

## 47 ROYAL MARINE COMMANDO ASSOCIATION

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## DESPATCH 33

*January 2016*

### FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Veterans, Families and Friends,

Happy New Year. After a year of shocking terrorism and attacks on our freedom in Europe, it's great to know that our Veterans and their standard have been back in the countries 47 helped liberate. If you are a 47 veteran who's been unable to travel, you can be proud to know that your comrades have represented you in great style in all the important locations abroad and others at home. Busloads of us have visited the graves of those who died and the French have started awarding the first of their Légion d'Honneur medals. (If you landed on D-Day you are eligible for this award and please contact Ken Parker for more info if you have any questions.) Elsewhere in this *Despatch* you can find details of our visit to Fécamp in September as well as to Walcheren in November. We are now trying to find the family of Major Walton who died when his vehicle struck a mine in Fécamp. He is perhaps the only 47 officer, NCO or Marine to have been honoured with his own Union Flag and marble inscription from the French Resistance. Do let me know if you'd like to help.

The Dutch have now opened a small road named after John Forfar and it was a pleasure to welcome John's son David for the festivities. He gave the Mayor of Dishoek a bottle of Single Malt whilst the pipes played Auld Lang Syne. The Roll of Honour there has been restored. I'd like to thank the fabulous Committee who work so hard, Ingrid, Gemma, Geof, Mark, Ken P, Ken C, Lannah and, of course, our President Chuck Harris who represents all our veterans with such style. I tip my cap to Ted Hartwell, Sandra Tebbutt and Peter Spear who have now become our first Honorary Vice Presidents. Thanks also go to Lou the Standard Bearer and John the Padre who also attend funerals on our behalf.

We all hope that as many of you as possible will join us in April for the Mountbatten Festival of Music at the Royal Albert Hall. Please contact Geof Haywood for details. Veterans' travel, tickets and overnight costs will be covered.

Best wishes to you for a healthy and happy 2016. See you soon

Patrick O'Connell  
Chairman.

Son of Captain Guy O'Connell HW Troop

## FÉCAMP 2015

The 3rd September 2015 marked the 71st anniversary of the liberation of the French port of Fécamp by 47 RM Cdo. On the invitation of the Mayor, 47 veterans Ken Parker and Harry Prescott travelled to Normandy to join the town's commemorative services, accompanied by Association members Patrick O'Connell and Ken Cowdery.

In its 'Great Chase' from Dives to Dunkirk in 1944, 47 Cdo crossed the Seine at Duclair, north west of Rouen, on 31st August. It then moved 10 miles northeast to Barentin, where it witnessed local women having their heads shaved in public – retribution for alleged female collaborators.

The Commando was then ordered to cut off a German escape route to the east of Le Havre. It moved 25 miles northwest to Cany-Barville. From there, X-Troop was sent to reconnoitre the road leading to the occupied port town of Fécamp, 20 miles to the west and about 25 miles north east of Le Havre.

Next day, 47 advanced into Fécamp. As they were arriving, the Germans were fleeing from the other end of the town. The local community came out in droves to welcome the Commando,



Harry & Ken with the Mayor

making it impossible for them to pursue the departing enemy troops. 'The enthusiasm of the crowd knew no bounds', wrote John Forfar, the unit's Medical Officer and historian.

On Sunday 3rd September 1944 a ceremonial parade and church service were held at which Colonel Phillips laid a wreath at the French War memorial. Tragically, the next day, X-Troop commander Major Dennis Harding W Walton, described by

John Forfar as 'one of 47 Commando's most distinguished officers' was killed when his jeep ran over a mine. Major Walton had been awarded the Military Cross for his leadership in the assault on La Rosiere on D-Day. Colonel Phillips' recommendation records:

*"On [6<sup>th</sup>] June, during the approach to Port-en-Bessin, X Troop, acting as advance guard, came under accurate machine gun fire from the outskirts of La Rosiere. Quickly sizing up the situation Captain Walton led his men straight into the assault and by his personal leadership and example so inspired his men that a very difficult problem was quickly solved. In the circumstances, it was vital that the Commando should make top speed in its advance to the port and any delay would have seriously prejudiced the chances of surprise and speedy success. This was only one example of his thrustfulness and determination to get on."*

Under Captain Walton's leadership X-Troop had also been responsible for the capture of the weapons pits and had been in the thick of fighting at Port En Bessin on 7th and 8th June 1944. He was later promoted to Major. The Military Cross award was officially announced in the London Gazette on 12th September 1944, eight days after his death.

The liberation celebrations now form an important part of the Fécamp community's annual commemorations. On 3rd September 2015, a large crowd, including the 47 Cdo veterans and a local French Resistance veteran, participated in a series of commemorative ceremonies '*pour les morts*' at the town cemetery. This included the laying of wreaths at a memorial to Major Walton, next to his grave. This was followed by a parade into town to lay wreaths at the French War memorial and a Vin d'Honneur hosted by the Mayor. The evening finished with an informal dinner hosted by local community representatives.

The following day veterans were given a guided tour of former Atlantic Wall coastal defences as well as the Benedictine Palace, a former monastery and now the century old distillery for the famous Benedictine liqueur. In his book, John Forfar recalled that 'Somehow one of the medical boxes seemed to have been designed for the shape of Benedictine bottles!' By coincidence, on this trip, the veterans found their baggage equally suitable, so the opportunity to liberate some of the bottles was not missed.

As ever, the local French community greeted the 47 Cdo veterans and Association members with great warmth and generosity. It was a short but memorable trip but also provided a good opportunity to learn more about Major Walton MC's distinguished service.

Ken Cowderly

## WALCHEREN 2015

*It's hoped that the following report will appear in the January/February issue of The Globe & Laurel together with the photo.*

### **47 RM Cdo Association in Walcheren 2015**

After an early start from Portsmouth, and picking up people along the way, we arrived in Middelburg in time to unpack and have a drink and dinner. Our party of around thirty included five 47 veterans, President Chuck Harris, John Archbold, Ken Parker, Harry Prescott and Norman Rose together with Landing Craft veterans Ken Porter, Richard Blythe and Roy Maxwell. We were also joined by supporters and members from France, Belgium and, of course, Holland.

On the 1st November, the anniversary of the start of the liberation, we were blessed with lots of sunshine and a temperature of 17 degrees. We went, as usual, to the ceremony at the Polderhuis Museum in Westkapelle which is right on the beach where 47 Cdo landed.

The event was well-attended. Lt Col Jerry Slack RM, the Exchange Officer with the Royal Netherlands Marines was present with representatives from the British, French, Belgian, Norwegian and South African Embassies and our Standard Bearer, Lou Sartorel, undertook his duties with the usual aplomb. A contingent of Belgian commando and para veterans also attended as well as many local people including a couple in traditional Dutch national dress. Master of Ceremonies, Leon de Witte, introduced the Mayor of Veere who gave a speech. Our padre, Rev John Wasley led the prayers, Chuck Harris said the exhortation and our excellent bugler, Dave Navette RM, played the Last Post. Following the laying of wreaths, the national anthems of all the participating countries were played by the OKK Band.

Afterwards, we left for a ceremony at the Lighthouse Cemetery where we remembered the civilian losses from the bombing of the dikes which preceded the landings.

We then continued to Erica Beach for another brief wreath-laying.

After lunch in the Batavia Restaurant we headed back to the hotel. Shortly after, a group of us, including Harry Prescott and Standard Bearer, Lou Sartorel, left for Ypres in Belgium to attend the daily remembrance at the Menin Gate. Our bugler, Dave, played the Reveille following the Last Post and John Wasley gave the exhortation.

The next day our welcome at the Dishoek church was again wonderful. A big thank you to Wilma Waters and her colleagues for arranging this. Coffee and *bolussen* (a speciality sponsored by the local baker) were served and a short welcoming speech was given. After coffee we held a ceremony at the plaque to the fallen of 47 Commando outside the church and then walked or were driven to the street being named in honour of the Commando's late Medical Officer, Professor John "Doc" Forfar MC. John's son David had travelled over from Scotland and he and the Mayor, Mr Van der Zwaag, unveiled the street sign and Kelly Maljaars played the bagpipes. The mayor was thanked by our Chairman, Patrick O'Connell, with a bottle of whisky brought over by David Forfar from Scotland. The Mayor immediately said that the bottle would be opened at the church and the veterans were invited to a glass. The rest of the group was treated to Dutch *jenever*. After chatting and thank you speeches some



At the Civil Cemetery

went to the huge defensive bunker W11 which had held up 47 Commando's progress after landing. Others who had been there before were happy to just sit enjoying the sunshine. In the afternoon we drove to Vlissingen (Flushing) and held a ceremony and wreath-laying at the Commando memorial and the 52nd Lowland Division memorial on *Commandoweg*. Unfortunately, the landing craft memorial had not been put back in place but we know that this will be done soon.

On our last full day, we went to Bergen op Zoom Cemetery and again the sun was shining. The official ceremony was held about a week before and there were already lots of wreaths and flowers. We added our wreath during our own ceremony, recalling the losses of 47 and the other units who suffered during that hard-won liberation. It was suggested that it might be a good idea to visit the Canadian cemetery close by so we continued there and held another brief ceremony.

After lunch we travelled back to the hotel where the Annual General Meeting was held. In the evening we had a farewell dinner. Our Bugler Dave marched into the bar wearing full ceremonials and did a "Mess Beating" which certainly surprised us, the other hotel guests and Staff. Lou Sartorel arranged a separate table for our absent friends. After dinner, to our surprise, the hotel staff presented each of us with a small souvenir. Our Chairman was next, with thank you speeches for the hotel staff and all of the Association members who had been

helpful in many different ways. Patrick had recently been to the Churchill War Rooms and items from the souvenir shop made lovely thank you gifts.

Next morning the journey back home started at about ten o'clock. Our thanks to our Secretary, Ingrid Fearn, for another memorable trip which we can all look back on with pleasure.

Mariel Van Mierlo

**Correction** to the last issue:

Michel Laulier tells me that the Langlois family, visited by veteran Mark Packer in June, wasn't related to his wife but to his brother's wife. However, through her, Michel did know of the help they gave Mark, tending his wounds and helping him evade the Germans.

### IN MEMORIAM

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

**Robert E Pullin** 31st July 2015, Newbury, Berkshire, aged 92.

Bob (nicknamed Podge by some of his shipmates) joined the Royal Navy in 1942 at the age of 18. After training, he served on convoys during the Battle of the Atlantic. Later he volunteered for Combined Operations and transferred to No 4 Commando. Training for D-Day ensued and Bob became a Leading Seaman and Coxswain of an assault landing craft. On the 6th June, together with other craft, Bob landed French Canadian troops onto Juno Beach. One of his engines broke down on the way in and they hit a sandbar. All the same they successfully landed the platoon and managed to get back to SS *Laird's Isle* but during the operation one seaman was killed and three others were wounded. They continued to ferry troops mainly to Arromanches over the next two weeks.

On 1st November 1944 Bob took part in the landing of Commandos on Walcheren, successfully landing troops at Flushing (Vlissingen) and returned in one piece. They then continued to go back and forth with petrol, food, ammunition and on their return to Breskens often carried captured Germans. Later he returned to his flotilla based at Goes where he made friends with local people and he kept in touch with them after the war.

Bob has travelled with 47 Cdo for many years and made many friends in the Association and the courage of landing craft personnel has always been appreciated by our members. Many members were able to attend his funeral in his home town, Hungerford. Another veteran who will be very much missed.

**Margaret Burkinshaw** We were sorry to learn that Margaret, the wife of the late Y Troop veteran, Mint Burkinshaw, died on 20th December. She travelled to reunions with Mint and often with her daughters, too, and had a great sense of humour. Those who remember her will be saddened to hear the news.

### NEWS

**Sandy Stewart**, following receipt of the previous *Despatch*, emailed saying:

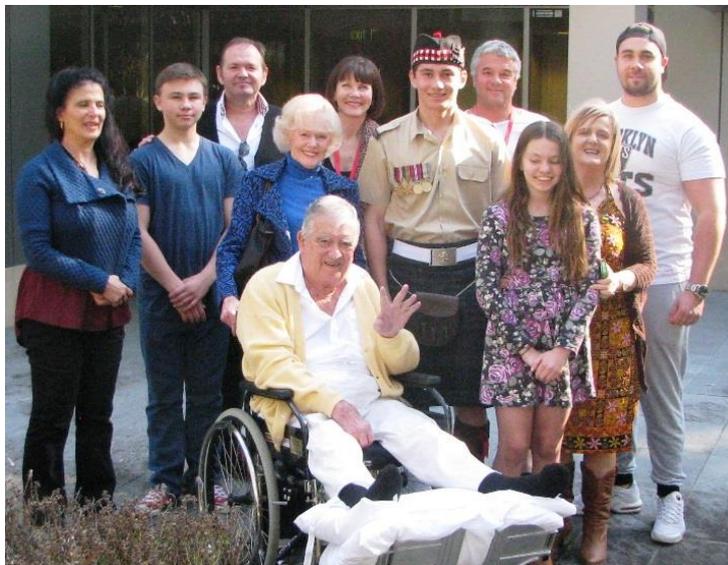
"On 13th June, I visited Captain Stickings grave in Bergen op Zoom and also the battle site at Kapelsche Veer. This was on the margin of a trip to Paris and a WW1 related event at Vimy. I didn't realise... that the march from Arromanches was taking place or I might have been able to work this in also. I'll have to improve my planning next time!"

Sandy lives on Prince Edward Island, Canada and became a member when researching family history, looking for information on Captain Stickings.

Details of the Normandy trip and the march (or, if you prefer, yomp) appear later in this issue.

**Anne-Marie** Chappell, granddaughter of the late Norman (Nobby) Nicholls, with her husband Phil, managed to visit Harry Prescott in June and also Bob Pullin in hospital. They live in Lancashire so had quite a tour. It's great that members keep in touch and are so supportive.

**Gerry Brent**, our Australian branch, celebrated his 95th birthday on 17th August. His son-in-law, William (Bill) O'Toole made contact asking if I'd record a birthday greeting over phone which I was happy to do I also suggested that we ask Patrick to record one as well (that professional touch, don't you know) which he did. Bill reported back that the party went very well and Gerry was thrilled with the recordings. He also said, "I asked what he wanted for his birthday and he replied 'a bugler' so I got him one from private high school here. Gerry was so surprised!"



Gerry with family and bugler

**Frank Eglington** emailed Marc de Bolster in September to say that he visited his sister in France and that they went to the cemetery at Bayeux to find the grave of Major Feacey to pay their respects, "a man who was very fair to my father during training" he says and adds, "I could not have done this 10 years ago and my correspondence with you has enabled me to do this, so thank you. It made me feel very proud to think of what these men did for us!"

**Kapelsche Veer** Marc de Bolster reported that there will not be an unveiling of a new memorial at Kapelsche Veer this year but a much smaller ceremony on 30th January. The Foundation is still hoping to find an image of the wartime RM crest i.e. topped by the King's crown. Geof Haywood has been in touch with the Royal Marines and Mark Bentinck but it's clear that the Corps uses the current Queen's crown crest even on new monuments commemorating WW2 and earlier events. The Foundation may choose to have the earlier crest made specially.

**Louis Myers**, during his year as President of the National Artillery Masonic Lodge in London, arranged for a donation of £1,500 to the Association. We are, of course, very grateful for this extremely generous gift. The money will be spent entirely on the veterans for travel, accommodation and other items of this nature.

Louis has been a member of the Association for a very long time. For many years the Standard Bearer of the Lord Mayor of London, he is a friend of our President Chuck Harris and he also served during World War Two.

He has been invited to join us as a guest at the Royal Albert Hall in April for the Mountbatten Festival of Music.

### THE NAKED TRUTH?

Mark Bentinck, some time ago wrote:

"I was boning up on early Commando history and found this passage in the generally reliable 1949 book *The Story of the Commandos* (p 29) by Hilary St George Saunders:

‘Once appointed, the Commando leader would return to his own headquarters, pick ten troop leaders from officer volunteers and these in turn would choose two junior officers. The officers of each troop would then select a total of fifty non-commissioned officers and men to comprise their troop. In making their choice the officers were to interview prospective candidates naked and satisfy themselves not only that they had the necessary physical stamina but also “the necessary moral and mental attributes” to turn into good Commando men.’

Does this mean that the interviewer – or the interviewee – was naked? Can any veteran tell us?”

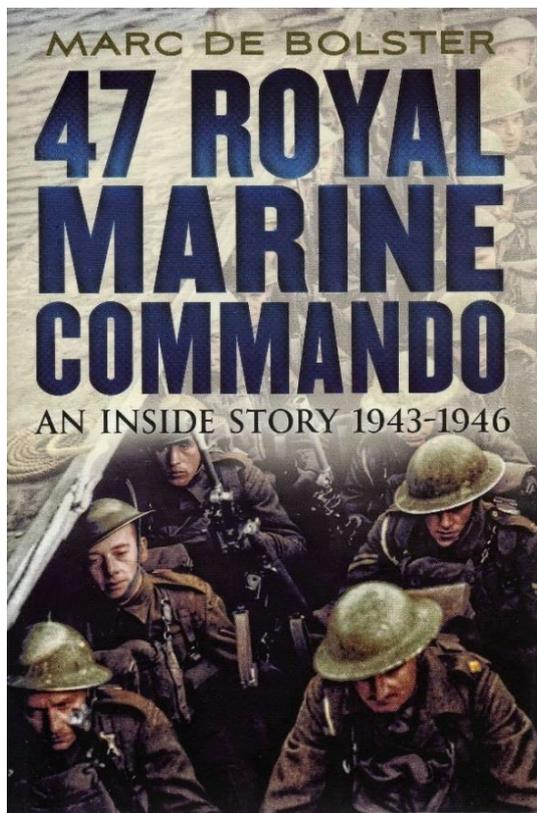
It all sounds very cheeky.

## BOOKS

**The following review of Marc’s book** appeared in the September/October 2015 issue of the *Globe & Laurel*. This is similar to feedback online at Amazon.

Marc de Bolster, *47 Royal Marine Commando: an inside story 1943-1946*, Fonthill Media, December 2014. Currently Hardback £16.59, ebook £7.69 on Amazon.

This is a great addition to the 47 RM Commando story. The narrative unfolds through the



words of both the men and officers of the commando, including the CO, Col Phillips. There’s a wonderful array of photographs, including many contributed by veterans, and reproductions of maps used during the landings plus many useful listings.

The main text is the unrolling of events as they happened from the Commando’s inception and training to its disbandment and all from the viewpoint of those who took part – a unique insight. If you want to know what it felt like to land on D-Day in Normandy followed by the even more difficult landing on Walcheren and the slog through war-torn Europe this will help. You could be there. This doesn’t supersede John Forfar’s *From Omaha to the Scheldt* which covers in greater detail the history of 47 Commando but it does give another perspective which could also be of interest to historians and those with a general interest in D-Day and the advance into Europe.

The book includes a good contents page and the personal accounts run in chronological order.

There’s also a list of abbreviations, invaluable if,

like me, you need help sorting out your FOOs from your FOPs.

Overall, the book is a huge achievement, very impressive and highly recommended. LB

There was also an excellent and longer review on the website [www.airsoft-action.co.uk](http://www.airsoft-action.co.uk) under their book section. Checking it out, I found there was a competition for a modern rifle with something of the appearance of a tommy-gun. Irresistible! Haven’t heard if I’ve won it yet. L

*The D-Day Landing on Gold Beach* by Dr Andy Holborn is now out from Bloomsbury at a whopping £65, he says that’s maybe because it’s an ‘Academic’ book. Andy interviewed

several 47 veterans while researching and hopes that it will appear in paperback next year at around £20.

***From Omaha to the Scheldt*** The new edition, thanks to editor Essie Cousins, is now available in the Royal Marines Shop and also looks very good on the website with a compelling description. You can go to it direct on the hyperlink <http://ow.ly/WES06>

***The Liar's Tale and Other Fibs***, a short story collection by the editor, is due in March. It contains nothing about 47, I'm afraid, but is, of course, by somebody with strong links to the Commando.

### LÉGION D'HONNEUR

***On the 70th anniversary of D-Day, the French Government decided to award the highly prestigious Légion d'Honneur to all those who took part in the liberation.***

**Ken Parker** received his award at the Bristol RMR ceremony on Remembrance Sunday. He writes:

“The award ceremony was perfect. I had to fall in with the returning RMR contingent and after all the normal presentations of Green Berets and promotions, the CO read out why I was receiving this award of France's highest medal. He marched in front of me, saluted and congratulated me, presenting it to me then all present had a tot of rum. I was gobsmacked! I then went up to the Officers' Mess for a drink before continuing to the Sergeants' Mess for more congratulatory drinks and a good curry.”

Ken's son and granddaughter were able to attend as well as David Rowlands who took some photographs which are rather artistic, naturally.

**Frank Wright** also received his medal and in December wrote to Ingrid:

“I'm very pleased to tell you that I have received, by post, from the French Ambassador in Knightsbridge a very charming letter which tells me that I am given the rank of Chevalier du Légion d'Honneur. (My mother would have been so pleased. She often said I was neither use nor ornament.) There was also with the letter, a beautiful medal. The letter suggested that the Embassy hoped to despatch all the medals before the end of the year. I would like to thank the Association for helping to bring this about. Had I not been a member I wouldn't have known anything about it!”

**Congratulations to both veterans! Perhaps we should call them Sir Ken and Sir Frank now.**

**Sadly, some veterans passed on before their awards could be made.**



### THE ANNUAL YOMP

All are invited again to the annual 'yomp' (NB a 'slow motion' version) on 6th June. We will be walking the 12 miles from Asnelles to Port En Bessin - following the footsteps of 47 on D-Day. It's a great way to learn more about their story but also to enjoy the beautiful Normandy countryside.

**Because the main commemorations of D-Day this year are at Gold Beach and in Port en**

**Bessin** (see below) we hope to reach the Port at around 3 to 3.30 pm in time for the 4 pm ceremony. There will be an opportunity for some walkers to leave the route earlier, if they wish, to attend the ceremony. If anyone wants to find out more please contact Ken Cowdery ([ken.cowdery@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:ken.cowdery@tiscali.co.uk)) and details of the itinerary will be sent to you by email and also uploaded onto the website nearer the time.

## **STOP PRESS!!**

We have just learned that the main D-Day Commemorations will take place at Gold Beach and in Port en Bessin this year. So far, it seems, there will be a ceremony with children in the Port in the morning, an early afternoon ceremony at Bayeux Cemetery (which may not involve us) and the international ceremony at about four o'clock in Port en Bessin. The information so far seen, says that the programme details may be changed but Port en Bessin will remain at its centre. At the moment, it is unknown which government representatives will attend but the Mairie believes as many as nine Ambassadors could be there.

As the 72nd anniversary is going to be such a special year, we suggest you book your place on the coach as soon as possible if you are intending to travel. All the details follow:-

### **NORMANDY 2016 BOOKING**

This year's trip to Port en Bessin will be from 5th to 9th June. If you intend to travel please let the 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

Please make cheques payable to '47 RM Commando Association'.

The coach will pick up (very early) at the Royal Maritime Club, Portsmouth, on the 5th. If you stay there you need, of course, to book overnight on the 4th. It will also pick up at the ferry terminal. If you plan to stay at the **Royal Maritime Club** it is worth booking as soon as possible particularly as 4th June is a Saturday and the Club may be busy. (Advance Bookings: 0239 2837681). Say that you are with 47 Cdo (Association Membership No 4600) to obtain a slightly better tariff and order a packed lunch at the time of booking as we leave long before breakfast is served!

Due to the increasingly high cost of coach travel, people travelling out separately from the coach will need to make some contribution if they use it while in France.

If you have any queries, please ring Ingrid on:

0208 2390145 or email: [ingrid.fearne@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:ingrid.fearne@blueyonder.co.uk)

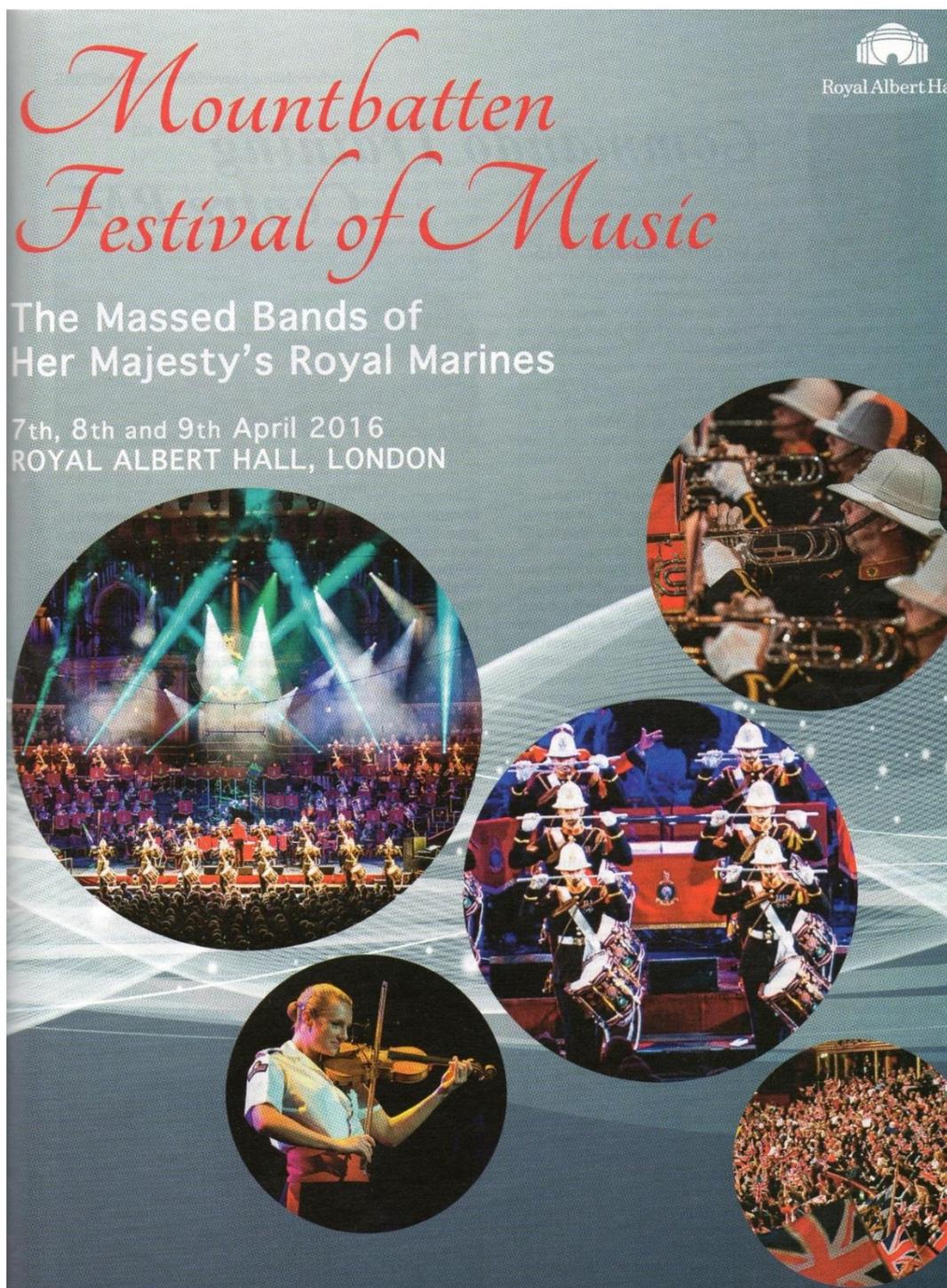
### **More late news!!**

We've learned of an organisation called "D-Day Revisited" with money available for veterans and carers. It amounts to £750 for a vet and £725 for a wife, carer or family member. They only ask to receive a service history and see copies of the relevant bookings: coach, ferry, hotel etc. Ingrid has the necessary forms but you don't have to travel on the coach. Those travelling separately would also qualify.

## MOUNTBATTEN FESTIVAL OF MUSIC

**Join us at the Royal Albert Hall for the Mountbatten Festival of Music.** It's the biggest date in the Royal Marine Music Calendar and many veterans and friends are already booked. Veterans' costs are covered.

Contact: Geof Haywood, 10 Elizabeth Road, Wimborne. BH21 1AX  
0044 (0)1202 888194 [geofandjillh@btinternet.com](mailto:geofandjillh@btinternet.com)



The poster for the Mountbatten Festival of Music features a light blue background with a subtle grid pattern. In the top right corner is the Royal Albert Hall logo, consisting of a stylized archway above the text "Royal Albert Hall". The main title, "Mountbatten Festival of Music", is written in a large, elegant, red cursive font. Below the title, the text "The Massed Bands of Her Majesty's Royal Marines" is displayed in a white, sans-serif font. Underneath this, the dates "7th, 8th and 9th April 2016" and the location "ROYAL ALBERT HALL, LONDON" are listed in a smaller white font. The poster is decorated with five circular inset images: a large band performing on a stage with dramatic lighting, a close-up of a musician playing a trumpet, a drum major in a ceremonial uniform leading a band, a woman in a white uniform playing a violin, and a large crowd of people holding up a Union Jack flag.

## MONEY MATTERS

**THE ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION** of £15 per annum is now due for 2016. Please make cheques payable to “47 RM Commando Association” and send to the Treasurer:

Mrs G Davison, 91 Catherine Street, Rochester, Kent ME1 2HL

### **Veterans have free membership.**

It was noted at the recent AGM that a good proportion of members have not paid their dues. As a result, we would ask people to pay before the end of January. After that, somebody will be chasing up to find out if you still wish to remain a member. Following non-payment by the end of February, you’ll be deleted. Okay, only from the list, not assassination.

## **MANY THANKS TO THOSE WHO PAY PROMPTLY AND REGULARLY**

### GEOF’S MERCHANDISE

Geof has his usual wares available:

WW2 RM Commando figurine - £21 – limited stock and a Special Purchase

“From Omaha to the Scheldt” John Forfar, new edition - £20. “From Gold to Omaha” - £12

47 RM Cdo Plaques - £26. 47 RM Cdo Baseball Caps - £8. 47 Table Flags - £8

“The Capture of Port en Bessin” prints: Unsigned £20. Signed by artist David Rowlands £35

All items plus postage but if you are going to Normandy, Geof is happy to deliver them to you there if you let him know:

Geof Haywood, 10 Elizabeth Road, Wimborne. BH21 1AX

0044 (0)1202 888194 [geofandjillh@btinternet.com](mailto:geofandjillh@btinternet.com)

### **From the Editor**

News has only just arrived about the main ceremony for D-Day 2016 being held in Port en Bessin. A great honour for the town but I can’t help wishing it could have happened some years ago when we had a greater number of active veterans to represent the Commando. All the same, it’s wonderful news and those veterans who are able to make it to Normandy will do us proud. They always do.

Judging by an article in the current *Globe & Laurel*, it looks as if the RM Museum is now actually moving to the Historic Ships area of Portsmouth. It makes one wonder what will happen to the site at Eastney. Perhaps we should make a New Year’s resolution to find out and make sure that the commemorative stone in the grounds to our fallen, along with those to other WW2 RM Commandos, will be preserved and displayed in an appropriate way.

Best wishes to all for a happy and successful 2016.

Lannah

### 47 RM COMMANDO WEBSITE

Thanks, as ever, to Marc de Bolster for his time and expertise in administering and maintaining the website. People from all over the world are able to find us and get in touch, join the Association if they so wish and get answers to all manner of queries. The website provides a huge amount of information on the history of 47 RM Commando and its personnel as well as Association events. It also provides an extensive photographic record. Always well worth a visit at:

[www.47Commando.org.uk](http://www.47Commando.org.uk)

*Walcheren 2015*



*On John O. Forfarstraat*



*Bergen op Zoom*

*Next issue - Despatch 34: July 2016*