

## THE CITY ROYAL

The Newsletter of the City of London



Branch Royal Marines Association

Per Mare

Per Terram

### Branch Officers

President

Lt General Sir Robert Fulton KBE

Chairman: Graeme Golightly - Secretary: Tony Luckens BEM -

Treasurer and Membership Secretary: : Stephen Gilkes -

Welfare Representative: Norman Saints - City Royal Editor and G & L Correspondent: David Harris

Once a Marine Always a Marine

### A WORD FROM THE CHAIR



Dear Friends,

**WELFARE:** Our thoughts are with Norman Saints and his family on the news that he has some current health concern, which is under investigation.

It is good to hear that one of our newest branch members, Sir Henry Beverley, is on the road to recovery (literally, given his wife Lady Sally tells me he is yomping the streets on a daily basis!) following his recent heart operation. BZ Sir !!

I hope that some of you have had the opportunity to take a break and have a bit of a 'staycation' and some down time over the summer months.

It must be very difficult for those who are self isolating due to age or underlying health conditions, and we hope that as the restrictions start to ease you are all able to get out and about soon to see family and friends.

Our thoughts go out to those who we know, be it family, friends or fellow members who may have lost their jobs due to the pandemic. Please remember that our branch and the RMA-TRMC is here to help.

<https://royalmarinesassociation.org.uk/need-our-help/>

### PLANNED EVENTS FOR SEPT

We have kindly been invited by WO1 Michael Wakeman RN, who is now an official member of our branch, to host a socially distanced BBQ at RMR London on Tuesday 1st September. Those going will be pleased to know that I have roped my wife Sharon in to help me do the cooking!! Good job I hear you say !!

Whilst on the subject of Michael and RMR London. Six RMR members are aiming to complete a sponsored bike ride for our very own RMA-The Royal Marines Charity event. If you are able to sponsor a fellow branch member, then please donate to the following link :-

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Michael-Wakeham3>

I would like to say ahead of the event a huge thank you to Stephen Gilkes our Treasurer and Membership secretary for all that he has put into preparing for our first ever virtual AGM. I know it will be different and we will miss the social interaction that we all do enjoy over a few wets, but needs must.

Please continue to stay alert and safe.

With Very Best Wishes,

Graeme Golightly

Branch Chairman

[www.rmacol.co.uk](http://www.rmacol.co.uk)

'UNITED WE CONQUER'

### **NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**The 2020 Annual General Meeting will take place Virtually  
on Tuesday 8th September commencing at 1900**

**To ensure a prompt start the WebEx room will be open from 1845**

**To attend the meeting, follow the following procedure:-**

**Click on URL <https://meetingsemea21.webex.com>**

**Click on the circle with ! in it.  
Type Meeting Number 1131129520 in the box**

**Then wait to be accepted by Stephen Gilkes**

**The meeting is expected to conclude at 1930**

**For any queries contact Stephen Gilkes  
Mobile 07740 170773  
Email [stephen.gilkes@gmail.com](mailto:stephen.gilkes@gmail.com)**

**Note:** A separate communication will be sent on the evening of Sunday 6th September



VJ DAY 2020

The Editor writes: The inability of local communities to commemorate the 75th anniversary of VJ Day because of Covid restrictions was very frustrating. No local authority, military association or military support organisation could officially promote an organised act of commemoration and whilst those held at the National Arboretum and at Horse Guards were very well organised and ably expressed the sentiment attached to the ending of WW2 local commemorations would have been sadly missed. Late in the afternoon of the 14th I pondered this and decided that something must be done in my town.

My eldest brother had served in Burma and took part in the action at Imphal and I distinctly remember him saying, on his return home in 1946, how bitter he and his fellows felt at being "forgotten." They must not be forgotten again.

So, despite the late hour I was able to contact the members of my local branch of the Royal British Legion, privately, to advise them that I would be laying a wreath at the town's War Memorial at 1100 hours the following day, Sunday the 15th. I made contact with a local bugler who agreed to play the Last Post and Reveille, put together a very short programme and turned in! I was very pleasantly surprised to see that twenty odd people attended the following day - all socially distanced. I might add that the Corps was well represented. Of those in the photo there are two former Royals, one former Queensman and one ex-RAF.



PROOF OF THE PUDDING



You may recall an article in the June edition which reported that Robin Hollamby took part in a fundraiser for the RAF Museum - all wrapped up now; here's Robin with his 'been there, done that' - well done Robin.



ONE THING LEADS TO ANOTHER

After attending the funeral of an elderly relative whose father had served in the Royal Marines Light Infantry at the turn of the twentieth century, branch member 'Dodger' Long contacted the Royal Marines Historical Society to research his relative's father, Marine Bertie Page. Within hours, the RMHS had sent much information about Bertie - see attached photo taken c.1900 when he was eighteen years old. Bertie was born in 1882 and 'Crossed the Bar' in 1958. What 'Dodger' found most interesting was the fact the Bertie had been a member of the RMLI Detachment that had escorted Queen Victoria's body from Osborne House on the Isle of Wight to Windsor Castle following her death in 1901 and the massive involvement of the Royal Marines. He thought that the story would be of interest to member and accordingly:-



The following article is copied from the *Globe & Laurel* c. February 1901.

## Funeral of Her late Majesty Queen Victoria

It would be impossible for us to give a description of the whole funeral ceremonies connected with the transfer of the remains of Her late Most Gracious Majesty from Cowes to Windsor. We only propose to describe briefly the part taken by the Corps: words cannot convey the impressiveness and majesty of the procession across the Solent, but the memory of it will always live in the minds and hearts of those who were privileged to see it; the very elements conspired to add to the beauty of the scene, and few will forget the last ray of sunshine that followed the *Alberta* as she rounded the Spit Fort and appropriately entered the harbour's mouth as the sun was setting and the grey shades of evening began to fall - "Queen's weather to the last." As the yacht rounded Fort Blockhouse a chill fell on those present, and something seemed to pass from one's life and one realised for the first time that the weather was cold and raw.



At Cowes the road from Osborne House to Trinity Pier was lined by troops from the Southern District, among them a battalion of Royal Marine Artillery, under Lieut.-Col. St. L Burrowes, strength about 318, the company officers being Capts. Hire, Dibbles, Poole and Brown, Capt. and Adj. McCarthy, the right of the battalion being about 200 yards from the Queen's Gate; also a company of 100 rank and file of the R.M.L.I. under Capt. Graham and Lieuts. Burge and Stopford. The dress was Review Order with great coats on, haversacks and water bottles. The music was provided by the massed bands of the R.M.A. and R.M.L.I., with forty drummers of the R.M.L.I., and under 2nd Lieut. Miller, R.M.L.I.; the marches played were Beethoven and Chopin and one composed by 2nd Lieut. Miller. In the intervals between the marches and also during the transference of the coffin from the gun-carriage to H.M. Yacht *Alberta*, the drums played a roll, the idea of which came from Germany, and gave a most impressive sound. Col. Commdt. Guise Tucker, C.B., R.M.A. and Col. 2nd Commdt. A Chapman, R.M.L.I. were with the Staff of the Southern District, and amongst the mourners were Major Britton and Major Cox, R.M.A. and Lt.-Col. McCausland and Major Huggins, R.M.L.I. The Yacht *Alberta*, preceded by destroyers and followed by other Royal Yachts, passed down through the lines of ships which were manned and guards of Marines mounted on the bridges or barbettes. The minute guns and the mournful notes of the bands adding to the weird effect on the day. At the Clarence Victualling Yard, when the *Alberta* arrived, the jetties and walls were lined with 500 Royal Marines from the harbour ships, under Major Ormsby-Johnson, resting on their arms reversed. As soon as the Yacht was made fast the guard of five Sergeants, one Bugler, thirty-eight rank and file under Capt. C.J. Theroton and Lieut. Atkinson, R.M.L.I. was at once mounted. A sentry was placed at the head of the coffin and another at the foot, resting on their arms reversed, and a N.C.O. was posted at the entrance to the chapel in which the body rested; this guard also furnished sentries on the jetty. The royal Insignia, the Crown, Orb, Sceptre, etc. were left on the coffin and everything as it had been during the voyage across the Solent. In the morning a Guard of Honour of 100 rank and file, R.M.L.I., under Capt. Esson and Lieut. Andrews, with Lieut. Clarke carrying the King's colour, was mounted on the jetty at 7.30 am. and remained till after the departure of the Royal train, about 8.45 a.m. The band of the R.M.L.I. was also in attendance and played during the transfer of the coffin to the saloon in the train. Capt. Theroton had the honour of being present at the short service held on board the *Alberta* before the departure in the morning. A battalion of R.M.L.I., of six companies, under Lieut.-Col. E.L. McCausland, lined the drill-field at Forton and saluted as the Royal train passed. It was a very cold cheerless morning, with heavy cold showers at intervals, but in London there was apparently little or no rain. Col. W. Campbell, R.M.A. and col. G.F.D. Bridge, R.M.L.I. were on duty at Cowes as A.D.C's of Her late Majesty, and also at Clarence Yard during the night of the 1st February.

The Corps took a prominent part in the procession in London. The Chatham Division, R.M.L.I. furnishing one of the few bands in the procession. In the procession the R.M.A. and R.M.L.I. each furnished one company of 100 men; the R.M.A. company was commanded by Capt. W.B.

Harkness and Lieuts. W.F. Trotman and C.R. Raikes. Owing to their train being late at Victoria they breakfasted in Victoria Street and proceeded at once to their place in the procession; the Company R.M.L.I., under Capt. E.H. Bockett-Pugh, was furnished by the Plymouth Division, and came up from Chatham that morning, breakfasting at the Trocadero. These two companies were commanded by Major A.G. Tatham, R.M.A. It is noteworthy that though the funeral procession was a military function the Corps took its precedence as Royal Navy, and not after the Royal Berkshire Regiment nor the R.M.A. with the Royal Artillery. The Plymouth Division, R.M.L.I., also furnished a Guard of Honour of 100 rank and file under Capt. E.H. Morres at Paddington Station. This company also came up from Chatham, where it had spent the previous night. Among troops lining the streets were a battalion of R.M.A. 328 strong, under Lieut.-Col. A.S. LeQuesne, who were on duty near the Marble Arch; this battalion left Portsmouth about 1.40 a.m. and proceeded to Addison Road Station, breakfasting and dining at Olympia. Also a battalion of R.M.L.I., under Major C.E. Curtoys, from Chatham, who were stationed in Piccadilly; this battalion, about 450 strong, was provided with breakfast and dinner at the Trocadero Restaurant. Col. and Commdt. A.D. Corbet, C.B., from Chatham was in command of a brigade of troops from the Thames District. Memorial Services were also held at all Divisions, and at the Depot. R.M.

It will be seen from the above that the part taken by the Corps was a very prominent one, and we are sure we all felt highly honoured in thus being allowed to pay our last respects to our *late* Most Gracious Sovereign.

*My best thanks to Dodger for researching and providing this fascinating insight of the Corps presence at the funeral of Her late Majesty Queen Victoria. (Ed)*

## IN THE LAP OF THE GODS - "GOING FOR IT"

### Former Royal Ray Kay writes:



I have been reading Homer's Odyssey. You will know that it's the classical Greek story of Odysseus's epic ten year voyage to return home after his victory in the Trojan War. Throughout his journey the capricious gods amuse themselves by treating him as toy and put Herculean and imaginative difficulties in his way to confound his mortal human efforts to return to his wife and son. Occasionally a more kindly God helps him or encourages one of his fellow Gods to be less difficult. Through his outstanding qualities he overcomes every obstacle and eventually gets home. (Commando qualities?)

I mention this because I'm trying to understand how I and Suzanne my wife can be so lucky and have such a good life while so many others are suffering. It is a mystery and I can only put it down to the Gods of Good Fortune smiling upon us for their own reasons.

You may form a different opinion.

We spent the main lockdown period 20th March to 5th June living on our small Dutch barge in South Dock Marina, Rotherhithe. This is our main and only home. We do not own any land-based fixed property. As Arthur Ransom pointed out, "A house is but a badly built boat, fixed and immovable". Why would anyone want such a thing?

So after much time at home to think about it and make a plan we decided to drive to Croatia where our small (33 foot) sailing yacht was urgently waiting for some much needed maintenance.

We considered the risks of the journey very carefully and decided that it would be much better to try and to fail than to spend the rest of our lives regretting not trying. As it happened the gods smiled upon us and we were successful.

We booked a passage on the Eurotunnel for 0500 on 5th of June. This employed the classic technique of catching the enemy (Brit and French border guards) at their lowest ebb at first light. We did our battle prep carefully by producing what we hoped were convincing documents which proved beyond doubt that our journey met all of the criteria set out by the various governments whose borders we would have to cross.

The route was carefully planned to reduce the number of border crossings as much as possible. After leaving the Eurotunnel we crossed France driving all the way down to Italy and then through Slovenia and into Croatia. This avoided the potentially difficult border crossings of Belgium, Germany and Austria whilst making the journey a little bit longer. Our multi purpose boat and life support unit and Covid protection bubble, Dave the Jeep did us proud, never missing a beat for the whole 1600 or so

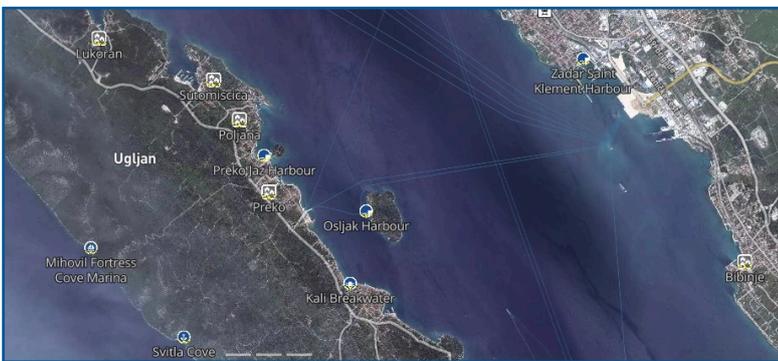
km journey.

leaving the UK was easy, the border guard took a cursory glance at our passports and handed them back without a word. Fifty meters further on at the French border things were a little more tense and complicated. The French official asked where we were going. My reply, "Croatia" did seem to throw him a bit and he asked me to repeat it. He then asked quite a few questions about the reasons for our trip and our intended passage through France. He carefully studied the pack of documents we had handed him taking what seemed an eternity (those Gods again?) Eventually he handed them back with no expression and said, "Go." Which we did with thanks and some alacrity.

Driving through France was the usual uplifting experience with fine motorways and the occasional lovely village or church to admire. We stopped at a couple of services for the usual necessities of life and went into a supermarket self service fuel station for a tank of relatively inexpensive diesel. Otherwise we just kept the cruise control steady just on the speed limit.

The Italian border proved no problem at all. No more than a line on the map hundreds of feet above us as we drove under the Alps through the Frejus tunnel. What lunatic invented borders anyway? This tunnel is an amazing feat of international construction and cooperation. A bit later we had a few hours sleep in the parking area of a stylish, smart and clean Italian motorway service station. We had an anxious moment as we got out for a stretch and to buy an Espresso. Two very smart Carabinieri pulled up in their patrol car and parked next to our very obviously UK registered vehicle. They paused only to wish us a pleasant evening and a safe journey.

We were soon operating that cruise control again. Driving through the tunnels and over the bridges of the Italian motorway system again made us marvel at the wonders that people can achieve. They sped us efficiently and quickly towards the border with Slovenia where the border officer's quick glance at our passports had us on our last leg towards Croatia. Slovenia is a beautiful rural country a sort of Devon meets the Swiss Alps. Driving through was a short rural odyssey and a pleasant change after many miles of motorway. Twenty minutes of queuing for the Croatian border where everyone's docs were carefully checked and we were home. We had made it.



We arrived in Preko near Zadar where Deucalion was moored on Saturday evening and were given an enthusiastic welcome by our friends the staff there.

We are so pleased we did it. Two months later we are still here. We have done most of our boat maintenance. The sun is out, the sea is warm, our boat neighbours are kind and friendly. The local bars serve us drinks and the supermarket

provides food. Can you explain it? I certainly can't, but we will enjoy it whilst we can.

There seems to be no urgency or necessity for us to return to the UK so we intend to stay as long as we can. Living aboard our boat here in the local yacht club where we are fortunate enough to have been accepted for membership and given a berth is pleasant and we can even go sailing at weekends.

**Note:** Ray was USM at the RMR London 1998- 99 and went on to become the first Sergeant Major at HQRN. He finished his RM career by skippering the Corps Yacht, *Per Mare* for two years. He never quite adjusted to civvy life and spent the rest of his time in various boating endeavours. He enjoyed working as Training Officer at the Joint Services



Adventurous Sail Training Centre\* and working for the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) for six years as a vetting officer. He obviously still enjoys his maritime activities.

\*The JSATC provides offshore sailing for HM Armed Forces through Royal Yachting Association courses, local and overseas sailing expeditions and yachts.

### THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Love and compassion are necessities, not luxuries. Our prime purpose in life is to help others. And if you can't help them, at least don't hurt them.

*Dalai Lama*

### QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Everyone is in favour of free speech. Hardly a day passes without it being extolled, but some people's idea of it is that they are free to say whatever they like, but if anyone else says anything back, that's an outrage.

*Winston Churchill*



### IT'S STILL OUT THERE GUYS

#### NHS Information

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

### KEEP SAFE - BE ALERT

Wear face coverings while travelling on public transport, in shops and supermarkets.

Wash your hands often with soap and hot water for at least 20 seconds, or use an alcohol based hand sanitiser, this is particularly important after taking public transport.

Always carry tissues with you to cover a cough or sneeze, after which throw the tissue in a waste bin.

Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces in the home and in the work environment.

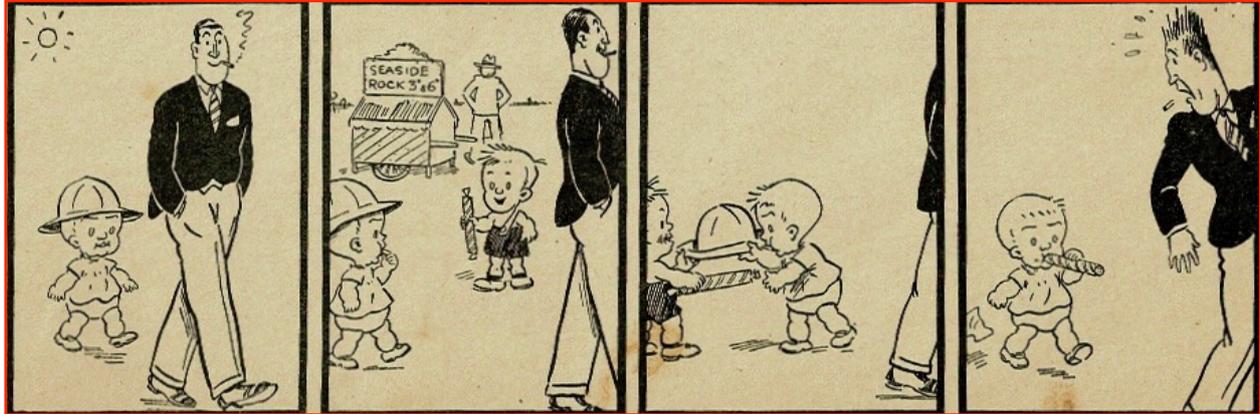
Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.

Avoid close contact with people who appear unwell.

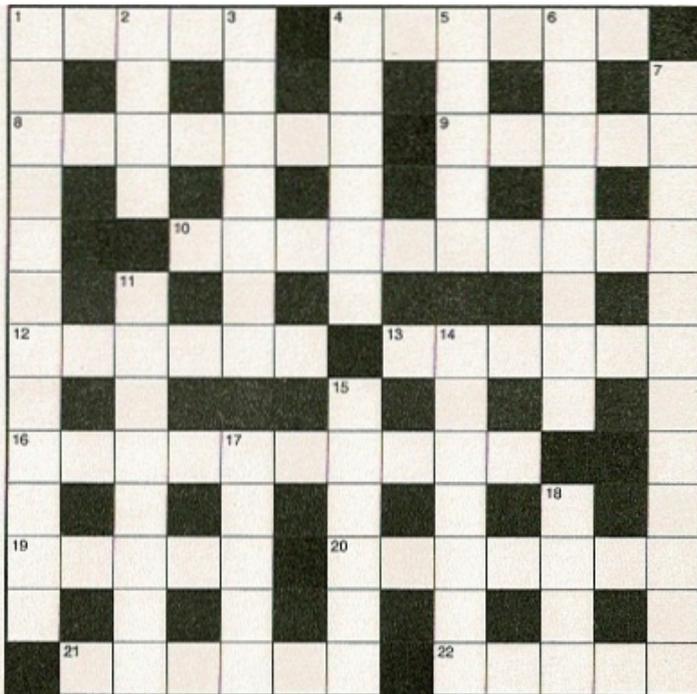
### STAY SAFE



THE LIFE AND TIMES OF 'BABY BOOTIE'



165 Crossword by Beachcomber Magazines - Solution on page 9



**A tale of The Ark** told in *The Times* 11th August.

Remember 'The Goodies?' - "There's a rich seam of comedy going through medicine," says the former Goodie Graeme Garden recalling when he wrote BBC comedies as light relief from his medical training. "People who aren't funny enough to be doctors get kicked out and have to work in show business." Graeme, tells an event for the Slapstick festival that he only missed one of the series of *I'm Sorry, I'll Tell That Again* because of his medical work. "I was in Plymouth delivering babies," he says. "I tried to write for the show but that proved difficult because *HMS Ark Royal* had been in port nine months before."

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Across</b>                       | <b>Down</b>                            |
| 1. ___ Curie, French chemist (5)    | 1. Commercially dominating (12)        |
| 4. Ill-will, spite (6)              | 2. Bacon skin (4)                      |
| 8. Shape with nine sides (7)        | 3. Intellectual (7)                    |
| 9. Former Italian (5)               | 4. Stick insect (6)                    |
| 10. Withdrawal (10)                 | 5. Peter ____, actor (5)               |
| 12. Capital of Angola (6)           | 6. Critiques (8)                       |
| 13. Musical beat (6)                | 7. With respect to body structure (12) |
| 16. Airflow behind a vehicle (10)   | 11. Oblong church (8)                  |
| 19. Coldly (5)                      | 14. Wholesome (7)                      |
| 20. Sideways (7)                    | 15. Cooks, toasts (6)                  |
| 21. Provides food for a wedding (6) | 17. Fashion (5)                        |
| 22. Freshwater crayfish (5)         | 18. Colourless (4)                     |



**WHERE CAN I GO FOR HELP?**

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Promoting positive mental health

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**BRANCH NOTICES**

The Gascolgne Room at the U.J.C. has been **provisionally** booked for branch meetings at 1930 on the following dates:

October 8th - November 12th and December 15th

Also on the 15h December

Corps Family Carol Service at St Lawrence Jewry  
UJC Candlelit Carol Service at St. Johns  
Branch Christmas Function at U.J.C.

**All subject to confirmation**

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

