Portsmouth Division VCC
Recruit Training Aides

RM Corps History
RM Corps Ethos

All Royal Marines wear the Commando 'flash' and believe in living up to the standards of their selfless, brave and unyielding forebears, by holding true the Corps' Ethos, which comprises three components.

The Commando Mindset
- Be the first to understand; the first to adapt and respond; and the first to overcome.

The Command Values in Life
- Excellence. Strive to do better.
- Integrity. Tell the truth.
- Self-Discipline. Resist the easy option.
- Humility. Respect for the rights, diversity and values of other.

The Commando Spirit in Adversity
- Courage. get out front and do what is right.
- Determination. Never give up.
- Unselfishness. Self last.
- Cheerfulness. make humour the heart of morale.
Corps History - Significant Dates

1664  Founded on the **28th October** by King Charles II, by command of the Lord Admiral who later became King James II and called *The Duke of York and Albany's Maritime Regiment of Foot*; a 1,200 strong unit to serve on ships, for landing and boarding parties. The Duke of York was The Lord High Admiral, so it became known as the Admiral’s Regiment.

1665  The Soldiers, who became renowned for their musket sharp shooting, first fought in the Battle of Lowestoft during the second Dutch war.

1667  The term 'Marines' was first used, and appears in military despatches.

1704  1,900 English and 400 Dutch Marines stormed The Rock of *Gibraltar* and captured it from the Spanish. Britain has retained control of it ever since. The action is still the most famous success in their history, and the name Gibraltar has been incorporated into the cap badge. Later, British ships bombarded the city while marines and seamen stormed the defences. These later withstood nine months of siege. Today the Royal Marines display only the battle honour "Gibraltar".
Corps History - Significant Dates

- **1774** The Marines received the cap badge of the Lord High Admiral’s badge for recognition of service on HM ships. The “Foul Anchor” remains part of our cap badge to this day.

- **1761** *Battle of Belle Isle*: The island lies off the French coast between Brest and Bordeaux. It had sizeable fortifications and after two failed attempts at landings the Marines finally got ashore. Once ashore and under the cover of fog, they scaled rocks and cliffs that the French thought were impossible to scale. They formed up and captured the French lines, which then ensured the British had a firm foothold on the island.

  The Laurels were awarded to the cap badge in honour of their victory, with 28 berries in them to signify the founding date of the Corps, 28th October 1664.

- **1775** *The Battle of Bunker Hill* during the American War of Independence. Marines took the high ground of the revolutionaries at the third attempt and suffered very heavy casualties.

  The Corps Motto *'Per Mere, Per Terram'*', meaning 'By Sea, By Land', was invented as honour for the action. It is intimated that a cry of "Open the ranks and let the Marines through" was given, truly a great honour.
Corps History - Significant Dates

- **1802** On the 29th April the word 'Royal' was awarded to the Corps by King George III to mark his birthday. *(In 1802 the Corps turned Blue)*

- **1805** October 21st, the *Battle of Trafalgar*. Nearly one third of the Corps (2700 Marines) fought in this battle. Riflemen manning the upper decks and masts of British ships helped to turn the battle in Nelson's favour by picking off key French commanders with their sharp shooting.

- **1827** To signify that the Corps had won glory in battles throughout the world. King George IV ordered that a Globe be added to the cap badge.

- **1902** 14th February - Royal Marines Artillery Cadet Corps formed, now known as the Royal Marine Cadets

- **1915** During the *Gallipoli* landings at the end of April, marines fought side-by-side with ANZAC troops, suffering very heavy losses.

- **1918** Light infantry companies of the 4th Battalion Royal Marines stormed the German Naval base at *Zeebrugge* on April 23rd. The men destroyed the base crippling the enemy's sea force. Two Victoria Crosses were awarded to Marines in this battle.
Corps History - Significant Dates

1930 The original Royal Marines Band Service (RMBS), together with its headquarters, the Royal Naval School of Music, was founded in 1930 to provide Bands for the Royal Navy. The task of forming the school was assigned to the Royal Marines and from then on the Band Service became an integral part of the Royal Marines Corps.

1942 During WWII 'Commando' style of soldiering was introduced to the Corps and some 80,000 men served in the Royal Marines, and they continued to operate at sea and in land formations, but 1942 saw the formation of the first Royal Marines Commandos. 5 RM Commandos were amongst the first to land on D Day, and two thirds of all the landing craft involved were crewed by Royal Marines. 16,000 members of the Corps took part in Operation “Overlord” in many roles, some even manning tanks.

1944 Normandy beach landings on D-Day. Over 16,000 Royal Marines look part in the largest amphibious landing operation ever.

1950 Commandos (41 Independent Commando) backed up by U.S. 1st Marine Division took part in major bench landings along the coast of South Korea.
Corps History - Significant Dates

- **1956** 45 Commando RM mounted the world’s first ever helicopter assault from a Royal Navy aircraft carrier, HMS Theseus, during the Anglo-French assault on Port Said during the Suez crisis.

- **1961** Royal Marines were among the first troops to be drafted into Northern Ireland.

- **1971** After touring the Middle East for decades, 3 Commando Brigade RM returned to England. The Headquarters was based at Stonehouse Barracks where they remain.

- **1974** Royal Marines evacuated Britons and other foreign nationals from Cyprus after the Turkish Army invaded.

- **1982** The Falklands Conflict. Royal Marines were involved in virtually every aspect of the campaign, including the first beach landing. South Georgia was recaptured by 42 Commando RM on the 25th April, along with Goose Green, one of the most famous battles of the war.

  The SBS, the equivalent to the SAS, and drawn only from the ranks of the commandos, provided vital undercover intelligence.
1991 Thousands of Royal Marines were deployed to Northern Iraq for Operation Safe Haven, to protect Kurdish refugees from slaughter by the Iraqi State Police as part of the Gulf War.

2000 Along with elements of the Parachute Regiment, marines of 42 Commando secured Sierra Leone, capital of Freetown, just before it would have been over-run by rebels.

2000 3 Commando Brigade R.M patrol Kosovo for six months on peace keeping duties. 42 Commando Royal Marines and Royal Regiment of Fusiliers

2001 October 26th. Companies of 200 men from 40 Commando RM deployed on-board HMS Fearless in the Arabian Sea, to mount raids on Afghan targets.

Since their creation in 1942 Royal Marines Commandos have engaged on active operations across the globe, every year, except 1968.
The uniform of the Admiral’s Regiments uniform was a yellow tunic with scarlet leggings supposedly the favourite colours of the Duke of York. (Uniform colour known as 'Old Gold')

When in 1685 King James II ascended the throne, the regiment was given to Prince George of Denmark the King’s son-in-law. It was during this time that the uniform colour changed to red coats with white stockings.