

**1965 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE  
1ST GREEN JACKETS, 43rd & 52nd**

**THE ROYAL GREEN JACKETS**

These two letters are self-explanatory and are reproduced for historical reasons.

*From* General Sir Gerald Lathbury, G.C.B., D.S.O., M.B.E.

27th May 1965

*To:* Members of the Regiment.

**"THE LARGE REGIMENT"**

When H.R.H. The Duke of Gloucester re-opens the Green Jackets Depot at Winchester on 28th May he will announce, for the first time, certain changes in the structure of the three existing Green Jackets Regiments.

The purpose of this letter, which will be sent to as many members of the Regiment as possible, is to tell them of these changes before they read of them in the daily press.

Many of you will know that it has been the policy of the Army Board to encourage regiments to form themselves, voluntarily, into "Large Regiments" and in this matter the Colonels Commandant of the three Green Jackets Regiments decided that the time was ripe to give a lead to the rest of the Army. This decision was based on the fact that it is neither practicable nor desirable to continue to support "one battalion regiments" in present conditions. It was also decided that it was preferable to make the changes now under our own terms rather than wait for the inevitable and perhaps less favourable conditions of a Ministry of Defence Order.

The changes that Her Majesty the Queen has been graciously pleased to approve are as follows:

The new Regiment will be called The Royal Green Jackets and Her Majesty has consented to be the first Colonel-in-Chief. H.R.H. The Duke of Gloucester will be Deputy Colonel-in-chief.

The battalions of the Regiment will be styled:

1st Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, (43rd and 52nd)

2nd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, (The Kings Royal Rifle Corps)

3rd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, (The Rifle Brigade)

There will be a Colonel Commandant for each battalion, one of whom will be the representative Colonel Commandant.

No change in the title of the Territorial Battalion is envisaged.

The re-organisation will be effective as from 1st January 1966.

You will appreciate that the repercussions of the formation of the new Regiment are numerous and somewhat complicated. With this in view a Green Jackets Committee has been at work for some time and its report is now subject to ratification by the Colonels Commandant Committee and our own Regimental Committee. Details will be available from. Regimental Headquarters later on.

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I would however stress at this juncture that the re-organisation will, in the main, affect only the serving members of the Regiment for its essence is that the Regiment, as we know it today, will become a "battalion" of a "regiment." This evolution will be complete and for example Officers will be commissioned into, and Riflemen enlisted in, The Royal Green Jackets. There will be a conformity of dress and cross posting between the battalions a normal occurrence.

To retired members of the Regiment the change will have little effect for there is no intention to interfere with existing Clubs, Associations, Regimental Dinners or indeed with their current subscriptions to our existing funds. The Regimental Committee will continue to safeguard our regimental interests and the Riflemen's Aid Society the welfare of our soldiers.

The Royal Green Jackets I am sure, can look forward to a future as distinguished and happy as has been the past of the Regiments from which it is to be formed and I know it will have your full support and encouragement. Our old Regiment in its new style of a battalion is very fortunate indeed in the company that it keeps.

I am signing this on General Lathbury's behalf as he is still away in Australia at the time of going to press. He fully approves of the policy.

J. A. J. Read,  
Major-General  
for Colonel Commandant 1st Green Jackets, 43rd and 52nd

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Ministry of Defence  
6th August 1965

Sir,

**THE ROYAL GREEN JACKETS**

I am commanded by the Army Board of the Defence Council to refer to War Office letter 20/Infantry/4514 (SD2d) dated 28th February 1963 and to state that Her Majesty The Queen has been graciously pleased to approve the reorganisation of The Green Jackets Brigade as a "Large Regiment". The reorganisation is to be effective from 1st January 1966.

2. The Regiment is to be designated The Royal Green Jackets and its component regular battalions are to be designated:

1st Battalion The Royal Green Jackets (43rd and 52nd)

2nd Battalion The Royal Green Jackets (The King's Royal Rifle Corps)

3rd Battalion The Royal Green Jackets (The Rifle Brigade)

The official abbreviation of The Royal Green Jackets is to be R.GJ. preceded by the number of the battalion concerned.

3. Her Majesty The Queen has graciously consented to become the Colonel-in-Chief of The Royal Green Jackets and has been graciously pleased to approve the appointment of His Royal Highness The Duke of Gloucester as Deputy Colonel-in-chief.

4. The precedence of the Regiment is to be that of the present 1st Green Jackets, 43rd and 52nd and within the Regiment battalions are to take precedence in numerical order.

Territorial Army battalions are to retain their existing precedence in the Territorial Army so long as they retain their existing titles; should they at a later date adopt The Royal Green Jackets' title they will take precedence in the Territorial Army after The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry.

5. The public announcement of this reorganisation was made by His Royal Highness The Duke of Gloucester, at Winchester, on Friday, 28th May 1965.

6. Further detailed instructions on the reorganisation are to be issued separately,

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

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**NOTES ON THE REORGANISATION OF THE GREEN JACKETS  
BRIGADE**

**1. Designation**

As from 1st January 1966, the 1st Green Jackets, 43rd and 52nd, will be designated a "battalion," e.g. 1st Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets (43rd and 52nd).

Abbreviation: 1 R.GJ.

It will continue under its new styling to be the county regiment of Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire and will retain all its valued connections with the two counties,

**2. Colonel-in-Chief**

Her Majesty The Queen has graciously consented to become Colonel-in-Chief of The Royal Green Jackets and has been graciously pleased to approve the appointment of His Royal Highness The Duke of Gloucester, K.G., K.T., K.P., G.C.B., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., as Deputy Colonel-in-Chief.

**3. Colonels Commandant**

Each battalion will retain its Colonel Commandant and one of the three will act as "Representative Colonel Commandant." The first will be Field-Marshal Sir Francis Festing, G.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O.

**4. Direction**

(a) The direction of The Royal Green Jackets affairs and policy will be in the hands of "The Regimental Committee." The Representative Colonel Commandant will be Chairman and each of the three former regiments will be represented on this committee by their Colonel Commandant, the Commanding Officers of each Regular and Territorial Battalion, a member of each former regiment's Regimental Committee or Club, and two retired members of each former regiment. There will also be representation from The Green Jackets Club, The Riflemen's Aid Society and other Royal Green Jackets clubs and associations.

(b) The Colonels Commandant Committee will continue to operate as at present.

(c) Our existing Regimental Committee will also continue to operate and its constitution will remain unchanged. Its special task will be to represent the interests of all former battalions and all those who served therein. It will make recommendations on these and any other Green Jackets matters it may wish to The Royal Green Jackets Regimental Committee.

**5. Regimental Rolls, Commissioning and Enlistment**

(a) As from 1st January 1966 all serving officers, WOs, NCOs and riflemen will be placed on the strength of The Royal Green Jackets, taking seniority on the regimental roll as applicable.

(b) As from 1st January 1966 all officers will be commissioned in The Royal Green Jackets. All enlistments will also be to The Royal Green Jackets. Inter-battalion posting will be a matter of course.

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### **6. Regimental Headquarters**

An amalgamated Regimental Headquarters, The Royal Green Jackets, will be established at Peninsula Barracks, Winchester. The commander of this establishment will be the Regimental Colonel (formerly the Brigade Colonel).

The two R.O.s formerly at Cowley Barracks (Lieut.-Colonel J. Granville and Major H. P. Patterson) will work within the new R.H.Q., which *will* deal with the regimental matters of The Royal Green Jackets. These two R.O.s will, however, continue to be responsible for the regimental affairs of our former regiment including all former battalions. For this purpose an Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Office will be maintained at Cowley Barracks together with part of the Regimental Museum. Liaison with the two counties will be the responsibility of this local R.H.Q. office,

### **7. Finance—Central Funds**

The Central Funds of the three former regiments will be amalgamated under a scheme to be drawn up by the Charity Commission, The United Service Trustee will be Custodian Trustee and the three Colonels Commandant, the Regimental Colonel and two appointed members from each former regiment will be Managing Trustees.

The Central Fund will be operated from R.H.Q., Winchester, under the direction of the Trustees and advice of a Finance Sub-committee.

Each battalion of the new Regiment will benefit from the income of the pooled capital of the funds of the former three regiments, as directed by the Managing Trustees.

### **8. Property**

All property belonging to the three regiments will be pooled and become the property of The Royal Green Jackets—the exception will be museum exhibits (see paragraph 16).

Battalions and the Depot will retain the property already in their possession.

The control of regimental property is vested in the R.G.J. Regimental Committee and will be administered from R.H.Q., Winchester.

### **9. Welfare—The Riflemen's Aid Society**

The objects of the Riflemen's Aid Society remain unchanged. The funds of the former three branches (ours was originally The Regimental Association) will be pooled under a new Charity Commission Scheme. The Trustees will be as for the Central Funds (see paragraph 7 above).

The Society will operate from R.H.Q., Winchester, under the direction of the Regimental Committee and the Executive Committee (formerly the Benevolence and General Purposes Committee).

The Riflemen's Aid Society is for the welfare of serving other ranks and retired other ranks of all former battalions, or their dependants.

Applications for aid may be made to R.H.Q., The Royal Green Jackets, Peninsula Barracks, Winchester, where they will be considered under the existing rules of the Riflemen's Aid Society.

### **10. Welfare—The Royal Green Jackets Officers' Fund**

The funds of the Officers Associations (or equivalent) of the three former regiments will be pooled into one Royal Green Jackets Officers' Trust Fund. A Charity Commission scheme will operate and Trustees will be appointed as in paragraphs 7 and 8 above.

The new Officers' Fund will be for the welfare of all former officers (or their dependants) no matter in which regiment they served.

The Trust Fund will be administered from R.H.Q., Winchester.

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**11. Officers' Clubs**

Existing clubs to remain as at present, but a new Royal Green Jackets Officers' Club will be formed to which all *-serving* officers will pay their subscriptions as from 1st January 1966. They will continue to be honorary serving members (without payment) to the club to which they previously belonged. (This paragraph does not affect our former officers unless they wish to join the new club. We have not had a "Club" as such for many years.)

*Note.*—The new Royal Green Jackets Officers' Club must not be confused with "The Green Jackets Club," i.e., the cricket club and golf society. This club, which is for officers only, remains entirely unchanged.

**12. Subscriptions—Officers**

*(a) Serving Officers*

Details of the new scales of subscription payable will be issued to all concerned.

*(b) Former Officers*

Former officers of our Regiment are asked to leave their subscriptions, including covenants, entirely unaltered. Income received from this source will be controlled by our own Regimental Committee (see paragraphs 4(c)).

Appropriate contributions will be made to the centralised funds of The Royal Green Jackets, e.g. The Riflemen's Aid Society, Officers' Fund, etc.

**13. Dress**

The regulations for dress within the new Regiment are too lengthy to republish here. They result from the recommendations made by a committee that sat for that purpose and have been approved by the three Colonels Commandant. The basis of changes made is to ensure conformity throughout the new Regiment and only minor variations within battalions have been allowed.

A major decision was that to introduce a new cap badge. This will be similar to the present Green Jackets badge but slightly larger to allow for 16 selected battle honours to be inscribed on the Maltese Cross of the badge. The Bugle Horn will be retained in the centre of the badge. The Regimental Belt will be discarded in favour of the black plastic Cross Belt which will carry an enlarged version of the new cap badge at its centre.

Other changes are mostly minor and for the sake of conformity. Details may be obtained from Regimental Headquarters by those particularly interested.

Former officers of the Regiment will be interested to know that the white tie and waistcoat will be retained with any new Mess kit worn by the 1st Battalion The Royal Green Jackets.

**14. Old Comrades' Association**

(a) Existing Old Comrades' Associations or Clubs will continue entirely without change. Our O.C.A. will continue to be administered from Cowley Barracks.

(b) A new association will however be formed and will be called The Royal Green Jackets Association. After 1st January 1966 all serving soldiers who wish to join a Regimental Association (Old Comrades' Association) will be invited to join. Annual subscriptions of members of existing associations, etc., who are serving on 1st January 1966 will, at their next renewal date, be made to the new Royal Green Jackets Association.

(c) All members of existing associations will be considered honorary members of any other association or branch and be welcome at any reunions held,

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**15. Museums**

Regimental museums will continue to be administered by each former regiment. A director will be appointed to control day-to-day administration for the Green Jackets Museum at Winchester for which purpose the museum will be regarded as one.

The branch of our museum at Cowley Barracks will continue and will be expanded as is possible. Exhibits may be exchanged as required between Oxford and Winchester.

**16. Publications**

(a) *The Chronicle*

The 1965 edition of *The Chronicle* will be the last of the series. It will be published in 1966. As from 1966 a combined Green Jackets Chronicle will take its place. It will be on exactly the same lines as our *Chronicle* but will be a record of the "three Regiments" in one volume. Subscribers to the present *Chronicle* will receive a copy without further application.

(b) *The Gorget*

It is regretted that this publication will cease with the present edition. Finance will not be available to continue to subsidise its issue. The production of some form of news letter will take its place.

**17. Correspondence**

Members of the Regiment are requested to address all correspondence, which was formerly sent to R.H.Q. Cowley Barracks (except letters of the Old Comrades' Association of The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry and 1st Green Jackets, 43rd and 52nd), to the following address after 1st January 1966:

Regimental Headquarters,

The Royal Green Jackets,

Peninsula Barracks,

Winchester, Hants.

The telephone number is Winchester 61781.