



The GROUND SHEET

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF
THE WESTMINSTER REGIMENT ASSN.

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

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

Vol. 16, No. 6.

Box 854, New Westminster, B.C.

March, 1967.

YOUR EXECUTIVE OFFICERS FOR 1967

PRESIDENT RON HURLEY
VICE PRESIDENT JOHN FORD
SECRETARY ART MILLER
TREASURER VERN ARDAGH
C.O.'s REP. WALT TYLER

Executive Members:

John Hou	Bill Williams	Bert Stephens
Andy Hunter	Walter Lyle	Bill Robson
Bas Morgan	Ian Douglas	Jack Graham
Scotty Lowe	Red Williams	Doug Glenn
Hugh McGivern	Alan Coe	Nelson Scott

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

You have granted me the privilege and honor to serve once again as your Association President. In this, Canada's Centennial Year, it is a most significant privilege indeed. I trust that I will discharge my duties to the best advantage for this grand Association. I can assure you that you have the very finest of Executive Officers elected for the forthcoming year and urge you ALL most sincerely to grant them your total support. I expect to see a record crowd at this year's Melfa Dinner. Please don't disappoint us. Thank you all.

YOUR EXECUTIVE AT WORK

To provide you with some small insight into how your hardworking executive performs, I have devoted the major portion of this issue to the publication of their annual reports as presented at the recent Annual General Meeting.—Ed.

MELFA DINNER — MAY "CENTENNIAL" 1967 NEW COLOURS — NEW HONOURS

This has been a memorable year for your Regiment with the awarding of the 2nd War Battle Honours and the prefix "Royal" added to our name.

The new colours will be presented to the Regiment at a ceremony in Victoria on May 19th.

These colours will be paraded by you for the first time on May 27th at the Annual Melfa Dinner. Lt. Col. H. E. Hamm has graciously consented to provide a Quarter Guard and the Regimental Band to lead your parade from the Armouries to a short Wreath Laying Service at the Cenotaph prior to the dinner in the Ballroom of the Royal Towers Hotel. All members are requested to be at the Drill Hall by 1800 hrs. Saturday, May 27th, for "Fall In".

Those who have berets are requested to wear them. Medals are also requested for this part of our evening.

WE NEED A 100% TURNOUT THIS YEAR FOR A 100% PARADE

Your Regiment today is at top strength and efficiency but needs the history, heritage and traditions that have been forged over the past century to give it soul.

THE GROUNDSHEET

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 Ottawa, and for payment of postage in cash.

While we are able, we owe this personal association to lend reality to legend. There is not one who has not contributed part of himself in making this truly the Royal Westminster Regiment and your pride in this fact should put you "On Parade" at 1800 hrs. sharp to share in our memories and glories which are now history.

Let us give inspiration and determination to those who carry on our proud name and responsibilities by joining together for this Annual Melfa Dinner.

Our three 47th members who are attending Vimy celebrations in France and Ottawa will be on hand to pass on their experiences as well as lots of old friends for a Grand Evening of Fellowship.

Trail, which has always paraded in strength, had better get Scottie Clifford down because we need an R.S.M.

Write, phone or talk to your friends BUT get them to the Drill Hall by 1800 hrs., May 27th.

WE NEED 300 LIVING BREATHING SOULS!

— BAS MORGAN.

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The General Meeting was held this year at our old stand, the Armoury at Sixth Street and Queens Ave. We used one of the huts just below the building, south on Sixth Street. The hut was warm and we were very comfortable. The only thing amiss was that there were only enough chairs for everybody when five more came in. This brought the total to thirty three, seven more than last year. It is a rather small group for an organization such as ours. Anyway, the elections were held and once again the Association is in a position to carry on for another year.

Ron Hurley, our President for another year, and Art Miller secretary for the same length of time, presided over meeting.

Among the discussions about the needs for the future was our immediate need to get more of us out to the Melfa Dinner. Bas Morgan will be handling the details. He won't be alone, the whole executive intends to take part. The date, sometime in May, will be announced later.

If you wish to make any inquiries concerning the History you may call Art Miller, BR 7-8010, or write to P.O. Bor 854, New Westminster, B.C. John Hou's report on our trust fund shows it to be in a healthy condition and now able to support our Scholarship.

Trooping of the colours confirmed for the eighth of July, a Saturday. There will be more about the presentation of the colours by Princess Alexandra at Victoria.

John Ford to be Vice President for another year. Both Hurley and Ford elected by acclamation.

The Scholarship Report by Ian Douglas and in his absence read by John Ford was well received. Ian, who arrived a little later from a previous commitment, also received well earned praise for his untiring efforts.

The Treasury Report was given by Vern Ardagh and it showed everything in its place, by simply showing a comparison of figures through the years. Vern showed us where we might try a little harder. The one way we can stimulate our finances is to sell, tickets and the rest of our Histories.

There was a hearty vote of thanks to Bob Carter for his outstanding work as our secretary during these many years.

The Visitors' Book was remembered halfway through the meeting and duly signed by all. The names will appear at the bottom of this page.

HOSPITAL — If you are hospitalized call this number — BR 7-8476 - Bert Stephens. This will insure you of visits whether in civilian or military hospitals in this area.

For those with long memories the next General Meeting will be held on the third Thursday of March, 1968. A good guesser might determine the location at this time but a good idea would be to keep an eye on the Groundsheet. It never fails.

Col. Bill Williams had a birthday on the night of our last executive meeting. Art Miller, who is gaining a reputation as a provider, came up with a very beautiful cake. Iced white with green trim and the words "Happy Birthday Col. Bill." It not only looked good, it tasted like more. We all shook hands with Col. Bill and toasted him and our collective futures with a little rum, fervently hoping that we will all look as healthy as Bill did on this happy occasion, when our turn comes to be eighty two.

Those who attended our General Meeting were R. R. Hurley, H. A. Miller, Bas Morgan, Johnston, J. R. Ford, H. A. Stephens, E. Williams, Buster Lynch, Vern Ardagh, D. G. Donald, John Sheppard, J. Graham, A. B. Noble, Norman J. McAskill, Art Hargreaves, Bert Amery, Ian Douglas, Charlie Bradford, Andy Hunter, W. Williams, J. Kingsnorth, W. S. Hall, C. A. Morrison, W. G. Robson, O. M. Crispin, D. W. Glenn, L. Ashton, W. Hogg, J. W. McPhee, J. Piper, Barney Jones. — BILL ROBSON.

ANNUAL REPORT

The Scholarship Committee of the Westminster Regiment Association

Mr. President and Gentlemen:

I have the honor to report on the activities of the above-named committee for the Association year, 1966-1967.

The membership of the committee has remained the same as it was when appointed three years ago this month. The exception, of necessity, is the replacement of Walter Hogg by Ron Rurley when the latter assumed the presidency. Walter is not lost, however; he seldom is, and when some emergency arises and a quorum is needed, we can count on Walter as a "trained and ready reserve." It is a pleasure to report that the members show no inclination to depart the committee, and they must be complimented on the fact that there have been no absentees at any meeting since our inception, except, ironically, at the most pleasurable of all the meetings — the Selection meeting of August 14, 1966, when D'Arcy and Elsie Baldwin entertained the members and their wives at the Circle Six Ranch.

The members of the committee are: Ron Hurley (ex officio), Ian Douglas, Chairman, John Ford, Secret-

tary, D'Arcy Baldwin, Allan Coe, Pete Grossman, Bert Hoskin, John Hou, Walter Lyle, Bill Williams.

The response to the 1966 call for applications was somewhat greater than earlier responses: fourteen persons asked for application forms and received them along with covering letters amplifying the information given on the form. From these requests eleven firm applications resulted—six from boys and five from girls.

The committee met August 14, 1966, at The Circle Six Ranch for the critical adjudication of applicants. Both the committee chairman and secretary were absent on distant holidays, but Pete Grossman and Walter Lyle, as chairman and secretary, respectively, had made good preparation to take their places. Very complete and informative summaries were made of each applicant's qualifications, so that each committee member had a comprehensive view of the whole problem. And it is a problem. The committee respects very carefully the wishes of the association in establishing this fine and much-needed scholarship. For one thing, it was not easy to gather the money necessary to fund this award; for another thing, 500 bucks ain't hay. But most of all, the members are intensely serious about judging fairly the fine young people that offer their qualifications for our examination and decision. The undersigned is grateful for the kind of attention his fellow members have given the job.

After a succession of secret ballots the 1966 winner emerged in the person of John Lindsay Sharp. John is the grandson of one who enlisted with the 131st Battalion and transferred to the 7th Battalion and was killed in action at Hill 70, August, 1917. John graduated from the Ladysmith High School. He received an average of 81.75% in the B.C. Scholarship Examinations. He is in residence at U.B.C., where he is embarked on a science program, with special interest in Chemistry and Physics.

The scholarship examination standing of one other applicant was higher, by very few points, than John Sharp's record, but the higher mark belonged to a candidate who had won a previous award of this association, and the committee exercised its right, as provided in the terms of its responsibilities, to make the award as it did. This action is the subject of a motion that this committee has made to the executive and that it is hoped this meeting will approve.

On January 9th, 1967, the committee met to review the action of 1966 and plan for the year. All

members were present. Of special interest was its task provided by the executive of preparing to administer the McPhee - Eamer Centennial Year Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship, as our members have read in The Groundsheet, has been donated by members of the families of the men whose names are in the title. Sergeant Tupper McPhee and Private Stewart McPhee, 629615 and 629616, respectively, were members of 14 Platoon, D Coy, 47th Bn. Tupper McPhee was killed in action May 5, 1917; Stewart was badly wounded May 5, 1917 and invalided out, although he survived until 1951. Alf Eamer, CQMS C Coy, Westminsters, is well remembered by most of us here.

The donors have expressed the wish that this award be made to one of the applicants for our scholarship — not necessarily our award winner. This means that two scholarships are available for our young people; the one application form will serve for both. Needless to say, our committee is pleased to have the responsibility of administering this award and have taken steps to advertise it in the appropriate places.

Bill Williams has undertaken a personal project in mounting and framing pictures of our award winners, from the beginning. He has sought and received permission from Lt. Col. Hamm to hang the pictures in the Regimental museum. Pictures of John Sharp, it will be remembered, were shown in the October Groundsheet after John visited the the first executive meeting in the Fall.

Bert Hoskin's personal project has been the preparation of a revised application form for the scholarship. It will be available for this year's applicants. The appearance of the form is an improvement on the Mark 1 edition, and it incorporates minor improvements in the wording as well as advice that our scholarship will not be awarded to previous winners, except under exceptional circumstances. This advice does not conflict with the rules laid down for our operation. Moreover, it does not prevent a previous winner applying for another award. However, we think it wise to warn applicants of the possibility and avoid unnecessary disappointment. Discretion must be given the committee — at least the power to exercise it — for no two situations seem likely to be alike in dealing with people, and we cannot lay down very strict boundaries for our awards without providing future embarrassment for ourselves. I think our committee can exercise discretion for the good of the association, and I think the members would be un-

happy if the guidelines were very narrow. However, if this matter requires a motion at this meeting to discuss the point of "limiting the award," we are prepared to make it. The budget for administering the work of this committee has been set so far at \$50 per year. We have kept well within this amount.

I wish to move the acceptance of this report for purposes of discussion.

I. F. DOUGLAS, Chairman.

SICK AND VISITING COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT — 1966-67

Your committee this year, as well as visiting at Shaughnessy on fourteen different occasions and George Derby on twelve occasions, made two visits to the General Hospital and two to the Pearson Hospital.

We visited with some forty-five of our comrades and left with them many comforts supplied for them by you the members of our Association, for which, on their behalf, many thanks.

This past year we have had less members hospitalized than any year for these past ten years, and during this year four of our hospitalized comrades have passed on:

Walter Camp Pete Bailey Bill Lawson
and Tommy Hume.

Expenditures for the year were\$125.00

Against this we had very generous
donations of\$133.00

Thanks very much to those members who assisted us in our visits and also to those members for their liberal donations of cash and pocket novels.

— H. A. STEPHENS, Committee Chairman.

"EUROPE '68" REPORT TO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MARCH 16, 1967

During the past year The Westminster Regiment Association CLUB, with a membership NOT confined to those who have served with one or more of our regimental units, was formed "to promote the interests of The Westminster Regiment Association in any suitable way."

One of the "suitable ways" in which the aims of this association could be promoted would be to sponsor successful charter flights to Europe from time to time.

After all, for some of our Association members to find it possible, through the savings of group travel, to re-visit scenes of their service in either of the World Wars, would be completely in accord with the aims of this Association. In addition, there is always the possibility that some profit might accrue and this is certainly also in accord with these aims.

Therefore the attempt to organize a charter flight is worthwhile and should be wholeheartedly endorsed by all members whether interested in travel or not.

However, in the narrow limits of the Association itself, a sufficient number of people who are interested enough in travel in a group to Europe at any SPECIFIC TIME cannot be found.

Other organizations, with less stringent qualifications are able to sponsor such charters because outsiders who want to travel cheaply to Europe simply join for the purpose. (For example: In 1963 my wife and I joined a Scottish group and last year we became Irish Protestants for the same purpose.)

This is not possible however with our Association with membership confined, as we wish it to be, to those who served with one of our units. But it is possible with the CLUB and this is why we have it.

At the present time membership in the Club stands at 36 families (about 80 people) who have the intention of going if possible.

So far no attempt has been made to bring in outside people for it is for Association members that the charter is being organized.

All members who previously indicated interest have been circularized now explaining that membership in the Club is necessary apart from their membership in the Association.

A meeting of the Club will be held in the Drill Hall sometime in April with the date dependent on arrangements with Lt. Col. Hamm, C.D., and on suitable programme arrangements with the travel agent, Mr. Trueman.—WALTER LYLE.

SMOKER REPORT — 1966

We were entertained this year by the "Tam O Shanters," a group of five. There were three men and two women. They were Capable, Professional, and had a

wide range of experience in their particular field. Comedy, Dancing, Songs, patter, and a combination of instruments that included a Bagpipe playing Jazz. Their only need was for a piano, a stage, and a good audience. We had all three, but, somewhere it didn't jell. This has happened before and it may again. In the case of our Smokers, the reason probably was the same old reason we have had for many many years. We are all friends from a long way back, and no matter how good the entertainment, we seem too busy to be entertained. Handshaking, greeting and meeting buddies of long ago. If there is a drink or two to be had you are soon lulled into a sense of well-being for the evening. This seems to be all we need. However, we will promise a Smoker again in December next and there will again be food, entertainment, a draw, and mainly we will all be there.

Time is going along, it is not getting any shorter. The carefree spending of time is the essence of good fellowship, and from here stems a fact. That, which we are all beginning to realize is, we are our own entertainers.—BILL ROBSON.

REPORT ON CADET ACTIVITIES — 1966

We have three cadet corps sponsored by The Regimental Association; one in New Westminster, one in Haney and one in Abbotsford.

The Cadet Corps in Newton which was previously affiliated with the Seaforths, is now affiliated with The Royal Westminster Regiment.

At the last inspection held in May, 1966, the New Westminster Corps was first in the Vancouver area and fifth in B.C.

The Haney and Abbotsford Corps were much lower but they are doing good work.

The New Westminster Corps band consists of twenty-one bandsmen and a drum major. The latter is the son of Lt. John Usher, Quartermaster of the regiment, and grandson of Jack Usher, who served with the Westies overseas.

Number 2316, the Westminster Cadet Corps, has been selected to provide a twenty-piece band for the cadet exchange to Expo 67.

The days for the exchange are not firm yet. The approximate dates are:

- a. 10th of July, arrive Camp Vernon.
- b. 21 to 25 July to Farnham, Quebec, by air.
- c. 12th August, return to Camp Vernon.
- d. Disperse home at end of summer camp.

The band must be prepared to play a varied selection of music within the capabilities of their instruments.

This band will be on parade with the cadets from Western Canada at Expo 67 and other engagements in the vicinity of Montreal. Instruments and uniforms are the responsibility of Cadet Corp and sponsor.

The chief instructor, Capt. R. C. A. Blishin, was chosen as 2 i/c of the contingent of Western Cadets to Expo 67 but was unable to go as he has visitors from England arriving at that time. Mr. Staple will be in command of the band to Expo. Drum Major Ken Usher will accompany him. The latter is also a Master Cadet.

On April 29, the band competition for all cadet bands in the B.C. areas will take place in the Seaforth Armouries. All members of the Association are welcome.

Drum Major Ken Usher mentioned above, was the drum major at the Vernon Camp last year. Seven from the Westminster Corp were in the band.

In the past year fifteen to twenty cadets have joined the Regiment.

Capt. Blishin is to be congratulated on the splendid job he has done this year and he speaks very highly of the other instructors and the cadets.

— W. WILLIAMS.

LEST WE FORGET



Robt. George Robinson, Surrey — W.R.
S. (Sammy R. White, North Van. — W.R.

FLASH!

It is TOO LATE

To have your grandfather

Write for application forms

For The Royal Westminster Regiment Association
Scholarship;

BUT

It is a very good time RIGHT NOW

To have your son, daughter, grandson, grand-
daughter,

Or some other eligible person

Write to Box 854, New Westminster, B. C., for
The Scholarship forms.

It takes a little time to gather the

Necessary documents; and

REMEMBER,

There are TWO scholarships available this year:

OURS,

And The McPhee-Eamer Centennial Award.

Write to Box 854.

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

THE MELFA GOLF TOURNAMENT

We definitely WILL have a golf tournament on Melfa Day, even if only one foursome rolls up.

That sounds as if we have run into a roadblock somewhere.

We have.

Barney Jone's inept tournament secretary made a firm date for the wrong Saturday (May 20th). When he woke up he found May 27 — the real Melfa Day — all booked up from 8 a.m. on.

We COULD play at Hazelmere, the scene of last year's struggle, between 7 and 8 o'clock on May 27th IF we booked our times individually. At this date Lower-Mainland courses have not been scouted for tournament time on May 27th, but we are unlikely to find anything but individual times anywhere.

Consider these points then:

- * Wherever we go we should tee-off before 9 o'clock.

Last time some players found too little time between golf and dinner.

- * A golf time between 7 and 8 is not too terrible except for the people who have to travel an hour before teeing off. However, the players farthest away could be given the time nearest 8, or the latest time, whatever that will be.

- * Wherever we go we shall have to commit ourselves to a firm number of players, or, more likely, book individual names in foursomes.

Therefore — if YOU would like to play golf (or something like it) on the morning of May 27, with the rest of the boys, SEND YOUR NAME and ADDRESS to the name and address below.

The first names in will get the latest times, unless "early" is requested and unless Chilliwack people or others from the outback displace them.

It would be best to send in the names of a foursome, but individual names, pairs, or trios will be registered and made into foursomes.

When a golf course is found and bookings are firm you and your foursomes will be notified of your starting time and provided with other necessary information. Obviously, there must be a closure date for registra-

tions; it is figured that April 15 is as late as we can leave booking times in any golf course, on a Saturday. So, APRIL 15 is it. If you are in doubt, send in your name anyway; a cancellation can be arranged more easily than an addition.

Please decide FOR the Melfa Divotions, and send your names, addresses, and other pertinent points to

Ian Douglas,
824 Ladner Street,
New Westminster.

TEAR OUT HERE

ADVERTISEMENT

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by Major J. E. Oldfield, M.C.

The History of the Westminster Regiment (Motor) during World War II has been written and is available now. Those wishing to purchase a copy may use the accompanying Order Blank.

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

E. G. SHANNON,
361 RAYMOND AVE.,
RICHMOND, B. C.

