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Paul Harris Nicolas

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### **Historical Record of the Royal Marine Forces**

Paul Harris Nicolas (1790–1860) served as a second lieutenant in the Royal Marines at the Battle of Trafalgar. Promoted to first lieutenant in 1808, he took part in the Battle of the Basque Roads in 1809. For these actions he would later be awarded the Naval General Service Medal with two clasps. After effectively retiring from military life in 1814, he picked up both paintbrush and pen, producing a notable watercolour of the scene at Trafalgar, and publishing an engaging account of the battle in 1829. His most important work, however, is this comprehensive two-volume history of the Royal Marines, based on diligent research and first published in 1845. Volume 1 begins with the genesis of the corps in the late seventeenth century. The bulk of the volume covers the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic period, concluding with the opening phase of the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805.

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# Historical Record of the Royal Marine Forces

VOLUME 1

PAUL HARRIS NICOLAS



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HISTORICAL RECORD  
OF  
THE ROYAL MARINE FORCES.

—  
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“NEQUID FALSI DICERE AUDEAT,  
NEQUID VERI NON AUDEAT.”

*Cicero*

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OF THE  
ROYAL MARINE FORCES.

By PAUL HARRIS NICOLAS,

*Lieut. Royal Marines.*



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TO  
THE BRITISH NATION,  
THIS RECORD  
OF  
THE SERVICES OF  
THE ROYAL MARINE FORCES  
IS  
MOST RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED  
BY  
THE AUTHOR.

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## PREFACE.

FROM an early period a practice has prevailed in many of the continental armies, for each regiment to keep regular records of its services and achievements; but it is only of recent date that this emulative principle has been encouraged in the British service, and hence arises the difficulty of obtaining any authentic account of their origin, or of their subsequent proceedings.

This defect has long been felt, and although efforts have been made by individual corps to accomplish so desirable an object, it was not generally enforced until the 13th January, 1836, when the following order was issued from the Horse Guards by general lord Hill, commanding in chief:—

“ His Majesty has been pleased to command, that with a view of doing the fullest justice to regiments, as well as to individuals, who have distinguished themselves by bravery in action with the enemy, an account of the services of every regiment in the British army shall be published under the superintendence of the adjutant-general, and that this account shall contain the following particulars; viz.—The period and circumstances of the original formation of the regiment; the stations at which it has been from time to time employed;

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the battles, sieges, and other military operations in which it has been engaged, particularly specifying any achievement it may have performed, and the colours, trophies, &c. it may have captured from the enemy. The names of the officers, and number of non-commissioned officers and privates, killed or wounded by the enemy, specifying the place and date of the action. The names of the officers who, in consideration of their gallant services and meritorious conduct in engagements with the enemy, have been distinguished with titles, medals, or other marks of his Majesty's gracious favour. The names of all such officers, non-commissioned officers, and privates, as may have specially signalized themselves in action; and the badges and the devices which the regiment may have been permitted to bear, and the causes on account of which such badges or devices, or any other marks of distinction, have been granted."

Impressed with this consideration, and influenced by a strong attachment to the welfare and reputation of the corps, in which I had the honour to serve, I felt persuaded that an impartial account of the services of the Royal Marines would not only reflect additional lustre on their distinguished character, but encourage a spirit of emulation, which is the strongest impulse to great and gallant actions; and as nothing can so fully tend to this desirable object as a faithful record of their glorious career, I was induced to use my best exertions to promote a cause for which I entertained the most lively interest. Although I may have failed in accomplishing that object with the ability due to its importance, I trust that the fidelity and zeal which has been exercised in the present compilation will obtain for me the indulgent consideration of those who are aware of the difficulties with which I have had to contend.

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In expressing my obligation to the friends who have kindly rendered me their cordial assistance, I cannot but regret the indifference of many officers to impart information relating to their individual services. Thus circumstanced, I have been denied the satisfaction of recording many gallant achievements that would have added to their personal reputation, and redounded to the honour of the corps.

Moreover, the despatches of naval commanders are generally so limited in their mention of officers of marines, that without the information that has been withheld it would be impracticable to do them justice; and in some instances much difficulty and research have been necessary, to enable me to ascertain the names of individuals who had shared in enterprises of such merit, as procured promotion for officers in the sister service.

I have nevertheless anxiously endeavoured to obtain the name of every officer who was employed on any affair of importance; and, where omissions or errors have occurred, I must hope that the comprehensive extent of this work may be offered as some extenuation for the inadvertency.

In narrating these events, I have strictly adhered to the official reports; and although this record must fail to do the Royal Marines ample justice, I trust that sufficient has been said to prove that their distinguished repute is well merited; and that they have under all circumstances, whether in the presence of the enemy or by their undeviating loyalty to the throne, uniformly supported the honour of their colours.

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CURSORY RECORD  
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*From their Formation to the present Period.*

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UNTIL the year 1664 the british navy was manned by means of the system of impress, or by enlisting landsmen; but the commerce of England at that period was so limited, that those measures were found inadequate to procure sufficient seamen for the public service, and this difficulty suggested the formation of an establishment of marines. The men were raised with the object of forming a nursery to man the fleet, and being quartered in or near the principal sea-ports, their great utility in the equipment of squadrons soon made it desirable to augment their strength.

1664. The first order in Council which has reference to this subject, is dated the 16th of October, 1664, authorizing 1200 soldiers to be raised and formed into one regiment.

1684. The third regiment of the line was called the "Maritime Regiment," and also the "Admiral's Regiment;" but the system of having soldiers exclusively for sea-service does not appear to have been carried into effect until the year 1698, when a draft of an establishment for two marine regiments was presented to William the Third, who by his order in Council of the 22nd of February, 1694, authorized their formation, subject to certain regulations, as hereafter detailed.

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1697. In this year half-pay was first granted to the officers of marines.

1699. At the commencement of 1799, four regiments of marines were directed to be levied; but in consequence of the peace of Ryswick, such men as had been raised were shortly afterwards ordered to be disbanded.

1702. On the 1st of June, on the declaration of war with France and Spain, six regiments were ordered by Queen Anne in council to be levied, and "six other regiments for sea-service."

1713. In consequence of the treaty of Utrecht, by which peace was proclaimed on the 31st of March, the whole of the marine regiments were disbanded at the close of the year.

1714. The corps was established at four invalid companies.

From this period, no marine force existed until

1739. On the 12th of December the order in Council directed the levy of six regiments; and on the following January these regiments received an effective augmentation of 2,040 men. Early in 1740 three additional regiments of marines were also raised in America.

1741. The number of marine regiments augmented to ten, each of 1000 strong; and they were commanded by generals and colonels of the line.

1743, and three following years, the establishment was directed to be 11,550 men.

1744. Impressed men were allotted to each regiment; and to those who entered voluntarily, £4 per man was given, with the power to claim his discharge at the end of three years.

1747. The levy of marines was 11,150, and the establishment for each ship fixed at the following numbers:—

Ships of 100 and of 90 guns, to have 100 marines; of 80 guns, to have 80 marines; of 70 guns, to have 70 marines; of 60 and of 50 guns, to have 60 marines; of 40 guns, 50 marines; of 20 guns, 30 marines:—sloops, 20 marines.

It was proposed that the marine regiments should be placed altogether under the orders of the lords commissioners of the

Admiralty ; but this arrangement was not finally adopted until the year 1755.

1748. In consequence of the peace of Aix-la-Chapelle, the marine force was totally disbanded at the close of the year.

1755. Upon the renewal of hostilities at the commencement of this year, a levy of fifty companies of marines was ordered, and they were for the first time formed into three divisions, stationed at Chatham, Portsmouth, and Plymouth. This is also the first date of marine commissions not being purchased, and of the officers rising in regular rotation only. On its establishment, the corps consisted of 3 lieutenant-colonels, 3 majors, 50 captains, 50 first-lieutenants, and 100 second-lieutenants, who were taken from the line and former marine regiments. The field-officers were, major-generals Patterson and Drury, and colonel Gordon, to be lieutenant-colonels ; and lieut.-colonel Bendyshe, with majors Leighton and Burleigh, to be majors.

The intercourse by exchange to the army was open to the officers of marines, and in the course of a few years twelve of the first-appointed captains returned to the line ; eight of whom were lieutenant-colonels, and four of them were majors, in 1766. Of that number were sir Robert Abercrombie, Alexander Leslie, William Picton, Henry Grame, Charles Grey, and John Johnstone.

1756. The marines was augmented to 9,138 men, adding thirty companies to the establishment of the previous year.

1757. Twenty companies were added, making 110 companies, and the total number of men established, 11,419.

In 1758 they were further increased to 140 companies, amounting to 14,845 men, which force was continued until

1760, when the marines amounted to 18,355, being more than one fourth of the naval force. In consequence of a representation from the commandants of divisions, that more field-officers were required for the better discipline of the service, three *naval* captains were appointed colonels of marines, with forty shillings per diem ; and the only marine colonel, general

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Patterson, was placed on the retirement with £700 per annum : thus banishing all hopes of higher preferment than the rank of lieutenant-colonel. This arrangement created such dissatisfaction in the corps, that a memorial, expressive of their deep sense of the injustice, in placing officers over them so perfectly incapable to command troops in the field, or conducting the details of military discipline on shore, was presented to the lords commissioners of the Admiralty, (Appendix 9). In addition to this humiliating measure, the circumscribed establishment on the peace of 1763 produced so much discontent, that many officers, seeing their prospects thus destroyed, quitted the marines and entered the army, where some rose to the highest rank. The appointment of lord Hood to the command of the Chatham division is dated 26th of March, 1763; and we have given insertion to two documents, to show that his lordship actually exercised the duties of that office, (Appendix 2 and 3). It soon became evident that this anomaly could not exist without great detriment to the public service; and on the 26th of April lord Howe wrote to colonel Bendyshe, “that as he is appointed a lord of the Admiralty, his (lord Howe’s) attendance at the marine head-quarters is to be dispensed with.” From that period, no naval officer was permitted to interfere with the military duties of the divisions; but despite of the earnest memorials that were presented, complaining of this degrading infliction, the *nominal* colonels of marines retained their forty shillings per diem; admiral Boscawen, general of marines, his £2000 per annum; and sir C. Saunders, lieut.-gen., his £1200; and shortly afterwards a *naval* major-general was added to the establishment.

From the assurances given by the Board of Admiralty, on the formation of the corps in 1755, that they should receive every advantage with regard to their individual promotion, the marines had a right to expect protection and encouragement; and it was not therefore surprising, that on finding their remonstrance disregarded, and their hopes of preferment destroyed, a vast number withdrew from the service.

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1762. The corps was augmented to 19,061 men, but in 1763, the peace establishment reduced the marines to 4,287 men, at which it continued until

1771, when colonels of marines were appointed commandants of divisions. In this year, the marines discharged from the service obtained the right of following their trade in any town in the kingdom, except the universities.

The earl of Sandwich succeeded to the office of first lord of the Admiralty, and his ready attention to the memorials of the marines (Appendix 4), by reviving their hopes of promotion, restored that spirit of discipline which characterized the battalions sent by his lordship to America, in

1776, when the establishment amounted to 10,129 men.

1777,           "           "           "           11,829 "

1778,           "           "           "           17,389 "

1779,           "           "           "           18,779 "

1780,           "           "           "           20,308 "

1781,           "           "           "           21,305 "

1782,           "           "           "           25,291 "

1783,           "           "           "           25,291 "

1784. The peace reduced the establishment to 4,495 men, including six field-officers with their companies, viz. three lieutenant-colonels and three majors; but on the formation of the expedition for Botany Bay, whilst four companies were added, those of the field-officers remained reduced. On the retirement of lord Howe, the earl of Chatham became first lord of the Admiralty, and in consequence of the presentation of a memorial from the three divisions (Appendix 5), the field-officers and their companies were restored. In 1791, on a memorial being presented, (Appendix 6,) an invalid establishment was formed, allowing the following officers to retire:—one commandant on 24s. per diem, one lieutenant-colonel, one major, twelve captains, six first-lieutenants, and three second-lieutenants.

1792. Lodging-money was allowed at the following rates:—commandants 20s. per week, field-officers 12s., captains 8s., and

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subalterns 6s. The non-commissioned officers and privates obtained the privilege of allotting.

1793. On the declaration of war with France, the marines were increased to 9,815 men.

In consequence of the field-officers being restored, and the establishment of an invalid retirement, several officers, who had quitted the active service, determined on returning to the effective corps; a circumstance that would have been attended with so much injustice to those who had continued in the service, and more particularly to the junior ranks, that it was resolved to resist such applications; for they had already experienced the injury arising from officers rejoining. Memorials (Appendix 7) were sent to the Board of Admiralty from each division to this effect:—"That all officers may take rank and do duty in the corps from the date of their last appointment, receive promotion, and be placed on the list accordingly." The memorials were acceded to and enforced until a recent period, when a few officers were permitted to rejoin; but this infraction, which was on a very limited scale, arose from a resolution of Mr. Hume, that he would not consent to the retirement of officers on *full-pay*, or selling out, while *serviceable* officers remained on half-pay. Only four or five rejoined the corps, and about forty quitted the service.

In 1794, the establishment was increased to 12,115 men, in consequence of a general memorial to earl Spencer, then first lord of the Admiralty (Appendix 8), presented by general Souter; which having obtained his lordship's favourable consideration, twenty-one companies were added, including those of six field-officers; and the levy-money was also increased to eight guineas.

In 1795, the marines were further augmented to 15,000 men.

In consequence of some differences arising with regard to the regiments of the line doing duty as marines in the fleet, they were ordered to be disembarked, and many of the men were permitted to enlist in the marines at an additional bounty of five

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guineas; and on the 15th of November the levy-money was increased to fifteen pounds, which allowed ten guineas and a crown bounty to each recruit: this arrangement gave such fresh vigour to the corps, that the companies were soon completed to their full strength.

1796. The vote for the sea-service affording no extension to the corps, an earnest memorial was addressed to the earl Spencer (Appendix 9); and in consequence of that application nine companies were added, with a second-lieutenant to each company, which was increased to 8 serjeants, 8 corporals, 8 drummers, and 113 privates each. In November, six more companies were added, and seven additional privates to every company, which then consisted of 120 men. At the same time three colonels and second-commandants were added to the establishment of the corps.

1797 and 1798. The establishment of marines continued the same as in 1796.

An order in Council of July 1797, fixed the pay of marines at the following rates:—

	Serjeants.		Corporals.		Drum <sup>rs</sup> .		Privates.	
	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
On board,	1	2	0	10	0	10	0	6 per diem.
On shore,	1	6½	1	2½	1	1½	1	0 „

1798. During the disturbances that took place in various parts of the kingdom, the loyalty of the troops was unshaken; and the example of devotion to their Sovereign which was first shown by the marines at Chatham, then commanded by lieutenant-general Innes, was eagerly followed by the soldiers of the line in that garrison. The public journals were daily filled with the loyal resolutions of various corps, and the seditious designs of the secret agitators entirely frustrated. Serjeant Pinn of the Chatham division particularly distinguished himself upon this occasion, and as a recompense for his excellent conduct the lieutenant-general granted him his discharge; but as this was done without the sanction of the Board of Admiralty,

the general was tried by a court-martial for a breach of the Articles of War. Although there was no positive sanction of the Board for the step he had taken, yet it appeared in evidence that the earl of St. Vincent, (then the first lord,) in a conversation with general Innes upon the subject, had approved of the measure; consequently the court pronounced an honourable acquittal.

His Royal Highness the Duke of York, commander of the forces, wrote to lieutenant-general Innes, expressing his high approbation of the loyalty and example shown by the Chatham division, (see Appendix 10); and the lords commissioners of the Admiralty also conveyed their satisfaction of their loyalty and zeal.

1799. Strength of the marines, 22,716 men.

1800 and 1801. Ditto, 24,231 men.

1802. In commemoration of the distinguished services performed by the marines during the war, his Majesty was graciously pleased to honour them with the style of "Royal Marines."

1803. Establishment of the corps in 1802 was 12,119 men; but in 1803 it was increased to 22,467. Many officers were allowed the retirement, and through the advocacy of earl St. Vincent, it was made an open list.

1804. Lord Melville became first lord of the Admiralty. An order in Council, dated the 18th of August, authorized the formation of a company of artillery at each of the three divisions. The total force of the Marines at this period was 29,000 men.

In 1805, Lord Barham presided at the Board of Admiralty; and on the 15th of August an order in Council ordered a new division to be established at Woolwich, with an additional company of artillery. The strength of the corps was now 30,000 men, including four companies of artillery.

In 1806, Lord Howick succeeded lord Barham as first lord of the Admiralty. Nothing particular occurred during the short



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time he was at the Board ; but under his successor, the earl of Mulgrave, the corps obtained many advantages ; for his lordship being a military man, was better capable of comprehending the real and combined interests of the corps with that of the public service. He appointed an additional lieutenant-colonel and a major to the Woolwich division, placing it on the same footing as the other three ; and at the same time ten companies were added to the establishment of the corps, to appropriate the men already raised, but not attached. Second-captains were appointed to the companies as the pay-captains, which gave promotion to sixteen first and sixteen second-lieutenants.

From 1807 to 1815, the establishment remained at 31,400 ; but there were frequently more than 3000 supernumeraries.

In February 1809, a second-commandant was added to each division, and the pay of the commandant in London increased to £3 per diem, colonels in command of divisions, £2. 10s., second-commandants, £1. 10s., and the same emolument was extended to those on the retired list ; whilst the brevet officers on that establishment obtained 2s. per diem.

From 1809 to the peace in 1814, no general promotion took place in the Marines, nor at the latter period were all the vacancies of officers *killed in action* filled up ; and although there were 5000 supernumeraries actually serving afloat without officers attached to them, the senior captains had been from thirty-five to thirty-two years in the service, notwithstanding the many advances that had been conferred on the various ranks in the navy. This circumstance is more fully noticed in our extracts from the Naval and Military Commission ; and two memorials on the subject will be found in Appendix, Nos. 11, 12.

In 1812, the field-officers below the rank of commandant-en-second, who had attained the rank of major-general, became supernumeraries, and were excused from active duty ; such duty being performed by field-officers promoted in consequence of these vacancies.

On the 4th of March, 1813, an order in Council established

the rates of officers' pensions on the same footing with the army. At the reduction of the corps in 1814, the non-commissioned officers and privates loudly expressed their disappointment in not being allowed a pension for length of service, on the same footing with their brother-soldiers in the line, and in compliance with the Admiralty-order of 5th of July, 1814, (Appendix 13,) the men were desired by their commanding-officer "on no consideration to trouble the lords of the Admiralty respecting pensions, unless absolutely worn out in the service, so as to be rendered incapable of labour." This unjust determination of the Board gave rise to a letter entitled, *The Royal Marine to the Friends of his Country and its brave Defenders*, which, on being circulated in the barracks at Chatham, tended to increase the discontent that prevailed; but shortly afterwards the claims of those gallant and loyal veterans obtained due consideration, and pensions were awarded them.

In April 1814 lord Melville presided at the Board of Admiralty, when general Barclay, lieutenant-generals Elliott and Bright, with major-general Burn, were allowed to retire; major-generals Strickland, Winter, Lewis, and Williams succeeding to the command of the four divisions, while major-general Bell was appointed commandant in London. In September 5 lieutenant-colonels, 6 majors, with some captains and subalterns, were also allowed to retire, but none of the vacancies caused by these retirements were filled up; and although every other branch of his Majesty's service obtained considerable promotion, there was a total cessation of such reward extended to the marines for a period of *six years*. The consequences of this injustice has been most detrimental to the establishment, excluding many officers from the benefits of succeeding brevets, who now remain to be provided for.

On the 15th of August the half-pay was increased, which equalized it with officers of the same rank in the line.

We must now particularly direct the attention of our readers to the manly and energetic letter addressed to the right hon.

Charles Yorke, then first lord of the Admiralty, by colonels Desborough and Tench, in March 1811, calling his attention to the neglected position of the corps, (Appendix 16). Mr. Yorke, in acknowledging the receipt of this letter, informed colonel Desborough "that the subject was still under the consideration of the Board;" but no further satisfaction was given to this firm, yet respectful remonstrance.

Confining our remarks to a mere outline of the progress of the corps, we have placed in the Appendix some of the numerous memorials that were from time to time presented to the Board of Admiralty. These documents will be found deserving of an attentive perusal; for while they exhibit a painful contrast to the advantages enjoyed by other branches of his Majesty's service, they evince that respectful submission and forbearance which has ever characterized the corps of Marines; and they at the same time afford indisputable evidence, that with the exception of being styled "Royal," the corps has never been honoured by any spontaneous act of favour; and that every amelioration has been obtained either by respectful remonstrance, or by earnest supplication.

1815. On the 5th of July the pay of adjutants was increased.

1816. In consequence of the peace, the establishment was reduced to eighty companies, consisting of battalion companies, 5,760; four artillery companies, 368; staff, 94: making a total of 6,222 men.

1817. By order in Council of the 25th November, the corps was fixed at 6,235 men, in eighty companies, of which eight were artillery: and in 1818 and 1819 at 6,000 men.

1820. On the 6th of May an order in Council regulated the pay of quarter-masters.

1820 to 1822. The corps was increased to 8,000 men.

1823. It was augmented to 8,700 men, distributed in eighty-five divisional and eight artillery companies.

1824. The establishment was 9,000 men, at which it continued until 1832, when it was increased to 10,500.

1825. Appointment of a colonel-commandant and deputy adjutant-general of marines, resident in London.

1826. Increase of the pay of adjutants on the 12th of September.

1832. The establishment of the Marines increased to 10,000 men; and on the 6th of February an order in Council abolished the corps of Royal Marine Artillery.

This battalion, originally selected from a corps of 30,000 men, and which had progressively risen to eminence and distinction, was immediately broken up, "retaining two companies as a nucleus to form a greater body, which might hereafter be deemed advisable."

The impolicy of this measure soon became apparent, and the companies of marine artillery have been gradually increased until they have reached to about the same numerical strength as their establishment in 1823, (but still shorn of its field-officers,) when they were formed into eight companies, as we shall presently show.

By referring to the minutes of the Board of Admiralty in the Appendix, relative to the marine artillery, it will be observed that they were intended for the training of the other marines, so as to embark efficient artillery-men in others of his Majesty's ships as well as in bombs, "*experience having proved the great advantage to be derived to the service FROM THIS PRACTICE.*"

1832. On the 12th of April an order in Council ordered the promotion of four lieutenant-colonels to be second-commandants; thus creating vacancies in the subordinate ranks.

1833. The report of the Committee of the House of Commons on army and navy appointments, recommended the abolition of the sinecures of generals and colonels of marines, enjoyed by naval officers. (See further remarks in 1837.)

1834. On the 30th of April additional retirements on full and half-pay.

1836. On the 11th of May an order in Council abolished the office of Inspector-general of Marines.

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The creation of this office, in March 1831, produced a feeling of dissatisfaction in the corps, that called for loud and general remonstrance; for it will scarcely be credited that the appointment was conferred upon a *civilian* (he having sold out of the service many years previously) totally unconnected with the Marines, and who, to have authority and control over the colonels of divisions, was created a major-general. This act of injustice produced a feeling of respectful remonstrance, until the discontent became too apparent to be disregarded; and another Board of Admiralty, with a due consideration for the welfare of the corps, removed the "Inspector-general," and restored the command of the Marines to the hands of one of its distinguished veterans.

1837. On the 21st of June an order in Council gave six additional retirements of full-pay for colonels-commandant, which placed the establishment as follows:—

Eight for colonels-commandant; two for colonels, second-commandant; four for lieutenant-colonels; twenty-five for captains; ten for first-lieutenants.

It must be a very rare and extraordinary circumstance that would induce a second-commandant to take the retirement; for being so near a preferment of much greater consideration, it is not to be expected that a man would forego the advantage almost within his reach. By adding those two offices, (which are never filled), to those of colonels-commandant, a boon would be conferred on the corps; but to accelerate promotion and improve the health and vigour of the service, the commandants of divisions ought to be placed on the same footing as the appointments in the royal navy, in which service they are limited to a certain period; and when vacancies occurred on the retired list, and a commandant of division had held that office *four years*, he should be compelled to withdraw from active service on the honourable and liberal retirement afforded him.

Another order in Council of the same date abolished the rank of major, making the establishment—four colonels, four

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## CURSORY RECORD OF

colonels-en-second, twelve lieutenant-colonels, four divisional pay-masters, four barrack-masters, four surgeons, four assistant-surgeons. Another lieutenant-colonel was subsequently added, exclusive of the officers of artillery.

It will be seen, by the following statement, that in abolishing the rank of major, the corps was deprived of four field-officers:—

Establishment of the Corps, in	Colonels-Commandant in London.	Colonels-Commandant.	Colonels Second Commandant.	Lieutenant-Colonels.	Majors.	Captains.	First-Lieutenants.	Second-Lieutenants.
January, 1837..	1	4	4	9	8	105	106	86
January, 1838...	—	4	4	13	—	93	124	64
Difference.....	1	—	—	4	8	12	18	22

1837. By an Admiralty-order of the 14th of July, a regulation was introduced for the pensions to the non-commissioned officers and privates to this effect:—"Twenty-one years' service at sea or on foreign service, shall entitle him to his discharge and pension; *two years' service on shore* in England shall be allowed to reckon as *one year served afloat for this purpose*; but no marine shall be entitled to such pension, who shall not have served ten years actually at sea or on foreign service."

It would be difficult to comprehend the object intended by this unjust, degrading, and injurious restriction. We can understand that the disinclination of a soldier to embark when required should be punished; but because a marine obediently and loyally does his duty in the various garrisons, in conjunction with the troops of the line, that he shall be deprived of the reward held out to those of every other corps in her Majesty's service, is a stipulation as inequitable as it is destructive of the best interests of the service. Its effect has long been felt in procuring recruits for the Marines; and as the pernicious sys-