



## The Marines have come ashore!



At long last we are happy to announce the release of our marine head and command pack. These have been delayed due to the first efforts being destroyed in the moulding process and consequently had to be re-sculpted. That delay gave us time to add the lovely new officer, sergeant and drummer.

Simply stick the metal heads on the plastic British bodies and you have Royal Marine landing parties. These figures are ideal for skirmish games and large coastal raids.

It was as early as 1664 troops from the army had been used aboard naval vessels primarily as sharpshooters and to assist in manning the ships "artillery". However it was not until the late 1700s that the marines became a formal part of the British armed forces with a proper command structure and shore training establishments. From this time any Royal Navy ship that mounted more than 10 guns would have a marine detachment. Small ships such as Brigs had a detachment of between 4-10 marines commanded by a Corporal or Sergeant whilst a 74 gun ship of the line would have 120 marines commanded by a Major.

Marines had several roles aboard a ship, these included providing infantry type support in the form of sharpshooting, boarding enemy vessels, repelling enemy boarders and conducting shore operations such as amphibious assaults, coastal raids and "cutting out" operations (capturing enemy ships). Marines would also help with tasks on board a vessel such as manning the guns but rarely got involved with seamanship tasks such as "going aloft".

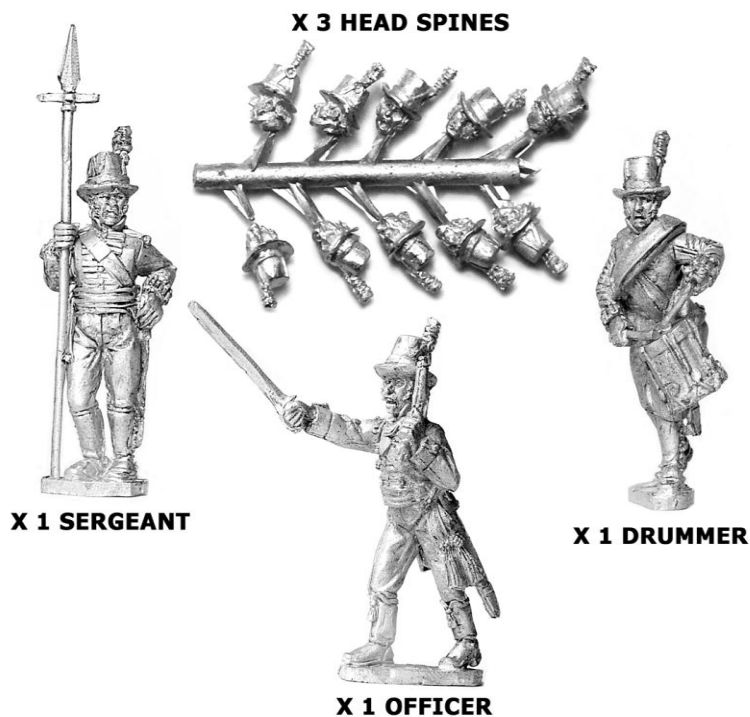
The marines also had the difficult task of enforcing discipline aboard the ship and were the ship's Captains last deterrent against mutiny. Thus, there was a great social divide between the sailors and marines aboard His Majesty's ships. On a daily basis it was the marines who were entrusted with the protection of the Captain and his officers, ensured the sanctity of the ships liquor store and the security and safety of the ship's magazine. Sailors often looked down on their marine compatriots as "landsmen" with no maritime skills. Marines were paid less than the sailors and it was not uncommon for marines to convert to seamen in the course of their careers.

It was during the Napoleonic Wars that marines spearheaded a new form of warfare, the amphibious assault. The first amphibious operation involving marines was the occupation of Isle St Marcou off the coast of Normandy in 1775 by a large detachment. The detachment was eventually reinforced to over 300 officers and men and the island was occupied for 6 years until 1801, providing the basis for much useful intelligence about French naval movements in the English Channel.

The first major strategic operation was the landing of several hundred marines at Figueras, Portugal in 1808. The force had been gathered from several ships on the Portuguese station with the aim to help fan the flames of rebellion amongst the local populace. This was rapidly achieved and allowed Wellington to land a force of 16,000 soldiers a few days later. This was the first major intervention by the British in the Peninsular War.

### Modelling Victrix British Marines

When gluing plastics it is advised to use liquid plastic cement. However, when gluing metal to plastic it is best to use something like super glue. To get an even better result and bond parts quickly, try placing a small blob of modelling putty in the neck socket, add super glue and then position the head in the neck socket.



Marines on extended duty on shore would have used a backpack just like their line Regiment counterparts. However, for the figures illustrated in these photos we converted the plastic Centre Company figures by removing the backpack straps from the shoulders, back and the strap that goes across the chest.

Simply cut off the straps and anything you don't want on the back of the figure (canteens, haversack etc) with a sharp modelling knife and file down the areas with a fine modelling file. Then you can make some straps to define the cross-belts on the back of the figure. We have used "Greenstuff" but another technique is to use thin strips of paper. Cut these to length and superglue to the figure (be careful not to stick your fingers to the paper!) Use a cocktail stick and apply some superglue to the paper and coat it. This causes the paper to stiffen and makes it easier to paint. This method is quite good if you are not confident with modelling putty.



As well as being able to buy the metals pack, we have added a great new deal to the shopping cart. You can buy the head and command pack plus the plastic centre company boxed set for only £31.95! In effect you get the head pack half price.