

Royal Marines Corps Memorial Dates

24 July 1704 - The Capture of Gibraltar

The famous attack on Gibraltar, which led to its surrender to the British on the 24 July 1704, was carried out by a brigade of British and Dutch Marines, 1,800 strong, under the command of Prince George of Hesse-Darmstadt. In the following October, Gibraltar was besieged by the French and Spanish. The Marine brigade, which had been reinforced shortly before by a further 400 Marines from the British fleet, held the fortress against repeated attacks until the siege was raised on 9 March 1705. In one incident in the fighting, Captain Fisher of the Marines with 17 of his men successfully defended the Round Tower against the continual assaults of 500 French Grenadiers. A Contemporary report of this noted defence says: *'Encouraged by the Prince of Hesse, the garrison did more than could be humanly expected, and the English Marines gained immortal glory'*.
