

palitoy

Palitoy Limited
Coalville, Leicester, England
Printed in England

The reduction of British forces in the Far East will confront the Royal Marines with fresh tasks. Based in the United Kingdom, Commando Forces embarked in Commando ships will serve in the Mediterranean and off the shores of North West Europe. These tasks will mean the Marines must be capable of operating ashore anywhere from the Eastern Mediterranean to the Arctic Circle, requiring the development of some special and exciting techniques.

Commando ships equipped with troop carrying helicopters can land and subsequently support a commando force of over 800 men, together with the guns and vehicles. The speed of helicopter operations and the distance over which a force may be dispersed demand exceptional qualities. Operations inside the Arctic Circle in mid-winter, when to survive in temperatures of 40° below zero is an art in itself, require the special knowledge and equipment of the Mountain and Arctic Warfare Marine.

In the specialised activities of the Corps, swimmer canoeist, mountaineer, parachutist and landing craft crew will continue to play their part. Reliance will still be placed on determination, resourcefulness and individual skill, and as ever, in the last resort the efficiency of the whole will depend upon the quality, and character of the individual marine.



FAMOUS BRITISH UNIFORMS



THE ROYAL MARINES



THE ROYAL MARINES

For hundreds of years, Great Britain has relied on sea power to protect her interests around the World. Part of that strength has been the ability to land small highly trained military forces from ships, capable of secretly attacking enemy supply lines, or as the spearhead of a much larger invading army. Since the formation of the Admiral's Regiment (The Duke of York and Albany's Maritime Regiment of Foot) in 1664, these duties of 'sea soldiers' have been carried out by the Royal Marines, so aptly described by their regimental motto "Per Mare Per Terram", "By Sea By Land". The task of the Royal Marines has varied over the years but their special strength lies in the high quality of individual men and their training. Since the Second World War the Royal Marines have been an amphibious military force at immediate readiness, and they have taken part in many counter-terrorist campaigns throughout the world. The green berets of the Commandos have been well known in Palestine, Egypt, Cyprus, Malaya, Borneo and Aden. A Royal Marines Commando unit was among the first UK troops in Korea where it was awarded a citation by the President of the United States of America. Throughout, the Corps have remained experts in amphibious operations, providing not only the commandos but also the highly skilled frogmen-parachutists and naval landing craft crews, and the traditional detachments in cruisers and frigates.

THE ROYAL MARINE CEREMONIAL DRESS



At the end of twenty-six weeks of tough, hard training, a man qualifies, if he is good enough, to wear the traditional head dress of the commando - the green beret. The green beret is the mark of the Royal Marines fighting man, feared by his foes, and respected by his allies.

Equally impressive is the ceremonial uniform of the Royal Marines. At short notice the mountain and arctic warfare fighter or frogman-parachutist can turn into the man you see on parade in his smart blue uniform with the peak cap or white helmet. This uniform is worn with as much pride as his combat clothing, for it bears the famous Royal Marines badge, The Globe and Laurel.

Marines have two types of Ceremonial Uniform; Number One Dress, which is the blue uniform with the white peak cap, and Ceremonial Dress which is worn with the white helmet and only used for major ceremonial or state occasions.

Royal Marines may provide Guards of Honour for visiting members of the Royal Family, Ambassadors, or Heads of State, as well as taking part in the colourful London ceremonial of State Visits.

Even the Royal Marines detachments serving at sea on board ships of the fleet have their ceremonial uniforms for Guards of Honour, and have been seen on parade in such places as Denmark, America, Canada, Japan and the Far East.

At the forefront of the world's military bands are the buglers and musicians of the Royal Marines Band Service. Frequently seen on State Occasions in London and other cities of the world they also play in concert orchestras and have justified their reputation as versatile and talented musicians.

At the head of all Royal Marines Bands are the Corps of Drums. These men are taught to play the bugle and drum, and serve both at sea and in naval and Royal Marines establishments.

It takes a year to train a drummer at the Royal Marines School of Music at Deal in Kent, and in that time he learns the many bugle calls, and must know by heart the drum beatings to all the famous marches, for drummers do not carry music.



THE ROYAL MARINE DRUMMER

MOUNTAIN AND ARCTIC WARFARE MARINES



This is the newest of all the special tasks given to the Corps and is carried out by the 700 men of 45 Commando RM from their base camp at Arbroath in Scotland.

These men are taught to fight, live and survive in temperatures of 40° below zero. Every man can ski, and in white snow combat suits it becomes almost impossible to distinguish them from the Arctic background. Much of their training takes place in Northern Norway.

After a briefing for their mission at a base camp, the patrol may be flown to an area in the mountains by helicopter which lands them on the snow. The important thing at this point is speed. The patrol must move off quickly from the landing area. They pack their heavy stores onto a sledge, put on their skis and slip quickly away. It is essential for the patrol to keep warm, in temperatures of 40 degrees below zero fingers freeze within seconds if not covered.

The patrol finds a small hiding place in the mountains and either cuts a hole in a bank of snow, or builds an igloo. They unpack their stores from the sledge, then conceal everything so that it cannot be seen from the air.

Once inside the snow hole, the patrol can rest. Some catch a few hours sleep in their sleeping bags which are spread on reindeer skin mats, never on the snow; one man goes out as lookout, while others make a meal on their small cookers.

At dusk, when they merge best with their surroundings, the patrol moves off on skis, having concealed all trace of their existence. They now have only their compass, map, explosives and survival pack. Their rifles slung over their backs, they will ski down the mountain as fast as possible into the target area and carry out their mission. Then back to the snow hole, pick up stores, and radio for their helicopter to meet them at a pre-arranged point.



THE ROYAL NAVY HELICOPTER PICKS UP
ROYAL MARINE COMMANDOS

THE MARINE COMBAT COMMANDO



The tasks given to the Royal Marines Combat Commando are many and varied. During the Commando Training Course which every Marine must undergo, he is taught to operate from helicopters and the landing craft of HMS ALBION or HMS INTREPID, or to carry out an amphibious operation from fast Gemini assault boats.

These rubber inflatable assault boats have a 40 horse power outboard engine capable of driving the craft at something like 20 knots. Fitted along the inside are paddles for use when the engine would be too noisy.

Being a small craft, easy to stow onboard ships and submarines, they have a thousand and one uses with the marines. They are used by commando units for patrols and landings, while Royal Marines ship detachments onboard frigates find them ideal for stopping and searching the local native boats in the West Indies and Persian Gulf when looking for gun runners. With the Gemini's fast speed and great manoeuvrability native boats can be quickly caught and boarded. When used to land a raiding party of combat marines at night it becomes almost impossible to spot the small black craft.

The marine combat commando is dressed ready for field operations. He wears waterproof combat clothing, and carries very little equipment other than a waistbelt with pouches fitted in front and on the back.

The front pouches contain his rifle ammunition in magazines, and hand grenades. They also contain a 24 hour ration pack, cooker, torch, notebook and small items required during operations. His map is kept in a special pocket on the outside of the left trouser leg. The commando boots have thick strong rubber soles which are specially made for silent movement and for climbing cliffs.

Before leaving the ship's side the combat commando makes sure that he has nothing in his pockets which will not be required. Money, papers or keys, all have to be handed in. If he jumps or runs, the sound may give him away. Secondly, should he be caught by an enemy he must have nothing on him which could identify him or show from where he came.

For raiding missions the commando may leave behind all his equipment. This is too bulky for a raid and may get in the way. He puts his ammunition and grenades into the big pockets on his combat jacket; next he removes the rifle sling and wraps it round his waist. At night the sling may get caught on wire and give away the patrol if this precaution is not taken. Lastly, before he moves off, he blackens his face, hands, watch or compass glass - any part which is likely to show up at night. Then he is ready to go.

Once the Gemini leaves the ship's side it speeds towards the allotted landing place. At a good distance off, the engine is cut and the patrol uses paddles to bring the boat ashore.

Once ashore, the Gemini is hidden between rocks, or under bushes and the patrol moves off to its objective.

Having completed its task the patrol withdraws to the beach, and leaves by the fastest possible route, to rejoin their ship. Once back on board a report is made and everyone takes a well-earned rest.



GEMINI ASSAULT BOAT