



The Royal Green Jackets Association
Felixstowe Branch

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ROYAL GREEN JACKET ASSOCIATION
HELD AT THE ARMY CADET DRILL HALL ON FRIDAY THE 7th DECEMBER 1990

1. Those present:
 - Joe Mills
 - Barrie Gilmore
 - Gordon Pilcher
 - Jim Hitches
 - Ian McCarthy
 - Tom Evans
 - John Bevan
 - Ken Napier
 - Mick Read
 - Mick Burtenshaw
 - Pat Toal
 - Stu Duckett
 - Alfie Adams
 - Vic Steedman
 - Joe Lakeman
 - Curley Hooper
 - Frank Moss
 - Brian Pepper
 - John Napier
 - Ray Lawrenson

2. Apologies:
 - Bert Powney
 - Bob Williams
 - Frank Rimmer
 - Del Hemsley
 - Mick Cozze
 - Larry Lamb

3. The meeting was opened at 2020hrs by Joe Mills.

4. The minutes of the past meeting were read, proposed by Ray Lawrenson and seconded by Ian McCarthy that the minutes as read be passed and entered into the minutes book.

5. Correspondance: Nil.

6. Financial report: General account stands at £1302.39 and the savings account at £991.47. out of the general a/cc we have got to pay the Marlborough Hotel for our lunch, but with the December interest on our savings account it will push us over the £1000.00.

7. Rememberance Sunday: We have had much correspondance over the last few weeks with the Town Hall, and Felixstowe have now agreed that there should be a meeting to discuss the format of future Rememberance Parades. This meeting is on the 17th Jan and Joe Mills and Gordon Pilcher will be attending to make sure our points are brought home. Copies of the various letters have been circulated to other organisations who will back us up, and as the meeting is going to be chaired by the President of the Royal British Legion, who also want the parade at 1100hrs we feel sure that

cont:

the vote for the parade and service to be held at the cenotaph at 11:00hrs will be carried unanimous.

8. Ladies Dinner Night: Barrie read out a letter that he had put together on the ladies dinner night, which in a nut shell asked for every one to be at the Marlborough for 1930hrs or as near as possible, so as to make sure that every one can get themselves sorted out, get a drink down you before being called into dinner at 2000hrs on the dot.

The menue is: Starters: Smoked Salmon.
 Main Meal: Honey Glazed Ham.
 Sweet: Sherry Trifle.
 Cheese and Biscuits
 Coffee.

Sherry and or a Champagne cocktail will be served on arrival and wine and port throughout the meal.

Toasts: Joe Lakeman and Jim Hitches volunteered to do this years toasts, one to the Ladies and the other our adopted toast of "Green Tufts and Short Barrels".

Army Cadets will be in attendance looking after our every need and with Mick Hallet acting as major-domo which is a promotion Barrie will at least be able to sit down for once, thank God for that say's Ruth.

Barrie said (if you can belive him) that this years raffle would be straight? there will be loads of prizes and in true Suffolk Branch fashion you are all asked to dig deep when the tickets touts/Salesman come knocking.

It was agreed that we should purchase Baloon Bouquets in our regimental colours to be put on the tables as decorations, Baloons can be purchased at the end of the evening for £1.00 each as a memento.

Full and final details will be confirmed in the January meeting.

Could you all please make sure that you return the slips so that we can finalise the numbers as soon as possible, also Many thanks to those of you who have paid for the me s but we would like all cash in by the 1st of January.

9. RGJ Weekend in July: It was agreed that this year we would seriously make the effort to attend the Re-union at Winchester and make a full weekend of it. We plan to hold two buffet nights in the new year, the profits from these evenings to go towards the coach trip, which means that all you would have to pay for is the accommodation and drink/meals.

This way we will be able to go ahead with the trip no matter how many of few go.

10. Any other Business: Brian Pepper proposed a vote of thanks to the Army Cadets who really did us proud on Rememberance Sunday. This was warmly agreed by all.

The prints donated by Ron have now been framed and hung in the Bar room and along with the print of Curley in his Crimean uniform, sorry a print from Curley of a Rifleman attthe time of Crimea look very smart in deed. Joe hopesto get Ron to have a look at our premises when hes up here in January.

Date of next meeting: The next meeting will be held on the 5th of January at the Army Cadet drill Hall 1930-2000hrs.

Attached you will find a brief message ?? from Major Ron, which will Joe says make the after dinner speach in January much shorter or maybe longer?? only joking.

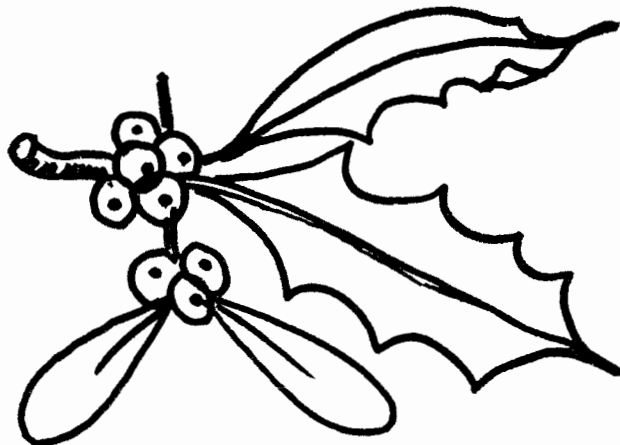
there being no further business to discuss the meeting was closed with a mad seasonal rush to the bar led by frank Moss, as he'd just woken up.

Gordon.

JOE MILLS
CHAIRMAN

GORDON PILCHER
SECRETARY

The committee would also like to join Ron and Shirley in wishing you all a very merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous new year.





Telephone Winchester 64176
885522 Ext 5134

Regimental Headquarters
The Royal Green Jackets
Peninsula Barracks
Romsey Road
Winchester, Hants SO23 8TS

RHQ/RGJ

26 November 1990

Joe Mills asked me to write a letter to be included in the December Minutes, he's a great one is Joe, passes the buck like many a Guards Officer does.

I suppose it is fair to say that 1990 has been an eventful year, it started well by me attending your dinner in January. Motoring up to the Arsenal the following day was an effort, but at least it was achieved in relative silence, because I think Shirley suffered from the same headache bug as me, I understand its called alcohol!

The 23rd of May was the 50th Anniversary of the battle of Calais. Much was made of the Dunkirk Anniversary and rightly so, but, without the battle at Calais which only lasted for just over 3 days and involved two regular and one TA Green Jacket battalions, the course of history may have been changed. The German 10th Panzer Division was diverted from its push toward Dunkirk to move our battalions from Calais, they eventually did so on 26 May 1940, the evacuation date of Dunkirk. Winston Churchill described the action at Calais, as The Crux. The War Cabinet had issued a no withdrawal order, difficult to do anyway when your back is to the sea and there are no ships and boats to take you off the beaches. The majority of the Green Jackets were Killed in the battle, died of wounds later or taken prisoner to spend 5 years in captivity.

So the 50th Anniversary was a special day and I know that everyone involved was as excited as I was at the prospect of this day. Several hundred people went over to Calais and after several recesses by me to Calais I was confident that there was nothing that could go wrong. Lo and behold I was in France the night before when I learnt that the Ferry Company had changed the sailing time of the boat everyone was coming over on. I had people coming by train, coach, car from all over the country and some from further afield like, USA, Canada and other parts of Europe.

It all worked out and the only other thing to say about all the arrangement was that, I had arranged lunch for 160 people in a restaurant for 2 pm. We all turned up an hour late and our numbers had swollen to 250. It didn't worry the French restaurant owner one little bit, he shoved a cognac in my hand to subdue my panic and then arranged everything splendidly.

The complete day was a major success and to see the Calais Veterans march past the Calais Memorial, to their own Regimental Marches brought to many, a lump in the throat and tears to the eyes.

Apparently the Green Jacket Association Reunion in July was not a success. My understanding is that future ones should be, the organisers are revamping ideas and the Committee is taking a different look at things, which should be good for one and all.

November saw the Armistice Parades and I am so pleased to see that you all have, and take part, in your own service. I would like to attend but as I organise The Rifle Brigade Service at Grosvenor Gardens it is impossible for me to do so. You might like to know that always on the Thursday before Armistice Sunday, there is a service in the grounds at Westminster, attended by Her Majesty The Queen Mother. Each regiment and former regiment of the army has a plot of ground which is called The Field of Remembrance, and this is surrounded by poppy crosses and poppy crosses are then laid in memory to individuals by their families, friends and former comrades. I will remind you of this service, perhaps in October of 1991.

You should be aware that many Green Jackets are in the Gulf, out there to reinforce other battalions and to play their own part. The band from the Depot (Salamanca) has gone out as stretcher bearers. I am sure that like me you wish everyone out there a safe and speedy return.

The three battalions will all find themselves in Northern Ireland together next year, in September. This is the first time this has happened since 1972.

You will all know, that apart from my role in Regimental Headquarters I am also the Curator of our Museum. I use the term ours because that is exactly what it is. It is the most splendid of Museums and is I think, and many people agree, the finest Regimental Museum in the country and if you haven't seen it you should and what about you fellows arranging a coach and taking the girls out for the day, say one Sunday. Visit the Museum from 1100-1300, then lunch, then a tour of Sir John Moore Barracks. You arrange the coach, I will arrange everything else, you of course pay for your own lunch! Think about it, let me know.

Before Fred Edwards accuses me again of rambling on (he has in the past), I will close but before doing so say, that your branch is earning itself much praise and envious looks, about the way you have formed and gone about its work and support from the ladies is second to none, can I add to that by saying, well done keep it up.

My best wishes to everyone for Christmas and the New Year, Shirley and I look forward to seeing you all on Friday 18th January.

Yours Sincerely

Rob Cassidy.

12. Any Other Business:

- a. A vote of thanks was proposed by Barrie Gilmore for the excellent work carried out by John Bevan this was seconded by Del Hemsley and warmly agreed by all.
- b. Joe Mills asked for a proposal of thanks for Del Hemsley for his work auditing our account Brian pepper proposed and was seconded by Mick Burtenshaw.
- c. Mick Cuzzie had brought along with him some RGJ solid silver jewellery made by him. Cuff Links, Tie Pins and broaches all excellently made. Mick will make up a price list and have more available for our next meeting.
- d. Date and venue for our next meeting.
Friday the 4th of May 1930 - 2000 Hrs at the Drill Hall Garrison lane.
- e. There being no further business to discuss the meeting was closed by Joe Mills at 2120 Hrs - this was quickly followed by a mad dash upstairs to rescue the bar and join our lovely ladies for an excellent Buffet and disco that went on into the early hours.

Apologies for the lateness of these minutes due to pressure and volume of work.

Joe Mills
CHAIRMAN

Gordon Pilcher
SECRETARY



Seasons Greetings from the RGJ Assoc.

