

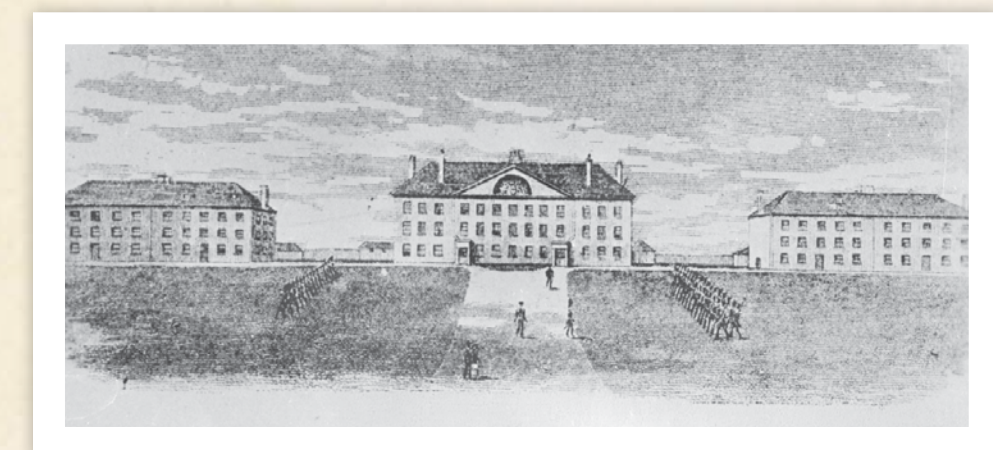
THE ROYAL MARINES IN DEAL AND WALMER

A long-standing connection

Deal and Walmer have had links with the military for centuries. Silas Titus of Bushey, Groom to the Bedchamber of King Charles I and Captain of Deal Castle, was summoned to the Founding Parade in London of The Duke of York & Albany's Maritime Regiment of Foot in 1664. This is now known as the Corps of HM Royal Marines. They were permanently resident in Deal from 1861 until 1996. The site covered 22 acres (9 hectares).

South Barracks

Behind this brick wall, stands the former Army Cavalry Barracks, where the officers' quarters were, dating from 1795. This later became South Barracks.



The South Barracks, Walmer.

Along Dover Road to the left of the panel, the Jubilee Gates at the end of Jubilee Drive were installed to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1887.

Opposite Jubilee Drive, stands the Drum Major pub. This was originally the Cambridge Arms but was renamed in 1971 after the longest serving Corps Drum Major Charles H Bowden. He held this position for 22 years and 2 months.

The Depot Church is next to the Drill Field, now used by Betteshanger Rugby Club. The church replaced the original Depot School. Its foundation stone



Church Parade, the Royal Marines Band. The tradition of the church parade by the Royal Marines Band took place every Sunday morning until the outbreak of the Second World War. People lined the streets to watch the parade.

was laid in 1907 with a time capsule containing coins, a copy of The Times and a record of the opening event. The church has been converted into private homes.

Part of the Drill Field is now the site of Deal Parochial School. It was a multi-purpose field used for many physical activities and rehearsals of the massed bands of the Royal Marines for large, national events.

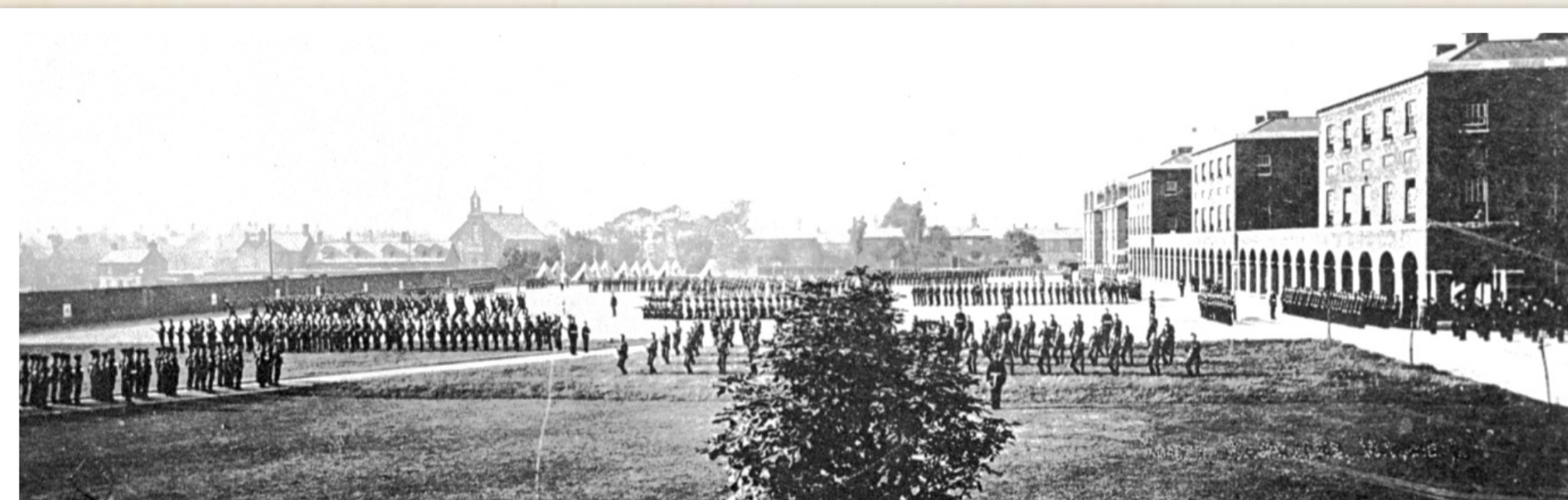
North Barracks

To the right, on the other side of Canada Road, were the North Barracks. This was where an IRA bomb killed 11 Royal

Marine Musicians in 1989. There is public access to a garden, which has recently been adopted as the National RM Band Service Memorial Garden. Within the grounds was the Globe Theatre which held pantomimes to entertain Deal residents.

There was a spacious drill shed on the far side of the parade ground. This had two Globe and Laurel badges set in stone. One is now in the Memorial Garden and one is at the entrance to Deal Parochial School.

Street names in the former North Barracks area highlight Royal Navy shipping losses in the 1982 Falklands War.



The North Barracks

East Barracks



The Royal Marines East Barracks

Walking along the Strand towards Deal, the impressive building behind the wall on the left was the East Barracks, now Admiralty Mews. The building was erected as a hospital before 1792 and bought by the Admiralty soon after they acquired the land for a cemetery in 1795. The hospital was damaged by fire after being struck by lightning in 1809 and the Admiralty rebuilt it in 1812 to what you see today. It became the Headquarters of the Royal Marines School of Music in 1930. The clock tower has a rare collection of historical graffiti. The splendid pair of buildings beside Cheriton Road housed the highest-ranking officers.

At the old entrance, was the Instrument Repair Workshop where a team of craftsmen worked on the musical instruments used by the Band Service.

Across the road, the Cedars Doctors Surgery stands on the site of the former



The Royal Marines swimming pool in Deal.

Royal Marines Swimming Bath which was built in 1892. The pool was tidal and filled twice daily at high tide. It was converted into a heated pool between the two world wars. When the pool was built, many Royal Marines didn't know how to swim. The need for this was shown just a year later, when the ships HMS Camperdown and Victoria collided off Tripoli. 358 lives were lost including 68 Royal Marines from a detachment of 98.

Infirmary Barracks

The Infirmary Barracks (the Royal Marines Hospital), to the west of Gladstone Road, were demolished and a modern housing estate built on the site. Street names commemorate two Victoria Cross recipients from the 1918 Zeebrugge Raids, Captain Edward Bamford VC, DSO, RMLI and Sergeant Norman Finch VC.

Other buildings

The Royal Marines Association Club on the Strand used to be a hotel and became known as the Old Comrades Association around 1909.

The Union Club, close to Deal Castle, was used by officers including the author Evelyn Waugh when he was a Royal Marines Intelligence Officer.

Find this and more heritage panels at www.towntrail.uk

The Royal Marines Heritage Trail takes you to 23 places of interest in Deal and Walmer. A self-guided booklet with a map is available from Deal Castle and other outlets in the town. <https://royalmarinesheritagetrails.org/>



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