suakim from 1884 to 1885 a detachment of Marine Artillery was sent to form part of the garrison of Port Hamilton (off the coast of Korea) a quieter but more salubrious duty. The first trip to Skye (November 11th, 1884), illustrates the peculiar value of Marines in our little wars—their "first-for-sea" organisation, which permits Battalions being sent on distant service at the very shortest notice.

The detachment for Skye received its orders to go between noon and 1 p.m., and were on board H.M.S. Assistance by 3.30 p.m. The Dockyard is an hour's march from Eastney Barracks—and the ship had cast off from the jetty at 4 p.m.; and this was done as quite an every-day occurrence of barrack life. No apparent gap was left by the departing men; ordinary routine was not disturbed. One of the Officers only received his order to start at 2.30 p.m., and had thus only a few minutes to pack. A Marine is one morning tranquilly carrying out his ordinary duty on parade, and yet by night is starting for a little war in China, the West Coast of Africa, or the Soudan, or in peace the young subaltern is airing his mess jacket at a dance given by the King and Queen of Honolulu, much to the admiration of Her Majesty; is hunting kangaroos, or flirting with Japanese Moosmies within a few weeks of finishing his drills on the Eastney Parade.

It is this state of daily readiness of a portion of the force for foreign service as well as the ready habit of the old Marine to "shake down" at once into a new position, which fits the Corps so admirably for the garrison of the advanced posts covering a disembarkation and necessary for the formation of depots and magazines on the line of advance. Today, however, with the large increase in our first line of defence, there are not so many men available for this work as

there were in 1882.

Now that there is a growing idea that we ought to have a real short service system, a separate Indian and a separate Colonial Army (Prize Essay, R.U.S.I. 1893. Lieut.-Col. Farquharson, C.B., R.E.) it seems to me that the Marine organisation is best fitted for the Colonial Army. If the system of garrisoning the coaling stations and colonial ports were alone carried out, it would set free the Army for the performance of its already too onerous duties at home and in India. For this the Corps of Royal Marines would have to be considerably increased; but it has never suffered from lack of recruits, and if the Colonies could be induced to aid in bearing part of the expense it would be an immense stride in the cause of Imperial Federation. Though somewhat adopting the French system, our Marines, unlike theirs, would be still available for reinforcing the Fleet after a battle;- and in peace for effecting the ordinary reliefs to the detachments embarked.

As adding yet another accomplishment towards fitting the Corps for the defence of Naval ports, a detachment of Marine Artillerymen with four Officers has undergone an extensive course of submarine mining with the Royal Engineers at Chatham, and are now employed at Vancouver as Submarine Miners; and all Officers of the R.M.A. have as already stated qualified in torpedo work on board H.M.S. Vernon, the principal Naval School of Submarine Mining. The Signallers of the Corps are trained in both Army and Navy methods, so as to be fitted to keep up communication between a Fleet at sea and a Military Force on land.

In considering the difficulties of dual control in the defence of a harbour fortress, who is naturally so fitted as a Marine Officer to arrange minor details, acquainted as he is with the discipline and routine of both the Navy and Army?

I have thus tried to answer the question, "What do you Marine Artillerymen do?" by showing how they are trained, what they have done in the past, what they are trying to do now, and what they might do in the future. There are some things they do not do, "but that is another story," and its details may readily be obtained elsewhere.

"Si vis pacem para helium."

In connection with the above article we extract the following from the Army and Navy Gazette of the 29th ult.:—The Globe and Laurel of the present month, in an account of the Royal Marine Artillery, and remarking on the whole force of the Royal Marine Corps in China from 1857 to 1860, speaks of "an Officer of the Marines for the first time serving on the Staff of the Army with the rank of Assistant Quartermaster-General." This appointment, however, was not the only one then held by Marine Officers on the General Staff, for in addition to the Officer referred to, Lieutenant-Colonel Joseph Gates Travers, A.Q.M.G, there were Major J. C. D. Morrison, Deputy Assistant Adjutant-General; Major T. V. Cooke, Deputy Assistant Quartermaster-General; and Captain E. P. Usher, Provost Marshal. Added to these were Captain E. L. Pym in command of the military police, and several other Marine Officers in the police and military train. These were at Canton. In the north Lieut. Crawford, R.M.A., was A.D.C. to General, afterwards Lord, Napier of Magdala. The Corps held more Staff appointments at Canton than all the other

regiments together, although at that time there were, present . Royal Artillery, Royal Engineers, 1st Royals, 59th Regiment, 12th Madras, 65th Bengal, and 70th Bengal Native Infantry Regiments. The Staff appointments referred to were approved both by the Horse Guards and Admiralty.

The following week the Army and Navy Gazette, still discussing the same subject remarks:—Our amplification of the statement in the Globe and Laurel respecting Staff appointments in China from 1857 to 1860 appears to have given great satisfaction to all concerned. It may be strictly correct that Colonel Travers was the first Officer of Marines who served on the Staff of the Army as Assistant Quartermaster-General, but he was not the first to hold an Army Staff appointment, hence mention of that distinguished Officer only might be considered unintentional injudiciousness. Major J. C.D. Morrison was nominated D.A.A.G., Canton, months before, and declined promotion to A.A.G., preferring service in the-field with his own Corps rather than be left in the south of China. Further, he acted as Staff Officer in Monte Video twelve years previously, have served as Brigade-Major to a brigade consisting .of the 45th Regiment and Royal, Marines, receiving Staff pay according.

THE ROYAL MARINE ARTILLERY (1897)

THE Royal Marine Artillery have but a short history, though one of considerable interest. It was very largely under the hand of Nelson that the gunners of the Fleet became the supreme craftsmen they showed themselves at Trafalgar and the Nile. The pressed men, however, drawn from their occupations ashore, called for all the care of their officers in the sail drill of the time. By precept and example Nelson impressed upon his captains the great importance of the training duty committed to officers, and he was ceaselessly anxious to perfect the efficiency of the Fleet. It was out of this thoroughness of the great leader that the Royal Marine Artillery arose. The splendid qualities of the Marine Infantry had won the high encomiums of every admiral who had had them in his command. Never, said St. Vincent, was an appeal made to them for honour, courage, or loyalty that they did not more than answer his highest expectations. "If ever the hour of real danger should come to England," he added, "the Marines will be found the country's sheet anchor." The opportunity presented itself to Nelson to add to that magnificent force a body of artillerymen. Well employed as his officers were in drilling and disciplining their men in the working of their ships, the claims of scientific gunnery became supremely important and pressing. At one time detachments of Royal Artillery were embarked to work the guns, but this was on many grounds an unsatisfactory arrangement. In 1804, therefore, the Admiralty consented to form a special Marine Artillery force for the instruction of the rest of the Marines and, at need, of the blue-jackets of the Fleet. The beneficial effect of this measure soon became apparent, and the Royal Marine Artillery grew rapidly into an auxiliary corps of evident utility, attached to Marine divisions. Schools of gunnery and instruction batteries were formed, and, in 1822, the instructional force was established at two companies. The work carried on was of high importance, and, through a long series of years, the Marine Artillery pursued its duties unobtrusively with few changes until, in 1862, the corps was reconstituted in its present form as a separate division of sixteen companies, with headquarters first at Fort Cumberland and afterwards at Eastney, near Portsmouth. A considerable modification had, in fact, come over the conditions which called the Marine Artillery into existence. The days of hemp and canvas were passed, and there was no longer any need to maintain a special force of artillery for the training of blue-jackets, for whom ample opportunities of learning gunnery duties then existed and were being further developed. The Royal Marine Artillery therefore became an independent force, trained for gunnery work in the Fleet.

Fulfilling this function they have, indeed, taken part in almost every naval action since their first formation including, in later years, the operations at Sebastopol and the bombardment of Sveaborg, where Marine Artillery officers were in command of mortar boats. They did excellent service in the trenches at Sebastopol, and for gallant conduct there and at Viborg two of their officers won the Victoria Cross. They were engaged at the bombardment of Alexandria, and detachments of Marine Artillery were landed to remount the guns for the defence of the town. Ashore the artillery have always justified the splendid reputation of the Royal Marine Corps. They have been in Canada, China—where they had a field battery in 1864—and New Zealand. A good deal of hard work fell to them at the beginning of the Ashanti campaign. They have been engaged, too, in Zululand, Egypt, and the Soudan. In the Egyptian War of 1882 they served as infantry in the brilliant engagements of the campaign. In the action at Tel-el-Mahuta they filled the gaps in the ranks of the Royal Horse Artillery, and shared with that corps the work of that day. Four days later, at Kassassin, a detachment of the force, under Captain Tucker, worked a Krupp gun mounted on a railway truck which had been captured from the enemy. The Marine Artillery suffered severely, losing two officers, one sergeant, twenty-three rank and file killed, and one officer and fifty rank and file wounded. They fought also at Tel-el-Kebir, and with the Marine Infantry shared the high praise of Lord Wolseley that they had "done excellent service, leaving nothing to be desired." At El Teb, in 1884, the Marine Artillery captured a gun from the enemy. Within the short period of its existence the corps has thus done admirable service for the country. As showing that they have fought, too, in quarrels not altogether our own, it may be mentioned that they served in the Carlist War with a field battery, and with a mule battery in Mexico in 1839. The position, duties, and future of the Royal Marine Artillery have often been discussed, but we do not propose to enter into the question here. Of this no one can doubt that, either afloat or in our coaling stations, the increased complexity

of guns and the enhanced character of their effect must give the Royal Marine Artillery much work to do. It may be argued, indeed, that the practical extinction of sail power as a means of propelling warships opens up greater opportunities for scientific gunnery, and it is the aim of the Royal Marine Artillery to be good gunners both afloat and ashore. They have taken many prizes for gunnery onboard ship, and have done excellent things at for their smartness on parade, and the team from Eastney has won great credit Shoeburyness. Much praise has fallen to them at rifle meetings and matches. The Marine, whether of the infantry or artillery branch, has an ample sphere of usefulness in the Fleet. The signallers of the corps are trained in both naval and military signalling, so that they are fitted to carry on communication between a fleet at sea and military forces on land. The Royal Marine Artillery have often been called out in aid of the civil power. Returning from Egypt in 1882, a detachment was sent to Dublin, and they rendered useful service during the crofter troubles in Skye. The men of the Royal Marine Artillery are of an excellent class, and there is no dearth of recruits. Their training includes infantry drill at the depot, naval gun drill and much other naval work, land-service drill with field and garrison artillery, as well as repository and laboratory work, and a general all-round drilling at Eastney. Officers pass two years .at Greenwich in study, and are trained in torpedo and gunnery at the naval school besides passing a short course at Woolwich, and they undergo all the regular training at Eastney. Finally, the Royal Marine Artillery are marked for service afloat, and successive detachments are always serving with credit in the Fleet. The corps is thus one of great utility, and its officers are justly proud of the efficiency to which it has been brought.

THE ROYAL MARINE ARTILLERY 1901-1923

The period between 1902 and 1913 was one of significant modernisation and reform in the Royal Navy in both ship technology and manning. The introduction of power operated gunnery with central fire control, and wireless telegraphy into the new 'Dreadnought' class fleet, required the Royal Marines to provide trained and skilled detachments for naval gunnery. These new 'Dreadnoughts' needed larger crews and in 1901 the Royal Fleet Reserve had been formed as a method of recalling trained seamen and marines upon mobilisation.

This primary role resulted in both the Royal Marine Artillery (RMA) and Royal Marine Light Infantry (RMLI) having 'sea service' batteries built at their headquarters. These buildings and sheds were designed to represent ships' gun decks and were equipped with various types of naval guns for training crews. The RMA at Eastney even constructed a mechanical Turret in 1912 that would pitch and roll to simulate a ship at sea. The Sea Service Turret contained two 12" guns, and was eventually dismantled in 1958. Land artillery training at this time was developed at Fort Cumberland which became the base for the RMA Brigades, Howitzer, AA, and Heavy Siege Train, plus smaller units. Drivers for the 100bhp Tractors were also trained there

By 1914 the RMA was only 3,393 strong but provided half the detachment strength of the newer Dreadnought battleships and battle cruisers, whilst the RMLI at 13,425 provided the remainder and almost all of the detachments in cruisers and the older warships. The RMA had provided detachments for ships above the class of armoured-cruiser since 1892.

From the outset of the First World War, the Grand Fleet had based itself in the Forth, at Cromarty and Scapa Flow. The two latter places were not properly protected. From 1913, Lt.Col. Conway-Gordon RMA, and a RM Garrison had been preparing Cromarty for defence, but nothing was prepared at Scapa, and very much remained to be done. The defence of these two places was entrusted to the Marines, who carried out this strenuous work till the end of the war. It can be said that the work was so efficient that the enemy never attacked it.

With The Royal Marine Brigade

A RM Brigade (consisting of 3 RMLI Battalions & an RMA Battalion) served briefly at Ostend from 26/8/14 to 1/9/14, and then returned to England. The RMA Battalion was withdrawn and replaced with an RMLI Battalion from Deal. All the Marines serving in the RM Brigade at this time were long-servicemen, with the exception the RMA Battalion who had taken 60 of their new short-service recruits to Dunkirk as Motor Drivers. The Brigade, minus the RMA Battalion, went back out to defend Antwerp before being withdrawn. The RMA element was disbanded and formed the nucleus of the Howitzer and Anti-aircraft Brigades, which were to serve continuously in France and Belgium from 1915 to the end of the war.

The South African Heavy Artillery

In September 1914, General Botha asked for Heavy Artillery for his invasion of German South West Africa. All that could be found for him were dismounted 4" and 12-pr Anti-Destroyer guns, which had been landed at Malta, and 4 Officers and 50 gunners RMA, mainly reservists from Eastney, but for Sergeant Flaye RMA; a young and very able Land Service Gunnery Instructor. They sailed for South Africa on the 21st October, and during the three weeks' voyage, he put the party through an extensive course of Heavy Artillery Gunnery with all the latest R.A. ideas on the subject, so that when they landed at Cape Town, they were ready to train the South Africans to form the nucleus of three Brigades of Heavy Artillery.

By December, two Brigades of Heavy Artillery had been mobilised, and embarkation for German South West Africa commenced. A third Brigade was formed after the arrival of Lt.-Col. Peacock, Lieutenant Harrison and 20 more gunners in April, 1915. But only one Battery of this Brigade was in time to take part in the Campaign, which was successfully concluded by the complete

German surrender on the 8th of July. By this time the three Brigades contained 15 Batteries of very mixed armament, with nearly a thousand white gunners and nearly as many native drivers and grooms. Honours awarded:—Colonel Markham Rose, Commanding, the D.S.O.; Captain H. L. Tripp who commanded the First Brigade, the M.C.; and Lieut. (Q.M.) Reynolds, the D.S.C.

On the 31st July, the Heavy Artillery were disbanded and recruiting was opened for a new force: five heavy batteries Royal Artillery for service in Europe, but allowed to retain their title "South African Heavy Artillery." In five days the numbers (750) were made up with mostly British, but a fair sprinkling of Boers, the RMA still as training nucleus. They sailed for Europe on the 28th August. They were mobilised at Fareham, in April, 1916, with the new 6" Howitzers, as the 44th and 45th Brigades H.A., R.G.A. Lt.-Cols. Rose and Peacock took the Brigades over to France. Harrison commanded the 71st Battery with Rann as his second-in-command and Dacombe as his Sgt.-Major. Guest was Sgt.-Major of the 73rd, Davis of the 74th. Tripp commanded the 75th with Usborne as his Sgt.-Major, Reynolds was Quartermaster and Flaye Regimental Sgt.-Major. The South African Batteries fought on very successfully in France till the Armistice, with heavy losses. Tripp remained with them till the end, receiving the D.S.O. and being promoted to Lt-Colonel, R.G.A. He was given the Command of a Brigade in the last year of the War. Harrison received the D.S.O., but was wounded and gassed, and had to return to England at the end of 1916. He was succeeded in the Command of the Battery by Rann, but he also, after gaining the M.C., was wounded in 1917 and was given the Command of the S.A.H.A. Depot at home. Most of the RMA NCOs who remained with the Batteries gained distinctions.

German East Africa

When after the conquest of German South West Africa, the South African Government offered to take over German East, there was the same lack of Heavy Artillery and again the RM furnished it. Lt-Colonel Phillipps took out a party of RMA and proceeded to form Batteries. Those operations differed in two great particulars from the previous campaign. Firstly the Gunners were all R.M., the RMLI landed from ships on the station outnumbering the RMA. Secondly, they did a great deal more fighting and had a much worse climate to contend with. They commenced in February, 1916, and continued there on active service till the surrender of the Germans under VON LETTOW-VORBECK. He was a German Marine Officer and remained undefeated in Guerrilla Warfare by the time of the armistice. It is not possible here to give the numerous actions of the batteries, but of the 221 R.M., one Officer and 22 other ranks died of disease, and very many were invalided—malaria was the great scourge; Two MCs; three MSMs and one Legion of Honour. Fifteen RMA and five RMLI were mentioned in despatches.

The Howitzer Brigade, R.M.A.

As has been already stated, the Royal Marine Artillery Battalion was withdrawn from the R.M. Brigade for purely Artillery work. A portion of them, of course often reinforced, were formed into 10 Batteries, armed each with one 15" Howitzer (Granny), the Batteries, armed each with one 15" Howitzer (Granny), the largest Howitzer used on the British front in France. One training 15" Howitzer was placed at Fort Cumberland, Portsmouth in 1914-15 prior to being shipped to France. Each gun would require a crew of approximately 60 men, and would include steam tractor drivers, also trained at the Fort.

The first two of these Howitzers were landed in France on the 15th February, 1915, thereafter being gradually joined by the others as soon as ready. Thereafter one or more took part in nearly every action on the Western Front. Major F. W. Lumsden was in command of No 1 Battery of the Brigade from the 15th February till the 27th July, 1915, when he was transferred to the General Staff. Honours awarded to the Howitzer Brigade include :—
To Colonel G. R. Poole, who administered the Brigade throughout, a CMG and DSO: five other DSOs : three DSCs : eight MCs : eight DCMs : thirty-seven MMs: and fifty-three " mentioned in despatches."

The Anti-Aircraft Brigade

The Anti-Aircraft Brigade RMA, also fought in France and Flanders from the 23rd April, 1915, to the end of the War. At first it was armed with two-pounder pom-poms, but later on with 3" guns. Whilst the military use of aircraft was pioneered during the First World War, Anti-Aircraft gunnery was also in its infancy with few purpose built weapons or sights. To bring down aircraft by a direct hit was a very rare occurrence—too difficult a target. Aircraft flying low could do infinite damage by machine gun fire, or by accurate dropping of their bombs, while the fire of the Anti-aircraft guns could only effectively keep them at a height that would impair this accuracy: the cost being a considerable expenditure of ammunition. Nevertheless, Marines were trained from the first to fire at moving targets and the value of this training was amply rewarded by our Brigade in France. They shared in the danger and hardship of front line troops. As for the Howitzer Brigade, this is best proved by the honours awarded :— Lieut.-Colonel A. F. Osmaston, who initiated the Brigade and invented many of its appurtenances, was made a CB; Lieutenant G. F. Haszard, DSC, and OBE; three DSOs; five DCOs ;two MCs; one DCM; seventeen MSM ; one MM; and four " mentioned in despatches." At the end of the war, RMA Anti-Aircraft training was established at Fort Cumberland, along with Coastal and Naval bombardment elements in 1919.

Heavy Siege Train at Dunkirk.

During this time a Brigade of really heavy guns had been fighting in Flanders. As early as September, 1915, four 9.2" guns and one 12" had been landed from ships to counteract heavy long range guns worked by German Marines at Ostend. At first the guns were worked by seamen, but these were gradually replaced by RMA.

So valuable and indispensable was their counter battery work, that by March, 1918, they had been gradually increased to a Lt.-Colonel's Command (Lieut.-Col. P. Peacock, RMA, took over from Major and Brevet Lt.-Col. R. V. T. Ford) and he had under him 3 groups:—

"A" Group—three 12" and three 9.2"

"B" Group—five 9.2"

"C" Group—six 7.5"

The guns were on ship's mountings with girders and concrete platforms. In general the role of the siege guns was to act under the Navy by engaging the coast batteries which harassed the monitors and other craft, but also they rendered great services in all the military operations in counter-battery work and long distance shoots on tactical points.

In the Zeebrugge and Ostend operations, especially 22nd and 23rd April, they continuously engaged the German guns, and had carried out a bombardment the previous night so as not to make their work appear unusual. This work was most useful as a blind and kept down the fire of the shore batteries. Col. Peacock was mentioned in despatches and received the C.M.G. Further honours accorded to this unit during the whole operations were:— CBE (Lieut.-Col. R. V. T. Ford) ; DSO (Major R. E. Kilvert, commanding February, 1917, to January, 1918), and H E. W. Iremonger, DSO and Brevet Lt.-Col. ; Capt. Peck, first Adjutant and then commanding a 12" in 1916, a DSC, and 3 others; 17 DSMs; 4 MSMs; 17" mentioned in despatches". Casualties were three Officers killed and two wounded; eight other ranks killed and fourteen wounded.

THE VICTORIA CROSS OF MAJOR F W LUMSDEN DSO RMA

France 3rd April 1917.

To qualify for command of a Brigade on 6th April, 1917, Major Lumsden was given command of a battalion, which he only held for six days. In that short period, he had won his V.C. Six enemy field guns had been captured, but as the enemy kept them under heavy fire, it was necessary to leave them dug-in 300 yards in advance of the position. Major Lumsden brought in these guns. To do this, he personally led four artillery teams and a party of Infantry through the hostile barrage. As one of the teams sustained casualties, he left the remaining teams in a covered position and, under a very heavy fire, led the infantry to the guns. By force of example and inspiring energy, he succeeded in sending back

two teams with guns, going through the barrage with the team of the third gun. He then returned to the remaining guns to await further teams, and these he succeeded in attaching to two of the three remaining guns and removed them to safety, despite rifle fire which had become intense at short range. By this time, the enemy in considerable strength had driven through the infantry covering posts and blown up the breech of the remaining gun. Major Lumsden then returned, drove off the enemy, attached a team to the gun and got it away. He was given the command of a brigade, and on the 22nd April, 1918, he was awarded a third bar to his D.S.O., for similar skill and valour. He was also created C.B.

The Gazette says :—" Such coolness, determination to succeed and absolute disregard of danger, not only ensured the success of the operation, but afforded a magnificent example to all ranks, the value of which can hardly be exaggerated."

At last he fell victim to his own daring. On the 3rd June, 1918, he was shot through the head, while again reconnoitring in his fearless manner.

Zeebrugge & 4th RM Battalion

The main bases for the German submarine campaign against British merchant commerce were from the canals and harbours of Zeebrugge and Ostend, and early in 1918, a secret plan was prepared to block and destroy these. To aid in this operation, 4th RM Battalion was especially raised and included two Officers and 51 other ranks of the RMA (trench mortar section). The Battalion was completed with twenty-six Officers and 600 RMLI and was concentrated at Deal at the end of February to commence its secret training for assault on the defended mole of Zeebrugge harbour. The Royal Marines were to land from a specially modified HMS Vindictive and hold this objective, while block ships were being sunk in the entrance of the lock. The RMA were assigned the specially mounted close range weapons bolted on to the sacrificial cruiser which consisted of Stokes and trench mortars, quick fire guns, and Lewis machine guns in the cut down superstructure and foretops.

The casualties in this operation were extremely heavy. Ten Officers and one hundred and nine other ranks killed, and six Officers and two hundred and twenty-eight wounded, out of the seven hundred Royal Marines embarked. One Officer and twelve were left behind on the Mole and taken prisoners. The King ordered that two VC's should be granted to the Battalion under the statute of the Warrant which provides that the recipients should be selected by the others in secret ballot. The selected ones were Capt. E. Bamford, DSO, RMLI, and Sgt. N. A. Finch, R.M.A. Their deeds are thus described in the London Gazette :—"Capt. E. Bamford, RMLI, for most conspicuous gallantry. This Officer landed on the Mole from HMS Vindictive with Numbers 5, 7 and 8 platoons of the Marine storming force in the face of great difficulties. When on the Mole and under heavy fire he displayed the greatest initiative in the command of his company and by his total disregard of danger showed a magnificent example to his men. He first established a strong point on the right of the disembarkation, and when satisfied that that was safe, led an assault on a battery to the left with the utmost coolness and valour."

"Sgt. N. A. Finch, RMA, was second in command of the pom-poms and Lewis guns in the foretop of HMS Vindictive under Lieutenant. C. N. Rigby RMA. At one period HMS Vindictive was being hit every few seconds, chiefly in the upper works, from which splinters caused many casualties. It was difficult to locate the guns which were doing the most damage, but Lieutenant Rigby, Sgt. Finch and the Marines in the foretop kept up a continuous fire, changing rapidly from one target to another and thus keeping the enemy's fire down to some considerable extent. Unfortunately two heavy shells made direct hits on the foretop which was completely exposed to enemy concentrations. All in the top were killed or disabled except Sgt. Finch, who was however severely wounded, nevertheless he showed consummate bravery remaining in his battered and exposed position. He once more got a Lewis gun into action and kept up a continuous fire harassing the enemy on the Mole until the foretop received another direct hit; the remainder of the armament being then completely put out of action. Before the top was destroyed Sgt. Finch had done invaluable work and by his bravery undoubtedly saved many lives. This very gallant Sergeant of the Royal Marine Artillery was selected by the 4th Battalion Royal Marines, who were mostly RMLI to receive the Victoria Cross."

It was also decided that in memory of their gallant exploit no other unit of the Royal Marines should bear the title of 4th Battalion Royal Marines, a name which would remain for ever as their lasting memorial.

Other RMA Deployment

After the retreat in March, 1918, with its consequent loss of Artillery, there was a difficulty in its replacement in France. Guns were available but no men. To assist, the Admiralty lent to the R.G.A., 4 Lieutenants, and 400 R.M.A. and R.M.L.I.; and from these, four siege batteries were formed under Royal Artillery Officers which took part in the concluding operations.

The RMA were also doing coast defence work in Egypt; RMA and RMLI in the West Indies and the Aegean, and in the Portsmouth, Plymouth, Portland and the Forth Defences.

In the Easter Rebellion in Ireland in 1916, a battalion under Lt.-Col. H. E. Blumberg was hastily formed. It was in Ireland 24 hours after the receipt of the telegram to form the battalion at the Divisions. It took over the protection of Queenstown Dockyard and the Coastguard Stations on the west coast, but was withdrawn after a fortnight, except that certain posts were held by small guards, which work they continued to do till reinforced in 1920 by the 8th R.M. Battalion.

RMA Pilot Officers

Certain Royal Marine Officers were amongst the earliest aviators, and third to qualify was Lt. G.V. Wildman-Lushington RMA. In 1913 he took off in a Short Biplane across the musketry range and Glacis of Fort Cumberland, but had a sadly brief though distinguished career as a pilot, as he was killed when flying at Eastchurch in October.

Lieut. C. H. Collet, R.M.A., was granted the D.S.O., for his gallant exploit in flying to Dusseldorf on 22nd September, 1914, to bomb the Zeppelin shed, and again distinguished himself in an air attack on Cuxhaven on Xmas Day, 1914. He was killed when flying at Imbros in 1915.

RM Field Force

Formed 5 May 1918, the force of 365 all ranks was commanded by Lt. Col R. O. Paterson, RMA, for service in Murmansk to support local forces against the Bolsheviks during the Russian revolution. They established control posts along the railway, guarded many wooden bridges, and trained a 150 strong Polish detachment to use machine guns. A hundred Royal Marines were sent with an Allied assault force, mostly comprising French troops, landed from British warships on Modyuski Island (River Dwina, near Archangel). These Marines later served with the Naval Brigade landed in that area, until July 1919, having been in action in support of British army units. Elements of the field force in Murmansk were concentrated for ski training but were not in action until early May 1919 after the spring thaw. They sailed from Murmansk on 10 July and were disbanded on their return to the UK.

7th RM Battalion

Formed in the summer of 1919 from Royal Marines landed under Lt. Col J. W. Hudleston, RMA, from the Grand Fleet, the Battalion was to help supervise a plebiscite in Schleswig - Holstein, but was not used and re-embarked.

11th Battalion and RM detachments in Turkey

The 11th Battalion was initially formed during the emergency declared for the 1921 coal strike in Britain, but was diverted when in 1922 the Greeks invested Constantinople in their conflict with Turkey. The 11th RM Battalion (mobilised in a few days) sailed on 28 September, their transport ship reportedly reaching Constantinople in five days. The Battalion's four companies, some 700 in all under Lt-Col J. A. M. A. Clark, CMG, RMLI, included an RMA company sent out as infantry. These gunners were remustered for duty with the RMA Heavy Batteries, 19 for on 21 October Maj W. H. Tripp, DSO, MC, joined the Battalion to command 12 naval guns the Marines had installed by building piers on the

northern shores of the Dardanelles, to cover a 30-mile arc across the water. At this time they came under command of GOC Chanak (on Amalgamation they became RM Heavy Batteries).

The infantry companies did guard duties in Constantinople and in the defence of the neutral zone around the city. Their only casualty was a death from malaria before sailing in August 1923 for the UK, where they were disbanded in September.

Ireland, 1920-22

The trouble in Ireland was more serious. The 8th R.M. Battalion was sent to Ireland at the beginning of June, 1920, to protect the Coastguard Stations on the South and West Coasts, under Lieut.-Col. R. H. Morgan, R.M.L.I., with Headquarters in HMS Cumberland at Queenstown. The R.M.A. Company to the south coast, east and west of Queenstown ; R.M.L.I., Chatham, from the Shannon to the north of Galway Bay ; Portsmouth, on the north-west coast ; and Plymouth, on the south-west. In December, 1920, Lieut.-Col. L. W. Miller succeeded to the command, and Lieut.-Col. F. E. C. B. Chichester in September, 1921.

It was most unpleasant work. Leave was very limited, local supplies difficult to obtain, and communications usually conducted by means of Destroyers. Few of the stations were subject to an actual assault, but Schull, Cappa and Ballyvaughen were attacked. At the latter, a ration party were ambushed and 2 killed and 3 wounded. The Battalion was finally withdrawn in February, 1922. It had lost 6 killed and 5 wounded.

Amalgamation in 1923

The amalgamation of the Royal Marine Artillery and the Royal Marine Light Infantry into a single Corps had been under consideration since the end of the Great War, when demobilisation reduced the Corps strength from 55,000 to 15,000. By 1922, the Treasury, after trying to abolish the Royal Marines, reduced their number to 9,500 on the understanding that one Division was given up. The other factors influencing the decision were

- the similarity of training in naval gunnery
- the similarity of employment on board ship
- the equalising of pay of RMA and RMLI

Forton Barracks at Gosport was closed and Eastney Barracks, completed in 1868 to house the RMA, was retained to become the home of the Portsmouth Division Royal Marines.

The amalgamation decision was announced by an Admiralty Fleet Order of June 1923 and the ranks of Gunner and Private were replaced by that of Marine. A cadre of officers and NCOs would continue to be trained at the School of Land Artillery in Fort Cumberland, and the Small Arms School went to Browdown, but otherwise the training of the Corps would be as infantrymen and seaman gunners, with Deal chosen as the centralised recruit training establishment.

The blue tunic of the RMA was retained, but the cording was replaced by the slashed cuff which had been such a distinguished feature of the RMLI coat, and the Officers and Sergeants wear the Infantry Sash. Grenade and Bugle were replaced by the Corps Crest. The Infantry stripe was adopted on the trousers. Undoubtedly scarlet was easily damaged by boat work, but the Officers wore the scarlet mess-jacket. Blue and khaki are used for working kit according to the nature of employment. Thus the Royal Marines evolved an entirely distinctive uniform.

The amalgamation took effect from 22nd June, 1923. The final parade at Forton took place on 29th July, and the Colours, Band, etc., were transferred to Eastney on 1st August.

The change naturally came as a blow to the older members of the Corps who had taken a pride in the colour of their uniform and their slightly distinctive duties, but it was only a reversion to the proud title of a hundred years before, and any bitterness was at once removed by the following :—

H.M. The King, as Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Marines, has directed that the following Order be promulgated to the Corps :— "It is with great regret that, in consequence of the reduction in numbers, and the necessary financial economies necessitating the abolition of one of the historic Divisions, I have

concluded in the amalgamation of the Royal Marine Artillery and the Royal Marine Light Infantry.

The two branches during their period as separate Units have each worthily upheld the traditions of the old Corps of Royal Marines from which they were derived. As their Colonel-in-Chief, I desire to express to them my appreciation of their former services, and I am confident that, under the new title of Royal Marines, they will continue to maintain that reputation for loyalty and devotion to duty which has ever been the pride of the Corps of Royal Marines."

The Corps needed a new role and the official instructions read:

'Its function in war and peace is to provide detachments which, whilst fully capable of manning their share of the gun armament of ships, are specially trained to provide a striking force, drawn either from the Divisions or from the Fleet, immediately available for use under the direction of the Commander-in-Chief for amphibious operations such as raids on the enemy coastline and bases, or the seizure and defence of temporary bases for the use of our own Fleet.'

Royal Marine Artillery Weekly Pay 1915

Rank

	s.	d.	s.	d.
Warrant Officers	42	0	63	0
Staff Sergeants	25	11½	40	6½
Colour-Sergeants	29	2		
Sergeants	25	1		
Corporals	20	5		
Bombardiers	18	8		
Gunners	10	6	to	11 1
Privates	8	2	to	9 4

