



Russian Convoy Club of New Zealand

Newsletter

August/September 2020

Dear shipmates, families and friends

Royal Marines Commandos : A Brand New Uniform

Elite commandos of the Royal Navy are undertaking a bold modernisation project – known as the Future Commando Force programme – which will overhaul the way world famous Green Berets operate around the globe.

As part of this restructuring, Royal Marines will have a new uniform, fit for a new era of warfare, that is in-keeping with the maritime traditions of the corps, and also honours their commando forebears.

The NATO procured uniform – which is been procured from USA-based firm Crye Precision – is lighter weight, has higher tear-strength, is faster-drying and is more breathable than typical 50/50 cotton/nylon kit. It also has a subtle change in camouflage design – instead of the previous multi-terrain pattern – the uniform now uses Crye Precision’s MultiCam pattern.

The flash insignia with red writing and navy-blue background will be worn once again, as commandos evolve to conduct more raids from the sea, persistently deployed to counter the threats of the modern-day battlefield. And for the first time the White Ensign features on one sleeve, as a clear indication of the Royal Marines’ integration with the Royal Navy.

The iconic Fairbairn-Sykes Dagger patch of 3 Commando Brigade Royal Marines has been redesigned and is based on the first pattern of the legendary fighting knife made in 1940.

Under the Future Commando Force programme more Royal Marines will operate from the sea, utilising new and innovative technology as high-readiness troops, forward deployed and ready to react, whether that’s war-fighting, specific combat missions such as commando raids, or providing humanitarian assistance.

Minister for the Armed Forces, James Heapey, said: “It is fitting that on the 80th Anniversary of the first commando raid of World War 2, this uniform now bears the traditional Royal Marine Commando insignia. A poignant link to their history as the commando force embarks on a modernisation programme that will keep them in their place as the world’s best amphibious force.”

Source: Naval News



27 August 2020
RCCNZ Meeting
Lower Hutt RSA

3 September 2020
Merchant Navy Day

26 November 2020
RCCNZ Christmas Meeting
Otaki

Further details will be advised as they come to hand

**ROYAL MARINES
COMMANDO**

The new Royal Marines Commando flash is inspired by World War Two insignia. Features red text on a navy blue background. Removable if tactical scenarios demand.

ROYAL NAVY INSIGNIA

A 'tactical' White Ensign shows that the Royal Marines are part of the Royal Navy. It is the first time since formation in 1664 that the Ensign will be worn.

THE NEW ROYAL MARINES UNIFORM

The patch of 3 Commando Brigade Royal Marines now features the first pattern Fairbairn-Sykes Fighting Knife, which was designed in 1940. The Para wings are now in black, with a green background.

From the Crye Precision fourth gen field and combat range, new combat shirt and trousers and utility jacket. Utility belt made by TMH Trading GmbH.

COMMANDO HISTORY

- High-strength utility belt
- Ergonomic design and fit
- Lightweight
- Knee protection
- Fast drying
- Highly breathable
- Built-in adjustability
- Windproof and water-resistant jacket
- High tear strength

Veteran Recalls World War II Efforts : Celebrates 100 Years

A former Masterton woman who contributed to the national effort during World War II has celebrated her 100th birthday.



Petty Officer Telegraphist Nancy 'Pat' Moore (née Clothier) passed the milestone on 11 April 2020, during the Covid-19 level 4 lockdown. Her birthday card from the Queen sits on her table at her flat in Eastbourne, Lower Hutt.

Pat served in the Women's Royal New Zealand Naval Service – the 'Wrens' - from 1942 to 1946. She was delighted with her congratulatory letter from the Chief of Navy, but she says, "I

have no Wrens left to ring and say, 'I've had a letter from the Admiral'."

As a Wren, she was assigned to the Post Office wireless station on Tinakori Hill (now Te Ahumairangi Hill), where the Wellington Naval Radio Station was based.

The station ran full watches, day and night. The Wrens would receive coded messages from all over the world. "It was hard work, and sometimes the air wasn't clear and it would be hard to hear the signal. You would be scared of making a mistake."

Pat was posted to Hihitahi Camp at the Naval Wireless Transmitter Station, Waiouru where she spent three winters, along with about 150 officers and ratings - 80 of them women. "The Wrens slept in one building – the 'Wrennery'. We were issued six blankets each and we really needed them."

Her job was to handle messages from the teleprinter, deciding their priority and where they were to go. "They never stopped, they just kept coming." With the Japanese advancing through the Pacific, the station provided valuable support to ships at sea.



Its major achievement was broadcasting for the British Pacific Fleet off Japan - acting as the link between Admiralty and the fleet. In addition, a large proportion of the messages of a similar nature between Admiral Earl Mountbatten, Supreme Commander, South East Asia, and the British Government passed through Waiouru.

"We were very seldom allowed to go on leave," she says. "I wasn't allowed to go on leave to my sister-in-law's wedding. Once the European war was over, they loosened up a bit, and would give us a truck to go up to Lake Taupo. We used to have picnics on the foreshore."

Pat served in the Navy until 1946 but never realised her dream of travelling overseas. In 1944, she met John Moore, a Fleet Air Arm pilot, and they later married. John became a stock agent and they moved to a farm in Upper Plains, Masterton. They lived there for 40 years. They raised four children and Pat now has nine grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Commemoration deferred



We've received advice that the 75th anniversary commemoration event, which was to have taken place at Inverasdale on the shores of Loch Ewe, to celebrate the last convoy to the North Russian ports in WW2 has been further deferred until 16 May 2021. It was originally scheduled to take place in May of this year but was put back until September due to the pandemic and has now been further rescheduled.



Membership

Followers and readers of our website will note that as a small token of respect for their loyalty over many years, all those ladies listed under "Wives, Widows and Partners" have been transferred to "Associate Membership".

Up Spirits!



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