



Volume 2019/Issue 1  
March 2019



# The Groundsheet

The Publication of  
The Royal Westminster Regiment Association

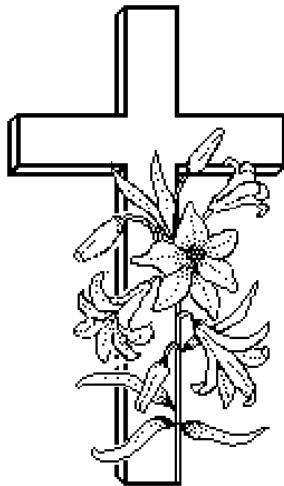
*'Dedicated to the ideals and comradeship  
we knew in wars and peace in our  
services both home and abroad.'*

**'Pro Rege et Patria'**

**530 Queens Ave,  
New Westminster, BC  
Canada,  
V3L 1K3**

**[www.royal-westies-assn.ca](http://www.royal-westies-assn.ca)**





# *In Memoriam*



Alvin Howard DUECK	Abbotsford, BC	March 31, 2018	The Royal Westminster Regiment
Darrel CONNICK	Powell River, BC	October 7, 2018	The Royal Westminster Regiment

---

## **HEALTH AND WELFARE**

Margaret Ida Sayce, widow of Donald Sayce (The Westminster Regiment (Motor) 1941-1945) passed away June 3. Sgt. Mann and family welcomed a baby girl on 01 July 2018. The families of MCpl. Morrison (RSS) and also Cpl. Smith (Band) also had children born. On the 21<sup>st</sup> July 2018 Pte Wang sustained significant injuries from a fall off a cliff while hiking, and is still receiving treatment and is recovering slowly. Lisa and Captain Todd Singer were married on 09 September 2018. 2Lt. Berg-Iverson and her partner Brittany Mueller welcomed their daughter Maya Marie Mueller on 09 November 2018 at 0043 hours, weighing 8lbs 1oz.

Please advise the President of deaths, births, and other significant updates regarding the health and welfare of our serving and retired members.

---

## **MUSEUM REPORT**

For anyone who has memorabilia and artifacts that pertain to the Regimental history, the Museum would appreciate the items being donated to us. We would rather have the items here than being tossed into the garbage. You can contact the museum through the website or come into the Museum. We are open on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 11:00 AM and 3:00 pm.

## Your Executive

### President

Dennis Keeton

president@royal-westies-assn.ca

### Vice President

Terry Leith

### Secretary

Bill White

secretary@royal-westies-assn.ca

### Treasurer

Joe Melonari

### Editor

Rod Thomson

rodthomson@shaw.ca

### Assistant Editor

2Lt. Hans Mulder

jwmulder@gmail.com

### Directors

Mike Kvammen

Eric Skrebsky

Ron O'Bray

Amarjot Singh

Colleen Melville

Gary Grigg

## Editor's Trench

It has been an eventful summer for the unit, with domestic flood and fire deployments, courses, and training with the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers in England. It was also eventful for regiment and association members on the personal front – we have lost several of the ‘Old Guard’ and welcomed new babies.

The Groundsheet does important work publishing this information for several reasons; first, it binds together and informs our regimental family, second, it documents the current affairs and events of the regimental family, and finally, it serves to recognize the efforts of association members, serving members, and cadets in their endeavours.

However, this work is hampered by a lack of material. An editor, as defined by the Oxford Dictionary is “A person who is in charge of and determines the final content of a newspaper, magazine, or multi-author book.” The content is not generated by the editor, but should be submitted by the various branches of the regimental family. In the absence of regular submissions, the content is limited. Members are strongly encouraged to provide information and photographs to the editor for inclusion in future articles.

Association Member Rod Thomson will be conducting a relief-in-place for this position, and yours truly will gratefully accept the concurrent demotion to assistant editor, hopefully freeing up time to catch up on other subaltern duties. Please assist your comrade as he assumes this role by submitting content for upcoming editions of the Groundsheet.

*Pro Rege Et Patria*

2Lt. Mulder

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Good day to all.

Winter is almost behind us and we are gearing up for Melfa Weekend. As most of you know Melfa weekend is earlier this year due to our commemorative trip to Italy. The annual golf tournament will be held at Delta Golf Course, the same as last year, on Friday May 10th. This year the AGM will be held on the same day as the dinner. The AGM will take place during the day in the Senior NCOs' mess with the dinner being held in the evening on the parade square. I look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible as this year's dinner will be somewhat of a sendoff for those going to Italy. Please note that you must pay for the golf and the dinner up front this year in order to attend each event.

At this year's dinner we will be doing a 50/50 draw again. The more people that attend the bigger the potential pot! Thanks go out again to Alan Kerekanich for donating his winnings back to the Association last year. The executive members are currently seeking prizes for the silent auction. If you know of anyone wishing to donate, please let us know.

Final payment for all personnel attending the Italy trip is due in the next couple of weeks. Please ensure that you are in communication with our travel agent STI to get this done. For all people participating in the trip, we will be hosting a meet and greet in the Officer's Mess on March 24th at 13:30. Snacks and drinks will be served. This will give you a chance to meet most of the 30+ people going on the trip. Four of our five affiliated cadet corps will be represented on the trip. Unfortunately our Hope corps did not have anyone available that qualified. Additional cadets will also be attending along with their families. Members of the serving Battalion will also be on hand, giving us a good representation all around.

The deadline for this years' bursary is also fast approaching. Applications can be found on the Association website and must be in by the end of March. All applications will be reviewed and the bursary will be awarded in June, after we return from Italy. Before applying, please review the application carefully to ensure that you qualify.

As many of you have probably heard by now, I will not be seeking re-election for the role of President at this year's AGM. I will be moving on to volunteer my time within the cadet organization and support our Maple Ridge affiliated cadet corps. I will be remaining on the Executive as the Past President. In addition Bill White will also not be filling the role of Secretary next year. He was nominated and has accepted the position of President with the Engineers Association. Therefore we will be looking for other members to step up and take on these roles. The Executive only meets once per month and stands down during the summer (July

& August). Anyone seeking to do some volunteer work for just a few short hours a month should attend the AGM in order to be nominated.

New berets will be ready for issue shortly. The pewter cap badges have arrived and the 5th Division patches should be arriving shortly. The Lincoln green berets are being ordered in sizes more appropriate for the shapes of most of our heads. Once in stock we will be organizing them and getting them ready for issue.

In closing I would just like to say thank you to all of the other Executive staff members and volunteers that have assisted during my time as President. It truly is a team effort and all that we got accomplished could not have been done without your support.

I hope to see as many of you as possible over the Melfa Weekend. The success of the dinner relies on your attendance and participation and it's a great way to catch up with old friends. Thank you all in advance for your continued support!

Pro Rege Et Patria

### **WESTIES TRAIN WITH US ARMY ALLIED REGIMENT IN MANNING**



---

*MANNING PARK, BRITISH COLUMBIA – The Royal Westminster Regiment hosted 37 soldiers from the Oregon National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, 41st Infantry Combat Brigade for winter training from January 24 to 28. The snowy conditions in Manning Provincial Park provided an excellent opportunity for the 93 Westies and 8 Canadian Rangers to practice and pass on winter survival skills and conduct light infantry tasks during EXERCISE WESTIE AVALANCHE. A full article will follow in the next edition.*

## **A MESSAGE FROM THE INCOMING COMMANDING OFFICER**

NEW WESTMINSTER, BC - Hello fellow Westies! It's with great honour that I submit my first Commanding Officer's Report and update you on the activities of the serving Battalion. I was told years ago that after the Afghanistan War ended in 2014, that our operational tempo would subside; I guess they were talking about a different Regiment. A great deal has occurred since the Change of Command in May of this year.

The Basic Reconnaissance Patrolman Course was conducted in May 2018 and completed final training in the Chilcotin the weekend after the Change of Command parade. I received a call from the course staff regarding a non-responsive signaller: one of the course support staff. This was my first call to the Brigade Commander, however it was good news as the soldier turned out to be fine and just had heat stroke.

Our Recruiting team of Lt Oh, Cpl Wiens, and others has done an excellent job of recruiting this past training year. Lt Oh broke my record of 75 soldiers enrolled in a training year by enrolling 63 Recruits between April and December of 2018. We are anticipating approximately 90 additions to the regiment for this year. Lt Oh's efforts are part of the Army campaign to Strengthen the Army Reserve (StAR). The goal of StAR is to expand the Reserves from 15,000 personnel to 30,000, with the objective for Reservists to fulfill additional roles and tasks. Due to Lt Oh's efforts our current enrolled strength is 254 and he estimates by 31 Mar 2019 we will have enrolled an additional 70 new recruits. As of this month our average parade strength is 206 personnel. I'm anticipating that we will hit the 300 mark by the summer of 2019. Besides being number one in recruiting in the Brigade, we are also the top recruiting unit in 5 Division and in the top 5 units in the Canadian Army Reserve. We are also the largest unit in 39 Canadian Brigade Group (CBG).

One of the StAR initiatives is the Full Time Summer Employment (FTSE) program. This is similar to Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) funded in the past by Employment Insurance. This new program guarantees four months of summer employment and/or training each year for four years, contributing to more qualified Reservists and a larger organization overall. This will help us fulfill the additional tasks and requirements of the operational tempo. If you know of children, siblings, cousins, neighbours etc. that meet the recruiting standards and might be interested in Army Reserve, have them contact Lt Oh.

As part of StAR, and expanding the role of the Army Reserve, some of the Primary Reserve units have received mission tasks. Many of you may recall the past Airborne tasking of the regiment and the Armoured Defence Platoon tasks. The difference this time is the expectation that we will fill positions with the Operational Battalion (3 PPCLI) as qualified personnel and as formed mission task platoons, with potential deployment opportunities over the coming year.

Within 39 CBG some units have already received the following mission tasks: Canadian Scottish Regiment – Recce Pl, Seaforth Highlanders of Canada – Pioneer Pl, British Columbia Dragoons-Influence Activities Company, and British Columbia Regiment - Chemical Biological Radiological and Nuclear Troop (both units issued the new TAVP vehicle to support this task). (Influence Activities consist of Civil Military Cooperation Operators (CIMIC), Public Affairs and Psyops)). 5th and 15th Field Regiments have been assigned Light Urban Search and Rescue (LUSAR), and Canadian Signals Regiment (RCSC) – Cyber Operations.

So what about the Westies? Currently our unofficial task is to force generate one infantry platoon, and to be prepared to force employ one infantry platoon within our affiliated Regular Force Battalion - 3 PPCLI. As you are reading this, a dozen or more Westies have started the process to integrate and train to augment 3VP on the Road to High Readiness. Some will prepare as infantry personnel and others maybe as part of Influence Activities - Civil Military Cooperation Operators (CIMIC). We are waiting to see if they will deploy and where.

As part of the Army Reserve tasks there is a requirement to support domestic operations. Some of these tasks have been security related, but the majority are support during natural disasters. Last year (2017), 450 Reservists from 39 CBG (plus those from 38/41 CBGs from Alberta and Saskatchewan) deployed to BC to assist the Province with Forest Fire Fighting.

This year we started with natural disaster support with OPERATION LENTUS 18-3. 18-3 was the CAF on standby to support BC in case of flooding. Westies provided 18 personnel on standby prepared to assist. As this wound down the DND Property in Richmond behind the Service Battalion Armoury, the “Blueberry Patch”, caught fire. Bog and marsh in the area made the fire difficult to fight. Our soldiers participated on security and check points to cordon the area as Richmond Fire Department dealt with the blaze. As we were recalled from 18-3 we were notified to be ready for OPERATION LENTUS 18-5.

OP LENTUS 18-5 was a provincial state of emergency for BC; again our task was to assist the Ministry of Forests (MoF) with wildfire mitigation operations. We deployed 11 Westies to assist the MoF with mop up activities as part of the 1/3 PPCLI Immediate Reaction Unit. Majors Pong, Manmohan, Chan, and Spielman deployed and supported the operation: The first three located with our troops in and around Vernon and Kelowna; Major Spielman worked in Chilliwack preparing Reservists to deploy to the fire regions.

Of course, summers are always a busy time for training. We deployed officers and soldiers to Chilliwack, Wainwright, Borden and Gagetown, attending and or instructing on Basic Military Qualification (BMQ) Courses, Basic Military Qualification (Land) Course, Basic Infantryman Course, Advance Recce Course, Basic Military Officers Qualification Courses both the BMOQ Part 2 and BMOQ(Army) (formerly the Common Army Phase or Phase 2). Additionally, troops trained on the Basic Logistics Officers Course, Human Resources Clerks, and Finance Clerks Courses, the Primary Leadership Qualification Course, and RST. (NOTE: The administration and finance trades split again; many of you may recall admin and finance were combined and became Routine Material Systems RMS Clerks). Our RSS MCpl Brandon Morrison and MCpl Brandon Neff attended the RST, with MCpl Morrison from Chilliwack recognized as top candidate.

### ***Majors Pong, Manmohan and Chan at Vernon Military Camp***

We also conducted a small unit exchange with our affiliated Regiment in the UK, the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers (RRF). Thirty-four officers and soldiers, deployed to Tidsworth and Rollstone to conduct Urban Operations Training. This training was located just a stone's throw from Stonehenge. During the first week of September we joined 1, 2, and 5 Battalions RRF along with the Lorne Scots and the Australian Victoria Rifles for a privilege parade exercising the RRF Freedom of the City. HRH Duke of Kent Colonel in Chief of the RRF and the Lord Mayor of London inspected the combined parade. As we were inspected, I recalled that 72 years prior the then Lord Mayor of London had inspected the then Westminster Regiment in London in the immediate post-war wind down.

### ***RSM and CO at HM Tower of London prior to commence of FoC parade***



As many of you are likely already aware, we have been awarded the Battle Honour “Afghanistan” and are waiting for DHH to formally fit us in. To enable us to incorporate the recent change to the battle honours, we made arrangements in the UK to update our Regimental Colour (The RRF provided us with the MOD-approved manufacturers name). We went to Essex with our Colours in hand to be inspected. During our visit the company representative for Hobson’s and Son’s advised us that they had made our Colours in 1966. They were also able to advise us that we were the first unit to have “Afghanistan” emblazoned on their Regimental Colour in recent history. A trooping of our amended colour will occur in the near future.



### ***Lt. Guilmartin with the Regimental Colour in London***

During the past quarter of this year we also had an unfortunate incident in which Pte Wang fell off a cliff on Bowen Island. He is recuperating and appreciates the unit's visits and support. He received his first weekend pass in mid-September. MCpl Morrison's and Cpl Brian Smith's (of the Regimental Band) families each celebrated the arrival of a new baby.

We are the lead for four 4 CITY (weekend courses) this 2018-2019 training year – Basic Military Qualification (BMQ), the Weapons Detachment Member (WDM) Course (covers C6 GPMG, Carl Gustav 84mm SRAAW(M), etc), the Delta Package for material not covered on Basic Infantry Course but needed for WDM course, the Basic Military Officers Qualification Part 2 –

(this course follows Part 1 which is the same course that officers take with the soldiers (BMQ)) and the Primary Leadership Qualification Course (the old JLC).

Part of the Army Reserve tasks are contributions to Canada's international commitments. The Canadian Army's methodology to manage the Army and these deployments is called the Road To High Readiness (RTHR). RTHR rotates from one Regular Force Brigade to another on a yearly basis. Since 1 CBG is in the lead and the key unit for RTHR, the Reserve Brigades within 5 Division are expected to augment Regular Force units. Twelve Westies are preparing to augment our affiliated regiment, 3VP. They will attend the collective exercises, (ie: Maple Resolve, Guardian) and additional training if required, pending a deployment. 3 PPCLI is anticipating possible deployment on OPERATION REASSURANCE, Canada's commitment to the NATO Standing Force in Eastern Europe.

If that isn't enough, we still have various competitions in which we participate to hone our soldiers' skills, raise our profile through public relations, and demonstrate our unofficial regimental motto "Westies always give a 110%". To this end we are involved, and in some cases the lead, on the following competitions: the Canadian Patrol Competition for 39 CBG; our unit Grappling Team; and hopefully a Mountain Man team. Also, in the spirit of competition our unit Rifle Team competed in the following shooting competitions: the Blair Shoot; the BCRA Shoot, and the Canadian Armed Forces Small Arms Competition (CAFSAC) at Connaught Ranges outside Ottawa. Corporals Molina-Siple, Viola, and O'Reilly were the competitors.



There have been some personnel changes over this last quarter: LCol Dave Vernon, WO Doug Setter, Capt Graham Riemer, Cpl Butler, Cpl Joe Maitland, Sgt Clyde Baggs and previously Sgt Greg Bell have (hopefully) joined ranks of the Association. Our previous RSM – CWO Brian Gardner, is now the Brigade Sergeant Major and the right hand for our new Brigade Commander, Colonel Paul Ursich, with Colonel Dave Awalt moving to 5 Division HQ.

We welcome Capt Andre Girard from Laval, QC to the cadre at D Coy, as well as Sgt McIsaac previously of the RCR. Also, Sgt James Cooley has rejoined our BOR staff - somehow he managed to become an air force guy? (previously he was a Westie and gunner).

Some Westies are Extra Regimentally Employed (ERE), but due to employment and length of contract they still retain a Westie or Signals cap badge but are not currently on our establishment: Capt Todd Phillips and WO Rob Mann are both employed at the Canadian Forces Recruiting Centre in New Westminster; Major Ricardo Manmohan is employed as a Regional Liaison Officer as part of the Territorial Brigade Group on Vancouver Island; Major Mike Schultz is employed in the IA world at 1 Canadian Division Headquarters, and Master Warrant Officer (for now) Curtis Beglaw is working at 39 CBG HQ. As well, LCol Russ Meade, CO of 4 Canadian Ranger Patrol Group, formerly a Patricia, now wears a Westie Cap badge.

Continuing on the personnel front we can announce that both Hon Col Karen Baker MacGrotty and Hon LCol Chuck Strahl have been extended and the Regimental Family is exploring options for a new Hon LCol to continue our succession planning.

I've included a list of personnel in key Battalion positions for your reference: RSM- CWO Mike Bergan, DCO- Maj Ben Pong, QMSI – MWO Chris Henneybery, OPS O and OC A – Maj Greg

Chan with MWO Dave Jones CSM, OC D Coy Maj Dan Spielman and his CSM MWO Dean Baron, OC Admin Coy – Capt John Milne and his CSM is WO Pat Bornestig, and finally our RQMS Sgt Rob Harley has handed over duties to Sgt Brandon Neff but the old RQ is still with us for a while.

You may have heard that the Regiment is in the process of starting a Regimental Shooting Club. This year it will open to Serving Battalion members but plans to expand to include the Regimental Association. There will be more information on this through a Facebook page, which has been started for the membership and will be updated as the approvals process is completed. On top of maintaining, developing and training all of our officers and soldiers for all the tasks above, one of my major goals is to help foster and strengthen the Regimental Family. Our relationship isn't broken but needs a little "TLC" to reinforce the bond. Recent initiatives included several social events; the focus varies so some are by invitation only, and some have been to raise money for our fellow Westies in need of support. The intent is also to ensure that the other half of our personal home teams are also included and get to know each other. I am also working with your Regimental Association to help build the Association membership, including past members of the serving battalion, our Cadet Corps and building connections with our CIC Officers as well.

Colonel Matt Haussmann, our Senior Serving Westie, has reconvened the Unit's Regimental Senate (currently formed of all past serving COs). He has started the Regimental Family Council with representation from every faction of our Family, plus many other items that COs and the Regiment need done but which the Serving Battalion doesn't have the time to fully engage. His efforts, and those of you that are involved, are greatly appreciated!

I look forward to seeing and reconnecting with all of you at the various community and social events that occur throughout the winter. I know that you all will live up to the unofficial motto as stated by LCOL Simpson in 1924: "Westies always give a 110%".

*Pro Rege Et Patria*

*Another new initiative is to give the members of the Regimental Association a venue to ask the CO of the Serving Battalion questions. So send your questions to [redacted] and I'll ask the Editor of the Ground Sheet if he can post the questions and the subsequent answers in future editions of the Groundsheet.*

## **REGIMENTAL SHOOTING TEAM MAKES GOOD SHOWING AT COMPETITIONS**

CHILLIWACK, BC - The Westie shooting team kicked serious butt on the Blair Shoot this spring. The marksmanship team won top team on falling plate competition, second place team for aggregate rifle and Cpl. Molina-Siple won the following competitions: 200m snap; 300m rapid; snap aggregate; snap rapid. MCpl Miller also won the 300m deliberate; 300m snap; and the 300m competitions.



Congratulations to our own Cpl. L. Viola for his ranking in this year's CAFSAC at Connaught. He was the top tyro in 4 matches, placed in the top 50 Canadian shooters, and a member of the top Canadian 4 man rifle team.

## **THE ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT TRAINS IN ENGLAND WITH ALLIED BRITISH ARMY REGIMENT**

LONDON, ENGLAND –

International operations are a key part of the Westies anticipated deployment. This summer twenty Seven members of the Royal Westminster Regiment participated in Exercise Westie Fusilier (24 Aug – 8 Sep) with our allied regiment, the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers (RRF) in England. The Westies went through a jam-packed training schedule beginning with a physical training session. Friendly competition was encouraged between the units, with foot races, stretcher and fireman carries. Highlights included a beautiful tackle by Private Jessica Taylor (context??), a foot race win by Corporals Jacob Coutu and Devin O'Reilly, and the Westies winning the stretcher and firemen carries.

The focus of the exercise was urban operations. Westies trained on the British military service rifle, the SA-80, and observed demonstrations on British urban operations drills. The group was brought to an urban training environment to begin 4 days of training scenarios, lessons, and drills. The urban training environment is a village designed to test the soldiers' skills and drills in house clearing and operating on the urban battlefield, and includes a specially designed urban obstacle course. Our allied regiment shared and combined their training with the Canadian Armed Forces operating procedures and helped build and hone the troops' knowledge and skills in urban operations and reconnaissance patrolling skills.





In true English fashion the exercise started with rain, and the old adage “It ain’t training if it ain’t raining” came to mind, but the next 4 days showed exponential growth in our soldiers’ confidence with urban operations methods. After a successful training exercise, the visiting Canadian soldiers were treated to some well-earned time off to explore the local villages and sights such as Stonehenge and an original copy of the Magna Carta. However, the work was not over. The Westies then began preparation for the Freedom of the City Parade, celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the RRF, with hours of marching and weapons drill.

The Royal Westminster Regiment joined the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers in exercising the traditional privilege and honour of Freedom of the City, in the historic City of London. The parade marched from the Tower of London to the historic Guildhall, with colours flying, drums beating, and bayonets fixed, the Regiment led by Lieutenant Colonel Chuck MacKinnon, Commanding Officer, and Regimental Sergeant Major Mike Bergan. The reviewing officer was His Royal Highness, the Duke of Kent, joined by the Lord Mayor of London. This was a historic occasion for the Royal Westminster Regiment because 72 years ago our predecessors in the Westminster Regiment (Motor) also marched the streets of the City of London and were inspected by the then Lord Mayor prior to returning to Canada at the end of World War II.

With files by Cpl Isaac Priyanthan and 2Lt. Hans Mulder

## **RECENT DEPLOYMENTS**



*Members of the Royal Westminster Regiment and 4th Canadian Ranger Patrol Group on Operation Lentus 18-03. Westies first assisted civil authorities with flood response measures in 1948 for "The Great Flood" in the Fraser Valley*

CHILLIWACK, BC – The spring freshet had the provincial authorities on high alert, augmented by the CAF with many troops from the Royal Westminster Regiment, in case of serious flooding. Thankfully, the flooding impact was less than anticipated, but the fire season started immediately thereafter and new domestic taskings had to be filled.

As part of Operation Lentus 2018, assistance to Forest Fires, Majors Greg Chan, Ben Pong, and Ricardo Manmohan deployed concurrently to Vernon with the 1 & 3 VP led IRU. The senior officers conducted CIMIC tasks and worked in the Operations cell. Westie soldiers also deployed as part of the forest firefighters crew within the 200 personnel CAF commitment. Our soldiers assisted with mopping up tasks.

During Op Lentus 18-4 roto 2 the fires this year were primarily contained in the interior region of British Columbia. Lt Suri was the platoon commander for the 39 CB. The 39 CBG platoon, call sign K3-4, was the 4th platoon in Charlie Coy, under 1 VP. The Vernon Cadet Summer Training Centre served as the FOB, AKA FOB Perseverance. Weather was dry and sunny, with random days of cloud cover and about 2 days of drizzly rain. There were 2 fires of concern to the platoon: the Woodward Fire and the Lumby hill fire with the primary focus having shifted to the Vernon fires rather than the Merritt fires.

The platoon's mission was to support the wildfire firefighters, contain the fires at these two locations in order to help augment their numbers and relieve wildfire firefighter crews to more important and higher priority locations.

The crews worked with 3 days on and one day off. Although this was a completely dry operation, the troops were in high spirits and would catch a movie and get a bite to eat at the local shops. During the working days, started at 0545, breakfast served at 0600, mount up at 0630, be in our packets by 0645 and step off at 0700. This changed depending on which fire the platoon would be driving to that day, if it was the Woodward Creek fire, then step off would be at 0630. We would arrive at the staging area for the days fire brief by the fire chief after which we would partner with our Strike Team Leader and be off into the woods with a plan. Our tasks varied from laying out hose in an area, patrolling an area, building a trench for hose across a roads, setting up different bladders and pumps, manning the pumps, identifying danger trees, and finally demobilizing and collecting the hose. Our platoon was deployed in five pickup trucks and we used logging roads and fire guards as roads to drive to locations and back to camp. Much of the terrain was too steep and too narrow for MSVS and the pickup trucks allowed us to break the platoon further down into sections and groups and move to perform certain tasks.

The local populous was delighted to have us. Although we obviously brought revenue and traffic to the small town, the civilian population viewed us as saviors and volunteers. Often troops would report to me explaining how many people at the local Denny's restaurant were asking questions about the state of the fire and the percentage contained. There was a thick cloud cover of smog and until the small periods of rain came in there was still unease for the local residents.

With files from Lt. Tanvir Suri and 2Lt. Hans Mulder

## RECENT TRAINING



Congratulations to Privates Bhabba, Plata, Turner and Wang for completing Basic Reconnaissance Patrolman Course 0153. Pte Wang finished 2nd on the course! This was a demanding and intensive course. Great job Westies!



*Master Corporal Dales and Corporal Lawrence Viola from the Royal Westminster Regiment find cover behind wrecked cars on Exercise Cougar Rage. Photograph by Bombardier Albert Law  
39 CBG Public Affairs*

## **HONOURS AND AWARDS**

NEW WESTMINSTER – Pte D Wang received the Westie Association Bursary of \$2500; and Cpl J Waugh was awarded the RSM Gardner Citizenship Award for his work with the Royal Canadian Legion assisting Vets in need at the Melfa Dinner. DP 3 Rifle Section Commander Course serial 1804 graduated last week. The top candidate award was presented to MCpl Morrison from 3 Cdn Div Training Centreb

### **Are Your Dues Up To Date?**

The Royal Westminster Regiment Association depends on your dues and donations. Yearly dues are \$15 and a Life Membership is only \$100. This gives you voting rights, this fine publication, and a snazzy beret.

How about a donation? You can identify where you want the donation to go: The Future Fund, Cadets, Health & Welfare, or whatever you feel is worthwhile. Whatever you support, it is appreciated. Send in your dues today. Thanks.

### **MIA/AWOL**

Send up the count!

Are your buddies ok?

Are you ok? Be sure to call a buddy if you need help.