



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. 5.

Box 854, New Westminster, B.C.

February 1967.

Annual General Meeting

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

PLACE: No. 2 Engineers' Hut Behind the Armouries
Off 6th Street in New Westminster

THURSDAY, MARCH 16th, 1967. TIME: 8:00 P.M.

You do not have to go through the Armouries to get to the meeting. Park in City Hall Parking Lot and walk up to No. 2 Hut.

IF YOUR ASSOCIATION MEANS ANYTHING TO YOU PLEASE
COME AND SELECT THE KIND OF PEOPLE YOU WANT TO
GUIDE IT FOR YOU!

THE GROUND SHEET

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

DINNER DATE

We were a little late and anticipated a good time. So we hurried a little as we approached the two rooms in which we were to spend the next few delightful hours. The rooms were named Rosanna and Kayida. One, a Cocktail room, the other a dining room. Here we chatted with our friends and enjoyed a few drinks. Later, we sat down to a most sumptuous meal. Before entering the cocktail room, we could hear the murmur of many voices, and found the party in full swing. It was Valentines Day and we were here with our wives for any enjoyable evening. The time was 7 o'clock Tuesday, February 14th. We were in the Astor Hotel in Burnaby. Those attending were, the executive, their wives, and a few guests. Our President was unable to attend, being temporarily under the weather, but, he was fine at the last executive meeting, so everything is O.K.

John Ford introduced the guests. There were toasts, not too many. There were stories told around the table as we lingered over our coffee. Art Miller had us all laughing with his remarks about some of his lighter moments in the Regiment. Col. Hamm spoke of the new regimental designation "Royal" and also of the upcoming trooping of the colors. This will take place some time in early July. The exact date will be in a future issue of the Groundsheet. It will take place in New Westminster. Col. Hamm expressed the hope that many of us would be there.

When the dinner was over we went back to the bar and once again there was the murmur of voices and chit chat emanating from the room. It might have been the room called Rosanna or the one called Kayida, and not knowing for sure, it will have to be left at that, because by now the night was on the wane and we had wine and dined well and truly. It was certainly an evening to be remembered.

Our guests for the evening were: Col. H. Hamm; Hugh and Mrs. McGivern, D'Arcy and Mrs. Baldwin; Peter and Mrs. Grossman; Basil and Mrs. Morgan; and Bill and Mrs. Meek.—BILL ROBSON.

A WELCOME GUEST

At the executive meeting of February 20, Lt. Col. H. E. Hamm, C.D., Officer Commanding The Royal Westminster Regiment, attended and spoke for the better part of an hour on the activities of the unit in the last few months and on plans for the immediate future.

The C.O. first related the sequence of events that culminated in the addition of the title "Royal" to the name of the regiment. In 1954 the City of New Westminster sent a formal request to the Minister of Defence that he seek authorization for the "Royal" addition. An impressive brief supported the request, a brief that reviewed the history of the regiment from its inception in 1863 as The New Westminster Volunteer Rifles up to the date of asking. We owe the city our thanks for taking this action and enlisting some energetic and influential people in furthering it.

As we can imagine, there were other briefs that sought the royal title for other regiments, but none went forward to Her Majesty until ours, in late 1966; and ours, we believe, is the only one granted since one or two were granted the title immediately after the war. It is our understanding that only eleven other Canadian regiments enjoy the distinction. When the telegram announcing the royal assent arrived at R.H.Q., Col. Hamm lost no time in getting Gordon Corbould on the phone at Tweedsmuir Lodge. Col. Hamm summed up that message and his own feeling about it all by saying that "the regiment has received a medal."

There are no special privileges attached to this distinction except that of mounting guards of honor for visiting royalty. Certain changes in badges, flashes, buttons, and elsewhere where the name appears will be necessary. One change, presumably, will be in our own name — The Royal Westminster Regiment Association.

The Colonel further reported that on May 19, in Victoria, Princess Alexandra will present the regiment with new colors. It is regretted that this does not occur in New Westminster, but on July 8 it is the intention of the regiment to troop the colors in the Royal City, when it is hoped that the Association will parade. To help in defraying the cost of these ceremonies it is planned to hold a regimental tattoo in Queens Park Arena on April 29th.

In the Fall the new plans for the employment of Canadian Militia will be put into effect. Much of the detail is still confidential, but the R.W.R. (Got it?) will be having a new role, and Col. Hamm knows enough about the details to be excited about the prospect. We are inclined to think that the peacetime performance of our regiment has done nothing to tarnish its wartime reputation, and may account, in part, for the Colonel's expectation that the regiment is in for some interesting and lively activities.

THE MCPHEE - EAMER CENTENNIAL YEAR MEMORIAL AWARD

The Scholarship Committee of our association has been given the privilege of administering a new scholarship award that is being offered by the families of the men it commemorates. The timing is inspired by Canada's centenary. Westies will recognize the "Eamer" part of the title, and recall with affection Alf Eamer, CQMS, Charlie Company. The McPhee name will come more readily to 47th men, although many of the later generation will remember Capt. Jimmie McPhee who served with the regiment after he returned from his lively experiences with the RAF in W.W.2; Capt. Jimmie is a nephew of the two McPhee brothers being remembered with Alf Eamer in this scholarship.

Tupper and Stewart McPhee came down from Abbotsford on Oct. 28th, 1915, and enlisted in the 47th; their father came with them, for Stewart, being only 17, needed parental permission. Tupper had the edge; he was 18. They were given the numbers 629615 and 629616, arriving eventually in 14 Platoon, "D" Coy. Stewart was seriously wounded on Nov. 11th, 1916, and spent a long time in hospital. Tupper McPhee, by this time a sergeant, was killed in action May 5th, 1917.

CQMS Eamer, who served the Westies well through W.W.2, but whose health was affected and who survived the war by too little time, was connected by marriage with the McPhees. The families of these three men, in their memory, and with a continuing attachment to the regiment, have provided the funds for this award and they request that it be made this year "... by the Scholarship Committee at its absolute discretion to any one of the applicants for The Association Scholarship, not necessarily to the winner of the Association award." Needless to say, the committee, at its January 9th meeting accepted the responsibility and asked D'Arcy Baldwin to convey our thanks to the donors and our assurance that we shall carry out their wishes — one of which is a desire to avoid personal publicity.

But publicity should be given the fact that descendants of members of The Westminster Regiment and units that we perpetuate have another scholarship to assist them in furthering their education. There is also the opportunity for someone to carry the distinction of this award. The money that goes with it — \$200 — will disappear, as money has a habit of doing, but no one can take from the winner the fact that he or she carried the McPhee - Eamer award in our centennial year.

THE WESTMINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP

On January 9th the committee members — all of them — met in the drill hall, New Westminster and reviewed the work of 1966 and the work upcoming. First was the happy task of planning the McPhee-Eamer Award. Since candidates are expected to have the same qualifications as those for the Association award, the one application form was considered to be adequate for both. What we must do is advertize the fact that we have two scholarships this year to offer; that ought to encourage more candidates. In any case readers of this column are urged to mention "SCHOLARSHIPS" to any persons who might be eligible for the awards, or who might have sons or daughters who could qualify.

To remind you—the terms, for both awards, are these:

- a. candidates must be descendants of members of the Westminster Regiment or descendants of members of one of the units we perpetuate, namely, the 47th, the 104th, or the 131st Bns.
- b. candidates must be proceeding to some level of academic training in a recognized institution beyond secondary school.

The Scholarship Committee intends to move at the annual general meeting that our scholarship not be awarded to a previous winner, unless some very special circumstances warrant the repetition. The executive has approved this proposal, and it is expected that this change will be ratified by the association.

GOLF

Time is already booked for *THE MELFA DIVOTIONS* at Hazelmere on the Saturday morning of Melfa Day. Ted Hammersley, Joe Kingsnorth, and Ian Douglas have done a recce and found that the course will likely be in good shape for the annual go. It has just occurred to someone that we ought to get the cup inscribed with John Ford's name before we have to take it away from

him. He can hardly count on winning it two in a row.

Now how about firming up the date: May 20th at 9:00 a.m. Hazelmere Golf Course, Campbell River Road? It's a fine way to get ready for the dinner, and the cost is light — \$3.00 ought to pay the greens fee and the entry fee. (Few expenses this time: the cup has been bought and paid for.) By the way, the Modified Callaghan system of handicapping will give everyone a chance at the prizes.

One thing we ought to do is get a team up and challenge the Seaforths or some other association. This notion has not been discussed with Barney Jones, our hot-shot golfer and tournament chairman, but it's a good guess that he would be game for a go at some other outfit.

EUROPE '68

(Herewith a word of two from Harry Trueman of Brentwood, our travel agent, not to be confused with another Harry.)

"Charter," God-send or dirty word?

To the well-read it could be "The Leadswingers Society," stranded in Europe by the "Sardine Sky-ways" after the organiser absconded with the funds, or it could be a veterans' groups re-visiting the scenes of former glories in first class jet safety at half the regular fare.

In the case of the Westminster Regiment Association Club a regular air-line's DC 8 inter-continental jet with a seating capacity of 135 has been requested at an estimated pro-rata fare of \$370 per person.

Recently the scheduled air-lines introduced various low group fares closely resembling the traditional charter fares but some main advantages still stand out in the charter's favour.

Food and drink is first class (the booze is free). There are no time restrictions. Nor is there 76 dollars tacked on for tour or hotel arrangements paid for whether wanted or not.

The destination of the W.R.A. Club jet will be London from which gateway the members will visit friends and relatives in Britain and Europe.

The whole purpose of the flight, however, is to highlight the Canadian Campaigns in Italy and North-west Europe in general and the Westminster's victory at the Melfa in particular. But more about the actual itinerary in a later bulletin.

The name of the game at the moment is to support the Association and fill the jet. There are only 135 seats in the aircraft and bookings will be confined on a first

come first served basis, to bona-fide members of the Club and their dependents and all charter and extra tour arrangements will be handled by Trueman's Travel Service.

For further details you may contact me or better still scrutinize your "Groundsheet" and get it straight from the horse's mouth (sorry, no offence, Walter).

ARRIVEDERCI,

— Harry Trueman.

* * *

Harry's reference to "Sardine Skyways" isn't a far-fetched joke. It is not unknown for a considerable number of seats to be added to the plane's normal configuration in some charters. Then again some charters use slower planes. Having travelled to Europe thrice since 1960 using both regular scheduled and also charter flights my wife and I can attest to the fact that there can be a world of difference in comfort between one and another. We've been cramped for short periods of time and not so cramped for a long space of time.

Either is far behind a DC 8 with normal seating which the Club is going to have — that is if we get a sufficient number of people to add to these of us listed below.

We will be arranging another meeting during April. At it we will discuss itinerary of the continental tour and possibly actual dates of the flight.

Meanwhile take the first step towards a trip to Europe . . . NOW . . . by filling in the form below.

We'll be glad to have you aboard.

— Walter Lyle.

CLUB MEMBERS

Membership No.	Membership No.
1. E. Clare	16. H. Trueman
2. M. E. Curie	17. J. Usher
3. Archie Davis	18. B. J. Barton
4. E. E. Davies	19. Doug Glenn
5. R. Fleming	20. Ernie Day
6. L. German	21. Perry Bergman
7. Watson Hunter	22. R. A. Boulter
8. M. S. Low	23. L. Hadley
9. Walter Lyle	24. J. A. Neill
10. A. A. Donald	25. G. Douglas
11. Art Miller	26. J. V. McDonald
12. Stan Moorehouse	27. A. Young
13. Miss E. Pett	28. T. G. Clemas
14. C. R. Richmond	29. F. H. Day
15. E. Staton	

(See Coupon on Page Five)

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

SICK AND VISITING REPORT

When I called at Shaughnessy Hospital for the January visit I found that there was only one member hospitalized and that was Bob Shaw. Had a nice long visit with Bob who expected to be home the following weekend and guess he was, as the association had a very nice letter from him. Thanks for all those nice things you said about us, Bob, and so glad to hear that you are feeling fit once again.

Art Miller phoned me to say that one of his old Platoon members was in the Pearson Pavilion, so called there from Shaughnessy and in Ward 2 found our old friend Sammy Field. He has been in Pearson for some time now and had spent about three weeks in the Savana Hospital prior to being sent to Vancouver.

At present Dan Corcoran is the only member that we have in George Derby Hospital. Saw Dan on both the January and February visits. He never seems to change much. Maybe getting a little hard of hearing, but for one of the old World War 1 vets, is in mighty fine shape, must have made those old boys out of fine material. So many of them weather the storm so well.

On the February visit to Shaughnessy Hospital for the first time in all my years of visiting we had nobody on our visiting list. It well may be that one or more of our members were in, but if so had neglected to have their names put on the association list. Please, fellows, if you are ever hospitalized in Shaughnessy, make sure that your name is added to our visiting list which is kept by the commissioner. If you are hospitalized at George Derby or any other Hospital, have some one write me at 674 Gibbons Drive, Richmond, B.C., or phone BR 7 - 8476.

When I called to see Sammy Field at Pearson in February, found him much better and had a nice long visit with him. He asked to be remembered to all his friends and also would like the Groundsheet sent to Pearson, Ward No. 2.

As a sort of a post script, I would like to add that I received quite a surprise on Friday afternoon when Snuffy Smith, the one and only Heber, phoned me to say hello. Apparently he was here for a very short time as a member of the Senate-Commons Committee on Consumer Prices. Had a nice little chat and asked to be remembered to the association.

— H. A. STEPHENS,
Committee Chairman.

FROM THE POST:

A most interesting letter from John A. Neill, Box 1723, Quesnel, B.C. John is now Gen. Bldg. Inspector, Dep. Fire Marshal, Chief Warden Civil Defence, and Assessor. We wonder if he is busy?

A letter from Alf Goodwin of 244 Stormont Rd., Victoria, B.C., wishing the association good fortune for the year and some nice comments on the Groundsheet. A note from A. J. McLean of P.O. Box 1977, Okanagan Falls, B.C. Nice to hear that you were a member of the 47th back in 1916 and interesting to find that you were a former R.M.R. You will like to know, Mr. McLean, that your present Editor and Assoc. President also came to the unit in W.W. 2 via the R.M.R.'s. A very nice letter from I. A. (Killer) Bailey of 45852 Railway Ave. in Chilliwack. Killer and a friend have undertaken to make cribbage boards and deliver them, free of charge, to any of our members in Shaughnessy Hospital and some will be available to interested association members also. This is an extremely kind offer and the association is most grateful. Some kind words of appreciation to our venerable Sick and Visiting Chairman from Robt. W. Shaw of 24361 Dewdney Tr. Road in Haney, B.C. It was a pleasure we could help you, Bob, and we are delighted to know that you are out of the hospital.

A note from Doug McNaughton of "A" Coy. Sigs who mentions his interest in the "War Diary". Glad you found it so, Doug, and we hope that those who have not got their copy will take the hint and order right away. An interesting message from Life Member Leo Gaudette of Oasis Trailer Park, 1-A 360 East Grantline Rd., Tracy, California, 95376. Thank you for your kind comments, Mr. Gaudette, and we are always pleased to hear from you folks in the States.

Nice to hear from A. Fisher of 821 Norton Ave., Apt. 1, Ottawa, Ontario. We have forwarded the information you requested.

WHAT BECAME OF KELLY?

- T. B. Scott, 3849 West 31s Ave., Vancouver 8, B.C.
- Fred McClelland, No. 107, 855 Jarvis, Vanc. 5, B.C.
- A. J. Currie, 110 Hazel St., Chilliwack, B.C.
- Gordon Currie, 655 Third Ave. East, Owen Sound, Ont.
- Major John P. Cook, R.R.R. Co. 1 Staff H.Q.W.O.A., London, Ontario.
- Norman Brown, 1767 E. 62nd Ave., Vancouver 15, B.C.
- E. E. Davies, 623 7th Ave., New Westminster, B.C.
- L. P. Gamble, 847 Ryder Lake Rd., R.R. 2, Sardis, B.C.
- John C. Harrop, 13059 73A Ave., North Surrey, B.C.
- Buck Jacques, No. 7, 2185 Kingsway, Vanc. 15, B.C.
- J. G. S. Kaberry, 10336 - 124A St., North Surrey, B.C.
- James Kelley, No. 102 - 611 Admirals Rd., Victoria, B.C.
- S. Klassen, 1426 York Street, Regina, Sask.
- Norm J. Long, 93 Braeside Ave., Waterloo, Ontario.
- J. Marc, Kelsey, B.C.
- Dick Tomkinson, 1040 Seventh Ave., New Westminster.

- Omar Beatch, 6625 Elwell, South Burnaby, B.C.
- C. P. Swan, West Summerland, B.C.
- A. P. Seidler, Box 642, Vernon, B.C.
- Joe St. Lawrence, General Del., Port Moody, B.C.
- James S. Palmer, Box 759, Whitehorse, Yukon Terr.
- E. W. Philbrook, 794 Nicola St., Kamloops, B.C.
- Gerald S. Roberts, No. 303, 1433 Harwood, Vanc. 5.
- W. J. McCutcheon, 13014 104th St., North Surrey, B.C.
- R. E. McCourt, 1445 Prairie Rd., Port Coquitlam, B.C.
- R. J. McCarthy, 5470 E. Hastings St., North Burnaby.

LEST WE FORGET



- Ernest Newsome, South Burnaby—47th Bn.
- Tommy Hulme, Vancouver—W.R.
- J. S. Motherwell, West Van.—47th Bn.

From THE WESTMINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

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

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