



The GROUND SHEET

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF
THE WESTMINSTER REGIMENT ASSN.

104th — 47th — 131st — The Westminster Regt.

Dedicated to the Ideals and Comradeship We Knew in Two World Wars

Vol. 14, No. 2.

Box 854, New Westminster, B.C.

November, 1964.

"Help Yourself"

"Help Your Association"

Annual Smoker

Friday, December 18, 1964

NEW WESTMINSTER ARMOURIES. TIME: 7:30 P.M.

Entertainment - Refreshments - Chow

THE GROUND SHEET

President W. HOGG
 1109 - 7th Ave., New Westminster, B.C. LA 2-6793
 Secretary R. (BOB) H. CARTER
 931 Walls Street, Coquitlam WE 9-7743
 Editor RON HURLEY
 2229 Bonnyvale Rd., Vancouver 16, B.C. FA 1-8464

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THE EDITOR APOLOGIZES

I humbly and sincerely apologize to Gordon Craigen and family for any embarrassment and heartache that has been caused by the premature announcement of Gordon's passing. I trust this will in no way imperil the good relations we have had between us.

P.S.—Welcome back Gordie. How about coming to the Smoker and let me see for myself.—*Ron Hurley, Ed.*

THE WESTMINSTERS' WAR DIARY

At last — The "History" is at the publishers and will be available for sale in December.

In deference to the older veterans it should be pointed out that this is, of course, not a true History of the Regiment. I wish it was. It does, however, cover the full span of the Second World War. It has been written by Major J. E. Oldfield, M.C., and includes all the detail it was possible to gather together, mainly from the triplicate copy of the War Diary, but also, to a considerable extent, from the personal accounts of some of those who were there.

For those in this area, it may be purchased for \$5.00 at the Smoker to be held in the Drill Hall on December 18th or at any time at the Orderly Room, during the hours it is open. Their number there is LA 2-4342.

For those who live away from New Westminster the enclosed order form on Page Three may be used and the book will be mailed. The cost, including mailing charges, is \$5.25.

For those who live in and around Vancouver, it may be obtained at my home, 4938 Arbutus Street, phone number AM 6-4253. — E. V. ARDAGH.

ARMISTICE DAY

November the Eleventh is our Remembrance Day. People everywhere have someone to remember. This was much in evidence at the Armoury at Queens Ave. and Sixth St. on Wednesday, with fifteen hundred people seated in the Drill Hall and over a hundred more in the basement. It seems more are coming each year. It's a pleasurable feeling, to be side by side with so many who were there for the same reason. We were guided through the ceremonies by the capable hand of His Honour, Mayor J. Stuart Gifford. Canon L. T. J. Pearson gave the address and we listened quietly and with interest. It seemed memories were our one concern here. We sang as the band played the hymn "Onward Christian Soldiers" and then gathered outside after a short prayer by Canon Pearson. Seated near the pulpit were Mayor Stuart Gifford, Brig. Aiken, Col. McKinney of the Westminster Regiment and the Reverends L. E. Reyelts and G. W. Stephens who also addressed our gathering. After some grouping the parade formed up and soldiers and civilians alike marched to the Cenotaph, the bands in attendance helping us along with a steady beat. Some of us had on our overcoats as the wind was chilly, the sun was trying to come out, there were many clouds. After the time it takes to form up and stand at ease, which wasn't too long, His Honor, Mayor Stuart Gifford, spoke and we stood for the two minute silence. This was the time the sun came out. It felt warm on the back of our necks for the whole two minutes, then it disappeared behind the clouds for the rest of the day. We all remarked on this occurrence. Our Mayor then began calling the names of the various organizations for the Wreath Laying ceremony which seems to be the part of remembering which dignifies our presence there. A little token left by the Cenotaph to convey our thoughts to those who may have just come to look. When the ceremonies were over we marched away and passed the reviewing stand with eyes right and broke off at our usual point. We walked back to the Drill Hall and were refreshed in the various messes. Someone brought up the subject of who was there so here is a list of those with whom we marched, as well as we can remember. Their names appear below—read them well and join us next year—they are all old friends.

Bob Dearden, Buster Lynch, Sam Martin, Walt Tyler, John Hou, Tyson, Bob Foster, Ian Douglas, Tommy Forman, Joe Hancock (no time for tea), Jack Usher, Walter Lyle, Colin McQuarrie, McIlwee, John Ford, Fred

West, Bill Williams, Red Williams, Bert Stephens, Curly Donald, Sid Burton, Art Mamel, Hector Roberge, Bert Hoskins, Stan Moorhouse, Barney Jones (from the Banana Belt in White Rock), W.O. 2 H. G. Kirby, S/Sgt. Roberge, S/Sgt. Bill Tompkinson, Ted Hammersley, Joe Kingsnorth, Walter Hogg, Bill Hall, Norm Palmer.

For those who may have been missed we are very sorry. It's plainly a case of not knowing the names of everyone too well. The faces are so familiar and it's easy to say hello but getting a name for a particular face is a different matter. We would have liked to print the names of all those we saw as the sight of a familiar name in print may have the effect of bringing old friends together. We will do better next year. After the ceremonies we met Capt. R. C. Blishen, the Chief Instructor for our Cadets. He and his son Eugene were together on parade for the first time. He said the Cadets are doing very well in Gunnery and Sport. He mentioned especially that thirty-five had successfully completed their First Aid tests and were wearing their badges at the parade. We felt they were a well disciplind unit, both on and off parade. Thus ended another Remember Day.

BILL (JUDGE) ROBSON.

HAIL TO THE "PATS"

You have asked me to write something for the Groundsheet about the Jubilee Celebration of Princess Patricias Canadian Light Infantry, held at Edmonton, September 16th to the 20th last. It is a large order but perhaps the account will bring back memories to your readers of their own war services.

Princess Victoria Patricia Helena Elizabeth was born on March 17th, 1886. She was in Canada with her father, the Duke of Connaught, during his term as Governor-General from 1912 to 1916. During the illness of her mother, the Duchess, she acted as hostess at Rideau Hall, Ottawa. After consenting to the use of her name by the Regiment she made a "camp" colour of her own design which incorporated her personal cypher. This colour was presented to the Regiment on Aug. 23rd, 1914. It was carried into battle on all occasions in the First War and was struck by bullets and torn by shrapnel several times. The standard was once broken by a piece of shell. It now has a place of honour in the Regimental Museum, Edmonton. Commonly referred to as the RIC-A-DAM-

DOO, there is a song about it and regimental activities which has been sung by every member of the Regiment on every conceivable occasion and which must be heard to be appreciated. Princess Patricia became Colonel-in-Chief on February 22nd, 1918, an appointment she still retains.

On her marriage to Commander, the Honourable Alexander Ramsay, D.S.O., R.N., the Princess was granted authority to relinquish her titles and adopt that

ADVERTISEMENT

THE WESTMINSTERS' WAR DIARY
by Major J. E. Oldfield, M.C.

The History of the Westminster Regiment (Motor) during World War II has been written and will be available for sale in December. Those wishing to purchase a copy may use the accompanying Order Blank.

ORDER FORM

Please mail me copies of
THE WESTMINSTERS' WAR DIARY
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Remittance should be by cheque or money order payable to THE HISTORY.

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THE HISTORY,
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of Lady Patricia Ramsay. She has been known by that title ever since.

There is so much one could write about a regiment, the actions in which it fought, the men who served and the many who died in service. Perhaps the feeling can be found in the words printed at the bottom of the history of the flag, on the wall of the museum, at Home Station, Edmonton.

"A tattered old rag on a worm-eaten pole,
It does not look likely to stir a man's soul,
'Tis the deeds that were done 'neath the tattered old rag,
When the pole was a pike and the rag was a flag."

The first function that my wife and I attended was the Ceremony of Beating Retreat. It was colourful as all such ceremonies are but marred a trifle by a rain shower. The next day, in beautiful weather, was held a review of the battalion by Lady Patricia Ramsay, in the ceremony known as Trooping the Colour. This ceremony included the presentation of a Replica of the Wreath of Laurel by Lady Patricia to the Second Battalion now at the home station. The original of the wreath was presented to the original battalion in 1918 and is carried by the 1st Battalion now in Europe.

I am well aware that I am writing to readers who served in a famous regiment with a regimental history that is older than that of the Patricias. I myself first joined the 104th Regiment in either 1911 or 1912 and was called up for service in August, 1914. I was attached briefly in 1941 to the Westminster Regiment. So I well know the pride of the Westies and their capabilities. I will not attempt to describe the ceremonies at Edmonton other than to say that the marching was done in slow and quick time to tunes well remembered by First War people — "Mademoiselle from Armentieres," "It's a Long Way to Tipperary," and others. However, I would like to quote the words of Basil Morgan, a Colonel of the Westies: "That marching yesterday, it was something." A heartfelt tribute by a capable observer.

There were 80 members of the 1914-1918 troops present, 10 of whom were originals. We were invited, with our wives, to meet Lady Patricia at a reception in the Officers' Mess. There we met Captain Wray and his

wife, who was a Miss Browning of New Westminster, and had quite a nice visit with them. Earlier I had met Captain Wagstaffe of Burnaby. They are both officers of the 2nd Battalion, Patricias.

On Sunday we attended a Church Parade, a Remembrance Service commemorating the Jubilee of the Regiment. You have all been to Church Parades, and no doubt many of them were memorable. To me this ceremony brought back a flood of memories. One, after the battle of Sanctuary Wood in 1916, the survivors of that battle were on Church Parade near Vlamertinge and during the whole of the service a British and German plane fought a dog fight in the clouds over Ypres. So many memories! After Church Parade the Patricias Band, one Company of the Regiment, Lady Patricia Ramsay, other visitors and veterans of the First and other wars, lined up at a sports grandstand for a picture. Afterwards there was held a reception in the Sergeants' Mess, but we did not attend as we wanted to make Calgary by evening.

It was a splendid show and the last that Lady Patricia will attend. She is 78 years of age. It is probably the last that any of the First War Patricias will attend, but who knows, you know what they say of Old Soldiers.

Yours faithfully,

MILLER LOUGHEED.

"BEWARE OF THE LADIES ME LADS"

(This paper is to be considered by each soldier as confidential, and to be kept in his Active Service Pay Book.)

You are ordered abroad as a soldier of the King to help our French comrades against the invasion of a common Enemy. You have to perform a task which will need your courage, your energy, your patience. Remember that the honour of the British Army depends on your individual conduct. It will be your duty not only to set an example of discipline and perfect steadiness

under fire but also to maintain the most friendly relations with those whom you are helping in this struggle. The operations in which you are engaged will, for the most part, take place in a friendly country, and you can do your own country no better service than in showing yourself in France and Belgium in the true character of a British soldier.

Be invariably courteous, considerate and kind. Never do anything likely to injure or destroy property, and always look upon looting as a disgraceful act. You are sure to meet with a welcome and to be trusted; your conduct must justify that welcome and that trust. Your duty cannot be done unless your health is sound. So keep constantly on your guard against any excesses. In this new experience you may find temptations both in wine and women. You must entirely resist both temptations, and, while treating all women with perfect courtesy, you should avoid any intimacy.

Do your duty bravely.
Fear God.
Honour the King.

KITCHENER,

Field-Marshal.

G.D. 3707 100M 11/14 H W V

NOTE:—It is refreshing to note that all obeyed the above order and this noble message was carried out through W.W. II. (Ahem).—Ed.

FROM THE POST

A reminder from Olaf Carlson that he has missed his Groundsheet for a few months. We have noted your change of address Olaf and sincerely hope that you are back on the correct mailing list.

* * *

A note from the Commanding Officer Lt. Col. W. E. McKinney to advise us that our old friend Tom Foreman has been officially appointed as O.C.'s Rep. A stroke of pure tactical genius Colonel and we are pleased to inform you that he is a most welcome addition to post meeting round-table conferences.

A nice letter from old stalwart Danny Pastro of Mayo, Yukon Territories. Nice to hear from you, Dan, and sorry to hear that you will be unlikely to attend the coming Smoker. Perhaps you had better consider Mr. Bennett's offer. With a good road or two you may be able to get out of there more often.

* * *

A note of thanks from Jean Fenton of Abbotsford. Pleased to hear that you have received your Groundsheet and will make sure that it keeps coming.

* * *

A word from J. D. MacLennan of Cornwall, Ont. Thank you for your kind remarks re the Groundsheet and you may look forward soon to your copy of the History.

WHAT BECAME OF KELLY?

E. R. Timlock, 654 East 21st St., North Vancouver, B.C.
Cliff Roop, 404 Bent Court, New Westminster, B.C.
Bill Mann, 3363 E. 15th Ave., Vancouver B.C.
L. H. Cool, 1437 Foster St., White Rock, B.C.
R. N. Norris, 4776 Buxton, Burnaby 1, B.C.

THEIR COMRADES REMEMBER

J. McEwan Trail, B.C.
Arthur Fisher Vancouver, B.C.
Marcel R. Darel Hope, B.C.
Gordon R. Brown Chase, B.C.
E. "Clare" Tennant Naramata, B.C.
Fred English Cloverdale, B.C.
Neil Wickshire Vancouver, B.C.

From THE WESTMINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

P. O. Box 854, New Westminster, B.C.

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