



The GROUNDSHEET

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. 16, No. 11.

Box 854, New Westminster, B.C.

Nov.-Dec., 1967.



Greetings

The Christmas season heralds the close of our long and exciting Centennial Year. It is my sincere hope that you all enjoyed it to the utmost and on behalf of the executive and myself I extend to ALL from West to East and North to South the warmest of good wishes for the holiday season. It is my fond hope that I will hear from even more of you in 1968 so please let your pens run free and overwhelm us with your letters and articles.

Best Wishes and Happiness in the Future.

As ever,
Ron Hurley.

LOST YOUR RAINCOAT ?

Found at the Armouries after the Friday night DO— one man's blue raincoat. It can be picked up anytime at the Armouries.

THE GROUNDSHEET

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 Authorized as second class mail by the Post Office Department,
 Ottawa, and for payment of postage in cash.

WHAT PRICE GLORY? OR WHO CARES WHAT YOU DID IN THE WAR POP?

The somberness of Remembrance Day is over for another year and my attention was directed to "How I Won the War" — a somewhat savage and controversial movie comedy (comedy?) now playing in some Vancouver theatres. It was intended, as the writers and producers of same admit, to shock, outrage and offend many of those who bowed at the cenotaphs during memorial services. No doubt it succeeded in many cases. The message simply is that the 1939-45 war was not worth fighting and to quote the writers; "Veterans have no bloody right to feel proud — they should not bask in glory — nor should they consider their performances as "their finest hour", and, in fact, should wear black, slink about at night only and be denied the privilege of marching in parades or feeling bloody proud of anything they participated in". They conclude further "— They should not be allowed to revel in their gory past nor make money out of their memories". Some rather bombastic statements which warranted some investigation on my part so I attended their movie thus committing one of the very acts they warned about. I contributed a couple of bucks to their kitty — which I am sure they dont want (oh yeah!). Frankly the movie is no hell but it was the message I was interested in not the quality or the price.

The plot, as is intended, is absolutely farcial but I could not agree that this is as they claim "The first real Anti-War — War Film. I most definitely concur that the so called War Film as portrayed by the Late Errol Flynn and John Wayne as they single handedly captured all of South East Asia and most of Europe was and is the utmost in insipidity. This is further magnified by the ridiculous current T.V. epics such as 'Rat Patrol', 'Combat', 'Garrisons Gorrillas', etc. I can not, however, give them credit for originality because

Charlie Chaplins "Great Dictator", the American films "Captain Queeg" and "Mr. Roberts", to name a few, were technically far superior and gave a clearer message. I cannot further agree that most veterans revel in the glorification of their deeds. Most of us are simply grateful to be still here — still amazed as to why we "made it" and others didn't but grateful nevertheless. We realize that what we did was not the universal panacea for the worlds ills; no more than it was some 2,000 years ago and beyond since man has been at one another for whatever cause he espoused.

Ostensibly the plot deals with a collection of army misfits as they scramble from the beaches of Dunkirk on through the sands of the desert campaign to the crossing of the Rhine. Enroute they perform some ludicrous, if not downright assinine, manouevres; relete with weird and inept N.C.O's and Officers. There is no doubt that these rather superficial comical characters actually existed in W.W. 2 in rather greater numbers than we care to admit but, they were not indicative of the large majority, nor were they long tolerated in positions of importance. A lot had been learned since the calamity of the Somme and Passchendale of W.W. 1. (A war the writer's completely ignore).

The director and script writer of this 'masterpiece' (their opinion) have given us other great films starring those talented foursome, 'The Beatles' and indeed feature John Lennon (A real Beatle) in this current epic, so you just know its going to be Box-Office. For shame though they will have to take dirty money for their War movie albeit an Anti War Film. They apparently make no mention of the worship, idolatry, adulation and 'Glory' (That word again) thrust at the shrine of these shaggy chaps.

It seems to me that this is but another way to protest what us silly middle-aged vets get hung up on, like work, respect, and other square-john drags. It seems to give many people a somewhat vicarious thrill to protest just about anything and everything so why not the vets and "their silly bloody vainglory". Its okay to turn on a universal age group to grovel at the feet of the perpetrators of some of the most fiendish sounds since the Lions ate the Christians (They call it Mod-Music). So why not attack a bunch of guys who are only recalling some of the people and places of a world gone mad so long ago. Yes gentlemen you have the right to protest. Write your protests, film them, record them or what have you but there is one right we emerged with, and still have — the right to turn guys like you

off — a right we shall exercise with a good deal of impunity, I'm sure.

There is no real bitterness on my part as I am sure there is none on most. We agree: War is rotten. War is stupid. We are not heroes. We did not solve the world's ills (only a few of them) therefore enjoy your right of expression and remember its because of those silly, glorious, stupid and cruddy old sweats who guaranteed your right to do so. It wont help those who are gone but I am sure that all those gasping for air with shrivelled and rotting lungs and distorted and weakened limbs will feel most 'Glorious' indeed, that they have preserved this for you. In the meantime gentlemen UP IT — Simply UP - It.

Ron Hurley.

FOOTNOTE: The chaps who wrote and produced this military farce have claimed it to be the real reflection of what most younger people feel about W.W. 2. The night I attended their 'Comic Colossal' there was a packed house of some twenty (thats right 20) avid fans. Immediately apposite across the street the billing was titled 'Red Beach' a typical American War movie of the type with wich these British chaps were most concerned. Standing in the pouring rain was a line up of young people streaching a block and half in length. The message has not arrived locally — I suppose. — Ed.

THE FALL GOLF TOURNAMENT

At 0900 hours, Saturday, November 18, the first tee at Hazelmere was swarming with Westies, golf bags at the ready, drivers flailing the breeze, the light of battle blazing from not-too-bloodshot eyes — all sixteen of them.

Eyes that is. Barney's army numbered only eight, and that included two visitors — Bill Furber and Joe Shewchuck.

So . . . the Fall Tournament could hardly be called an overwhelming success, from the point of numbers. Barney Jones was there to lend authority to the game, as well as Ron Mannerling, Ted Hammersley, John Reeve, Red Williams, and Ian Douglas. It was a beautiful day; the course was largely ours; and apart from some water underfoot, conditions were good. But, we can hardly call two foursomes a tournament.

At the Armistice Day service Ted Hammersley said, "What happened to the Fall Tournament we talked about after the Melfa affair? The best answer was that we had forgotten about it, but that we might still have

it. What about a date? Well, why not next Saturday was the answer to that (November 18). Some twenty hasty notices were sent out that might not have reached people until the Thursday. The fault, then, must lie with the guy who would otherwise have signed his name to this.

But we played. Before we started each of us threw in a buck, the winner on the Callaway system to take all. When we computed the scores — and computed is the word — they were all within a range of seven strokes. Such is the beauty of that system. Barney's gross score was 76. If he would only practise a bit he would be a pretty good golfer, but the last time he played was at the last Melfa Divotations. Anyway, his net worked out at 71 — which was arrived at by subtracting his score on his worst hole — 5! And he took all the money up to the girl at the bar.

One good notion came out of the post mortems. Could we not get some prizes for the next Melfa Tournament to add to the trophies provided by the Association? Ron Mannerling spoke up forthwith and appointed himself Chairman of the Prize Committee for the next Melfa do. If you have suggestions for his comfort, please let him know — through the executive or otherwise.

But it was a good day. Some other day the first tee at zero hour WILL be swarming with Westies and friends.

A REPORT FROM STEVIE

Dear Ron:

It is a little early to get out my Sick and Visiting Report, at this time, as I would like to include my Christmas Visit.

As I have for many years, I once again received a very welcome cheque for \$25.00 from our good friend and comrade T. A. S. Hamilton, for which once again thanks. Also as usual Danny Pastro, when forwarding his ticket money, sent along \$5.00 for the boys in Hospital.

Instead of the expected report from me, I think I will at this time, give a short report on the Christmas Special which takes place at our yearly Smoker.

As you are well aware, this event is essential to our operating as an Association on the scale in which we do, with a membership in the neighbourhood of 850, many of our members abroad, and one large, and thank goodness, strong Chapter in Toronto. As you are well aware (but nevertheless it still bears repeating)

from the proceeds of this special event, we have set aside in trust sufficient funds to establish an Annual \$500.00 Scholarship in perpetuity, and have made it possible to publish and post the mainstay of our Association, the very popular and at times unique "GROUND-SHEET."

This I think should be our next aim to build up a large enough trust account to ensure the life of this little paper which keeps us so closely bound together.

Getting the tickets prepared and out to our membership is quite a chore; but the results show that it is well worthwhile, and believe me the old Vets of the first war have certainly done their share, as can be seen by several letters received by Nelson.

"I am sorry but my husband was unable to sell his tickets this year as he has just returned from five weeks in the D.V.A. Hospital in Victoria. Wishing you every success at the Smoker."

"I am sorry but Mr. was unable to sell his tickets as of other years, he is now eighty-nine, and can't get out and around as he did in the past."

Here is a letter which really touches you, and wipes out the many re-buffs we receive:

"Dear Sir: Please find enclosed the money for the tickets sold. My husband, Thomas Newman, was not able to sell the tickets himself as he was injured very badly in a logging accident in September and has since been unconscious and as he was always so proud of his Regimental Association, I undertook to sell them myself."

May I once again say many thanks Mrs. Hayes and I do hope that Tom will be alright again and back to normal by Christmas.

Harry Oliver, another first war Vet has written at least three letters requesting more tickets to sell. Back in your old form, Harry, we sure appreciate it, and you do give us quite a lift.

Len Rolls has finally found the secret of selling (have a few good salesmen help you sell), and has really gone overboard this year, and I will make a note for next year as you have suggested, Len. Many thanks.

Another letter, one from Danny Pastro:

"Hi. Received tickets today and will return them in next mail (all made out to the Sick and Visiting Fund) also enclosing next year's dues and

\$5.00 to sick fund. Wishing you a successful Smoker and Merry Xmas. — Danny Pastro.

Well, Ron, this is something that I had to get off my chest, and if you think it worth printing, do so by all means.

H. A. STEPHENS,

Co-Chairman Special Event Committee.

FROM THE POST:

A warm note from old Vimy sweat Art Hargreaves of the 47th. Art writes to wish us all well and passes on the name of an old 47th Buddy he met at the Br. 16, South Van Branch of the Legion. He is J. Cairns, 47th Bn. Regt. No. 628653. Address: 11459 - 92nd Ave., North Surrey. Telephone 561-7464. A most interesting letter from E. de Wynter of 5683 Nelson Ave., Powell River, B.C. Ed met a young man of about 21 years of age in a Powell River Pub by the name of Jimmie Proutt who had a father who he had never seen and was reported to have been killed in Holland with the Westminster Regt. Ed knows of a Sgt. Jimmie Proutt who served with the Regt. and unfortunately was killed in action. He was believed to have been in "A" Coy. Anyone who can give assistance on this matter please contact E. de Wynter direct at his address and we certainly hope some help will be forthcoming. Please write us and let us know the follow-up on this Ed, and many thanks for your nice note.

We have three very interesting letters from places near and far afield. They will be printed in total and it is hoped that you all enjoy them as much as I did.—Ed.

The first is from Doug Fulrot and he sends along a story of a charming character. The second is from Old Pal Ed Lennie way down in Clayton, Missouri, U.S.A. Ed's letter is most welcome and I hope that you will all take note of his suggestion and get on the ball. The third is from that marvellous old stalwart of the 47th Bn. John Harrington of San Diego, Calif., U.S.A. It is always a pleasure to read John's letters and he has provided much interest for our Ground Sheet over the years. John informs us that he intends to spend Christmas this year with his son and family in Vancouver. We hope many of you Ex 47th chaps will get in touch with him and make him welcome. I trust that John will give us a call so we can have the pleasure of meeting him too. — Ed.

1740 Glendale Ave.,
Coquitlam, New Westminster, B.C.

October 31, 1967.

Dear Ron:

It is not often that I write a piece for the Ground Sheet but I thought that you would find this story of interest.

Last Saturday I attended the dedication of the Totem Pole as Coquitlam's Centennial Project. Chief Coquitlam attended in his full tribal dress.

After the ceremonies I invited Chief Coquitlam and his wife for lunch.

Mr. Charlie Williams, who is Chief Coquitlam, joined up at New Westminster in the 131st Batt. He joined without his father's consent and went under the name of Charlie McGilvery. He became a sniper overseas and was wounded with the loss of a finger and a flesh wound in the shoulder. He is a very interesting person and a character in his own right.

I will try to get him to attend our Smoker in December.

All the best.

DOUG FURLOT.

John E. Harrington,
1934 Mission Avenue,
San Diego, Calif.,
U.S.A. 92116,

November 10, 1967.

Mr. Ron Hurley, Editor,
The Groundsheet

The Royal Westminster Regiment Association,
P.O. Box 854, New Westminster, B.C.

Dear Sir:

Having been away since May visiting in Blighty to celebrate my 81st birthday with my two sisters there, also to Montreal for Expo 67 and travelling across Canada, I have missed the Groundsheet as the post office here forwarded only my first class mail; so the last Groundsheet I received was April. But now that I am home I shall look forward to receiving our interesting bulletin again.

As Christmas season is near perhaps the readers of the Groundsheet would be interested in another happening of the old 47th Battalion when they resided in so called sunny France.

In 1917 when the 47th had returned to the Vimy Ridge sector after the Battle of Passchendaele, the Battalion was sent to the little town of Houdain to be billeted in the luxury of disused stables and cow barns, and to await reinforcements to make up our losses of Ypres Salient. About a week before Christmas we moved

to the Ridge, being billeted in the battered village of La Targette. As we were to go into the front line on Christmas Eve, Colonel Frances decided that the Battalion should have a real Christmas dinner. This was done in two separate days. A and B Companies with the signalers, pioneers and the drums and pipers on the 21st. C and D Companies with the scouts, Headquarter staff and the band on the 22nd. To we troops it was some dinner. A large marquee was erected and a Christmas tree (no questions asked how it was acquired) decorated with cans of Bully beef, pork and beans, shoe polish, brasso, button sticks and lighted candles, stood in a barrel in the centre of the tent. For dinner we had turkey with all the trimmings and plum pudding. Quite a change from our regular rations. The officers served and our Regimental Chaplain served the beer handsomely.

We moved into the trenches the night of the 24th with the ground frozen and white with snow; and as I remember, except for trying to keep warm, we had a quiet time. However, on the 28th it started to thaw and soon the trenches were ankle deep in mud.

We were relieved New Year's Eve by the 72nd Battalion, but with struggling through the muddy trenches it was after midnight before we were clear of the front line. As we passed the Brigade Machine Gunners we noticed that they were firing as though their guns were jamming. Then we noticed that the Germans were firing the same and I mentioned it to our platoon officer, Lieutenant O'Dell. "Yes," he replied, "one would think they were signalling to each other." Then he said: "I've got it, count the shots!" I counted: One, a pause: then a burst of nine shots; then one; then a burst of eight. Why of course, I said: "They are wishing each other a Happy New Year for 1918."

Now, Sir, not with a machin gun, but from the heart of an old comrade, I wish you and all of the Association A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Sincerely, John E. Harrington.

Mr. Ron Hurley
2229 Bonnyvale Rd.
Vancouver 16,
B.C., Canada.

Edwin H. B. Lennie
8060 Watkins Drive
Clayton 5, Missouri
U.S.A.

Dear Ron:

November 22, 1967.

I really feel that it is unfortunate that you must ask for contributions to our beloved "Groundsheet". I

know there is not one among us who doesn't love to get this paper and I know that I read every word so that we may keep in touch with old friends.

My principal regret is that living 1,500 miles away from you I just can't be with you for such events as the Annual Smoker - the Armistice Day Parade and the Melfa Dinner. What an opportunity these events are for a reunion with fellows who meant so very much to one another over an extended period of time.

I have a suggestion. It would be great fun for all of us to have news of one another. Would it be possible to have you take the nominal roll for a roster of all members and go down through it alphabetically. You might ask specifically of four or five fellows each month to write just a brief note for the "Groundsheet" telling us what they are doing, the size of their families, their hobbies and one happy memory of their period of service. I suggest that you pick out names let us say from sergeants right through to colonels who served. Most everyone in the regiment would know these men and it would be tremendous fun to keep in touch with one another. I know that I would probably start up correspondence with some of these fellows. They most certainly should include their addresses.

This is just a suggestion Ron but it might stimulate activity that would be helpful to you in getting out the paper and be of tremendous interest to all our members.

With kindest personal regards,

Ed.

EUROPE '68

This is addressed particularly to all of you who once indicated you wanted to participate in a trip to Europe, but who have neither sent in your deposit of \$50, reserving places on the plane, or had the grace to advise that you are no longer interested.

If it is a case of procrastination or an inability to take the plunge then I'd suggest that you think about the devaluation of the British pound by 14%. For this means a direct saving of 14% on all the costs you will have while in Britain. Of course it will not affect the Charter fare to London of \$324, which is paid in dollars, nor the \$350, cost of the European tour which is based on francs, marks, lire, guilders, etc. But, even for those of us who will have one week only in the U.K. the saving can be worthwhile.

And for those who intend to spend the entire month in Britain of course the savings are that much more. I

calculate that a couple who go to Britain, patronize reasonably good hotels, travel a bit, eat well, take in shows and do some sight-seeing, cannot fail to save \$200 in the month. Even those who stay with relatives must spend money, so there it is in your hand, 14% of it.

The charter is filling up but we still have room for you — some of you that is, not all.

Regarding the offer of half fare for children under 12 years, it must be pointed out that these children occupy a seat so the offer is of a very limited nature. We have almost reached that limit now and late-comers will not be able to take advantage of it.

Don't forget to give some thought to the pound devaluation. How can anyone spend less anywhere especially for such an exciting holiday?

The necessary coupons are here — and remember the deposit. — WALTER LYLE.

WALTER LYLE

614 Fourth Ave.

New Westminster, B. C.

- I enclose one dollar membership fee for 1967/68 in the Westminster Regiment Association Club.
- I am interested in the Europe '68 Travel Project.
- Charter flight to U.K. only.
- Charter flight and Continental Tour.
- for myself and the following members of my family:

NAME

Address

To: WALTER LYLE, 614 4th Ave., New Westminster

- I am a member of The Westminster Regt. Assoc. Club for which I have paid the \$1.00 membership fee for 1967-68.
- I enclose \$50. deposit for myself and for each of the following members of my family for Charter Flight to London
- We also intend do not intend to take the extra 21-day Continental Tour.

Signed

Address

KELLY

Fred Wall,
8905 - 135A St.,
North Surrey, B.C.

R. B. Scholz,
10945 - 148th St.,
North Surrey, B.C.

Paul Lieugner,
7050 Glacier St.,
Powell River, B.C.

Ross W. Newton,
2431 N. River Rd.,
St. Clair, Mich.

R. J. Sikora,
135 East Durham,
New Westminster, B.C.

Martin J. Sherle,
1452 E. 1st St.,
Vancouver 16, B.C.

Wm. J. Leneghan,
933 - 17th St.,
New Westminster, B.C.

TIPS ON PERFORMANCE REVIEW

Once a year commanding officers throughout the military sharpen their pencils and compose "efficiency" reports on the officers in their command. You might imagine they'd be dull reading, but actually they often supply intentional — and unintentional — humor. Here are some examples from army files. Any officers you recognize . . . Ed.

This officer has talents but has kept them well hidden.

Can express a sentence in two paragraphs anytime.

A quiet, reticent officer. Industrious, tenacious, careful and neat. I do not wish to have this officer as a member of my command at any time.

His leadership is outstanding except for his lack of ability to get along with subordinates.

Needs careful watching since he borders on the brilliant.

In any change in policy or procedure, he can be relied upon to produce the improbable hypothetical situation in which the new policy cannot work.

Open to suggestions but never follows same.

Is keenly analytical and his highly developed mentality could best be utilized in the research and development field. He lacks common sense.

Never makes the same mistake twice but it seems to me he has made them all once.

WE ALL LOVE YOU SERGEANT - MAJOR

The company sergent - maor, long the terror of the raw recruit is being paraded right out of the Canadian Forces. He is to be replaced with a Coy. Warrant Officer. Out with the Sgt. Major goes the heavy foot-stamping

THIS YEAR'S WINNERS —**FOUR SELLERS' PRIZES**

H. W. KEAM	MIKE DRAGAN
MRS. W. KRECHKA	H. A. ALLAM

EIGHT MAIN PRIZES**Seller**

VIOLET LA VIGNE	G. B. GIBSON
HELEN NEILL	JACK NEILL
F. W. WIGGINS	F. W. WIGGINS
MAUREEN BROWN	J. N. BROWN
J. W. TITOS	A. J. ROLLO
A. C. VELESTAK	W. YARIMKO
HARRY CRAWFORD	SELF
PAUL MURPHY	BILL HOLLAND

40 CONSOLATION PRIZES — \$10.00 EACH

P. BROUGHTON	E. E. ANDERSON
LES LOVELL	D. W. YOUNG
LEN THOMAS	A. JENSEN
T. SPENCER	R. EAGLE
LARRY RAINCOCK	VERN RODDICK
MISS E. BURDETT	SLIM SHALICKY
MISS UNA BARDAL	R. SYLVESTER
W. YAREMKO	JOYCE GUDMUNDSON
ANNE GATES	DOUG PHILLIPS
MISS V. ALEXANDER	H. HICKLI
J. T. CALHOUN	GEO. WING
MARY E. LENN	R. G. CRANFIELD
RON WHITE	H. B. RUSSELL
ADRIAN ROOKE	D. H. VICKERS
PAT RHODES	R. TROTTIER
G. PAT TYRRELL	L. E. DUKE
DALE COULSON	J. F. HIETA
ETTA MULHOLLAND	T. HAYES
ANDREA FORDYCE	NORM MILLER
F. M. HUNTER	MRS. ALICE MORRIS

parade ground drill. Where will it all end? No longer can the rookie have an image to vent his hate on. Can you imagine a unit without a Sutton — a Hoskins or a Scotty Clifford. Never mind chaps we still All Love you Sergeant Major. — Ed.

APOLOGIES TO OUR SECRETARY

Your new membership cards bear the notation of Bob Carter, our former secretary, instead of Art Miller the incumbent. We didn't have a cut of Arts signature and he is busy around Christmas time. Our apologies to Art, Bob and the membership at large. This was in no way intended to slight anyone — just an honest snafu. You will admit though its a novel way of 'Holding the Cost' line as Mr. Sharp so strongly advocates. — Bill Meek, Printer.

BOUQUETS TO ALAN FORMAN

Hearty congratulations to Alan Forman on being awarded The Most Valuable Player in the East Burnaby Connie Mack Baseball League for the past year. Doug Glen (who purchased and suggested the award) had coached Alan for over 10 years from the Pee Wee ranks on up. Alan was selected by his teammates and the team executive and it was a particular honor for Doug to present this trophy to the son of our late departed comrade Tommy Forman. Keep up the good work in University Alan and you sound like a "Chip of the old Block" which is pretty good timbre we assure you.

LEST WE FORGET



Joe Kingsworth — W.R.
Martin MacGougan — 47th Bn.
C. C. Ruckle — 47th Bn.

MISSING YOU JOE:

Your executive, as we are sure you all were, was shocked and saddened by the sudden passing of Joe Kingsworth. Joe had worked tirelessly for many long years on behalf of the Association. We all leaned on Joe on many occasions and he was always more than ready to lend us a hand whenever required. We shall miss his quiet cheery countenance but are grateful in the knowledge that we have known a true gentleman. SALUTI.

From THE WESTMINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

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

E.G. SHANNON
940 DIXON ST
RICHMOND BC