

**Vol. 1**

**RGJRA (SE) KENT**

Dec 2020



**THE ROYAL GREEN JACKETS REGIMENTAL  
ASSOCIATION (SOUTH EAST) KENT BRANCH**

The new newsletter, keeping Riflemen intouch.

*Celer Et Audax*

# NEWSLETTER 2020

Royal Green Jackets Association (South East) Kent | 2020





#### **FORWARD - FRED BARRETT**

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Welcome fellow Riflemen,

Welcome to the first Branch newsletter. This year has been totally unpredictable and forcing the Branch Committee to take the decision to cancel all the functions which were scheduled for the year. It was with deep regret that the Committee had to make the decision, but the truth be known, we truly had little option. Cancelling these events deprived us of meeting up with old friends, colleagues, and families. Our hopes are set on the BBQ scheduled for next June will be able to go ahead. Even though our functions had to be cancelled, our committee have not stopped working throughout, for which we should all be grateful for their continued commitment.

I would like to pass on my own personal and all the branch members thanks to our outgoing

Chairman, Glenn Ternent and Secretary, Bob Newman for all their hard work they have contributed over the last 8 years to the branch ensuring we are in a strong position now, setting a good platform for the in-coming Chairman and Secretary.

I would like to welcome our new Chairman, Dave Ivatt and Secretary, Peter Thomson. I am sure that you will all welcome and support them in the future.

For those who do not know me, I have been in and around the Branch since it originally started back in 1992 and had the honour of accepting the position of President last October. My service started back in January 1972 when I was a young 15-year-old, I joined The Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion as a Junior Rifleman. In April 1974 I went to the Depot in Winchester for 6 weeks and then on to 1st Battalion The Royal Green Jackets who were in Dover. In 1978 I decided to become a clerk. I stayed with the 1st Battalion until September 1988 when I was posted to 4th Battalion as a Warrant Officer Class 2 the Chief Clerk, then in September 1992 I was promoted to Warrant Officer Class 1 and took the appointment of Superintendent Clerk of the Light Division based in Winchester. I left the Army having completed 25 years in 1996.

The Branch is in a transition period saying goodbye to the long-standing Chairman and Secretary and welcoming the new, please support the new team to ensure we continue our strong position and move forward with all their new ideas. Thank you.

Please stay safe and remember the Branch is here should you need any assistance.



**CHAIRMAN - DAVE IVATT  
MOVING FOWARD**

Welcome fellow Riflemen, I am very pleased and privileged to be your new branch Chairman. As for those who don't know me, in my regular career spanning 19 ½ years I spent all but 2 ½ years serving with 3RGJ and the final years with 4RGJ as a SPSI. I served in Berlin, Caterham, NI, Cambridge, Cyprus, Germany, Colchester, Kenya, Gibraltar and a couple of tours at the depot in Winchester as an instructor.

I strongly believe in the RGJ Association principles, especially in maintaining the spirit, history and traditions of the RGJ, providing an inclusive all ranks social and information forum through the RGJ Associations Branches for all those who have served as RGJ and members of former regiments.

Plus make arrangements as required in connection with funerals of deceased members.

To do this we need to have a strong healthy branch and with members regularly attending and taking part in events. With the help of the committee and the support of the members I hope to enlarge our members numbers and that will be my main focus in the first months of my appointment as your Chairman. That is why you will be receiving shortly a survey which I hope you will all complete and return so that the committee can access what is needed to enlarge our member numbers and attendance at events and meetings.

I would like to finish with a couple of thank you. The first is to Glenn and Bob for all their hard work over the last years and wish them good luck in the future and hope they don't become strangers to the branch. Second is to Peter Thomson who has volunteered to take on the role of producing this Branch newsletter which involves an enormous amount of time and energy and skill. I hope members will assist by producing articles to go in future editions. I look forward to meeting and getting to know you better. Stay safe

**CHANGE OF OUR HQ - PHOENIX CLUB**

WE'VE MOVED TO THE PHOENIX RAILWAY SOCIAL CLUB, CRABBLE LANE, DOVER

The disscision has been made to move our branch meetings to the Phoenix club.

The Dover Sea Angling Club will still be used for the remembrance day activites as it is more central.

The Phoenix club although on the edge of town offers the branch a better service for our money and are definitely more accomadating to our needs.

Parking on site and cheaper beer!

**COMMITTEE 2021**

- President - Fred Barrett
- Chairman - Dave Ivatt
- Secretary - Pete Thomson
- Tresurer - Tony Killelay
- Entertainments- George Nash
- Memorials - Tommy Love



**FAREWEL  
BUT NOT GOODBYE**

The time has come to say farewell and thank you to Glenn Ternent BEM and Bob Newman, both who have served the branch from 2012 until now with complete dedication.

Glenn has handed over the reins "it's time for someone else to take over" after his last parade as Chairman at the Remembrance day wreath laying in Dover this November, sadly cancelled to

Dave Ivatt. Glenn will still be with us, a laid back member!

Bob is moving on, back to the North East and we wish him the very best up North. We're sure to see him again. He's handed over to Pete Thomson.

Gentleman, the Branch thanks for all your hardwork over the years.

**YOUR MEMBERSHIP**

Being a member brings us all benefits, not only a great way to stay in touch with each other but there's plenty on the agenda.

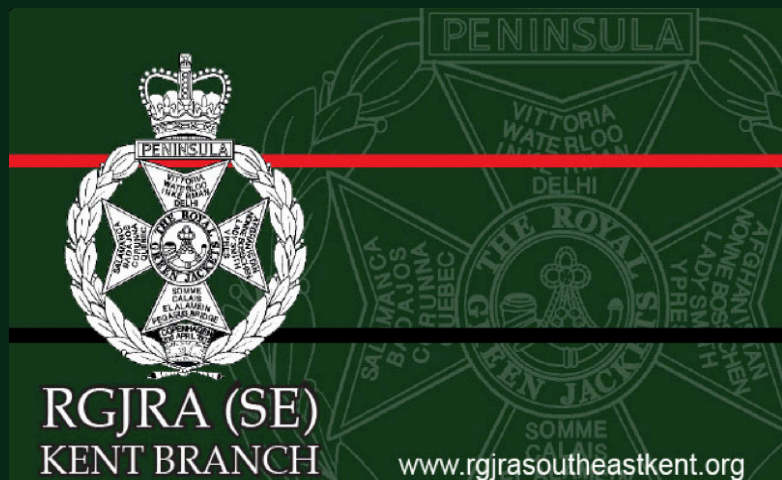
In partnership with Lest We Forget we are offered 12 tickets yearly to the All England Tennis Club, Wimbledon, Court 1 to watch the Wimbledon Championships in July. Paid up members will be automatically entered in to the ballot for a place to this event. Places are non transferable, so if you win please let us know if you are able to attend or not, so the place can be drawn again.

We also have a River Thames cruise with

lunch, once again names for paid up members will be entered in to the ballot. More details to follow closer the time.

Members will also receive our new membership cards, the aspiration is to find willing Bars, Restaurants, shop and alike to offer discounts to our members. Please get in touch if you know of such a venue for us to approach. What we offer in return is our membership as custom.

Other events include the summer BBQ, Church Service & Christmas Party always a great success. Our aim is always to find ways to benefit the members. Ideas always welcome



## REGIMENTAL HISTORY

### HILL 112 - 8TH BATTALION THE RIFLE BRIGADE

A little known piece of ground except to those that fought there, Hill 112 to was a ridge of land west of the city of Caen. Regarded by both side as crucial,

“whoever holds Hill 112, holds Normandy”

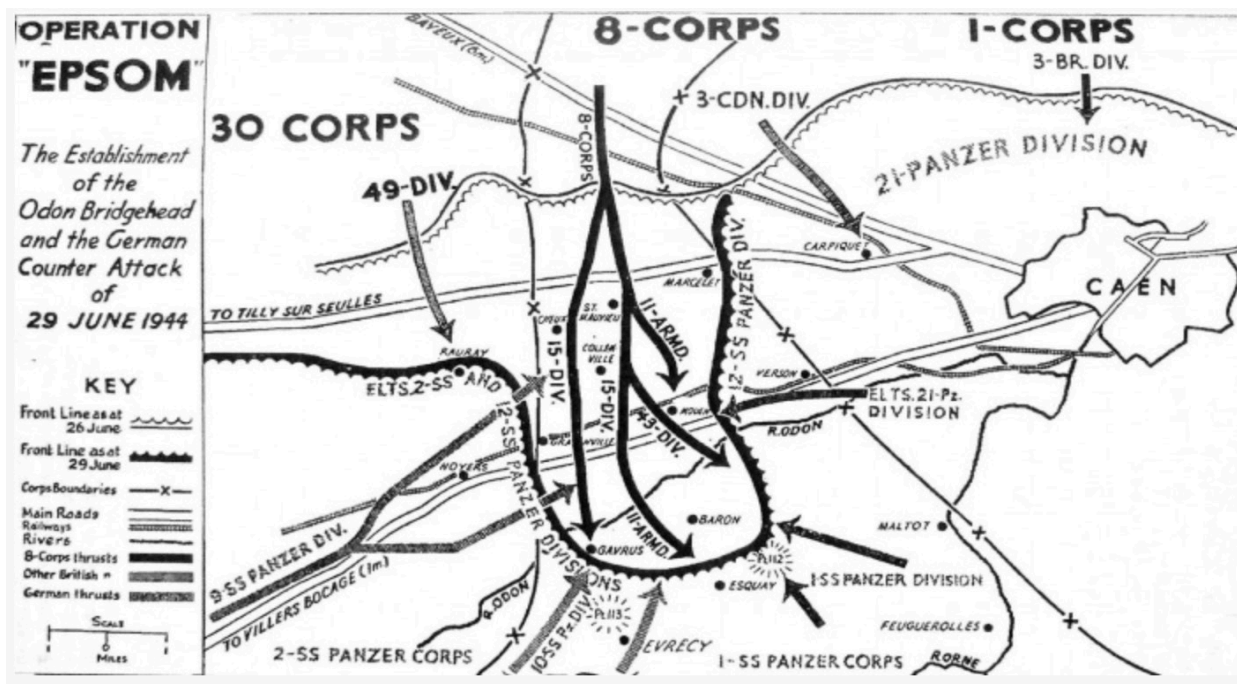
SS-Obergruppenführer Paul Hausser, Commander  
7th Army

The assault on Hill 112 was part of Operation Epsom which would be the 3rd and final attempt to take the city of Caen on the 26th June 1944.

General Montgomery gave the 3rd attempt to capture the city of Caen to VIII Corps commanded by Lt General Sir Richard O’Conner a veteran of the desert campaigns in north Africa. He had 60,00 men, 600 tanks, 736 guns + XXX & I Corps guns, Navel gun fire from 3 x cruisers, RAF 2nd Tactical Air Force to provide close Air Support and prelim bombing raid on German positions by 250 RAF heavy bombers at his disposal which was later cancelled due to heavy rain.

O’Conners warfighting divisions were the 15 Scottish Division, 43 Wessex Division, 11 Armoured Division.

The commander of the 11th Armd Div was Maj general G.P.B ‘Pip’ Roberts, luckily for him he had both the 2nd Bn KRRC (Motor Rifle Bn) - 4th Armd Bde – Brigadier J.C. Currie  
8th Bn RB (PCO) (Motor Rifle Bn) – 29th Armd Bde- Brigadier C.B.C Harvey under his command.



Previous attempts by the 51st Highland Division to outflank the city to the east and the 7th Armoured Divisions (Operation Perch) attempt to outflank west had both failed.

Operation Epsom started by preliminary supporting attacks to secure the flanks with XXX Corps to seize and hold high ground (right flank), I Corps left flank and to seize Caen if VIII Corps successful in the main attack against the German Line (Operation Epsom).

Success in this operation would force the Germans to abandon Caen and allow I Corps advance and seize the city.

Enemy forces, I SS Panzer Corps - commanded by SS-Obergruppenführer (Lt-Gen) Josef 'Sepp' Dietrich which consisted of the 21st Panzer Division, 12th SS Panzer Division Hitlerjugend, and the Panzer Lehr Division. It was the young soldiers of the Hitlerjugend that stood directly in the path of VIII Corps, with elements of 21st Panzer Division to its east and Panzer Lehr Division to its west.

Units from III Flakkorps were emplaced behind the main defensive lines and as VIII Corps approached Dietrich had two companies of Tigers from the SS sPzAbt 101 moved up behind the Hitlerjugend.

The Operation opened up with a massive barrage from the artillery, then Motorized Infantry and Sherman tanks advanced across the open corn fields. The going was slow and only a 2 mile advance had been achieved in the first 48 hours.

The crossing over the Odon was secured on the evening of the 27th by the 2nd Bn The Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders. Next was crossing over the River Orne. In order to secure the crossing the high feature, Hill 112 would need to be taken first.

On the 29th at 05.30 am B Squadron, 23rd Hussars began the advance, halted by the German fierce defence, reinforcements from C Squadron, 23rd Hussars and the 8th Bn The Rifle Brigade moved up, they then pushed through and captured the Hill after heavy fighting that lasted all day. By the end of the day nearly all of the Sherman's some 40 of B & C Squadrons had been destroyed. The 8th Bn Rifle Brigade had also taken a heavy toll.

The Bn prepared defences and started to dig in, however the rest of the divisions advance had not been as far forward, leaving the front and both flanks exposed to German counter attacks. The 8th Bn position was tenuous being exposed on 3 sides along a long corridor.

The Germans counterattacked, launching the 9th, 10th and parts of the 2nd SS panzer divisions against to western flank of the corridor. Time and time again the Germans were driven back with a combination of the Sherman Tanks from the Hussars, Close Air support from RAF Typhoons as well as the entrenched Riflemen from the 8th Bn The Rifle Brigade.

The decision was made some time on the 30th after German Ultra intercepts revealed that reinforcements from II SS Panzer Corps were close and tasked with the re capture of Hill 112, the cost would be too high to for 11 Div to absorb. The decision was made by General Dempsey.

11 Division withdrew and consolidated around the Odon crossing bridgehead.

Operation Epsom ended with the bridgehead over the Odon but not the Orne.

This was the first of many actions by the 8th Rifle Brigade on the advance to Germany.



F Coy, 8 RB, Advance in contact, Hill 112, 29th June 1944.



## MEMORIALS

### THE COVID REMEMBRANCE

November the 8th - Our day to remember our fallen and a time to reflect, catch up with friends and share a drink or two. This year of course was different, our traditional Parade cancelled. Our members standing on their doorsteps as their Act of Remembrance.

Many chose to head out on their own, some with their families. Not surprisingly a few had same idea and a small cohort chose the KRRC India Memorial as the place to remember. Social distant chosenmen held an impromptu 2 minutes silence.



In Memoriam

Cpl Alan Stow

‘Stowie’



**EVENTS CALANDER 2021**

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- 21st January - Committee Meeting, Phoenix Club Dover
- 28th January - Branch Meeting, Phoenix Club Dover
- 18th March - Committee Meeting, Phoenix Club Dover
- 25th March - Annual General Meeting (AGM), Phoenix Club Dover
- 12th June - Summer BBQ, The Phonix Club
- 17th June - Committee Meeting, Phoenix Club Dover
- 24th June - Branch Meeting, Phoenix Club Dover
- 10th July - Winchester Reunion
- tbc July - Wimbledon Tennis
- tbc July/August - Green Stock
- tbc August - Thames River Cruise
- 16th September - Committee Meeting, Phoenix Club Dover
- 23rd September - Branch Meeting, Phoenix Club Dover
- tbc September - Light Div Gathering, NMA
- tbc September - Church Parade, Dover
- 7th November - Remembrance Parade, Dover  
Followed by a curry lunch in Dover Sea Angling Club
- 18th November - Committee Meeting, Phoenix Club Dover
- 25th November - Committee Meeting, Phoenix Club Dover
- 27th November - Christmas Party, Phoenix Club





Welcome fellow Rifleman. Please take a few minutes to read and complete this survey. Your new committee are looking to move the association branch on from the good work done by the previous committee and to ensure the Branch remains strong and to be there for you all in case of any problems and to be a focal point for keeping in touch with old comrades. The feedback from this survey will help us to determine what you want from the association and hopefully bring the member numbers up.

### 1. Membership

- a) Are you a paid-up member? **Yes / No**
- b) Reason for not continuing to be a member?
- c) What improvements would make you decide to re-instate or commence to be a member?
- d) Do you have any contacts/or contact's details of other non- members. (Their name or contact details can be listed at the end of the survey). This would allow the Branch to contact them with a view of them becoming a member.? **Yes / No**
- e) Membership fee for a year is £10.00 do you think this is reasonable? **Yes / No**

### 2. Communication

How would you prefer to receive communication from the Branch?

**Email                      Website                      Facebook                      Text**

### 2. Members meetings

- a) If you do not attend meetings what is the reason?
- b) At present the Branch holds 4 meetings a year. Do you think that number is?

**Too many / Too few / About right**

- c) The meetings are held on Thursday nights what night would best suit you?  
**Monday / Tuesday / Wednesday / Thursday / Friday**
- d) Does the location of Dover suit you? **Yes / No**
- e) If some of the meetings were held in other areas of Kent would that encourage you to attend? **Yes / No**



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## 7. Your Details

Name:

Address:

Email:

Contact phone No:

Battalions served in:

You can either download this from the website and return it by email to me David Ivatt [ivattrgj@aol.com](mailto:ivattrgj@aol.com) or post it back to me at:

**Dave Ivatt**

**3 Palmer Road**

**Wingham**

**Kent**

**CT3 1BS**

We would like to thank you for taking the time to complete and return this survey and we really appreciate you doing so. We look forward to receiving your views and comments and also seeing you when things get back to normal. THANK YOU



**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL**

Annual Subscription Fee £10, payable by 25th February yearly.

Payment By

Cheque to RGJ SOUTH EAST KENT BRANCH

BACS

Standing Order



First Name:

Surname:

Rank:

Service Number:

Known As:

Date of Birth:

Regiment(s), Please tick.

Battalion(s):

QVR

RB

GJ

OBLI

RGJ

KRRC

RIFLES

If you are applying as an Associate Member, please give details of your Sponsor, a current member;

Name:

**CONTACT ADDRESS DETAILS**

Your details will be stored securely and will not be given out to any 3rd Party apart from the Royal Green Jackets Association.

Address:

Town/City:

Postcode:

Emai:

Tel:





# New standing order

**LOYDS BANK**



For Business Banking Customers

Please write clearly in **black ink** in the white spaces with capital letters or cross the boxes.

**All sections must be completed.**

Please return the **original** form as photocopies are not acceptable.

**Important – we cannot set standing orders or direct debits up on savings accounts.**

## 1 Your details

Your full name or name of business <input type="text"/>	Sort code (being debited) <input type="text" value=""/> <input type="text" value="-"/> <input type="text" value=""/> <input type="text" value=""/> <input type="text" value=""/> <input type="text" value=""/>	Account number (being debited) <input type="text" value=""/> <input type="text" value=""/> <input type="text" value=""/> <input type="text" value=""/> <input type="text" value=""/> <input type="text" value=""/> <input type="text" value=""/> <input type="text" value=""/> <input type="text" value=""/> <input type="text" value=""/>
Your contact telephone number <input type="text"/>	Branch name <input type="text"/>	

## 2 Details of your standing order

Does this instruction replace any existing **standing order or direct debit instructions**?      Yes       No

If **yes** please give details in special instructions below and arrange to cancel them.

Recipient's name

Recipient's bank and branch name

Recipient's sort code      Recipient's account number  
     

How often do you want the payment made?  
 Weekly       4 Weekly       Monthly       Quarterly       Half Yearly       Yearly

Other frequencies (Please give details of any special instructions)

Payment reference (if applicable)

First payment amount (if different to usual payment)  
£

First payment date

Usual payment amount  
£

Usual payment amount in words

Final payment amount (if different to usual payment). This must have a final payment date.  
£

Final payment date (if applicable)      Or      Until further notice

## 3 Your agreement with us

I authorise you to debit my/our account, in accordance with the details in Section 2. This request is addressed to the bank which holds my/our account.  
**PERSONAL CUSTOMERS – To check your account or amend a standing order call the Contact Centre on 0345 3 000 000.**  
 Once you have completed this form, please return it to: **Lloyds Bank, Box 1, BX1 1LT.**

Your Signature(s)

Date

**For bank use only**

ID type and reference number       SMD checked

Sort code  -  -

For 30-00-02 accounts and all corporate (set 41) customers, send the completed form to  
 City Office, Gillingham, Kent, TNT 23.

Branch Stamp

Please contact us if you would like this information in an alternative format such as Braille, large print or audio.

