

A Brief Chronology of Principal Events

1664 – Formation of the Duke of York and Albany's Maritime Regiment of Foot.

1665-72 – 2nd & 3rd Dutch Wars. Royal Netherlands Marine Corps formed.

1685 – Renamed Prince George of Denmark's Regiment – disbanded 1689

1689-97 – War with France

1702-13 – War of Spanish Succession. Six Regts of Marines formed

1704 – British and Dutch Marines capture Gibraltar.

1713 – Reduced to three Regiments which were transferred to the Line. Only four Companies of Marine Invalids remained

1739 – England declared war on Spain – The War of Jenkins' Ear. Six Marine Regiments raised

1740 – Further four Regiments raised

1745-1750 – Hannah Snell, served in the Marines.

1748 – The Peace of Aix-la-Chapelle. All ten Marine Regiments disbanded

1755 – A permanent Marine Corps of 50 Independent Companies established.

Corps Strength 5,000

1756 – The Seven Years War.

Corps Strength 19,000

1759 – The Capture of Quebec.

1761 – The Capture of Belle Isle.

1770 – Marines land with Captain James Cook at Botany Bay, Australia.

1775 – American War of Independence. The Battle of Bunker Hill. United States Marine Corps formed.

1776 – Corps Strength 25,000

1783 – Stonehouse Barracks first occupied.

1788 – Marines from the First Fleet land in Australia.

1793-1802 – French Revolutionary Wars – Actions in the Mediterranean, South

Africa, India, Egypt and the East Indies.

1794 – The Battle of the Glorious First of June off Ushant.

1797 – The Battles of Camperdown and Cape St Vincent.

1798 – The Battle of the Nile.

1802 – The Corps honoured with the title 'Royal'.

1803-15 – Napoleonic Wars – Actions in East and West Indies, South America,

South Africa and others.

1804 – RM Artillery Companies formed.

1805 – The Battle of Trafalgar. Woolwich Division formed. Corps Strength 31,000

1812-15 – The War of 1812 in America

1814 – The sacking of Washington

1815 – Napoleon exiled to St Helena

1816 – The bombardment of Algiers

1820 – King George IV directed RM

would take precedence after 49th Regt.
1827 – Colours presented to each of the Divisions by HRH The Duke of Clarence. ‘The Globe’ badge granted. Corps Strength 9,000
1835-40 – RM Battalion and RMA Battery in Spain during the Carlist War.
1839-42 – RM in action in China’s Opium wars.
1848 – Portsmouth Division moved into Forton Barracks, Gosport.
1854-56 – The Crimean War
1854 – Battle of Inkerman – first Royal Marine awarded VC – Cpl Prettyjohns.
1855 – Royal Marines designated Light Infantry. Corps Strength 15,500.
1856-60 – 2nd China War
1857-58 – Indian Mutiny
1861 – Depot established at Deal.
1861-64 – The Maori Wars in New Zealand
1861-62 – RM Battalion in Mexico
1862 – RMA & RMLI became separate Corps
1864 – Eastney Barracks first occupied
1864-65 – RM Battalion in Japan
1867-68 – Expedition to Abyssinia
1868 – RM Battalion in Ireland
1869 – Woolwich Division closed.
1870 – RM Battalion in Japan
1873-74 – The Ashanti War
1879 – The Zulu War
1880-83 – RM Battalion in Ireland
1882 – The Egyptian Campaign
1884-85 – The Sudan Campaign
1899-1902 – RM with the Naval Brigade in South Africa. Corps Strength 19,000
1900-01 – RM in action during the Boxer Rebellion alongside the USMC (for the first time).
1903 – Royal Naval School of Music formed at Eastney. RM Memorial in the Mall unveiled
1914-18 - First World War. Marines in HM Ships in all major engagements at sea.
1914 – RM Brigade at Ostend and Antwerp.
1915 – RM Brigade with the RN Division in Gallipoli. RMA Howitzer and AA. Bdes & Heavy Siege Train to France and Flanders.
1916 – RM Battalions to France with 63rd (RN) Division. Battle of Jutland.
1918 – The Raid on Zeebrugge – 4th RM Battalion. Institution of King’s Squad & King’s Badge. Corps Strength 55,000
1919 – 6th Battalion in North Russia.
1922 – 8th Battalion in Ireland
1923 – 11th Battalion in Turkey. Amalgamation of RMA and RMLI. Forton Barracks, Gosport closed.
1927 – 12th Battalion in Shanghai.
1930 – RN School of Music moved to Deal.

1935 – RM carryout London Duties
London for the first time. RM in
Alexandria with Base Defences,
Mediterranean. Corps Strength 9,800

1939-45 – Second World War. Marines in
HM Ships in all major engagements at sea.

1940 – RM ashore in Faroe Islands,
Iceland, Norway, Holland and France.

1941 – MNBDO1 in the evacuation of
Crete. HMS *Prince of Wales* and
Repulse sunk.

1942 – 'Plymouth Argylls' in Singapore.
Force VIPER in Burma.
First RM Commando formed.
40 RM Commando at Dieppe.
11th RM Battalion at Tobruk.
Op Frankton – Cockleshell Heroes raid on
Bordeaux shipping.

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1943 – 40 & 41 Commandos land in Sicily. 41 Commando landed at Salerno. RM Battalions formed into Commandos. 40 & 43 Commandos in action in Italy, Albania and Yugoslavia.
1944 – 43 Commando landed at Anzio. 48 Commando formed. 17,500 Marines in The Landings in Normandy serving in Commandos, HM Ships and Landing Craft. 41, 47 & 48 Cdos in the Assault on Walcheren, supported by Marines in HM Ships and landing craft.
1945 – 42 & 44 Commandos in the Battle of Kangaw, Burma. 40 & 43 Commandos in the Battle of Lake Comacchio, Italy. RM Commandos in the river crossings in NW Europe. Corps Strength 78,500
1946 – Marines from HM Ships occupy Penang. 42 & 44 Commandos occupy Hong Kong.
1947 – Reorganisation of the Corps – RM Divisions become functional Groups.
1948 – RM Commandos cover the withdrawal from Palestine and deployed in the Suez Canal Zone. RM Forces Volunteer Reserve formed.
1949 – 45 Commando in Egypt and Aqaba. 3 Commando Brigade moves to Hong Kong. Closure of Chatham Group.
1950 – 3 Commando Brigade moved to Malaya. 41 Independent Commando formed for operations in Korea. Chatham

Barracks closed. RM Divisional Bands integrated with the RN School of Music to form the Royal Marines School of Music.

1952 – 3 Commando Brigade moved to Malta. Presentation of first Colours to the RM Commandos. 41 Independent Commando disbanded at Bickleigh.

1953 – 3 Commando Brigade moved to the Suez Canal Zone. HRH The Duke of Edinburgh appointed Captain General Royal Marines.

1954 – 40 & 45 Commandos returned to Malta. 42 Commando moves to UK Amphibious School RM moved to Poole

1955-59 – 40 & 45 Commandos alternated on operations in Cyprus.

1956 – 3 Commando Brigade spearheaded landings at Port Said. First RM detachments for frigates formed. Corps Strength 10,000

1957 – Elements of 42 Commando in Northern Ireland. Small Arms School RM at Browdown closed.

1958 – RM Gunnery School at Eastney closed.

1960 – HMS *Bulwark* commissioned as first Commando Ship. 45 Commando moved to Aden. 42 Commando moved to Singapore. 41 Commando re-formed. Melville Barracks Chatham closed. Green Berets to be worn by all trained ranks.

1961 – 42 & 45 Commandos landed in Kuwait. HQ 3 Commando Brigade established in Singapore. 43 Commando re-formed in Plymouth.

1962 – 40 & 42 Commandos in Brunei. Limbang Operation.

1963-66 – 3 Commando Brigade (less 45 Commando) in anti-terrorist Confrontation operations in Borneo and Malaysia.

1964 – 41 & 45 Commandos in East Africa. Corps Tercentenary celebrations. Lovat Dress introduced.

1964-1967 – 45 Commando on operations in the Radfan.

1965 – Earl Mountbatten of Burma appointed a Colonel Commandant RM

1966 – The RMFVR retitled Royal Marines Reserve. End of Indonesian Confrontation.

1967 – 42 Commando covered the final withdrawal from Aden. 45 Commando returned to UK. 40 Commando on IS duties in Hong Kong

1968 – 43 Commando disbanded.

1969 – 41 Commando was the first RM Commando on operations in Northern Ireland

1970 – 45 Commando assigned to NATO for the Northern Flank.

1971 – 3 Commando Brigade returned to UK from the Far East. 41 Commando moved to Malta. 45 Commando moved to

Arbroath.

1972 – Commando Logistic Regiment formed. Warrant rank reintroduced.

1973 – PRORM integrated with HMS Centurion.

1974 – 40 & 41 Commandos with UN Forces in Cyprus. Corps Strength 7,000

1976 – RM detachments in frigates during the Cod War off Iceland.

1977 – Silver Jubilee Inspection by HM The Queen on Plymouth Hoe. 41 Commando (less Salerno Company) left Malta.

1978 – First 10-man Frigate detachment formed. 41 Commando carried out London Duties.

1979 – Salerno Company left Malta.. 42 Commando deployed to Hong Kong for IS duties. Earl Mountbatten assassinated by the IRA.

1980 – Comacchio Company formed (later RM Fleet Protection Group)

Elements of 42 Commando deployed to the New Hebrides (Vanuatu).

3rd Raiding Squadron deployed to Hong Kong for duties against illegal immigrants.

1981 – HRH Crown Prince Harald (now HM The King of Norway) appointed Honorary Colonel Royal Marines. 41 Commando disbanded at Deal. The Commandant General, Lt Gen Sir Steuart Pringle blown up outside his house by a terrorist car bomb.

1982 – 3 Commando Brigade spearheaded the recapture of the Falkland Islands. RM Detachment for NP 1002 first deployed to Diego Garcia. 3 Commando Brigade Air Squadron moved to RNAS Yeovilton.

1983 – 40 Commando deployed to Cyprus for UN tour of duty. RM Band of Flag Officer Naval Air Command disbanded. 40 Commando moved to Taunton.

1984 – Detachments of 3 Commando Brigade Air Defence Troop embarked in ships of the Armilla Patrol. HM The Queen visited RM Poole. 539 Assault Squadron formed. All 10-man Frigate detachments withdrawn.

1985-93 – RM Commandos deployed on operational tours in Belize.

1986 – 42 Commando carried out London Duties. RM Commando memorial unveiled at Lympstone.

1987 – RM Band of Flag Officer 3rd Flotilla (FOF3) disbanded. SBS titled Special Boat Service and came under command of Director Special Forces.

1988 – 3rd Raiding Squadron disbanded in Hong Kong.

1989 – IRA bomb exploded at RMSM Deal killing 11 band ranks.

1990 – RM embarked in HM Ships during the Gulf War.

1991 – HQ Commando Forces and 3 Commando Brigade (less 42 Commando) deployed to South East Turkey for Operation Haven. Eastney Barracks closed.

1992 – Alliance with the Barbados Defence Force.

1994 – 45 Commando deployed to Kuwait.

1995 – Headquarters Royal Marines established on Whale Island, Portsmouth.

3 Commando Brigade Air Squadron incorporated into Naval Air Command as 847

Naval Air Sqn. RM provided the Commander and the Operations Staff of the Rapid Reaction Force HQ in Bosnia.

Commando Logistic Regiment moved to Chivenor. 42 Commando and elements of the Commando Logistic Regiment on humanitarian and disaster relief in the West Indies. DRORM closed.

1996 – Royal Marines School of Music moved to Portsmouth.

1996-97 – 42 Commando and a detachment from 539 Squadron in the Congo prepared to evacuate civilians from Kinshasa.

1998 – 45 Commando on humanitarian and disaster relief in Honduras and Nicaragua. 40 Commando and a detachment from 539 Squadron in the Congo prepared to evacuate British Nationals

1999 – Ranks of RM officers aligned to those of the Army.

2000 – 42 Commando deployed to Sierra Leone. HQ 3 Commando Brigade, 45 Commando, the Commando Logistic Regiment and the RM Band Plymouth deployed to Kosovo. RM National Memorial in London unveiled. Comacchio Group renamed Fleet Protection Group
RM

2001 – Fleet Protection Group moved from Arbroath to Faslane. New Colours presented to 40, 42 and 45 Commandos at Plymouth. Elements of 40 Commando deployed in HMS *Ocean* for operations in Afghanistan. 3 Commando Brigade Signal Squadron RM renamed United Kingdom Landing Force Command Support Group. RM Poole renamed 1 Assault Group.

2002 – 45 Commando Group deployed on operations in Afghanistan. Headquarters United Kingdom Amphibious Force established with the Commandant General as the Commander (COMUKAMPHIBFOR). Firefighters' Industrial action, over 600 RM ranks involved. Corps Strength 6,100

2003 – The Iraq War. Op TELIC – 3 Commando Brigade operations on the Al Faw peninsula and the liberation of Basra.