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## **Patron Capital's Keith Breslauer completes 85-mile paddle and 100-mile yomp in recreation of Operation Frankton**

Keith Breslauer, Managing Director at Patron Capital, the pan-European institutional investor focused on property backed investments, joined around 30 Royal Marines and a team from the Royal Navy, including injured war veterans from the Hasler Naval Service Recovery Centre as the only civilian in an 85-mile paddle up the Gironde estuary in France followed by a 100-mile yomp (slow run) to Ruffec, in a recreation of Operation Frankton - the heroic 'Cockleshell Heroes' raid - on its 75th anniversary.

Sent on what was effectively a suicide mission, equipped with only the bare essentials of food, clothing and the all-important limpet mines, Operation Frankton saw ten Royal Marines commandos travel to the coast of France in the submarine HMS Tuna in December 1942. The plan was to paddle 85 miles up the Gironde estuary in their folding canoes (codenamed cockleshells) to attack enemy ships moored at the German-occupied French port of Bordeaux before making the 100-mile journey on foot to rendezvous with the French Resistance in Ruffec. The aim of the raid was to destroy blockade-running merchant ships with these mines, and six ships were seriously damaged. Only two of the ten men survived, with the rest falling victim to the freezing conditions or captured by the Germans.

The event was the latest in a long-running charitable partnership between the Royal Marines Charity and Patron Capital. The RMC, Keith and Patron have worked extensively with the Hasler Naval Service Recovery Centre to help war veterans preparing to re-enter civilian life through donations to fund specialist equipment, respite breaks for them and their families at Patron-owned hotels, and introductions to source relevant internship and career opportunities.

### **Keith Breslauer, Managing Director of Patron Capital, commented:**

*"Completing such a challenge is a huge privilege and not only honours past heroes, but also those who have served or continue to serve in our armed services.*

*"During the challenge we faced the freezing conditions, battling rain, fog, high winds and muddy paths. But the camaraderie kept us all going through the six days. 75 years ago, without the benefit of sophisticated waterproof and insulated clothing or high-tech navigation equipment, the challenge would have been even tougher. The experience of completing the paddle and pulling our boats out of the water in exactly the same place that the two survivors of the original mission did, is something I will never forget. It was equally touching when we unveiled the new permanent plaque in Blaye.*

*"The recreation of Operation Frankton provided not only a way to commemorate the Cockleshell Heroes on the 75th anniversary of their endeavour, but was also an incredible opportunity for the wounded, injured or sick servicemen to display their strengths in overcoming immense obstacles – an important part of their rehabilitation. Having heard their stories and seen their tenacity, I was in*

*awe of the team that consisted of people with major injuries and a man with a brain tumour with only a few months to live.*

*“The work that the Royal Marines do is simply outstanding and I am immensely proud to continue to support the ex-servicemen and women who give so much for us.”*

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**Notes to Editors**

**About Patron Capital Partners**

Patron represents approximately €3.4 billion of capital across several funds and related co-investments, investing in property, corporate operating entities whose value is primarily supported by property assets and distressed debt and credit related businesses.

Since it was established in 1999, Patron has invested in over 71 investments and programs involving over 65 million square feet (6 million square metres) in 16 countries, with many of these investments realised.

Investors represent a variety of sovereign wealth funds, prominent universities, major institutions, private foundations, and high net worth individuals located throughout North America, Europe, Asia and the Middle East. The main investment adviser to the Funds is Patron Capital Advisers LLP, which is based in London, and Patron has other offices across Europe including Barcelona, Milan and Luxembourg; the group is comprised of 74 people, including a 41-person investment team.

Further information about Patron Capital is available at [www.patroncapital.com](http://www.patroncapital.com)