


Royal Marines Corps Memorial Dates

17 June 1775 - The Battle of Bunker Hill

 On the night of 16 June a rebel American force occupied dominating high ground to the north of the town of Boston where a British garrison was based. On the following morning General Sir William Howe launched an attack to dislodge the Americans which was repulsed with heavy losses. A second attack was also unsuccessful but the third, after Howe had been reinforced by a Marine Force and 47th Regiment, finally took the position. The Marine Force under Major John Pitcairn consisted of the Firsts and Second Marine Battalions. It suffered casualties of 29 killed and 87 wounded in storming the heights. A contemporary report said:

'The reputation of the Marines was never more nobly sustained. Their unshaken steadiness was conspicuous and their valour in closing the enemy when part of the attacking column waivered, gained them not only the admiration of their comrades but he commendation of their distinguished chief.'
