

47 ROYAL MARINE COMMANDO ASSOCIATION

Committee

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DESPATCH 28 July 2013

COMMENT

There's a subtle change to my address. The postcode now ends in HQ. On paper not a huge difference but on Google Earth and on Sat Navs the old address directed people to an isolated cottage a mile up the lane. The change seems to have worked and the new code is easy to remember. This has been our HQ for over 20 years. Another technical blip occurred in March. Apologies if you received weird emails supposedly from me when I "got hacked". I love modern technology. No really! But sometimes it just drives you crackers. However, all in all, the advantages far outweigh the drawbacks. One example is the fact that the new edition of John Forfar's *From Omaha to the Scheldt* is now available as an ebook. As a result, it should never be out of print again. Excellent!

Lannah

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Veterans, Friends and Family Members,

We can be proud to say that despite the sad loss of more of our veterans, our Association is one of the most vibrant of its kind in the country. We have re-published the account of 47's achievements written by John Forfar and we have unveiled a new painting by the celebrated war artist David Rowlands. We run a fabulous website and we are connected at every turn with serving Royal Marines. Of the many hundreds of young men who served with 47 RM Commando between 1943 and 1946, there are now just some twenty five who can still tell the story first-hand. So it was a real occasion when nine of these veterans gathered in London in March. They joined the Mayor of Port en Bessin, senior serving Royals and friends and family for the unveiling. When we returned in June to Normandy, we felt goodwill and friendship from the French at every turn, from the Town Hall to the Hemingway College. We paraded the standard at the major cemeteries and places of commemoration, we sang wartime songs, we drank French beer, and we raised a glass to absent friends. We raised thousands in funding from donations from corporations and the Royal Marines, to a sponsored march from Asnelles to Port en Bessin. With the recent funerals that have been held of much-loved veterans, we worked with family wishes to attend in person or send a wreath, arrange a bugler, and parade the standard. We will all continue to commemorate those who died fighting for the country between 1939 and 1945 and while I'm sad to record those we've lost in the last six months, we also

intend our association to celebrate the living. We continue to plan social events of all kinds which we hope reading this might fit with your plans if you've so far been unable to join us. I'd like to thank the veteran members for their guidance and the fabulous members of the committee. I hope we all meet again soon.

Patrick O'Connell

Chairman, and son of Captain Guy O'Connell, HW Troop

MARCH REUNION

This report and the two photos appeared in the January/February issue of The Globe & Laurel.

A Grand Reunion: 47 Commando Seventy Years On

In 1944 on D-Day+1 a detachment of Royal Marines led by Captain Cousins stormed the eastern headland in Port en Bessin where the Germans held out in their strongly fortified bunker. The attack was successful and turned the battle for the Port in favour of 47 RM Commando but, unfortunately, 22 year-old Terence Cousins died in the action.

The assault has now been captured in oils by the military artist, David Rowlands. Members of 47 RM Commando Association gathered at the Union Jack Club in Waterloo on Saturday, 9th March 2013 not only for the unveiling but also for a reunion dinner to celebrate one or two other things besides.

The Guests of Honour were Major General ST Chicken OBE and his wife Charlotte and the Mayor of Port en Bessin, M Pierre-Albert Cavey and his wife Béatrice. Other important guests were Lt Col RJW Bucknall RM, CO RMR Bristol, C Sgt S Parkin and Major Mark Bentinck RM Rtd, Corps Historian and a long-standing member of the Association.



The Mayor, Lt Col Bucknall, C Sgt Parkin, Maj Gen Chicken and veterans.



Right: Arthur Delap points out his younger self.

It was pleasing that Peter Phillips, son of the late CO of 47 RM Cdo, could also attend with his wife Sarah and, of course, the artist, David Rowlands.

In all, nine veterans of the Commando were able to be there, all now around 90 years of age: a wonderful turn-out, largely due to the persistence of Geof Haywood, tireless organiser, and Chairman, Patrick O'Connell. Arthur Delap, one of the famous nine, actually took part in the assault on the headland. He is the last survivor of the attack. We also had several new members present who had "found" the Association through hearing our Chairman, wearing his other hat as broadcaster Paddy O'Connell, on the BBC Radio 4 PM programme, talking about the progress of the painting with veteran Ken Parker and David Rowlands in his Bristol studio.

After an opportunity to mingle in the bar, the company progressed to the Gascoigne Room where Veterans' Chairman, Chuck Harris, welcomed everyone. Our guests were introduced by Geof Haywood and the veterans were pinpointed by Patrick

O'Connell. (An arm raised in salute meant another drink was required, he suggested.) Then Major General Chicken spoke, paying tribute to the actions of 47 RM Commando as well as relaying a message of greeting from serving Royal Marines. The Mayor of Port en Bessin unveiled the painting to much applause, also the cue for many photographs. His very gracious speech was translated for us by his wife. Veterans were each presented with a reproduction of the painting and copies are now generally available.

In the first instance, the original will hang at Dorset House, the HQ of Bristol RMR with an official "hanging" expected in May.

The painting was not the only cause for celebration. The Association has published a new edition of Professor John Forfar's history of 47 Commando, *From Omaha to the Scheldt* for which he has written extra material. The new cover uses a reproduction of the painting, giving it a very handsome appearance. This second edition has been edited by Essie Cousins, niece of Captain Cousins, who also works in book publishing. She oversaw everything involved in the completion of the project and managed to rush out advance copies for the night and, naturally, they sold very well. An ebook has now also been produced.

During dinner and throughout the evening, the Marionettes, a talented trio performed in the style of the Andrews Sisters and made everything go with a swing.

The dinner also marked the 70th anniversary of the formation of the Commando in Dorchester in 1943. Sixty to seventy people attended and the Association was able to celebrate three major events in great style.

It turned out to be a very grand reunion.

LB

MARCH 2013 REUNION Extras

Louis Myers, long-time member and also standard bearer to the Lord Mayor of Westminster, presented the Mayor of Port en Bessin with a City of Westminster plaque from the Lord Mayor to mark his London visit.

The Hanging of the oil painting did indeed take place at Dorset House and was unveiled in the Corporals' and Marines' Mess of the Bristol Royal Marine Reserve on 22nd May. Over 50 serving and reservist Royal Marines plus past RM Reservists and RMA members attended. The Association was represented by Patrick O'Connell, Geof and Jill Haywood, Ken Parker and Ken Porter. Not only was it a great evening but also a good number of books and prints of David Rowlands' painting were sold.



Ken Parker & David Rowlands, Dorset House

Mark Bentinck, RM Historian, made a presentation on 47 Cdo's exploits at the Union Jack Club on the evening before the reunion took place. Needless to say, it was excellent with plenty of maps, photos and anecdotes. Patrick O'Connell spoke afterwards about the Association and cajoled Ted Battley, the only veteran present, to relate the events of his wounding in Walcheren. Ted also signed many of the new books which were selling well and was also offered many a drink afterwards.

The presentation was one of a series being held at the Club on military matters. Many of those present, mainly ex-service personnel, thought it was the best one to date being both informative and entertaining.

IN MEMORIAM

We have learned of the death of the following veterans and offer sincere condolences to family and friends:

Frank Springett 5th February 2013 Purbrook, Hants aged 89. Frank served in Normandy with 47 Commando and also landed in Walcheren. The family know that he also served in Burma and the Far East and “on the Viper Raid”. This was probably Force Viper, a small RM unit formed to act covertly in Burma in 1942 therefore before he joined 47. While in the Far East he contracted dengue fever and was in hospital in India for a time.

After the war he worked as a carpenter helping with the rebuilding of the centre of Portsmouth following the heavy bombing. Later he worked at Hilsea Gasworks and then as a Production Supervisor with Pall Europe, both in the Portsmouth area. Frank and his wife travelled a good deal following his retirement and often stayed with his son, David, in Florida. He was an avid follower of anything related to the Royal Marines and was sure to point out the ROYAL part when talking about his experiences with his American friends.

Roland Frederick “Bob” Godfrey 21st February 2013 aged 91. A very well-known animator, creator of the children’s cartoon TV series ‘Roobarb’ and later the Bafta-winning ‘Henry’s Cat’, Bob received many lengthy obituaries in the national press. Though born in New South Wales, the family moved to the UK when he was quite young. He went to school in Ilford, Essex and attended art school in Leyton. The *Guardian* obituary states, “As a Royal Marine during the second world war, he took part in the D-Day landings.” Veteran Frank Wright remembers Bob well and is able to expand on that. He served in HQ Troop and remained on Hill 72 following the landing. When the Germans overran the position he told very amusingly of himself, the Adjutant, the Signals Officer and others beating a hasty and undignified retreat. He and his pal Ron Columb were full of banter and the life and soul of the Orderly Room. They both remained with 47 through Fécamp, Ostend, Middelburg, Bergen-op-Zoom and Aalten. From there they left to attend a course in the UK. A 47 wreath was sent for the funeral which his family appreciated.

Arthur Thompson 10th March 2013 Herne Bay, Kent aged 89. (PO/X110010) Arthur was a signaller serving in HQ Troop. On D-Day his landing craft was hit by a shell, killing many officers and men. Arthur survived in the water and was eventually picked up, with others, by an LC returning to the UK, unable to land again on the beach. He returned to Normandy next day, landing safely. He also served with 47 in Holland where he famously found a German camera in a captured bunker. This featured, with Arthur, in a recent article in the *Daily Mail* with a great deal about his and 47 RM Cdo’s achievements which he was always proud to relate. Arthur served right through until 47’s disbandment in 1946.

After the war he worked in the Kent coalmines. He and his wife travelled on many reunion trips. Later, as a widower, he became a constant, popular and always cheerful part of all the Association’s events. We miss him a lot.

Generous donations, via the funeral director, amounting to £375 were sent by the family to the RM Charity Trust Fund.

James S Kelly 11th April 2013 Chadwell St Mary, Essex aged 92. (CH/X104523) Jim joined up as a regular as a very young man and was then transferred to 47 Cdo, serving in B Troop. Before D-Day he did several missions to occupied Norway, dropping and picking up Norwegian commandos. After landing in Normandy his best pal Ron Tullett was killed in action, a loss which he always felt very deeply. Jim was also in the thick of it for about six weeks until he was wounded at Falaise, his parents believing him to be "missing believed killed" for three weeks. After recovering in the UK, he drove army lorries.

After the war he followed in his father's footsteps, becoming a master miller, retiring at 65. He leaves children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Donald McKelvie 26th May 2013. Corporal Donald McKelvie served in X Troop landing in Normandy and continuing to Sallenelles then Belgium and landing in Walcheren. After VE day when the unit were to guard trains in Germany, Donald volunteered for service in the Far East but only reached as far as Hong Kong before the Japanese surrendered.

A thoughtful man with a dry sense of humour, Donald's son very recently put him in touch with the Association via the website. Both Donald and Frank Wright who also served in X Troop looked forward to recalling old times but, sadly, that was not to be.

George Amos 16th June 2013 Bishops Stortford, Herts. Corporal George Amos served in A Troop. In Normandy, he was captured during the fierce battle for the Western headland. Inside the bunker, because he was covered in a comrade's blood, the Germans took him for a medical orderly, not a commando, therefore didn't shoot him according to the infamous Hitler directive. Next day, the defenders, presumably aware of the Commando's success elsewhere in the town, gave George a white flag and, to quote John Forfar he "...descended by the circuitous route indicated to him. He finally ran into a defensive outpost of the commando and handed over his [23] 'prisoners'." George served with 47 Cdo until it was disbanded.

He had not been able to join reunions in recent years through ill health but was able to come to the March 2013 reunion with his son. It was a pleasure to see him once more and he thoroughly enjoyed meeting old comrades again.

NORMANDY 2013

This report and photo is due to appear in the July/August issue of The Globe & Laurel.
47 RM Commando Association in Normandy, June 2013

A feature of this year's trip to Normandy was the interest of young people in the memories of our veterans and the events of 1944.

Taking up the kind invitation of M & Mme Le Tellier to Chateau du Bosq on 5th June, we discovered not only a wonderful buffet but also pupils from Warminster School. They had been studying the period and, plying the veterans with questions to complete their projects, were interested to learn that when the Commando stopped overnight at Mont Cavalier on 6th June before advancing on Port en Bessin on the 7th, they could see the occupying Germans moving about at the chateau.

Another school group, St George's, Ascot occupied another part of our hotel. They were keen to know more about the capture of the port so, in true bootneck fashion, an impromptu presentation was laid on. Marc de Bolster, webmaster and historian, provided examples of some genuine WW2 equipment and uniform and our Chairman, Patrick O'Connell, related the background to 47's D-Day landing. The girls asked many very pertinent questions which the veterans were happy to answer. The group wished to lay flowers at one of the monuments before leaving so a brief ceremony

took place early on 7th June.

A successful visit was also made to the local school where the pupils put their questions in English.



Veterans, the Mayors, Colonel Manger and local schoolchildren, Western headland

On 6th June, D-Day, our party split up. Chuck Harris, representing 47, attended the Service of Remembrance at Bayeux Cathedral with his family, where he spoke the Kohima Epitaph and Les Pike paraded our standard.

Others undertook the Commemorative Walk following the route which 47 Cdo took in 1944 to take Port en Bessin from the rear. For the organiser, member Ken Cowdery, it was the last 12 miles of a 200 km charity walk. Another member, Daniel Holbrough, the grandson of a 47 commando, carried a 40 kg pack. Phew. Both are contributing sponsor money to the RM Charitable Trust Fund on behalf of 47 Cdo.

The rest of us had been invited to Ouistreham to see the French Commando's passing out parade which took place on the windswept beach. Geof Haywood, Committee Member and ex RM Sgt Major, arranged this in liaison with Captain Nick Stanley RN, Deputy Defence Attaché at the British Embassy in Paris. In the course of a series of ceremonies, our veterans presented shoulder lanyards to those who had been promoted. The new commandos, bare-headed, arrived by landing craft before forming up to receive their green berets.

We continued to the Landing Craft Monument at Ouistreham Ferry Terminal where the CO of 1 Assault Group RM, Col G S C Manger and his RSM, WO1 J P Miles joined us for a brief ceremony.

They also came to the British Military Cemetery at Bayeux after lunch to remember the many fallen of 47 RM Cdo lying there.

Next morning, our Belgian and French jeep enthusiasts, several now members, transported people up the winding track to the monument on the top of the Eastern headland. The mayors of both Port en Bessin and Huppain were in attendance together with Col Manger, RSM Miles and Captain Stanley. Wreaths were laid and pupils from the local school added individual blooms to the base of the monument. Everyone transferred to the Western headland where a similar ceremony took place at the Garden of Remembrance.

The final ceremony of the day was held at the plaque beneath the Vaudan Tower before we moved on to a reception in the Salle des Fêtes. The Mayor of Port en

Bessin, Docteur Pierre-Albert Cavey welcomed everyone and spoke of the strong and continuing links with 47 RM Commando. Nick Stanley, on our behalf, thanked the Mayor and people of the town for their never-failing support, friendship and hospitality. The Association presented a framed reproduction of the painting of the assault in 1944 on the Eastern headland. The original oil by David Rowlands had actually been unveiled by the mayor at our March reunion in London.

Later, we visited Chateau de Tracy where it is always a great privilege to be welcomed by Francois de Bourgoing and his family. As in the past, there were copious snacks and beverages to enjoy as well as the surroundings of the lovely old building within its grounds.

In the evening, Tina Jonkers, one of our Belgian members, entertained us at the Bar de la Marée (aka as the Commando Bar) with popular WW2 songs and the usual lively and enjoyable evening ensued.

Next day we visited the graves of several 47 commandos who are separated from the bulk of their comrades at Bayeux, being at the British Military Cemeteries at Ryes and Douvres.

On our last evening at La Marée our friends, the proprietors, Natalie and Stephane Pitel laid on a wonderful meal before farewell presents were exchanged and a few bevies partaken.

Next morning the Mayor and his wife and all the staff of the Bar came to our coach when we were about to leave, a very heart-warming send-off.

Veterans who can travel are now few in number but those that came withstood and enjoyed the packed itinerary with their usual humour.

Thanks go to the usual suspects, Patrick O'Connell, Geof Haywood, Marc de Bolster and our indefatigable Secretary, Ingrid Fearne.

We all hope to return next year for the 70th anniversary.

LB

NORMANDY Extras

Ken Parker Ken was taken ill while we were away and was tended by paramedic, Alan Holbrough, son-in-law of a veteran, who had, fortunately, brought his kit with him. Ken was taken to Bayeux Hospital in the first instance then transferred to Caen. He made a good recovery and travelled back to the UK on the ferry with us in the company of his son. The latest news is that he is back to normal, i.e. fit as a flea.

Asnelles As the time of the French Commando ceremonies was put forward, a wreath was laid on 5th June instead of early on 6th June before the start of the Commemorative Walk as originally planned.

HMS Blyth stood offshore at Port en Bessin on the 7th June and it was a pleasure to have representatives of the ship's company joining us on dry land.

Presentations of framed prints were made to the jeep drivers at the Salle des Fêtes reception and also to Capt Nick Stanley whose last year it is at the Paris Embassy. Geof Haywood had several prints framed as gifts but most were expertly mounted and framed by member Fred Fearne at his own expense.

AGM The Annual General Meeting was held at the King Hotel on 5th June. If you would like to have a copy of the Minutes please get in touch with Ingrid: ingrid.fearne@blueyonder.co.uk or phone 0208 2390145.

Renaissance Michel Laulier very kindly sent me cuttings from the local Bessin newspaper. One article featured a photo with veterans and schoolchildren which I thought very suitable for the Normandy article. I asked both Michel and Alex Wilson for help in getting the original image and permission to use it. This they did with help from Michel Désérable. It arrived just in time for my deadline but so did a similar photo from Marc de Bolster which showed all of the children. This I decided to use. I'm very grateful to Renaissance for their cooperation. I sent apologies to Alex and the Michels

saying that they could slap my wrist next June. – The responses were both interesting and amusing!

St Georges School website has a report of the trip made by their Third Year Girls' to Normandy. Veterans Pat Hagan and Norman Rose appear in a couple of the photos.

BOOKS & PRINTS

From Omaha to the Scheldt, 2nd edition This has been generally available for some time in bookshops and online and available via the Association for £20 plus £3 p&p from: Ken Parker, 45 Hawthorn Close, Pucklechurch, Bristol BS16 9SZ.

Make cheques payable to "47 RM Cdo Media".

As an ebook, the kindle edition on Amazon is currently available at £8.03. – Bargain!

The Capture of Port-en-Bessin, 7th June 1944 Prints of David Rowlands' oil painting are available unsigned at £25, signed by David at £40. Large postcards are £5, small £1, all available from Geof Haywood. Cheques payable to "47 RM Cdo Media". Postage for the larger items by recorded delivery is very expensive. Geof's looking at other options so please contact him regarding this in the first place: geofandgillh@btinternet.com or 01202 888194.

2014

The 70th anniversary of D-Day (in case you'd forgotten)

Information Board On 7th June 2014 it is planned to unveil an Information Board in Port en Bessin on the small platform overlooking the car park below the Vauban Tower. The Mayor, M Cavey, also has a new information board about the Tower being produced and the "Oil Port" Memorial Stone, now on the edge of the quay, will be moved there as well. Our Information Board will ensure all future visitors and generations who visit Port en Bessin can read about the courageous fight by 47 RM Cdo to liberate the town. It will cost about £600 and if anybody would like to sponsor this project to ensure the history of 47 RM Cdo lives on please contact Geof Haywood.

Cultural Centre The Cultural Centre in Port en Bessin is organising a display relevant to the 70th anniversary to run from May to the end of June 2014 and is asking for any kit, documents, letters or trophies that could be loaned for the show.

Everything will be in glass cases with personnel on duty and items will be locked away at the end of the day. Patrick is going to loan some items belonging to his father, Capt Guy O'Connell. Unfortunately, they have no photos, unlike some other locations but, of course, the Commando was not in a position to stop and take pics at the time.

Accommodation is already in short supply for the period around D-Day in the Normandy area. The Association has extra rooms booked at the King Hotel with veterans and their families getting priority. After that it is a case of first come, first served so if you already know that you will be travelling with us next June please let Ingrid know. Once the rooms are allocated, she will do her best to find alternative accommodation in the area, if needed.

HEROES RETURN 2 FUND This is not exclusively for 2014. The Big Lottery Fund is making grants to veterans, veterans' widows and their carers, where applicable, for trips between 1st January 2013 and 31st December 2015 to cover accommodation and travel for commemorative visits to "areas where British Armed Forces saw active service during the Second World War." The money offered for Europe is £550 for one individual, £965 for a veteran or widow plus a spouse or carer. The applications would go via the organiser of the trip (ie our Secretary). Let Ingrid know if you want to apply for Normandy 2014 and she will be in touch for your individual details. These are straightforward: full name, date of birth, rank, service number, unit etc. The money is

paid into the organiser's account for redistribution.

It appears that individuals may apply. The forms I've seen don't actually lend themselves to this(!) but there is a helpline 0845 00 00 121.

LB

NEWS

Where Do You Read Yours? *The Globe & Laurel* published the photo of Bugler Ross "Tommo" Tomkins reading the magazine with Col Rademaker and veterans at Roosendaal Barracks during our Walcheren trip. It appeared in the January/February 2013 issue and has Daniel Craig ("007") and the BBC's George Alagiah, amongst others, for company. It's reproduced (with permission) at the back of this newsletter.

Coincidence Nicola Lloyd, daughter of the late Lt Lloyd (later Capt) of B Troop, having moved recently from South Africa to the UK, stayed with friends in Worcester. After making a presentation at primary school, her god-daughter, Olivia, returned home to say that her class-mate Daniel Kelly's subject was his great grandfather who landed on D-Day with 47 RM Cdo in B Troop. The families have been in touch. Sadly James (Jim) Kelly has since died but he remembered Lt Lloyd well and that he had been promoted in the field.

Nicola is forming a company in the UK with friends from South Africa importing natural cosmetics. Their first range will be called Simply Bee (using beeswax, honey etc) which will be launched in October.

Committee Meeting The Committee had a successful meeting via telephone conferencing on Sunday, 30th June to clear up a couple of items which arose at the AGM in Normandy.

Major Bob Perry RM Bob's articles on life in the British Indian Ocean Territory continue to appear in *The Globe & Laurel* and he has also sent an update for us: "The 'winter' season is now upon us with temperatures down to an average of 28°C! Probably as a direct result the RM Detachment has recently come to the rescue of two yachts that suffered serious mishap, launching 'Thunderbirds 1 and 2' (aka RM Assault Craft 1 and 2) from 'Tracy Island' to render the appropriate assistance, to the heartfelt appreciation of those in difficulty.



Wedding in Diego Garcia

In the last few months the Court has been in regular session trying Sri Lankan fishing crews caught fishing without a licence in BIOT waters. These formal judicial procedures take up a considerable amount of time and, as the Public Prosecutor in the Territories' Court I bring the cases to a satisfactory conclusion, either through a heavy fine or a prison sentence. Recently, in my additional guise as BIOT Marriage Officer, I had the pleasure of conducting a civil marriage on Diego Garcia, the first ceremony of this kind for over two years.

I am due to leave this appointment in early October after serving nearly 16 months on the paradise island of Diego Garcia. My next job is as the Operations Officer for the United Nations Mission in South Sudan, the world's newest country. However, I hope

that I will be able to join Association members at the Walcheren commemorations before I leave."

Living History Event Marc de Bolster took part in a weekend event organised by our Belgian friends, Tina Jonkers and Roger Vermeylen, in Mechelen, Belgium. He set up a mini-Commando Training Centre which was popular with the local schoolchildren and, of course, he told the story of 47 RM Cdo. Most of the campsite involved re-enactors dressed as US Airborne but his much smaller RM display proved to be of greater interest.

Marc also set up a Poppy Appeal display and the weekend ended with the inauguration of a memorial dedicated to the crew of an RAF bomber which crashed nearby in 1943. This was also initiated by Tina and Roger. Despite heavy rain, this was successful and was attended by the Mayor of Mechelen and a representative of the Belgian Airforce. Marc laid a wreath on behalf of the RBL Holland branch.

THE LIZÉ DIARY

Next time: A commentary on the diary of Henri Lizé, resident and former Mayor of Port en Bessin, which space doesn't allow in this issue. Veterans and many others have probably seen this. It has been translated from the French by Betty Quinney (widow of Bert Quinney who served in Y Troop), her daughter and Sheila Sutton, a fluent French speaker, now in her 90s, who served with the SOE in that area at that time. The diary entries begin on the night of 5th/6th June 1944 in dramatic fashion:

"2am First air bombing. 4am Second bombardment. 4.30am We came downstairs to seek shelter under the stone stairs. We prayed continually. We were in definite danger...". It ends on 14th July 1944 with colourful ceremony but also great poignancy at the interment in the meadow beside the church of the 17 officers and men of 47 RM Commando killed during the liberation of the port.

MONEY MATTERS

The annual subscription, running from January to December, remains at £10 per annum. Veterans now have free membership. If you haven't got round to paying this year's subs, our Treasurer, Gemma Davison, will be very pleased to receive your contribution. Cheques should be made payable to '47 RM Commando Association' and sent to: Mrs G Davison, 91 Catherine Street, Rochester, Kent ME1 2HL

WALCHEREN 2013

The trip to Walcheren will run from 31st October to 4th November 2013. We shall again have Dinner B & B at the Arneville Hotel in Middelburg. That and the cost of the ferry and coach travel will be included in the price, as yet unknown. The more people travelling the better the value. If you plan to come please let Secretary, Ingrid Fearne know **as soon as possible**, sending a £25 per head deposit to:

Mrs I Fearne, 138 Beauchamp Road, Upper Norwood, London SE19 3DB

Cheques should be made payable to '47 RM Commando Association'.

The coach will pick up (very early) at the Royal Maritime Club, Portsmouth, and at the ferry terminal at Dover. If you wish to stay at the **Royal Maritime Club** please book as soon as possible, saying that you are with 47 Cdo, Membership no 4600, and require a packed lunch in lieu of breakfast. (Advance Bookings: 0239 2837681). Ingrid can also be reached on 0208 2390145 or email: ingrid.fearne@blueyonder.co.uk

Email If you have email and don't already get *Despatch* that way, please consider opting to receive your copy by this means. It saves a great deal in both postage and "production". Thanks.



Below:

(top) Captain Stanley RN & Colonel Manger at the Cousins Memorial

*(bottom)
At Chateau de Tracy*



Above:

*(top)
At Asnelles*

*(bottom)
Walkers
'en route'*



47 RM COMMANDO WEBSITE

Our thanks to Marc de Bolster for his time and skills in administering and maintaining the website. It has become a very important part of the Association, the first port of call for hosts of queries and contacts from long-lost veterans, their families and many others. It also provides plenty of photos of Association events, 47 Commando's history, information on its personnel and much more besides.

www.47Commando.org.uk

WHERE DO YOU READ YOURS?

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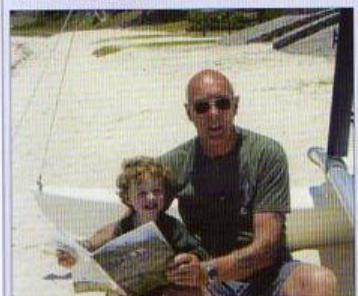
Daniel Craig catches up on the Corps news whilst en route to Afghanistan with Major Yorkie Maynard RM in the Chief of Joint Operations' jet!



where he works in the security industry. As a former PW he fits the bill of 'OTHER LIARS'!



ML and SB continuation training - Messers Bob Hudson, John Barry and Pat Parsons snatch a quick glimpse of their G&Ls on a recent ascent of Mt Blanc. The last time Bob climbed Mt Blanc was 40 years previously (to the day) with John on an early Exercise Ice Flip.



LCpl Jim Elmes RM 204359, former RMR City of London, took his G&L on holiday to Mauritius to read with his grandson, Harry. Jim is a former Suez veteran who served in 'C' class destroyers.

George Alagiah shares a copy of the G&L with Major Simon Orr and members of the Royal Navy PR team at the BBC News Studios during their visit to the BBC Television Centre in Shepherd's Bush.



Former Capt RM Toby Selman, reading the G&L at the South Pole following a ski expedition in Antarctica. His last visit to Antarctica was as OC RM on HMS Endurance in 2000-2001.



Retired officers Steve Wotherspoon and Mark Richards, both Regional SaBRE (Supporting Britain's Reservists and Employers) Campaign Directors, with the G&L outside the HAC's Armoury House.



Sgt Paul Lawton ('Living the Dream - one mistake at a time') and Cpl Fish Fisher taking some time out from 847 NAS pre-deployment training in California to see former WWF Wrestler Chris Masters in action. LCpl Howling demonstrates one of the uses of a steel chair!

Bugler Ross Tomkins shares his copy of the G&L with the Dutch Commandant and veterans of 47 RM Commando at the Dutch Commando Barracks at Roosendaal during the Walcheren commemorations.



[Courtesy of *The Globe & Laurel*]

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