

Royal Marines Corps Memorial Dates

7 June 1761 - The Battle of Belle Isle

Two battalions of Marines, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel John McKenzie, served with great distinction at the siege of Belle Isle near Quiberon Bay. With the 19th Regiment these two units effected the first successful landing, in the face of stiff opposition. They took part in all subsequent fighting on the island. The Marine battalion gained great fame at the final storming of the redoubts in June. Of their conduct on this occasion the Annual register for 1761 said "No action of greater spirit and gallantry has been performed during the whole of the war". The laurel wreath borne on the Colours and appointments of the Royal Marines is believed to have been adapted in honour of the distinguished service of the Corps during this operation.
