

10 June 2024

Patron Capital's Keith Breslauer completes 100-mile cross-Channel paddle to mark 80th anniversary of D-Day

Keith Breslauer, Managing Director at Patron Capital, the pan-European institutional investor focused on property-backed investments, and Vice Patron of the RMA – The Royal Marines Charity, has completed an 87.5-nautical mile (over 100 miles) paddle across the English Channel alongside 19 serving and veteran Royal Marines to mark the 80th anniversary of D-Day.

Commemorating the 80th anniversary of Operation Overlord, the RMA Paddle Group, which is formed of veteran and serving Commandos from across the Royal Navy, the Army, and the Royal Air Force, joined by Keith Breslauer and veterans rehabilitated by the Hasler Naval Service Recovery Centre, departed the Royal Marines Yomper at Eastney, Portsmouth in two-man Klepper folding kayaks on 3 June. The Paddle Group then crossed the English Channel through the night, paddling a route that ended up over 200km long due to winds and currents, arriving in Port-en-Bessin on 4 June 2024.

Following this crossing, the Paddle Group conducted a littoral paddle of the Allied landing beaches, beginning with the US sectors (Utah and Omaha) on the 5th June and culminating with the British and Canadian sectors (Gold, Juno and Sword) on the 6th June, where the Paddle Group joined the re-enactment of the landings at Sword Beach with 47 Commando on the D-Day anniversary itself.

The aim of the expedition was to increase awareness of both the 80th anniversary of D-Day and the RMA's vital work with veterans. With all funds raised through the expedition matched by Patron Capital, it is the latest in the long-running charitable partnership between the two organisations, which has seen Patron and Keith Breslauer raise approximately £5.3 million for the charity since 2010, helping more than 460 serving and retired service personnel directly.

This is not the first feat of endurance that Keith has taken part in alongside the RMA, having joined The Royal Marines 1664 Challenge 10 years ago through a 120 nautical mile cross-Channel kayaking challenge, while in 2017 he was the only civilian to take part in a recreation of Operation Frankton - the heroic 'Cockleshell Heroes' raid - on its 75th anniversary, involving an 85-mile paddle up the Gironde estuary in France followed by a 100-mile yomp (slow run) to Ruffec.

The RMA, 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:



“This year’s anniversary of Operation Overlord was one of the last chances to commemorate a major anniversary of the largest opposed amphibious operation in human history with living veterans. To honour the 4,414 men who lost their lives on D-Day and the 73,000 men who lost their lives in the ensuing Battle for Normandy, I was privileged to be able to complete this crossing in memory of those who made the ultimate sacrifice in order to defend our freedom. While this week certainly had its challenges, the memory of those whose bravery served to defend our freedom has never been far from our minds, particularly as we took part in events alongside veterans who lived through D-Day.

“This re-enactment was not only a way to remember and honour the heroes of June 1944 who turned the tide on the Nazi occupation of Europe, but by including veterans rehabilitated by Hasler Naval Service Recovery Centre, provided the opportunity for wounded, injured or sick servicemen on their rehabilitation journey to overcome an immense challenge. Having paddled alongside them for hour after hour, I was also honoured to share this experience with them as we pay tribute not only to past heroes, but also those who have served or continue to serve in our armed services. As Vice Patron of the RMA, 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 €5.2 billion of capital raised 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 undertaken more than 200 transactions across 106 investments and programs involving over 9 million square metres in 17 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 and Luxembourg; the group is comprised of 63 people, including a 37-person investment team.

Further information about Patron Capital is available at www.patroncapital.com

