

Compiled and drawn by Hist

THE GROUND SHEET

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 2229 Bonnyvale Rd., Vancouver 16, B.C. .... FA 1-8464  
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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

You will note that we are bombarding you with invitations, and pleadings to attend the 1967 Melfa Dinner. I cannot say enough praiseworthy phrases on the tremendous amount of work your Melfa Committee under Bas Morgan has undertaken to ensure its success. Bas and your hard-working secretary Art Miller have left no stones unturned in their efforts on your behalf. This is our Centennial Year. We will mark this occasion in many ways but I can think of no better personal or inexpensive program than to attend this year's function in overflowing abundance. Cancel your Fishing, House Painting, Gardening or what have you. If you wish to Golf come and join us at our Melfa Tournament. Tell the Wife NOW that this is your day. It is almost a certainty that none of us will be around for the second hundred years so let's give this a once in a lifetime effort. We know that there are hundreds of you within walking distance that have never attended a dinner before. Make this year an exception. I can guarantee you ALL that you will be most welcome and that you will be most pleasantly surprised and wonder what has kept you away so long. May I have the pleasure of seeing hundreds of you on Saturday, May 27th?

Thank you. RON HURLEY.

TRANSPORTATION DIFFICULTIES —  
NAMESLY PENSIONERS

It may be possible to assist some of the older or infirm members to attend this year's dinner. If you think you will have transportation difficulties to and from the dinner write to Box 854, New Westminster, B.C., and let us know where you live, or contact Red Williams at Phone No. 594-4261. We will do our best to help you.

NOW HEAR THIS

We have sent letters to the following ambassadors at large to assist us in the collection of our members

in the far reaches of our province. If you live in their area contact the following:

- Andy Krall—Natal, B.C.
- F. H. Day—R.R. 3 4, Kelowna, B.C.
- Copper Newitt—20 Coote St., Chilliwack, B.C.
- Al Harvey—Box 1428, Quesnel, B.C.
- A. R. Trimble—Box 218, Osoyoos, B.C.
- D. A. Leedham—Box 998, Mission, B.C.
- Ken Moyes—Box 174, Merritt, B.C.
- W. L. Armour—3847 Merriman Dr., Victoria, B.C.
- J. V. H. Wilson—Little Coulee, Naramata, B.C.
- Doug. A. Young—Lee Creek, Squilax, B.C.
- B. H. Lane—Box 59, Parksville, B.C.
- John A. Chapman—Box 136, Hope, B.C.
- C. A. Cousins—Box 337, Cumberland, B.C.
- E. F. Duncan—200 Argyle St., Port Alberni, B.C.
- John (Scotty) Clifford, 1560 Cedar, Trail, B.C.
- Herbe Timbe, Box 425, Biggar, Sask.

SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK

We were pleased to hear from Ivan Ackery recently about a new member, Mr. C. F. Hornsby, formerly of "C" Company, 47th Battalion, who was blinded in action at Passchendale on the 29th of October, 1917. Mr. Hornsby has been welcomed into the association and a life membership has been awarded him by the executive. Mr. Hornsby resides in Victoria.

2ND ANNUAL MELFA GOLF CLASSIC

The Golf Tournament is ON.  
 START TIME: 0730 Hrs. (That's right, 7:30 a.m.).  
 DATE: Saturday, May 27th, 1967.  
 SITE: HAZELMERE GOLF COURSE (Where's That?)  
 Half mile east of Rd. Jct. Campbell River Rd. and Old Pacific Highway.  
 FEES: Green, \$3.00. Club Rentals, \$1.00.  
 Tournament Entry \$1.00. Bar Facilities—At Hand.  
 ACTION: SEND IN YOUR FOURSOMES NOW TO:  
 Ian Douglas, 824 Ladner St., New Westminster, B.C.  
 Phone: 522-3415 by 24th May.  
 DISREGARD PREVIOUS CUT-OFF DATE IN THE MARCH EDITION.

WHAT BECAME OF KELLY?

G. Cunningham, Cambridge Road, Welland, Ontario.  
 Capt. Hugh Wray, c-o H.Q. UNEF CFPO 5049 Middle East.

1939 - 45

CENTENNIAL YEAR CELEBRATIONS

of The Royal Westminster Regt.

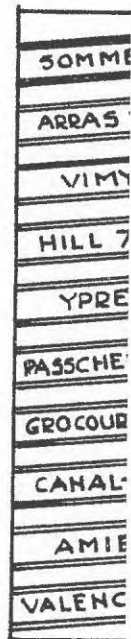
and

The Regimental Association

23rd

ANNUAL MELFA DINNER

1967



M E N U

SEAFOOD COCKTAILS

RELISH DISHES

ROAST TOP SIRLOIN OF BEEF

BAKED POTATOES WITH TOPPING

BUTTERED GREEN PEAS

BABY WHOLE CARROTS

PARFAIT

ROLLS - BUTTER - TEA - COFFEE

PLACE: Crystal Ball Room, Royal Towers Hotel,  
New Westminster, B.C.

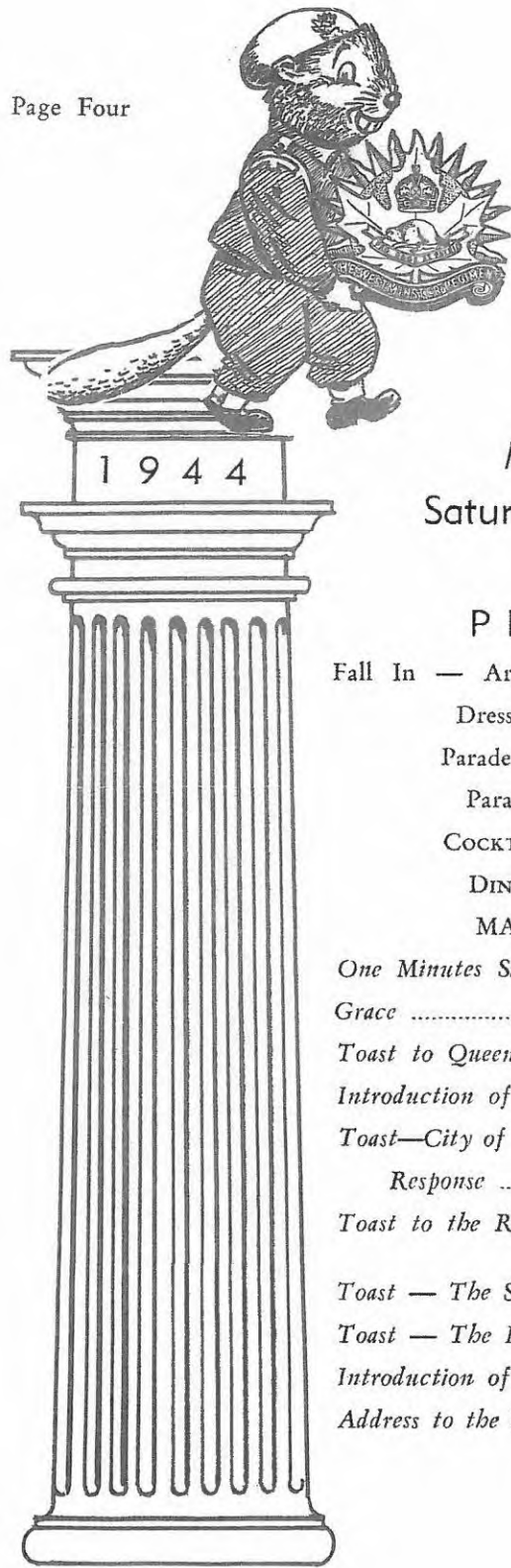


SATURDAY, MAY 27th, 1967:

0730 Hrs.—MELFA GOLF TOURNAMENT, HAZELMERE GOLFCO

1800 Hrs.—FALL IN FOR WREATH LAYING AND MARCH PAS

1830 Hrs.—MELFA DINNER.



SECOND ANNUAL MELFA  
 GOLF TOURNAMENT  
 HAZELMERE GOLFCOURSE  
 7:30 a.m.  
 Saturday, May 27th, 1967

MELFA DINNER  
 Saturday, May 27th, 1967

PROGRAMME

Fall In — Armouries, New Westminster, 1800 Hrs.

Dress: Mufti — Berets — Medals.

Parade to Cenotaph and March Past.

Parade Marshal — Scotty Clifford

COCKTAILS 1830 HRS. TO 1930 HRS.

DINNER 1945 HRS. (7:45 p.m.)

MARCH ON THE COLOURS

*One Minutes Silence in Memory of Departed Comrades*

*Grace ..... Regimental Padre*

*Toast to Queen ..... A. E. Davies, M.M., 47th Bn*

*Introduction of Head Table ..... President*

*Toast—City of New Westminster, Andy Hunter 47th Bn*

*Response ..... Mayor Stuart Gifford*

*Toast to the Regiment and Predecessors*  
*A. Hargreaves, 47th Bn*

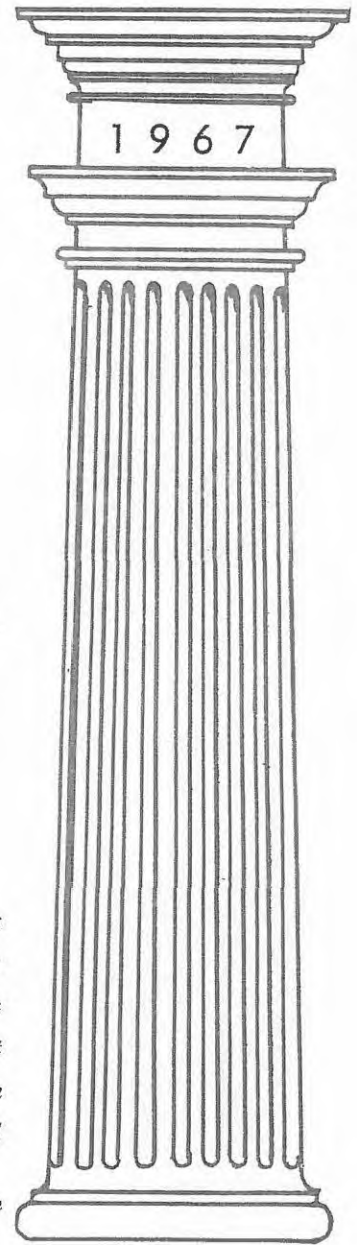
*Toast — The Straths.*

*Toast — The B.C.D.'s (9th Armoured Regt.).*

*Introduction of Speaker ..... Walter Hogg*

*Address to the Melfa, Col. H. F. (Bert) Hoskins, D.S.O.*

BAR REOPENS



*The Poem by Russ Miller "On Returning to The Melfa" was published in an earlier Melfa Edition. It is such a warm and topical piece of writing that I feel it belongs with our Centennial Melfa Groundsheet.—Ed.*

### ON RETURNING TO THE MELFA

*by Russ Miller*

The Liri valley lays,  
In Peaceful summer's grace.  
The Melfa river winds,  
Its lazy way below.  
And in the field beyond,  
The plodding oxen brace  
Rolls up the fertile earth,  
Made sacred long ago.

The farmer's house still stands  
Where once it did.  
Among the sounds of life,  
The cattle bells and children play,  
So different from another time,  
When then it hid  
The sounds and scenes of death,  
Of comrades locked in fray.

Standing here, this placid scene,  
This time, begins to fade,  
My mind sweeps back  
Through lusty years of May,  
When young and lusty men  
Were ageless heroes made.  
Where each sought peace,  
And death the price he paid.

Down the dusty Benedictine road,  
They swiftly made  
"The Griffen Force," with gallant "Straths,"  
Who rode upon the flanks,  
Like "Those at Balaclava,"  
And the daring "Light Brigade,"  
They fought, and on they raced,  
The infantry and tanks.

The river was in view,  
The final dash begun.  
The Schmeisser and the Spandau  
Spit their seeds of hate.  
Still, on they go! Extende line!  
Up the bank they run,  
To lie in Nebelwerfer blast,  
And screaming Eighty-eight.

"The Bridgehead," for endless hours,  
Through hell they hold.  
These dwindling few,  
Who fought and died and fought  
Until the surge of battle  
Left them in its smoking fold,  
To stumble, wounded, dying,  
From this rocky field they sought

And here at my feet, he fell.  
And bled and died.  
I touch the earth,  
So warm from new Italian suns.  
Thankful, I remembered,  
And turned away and cried.  
I have not forgotten Comrades,  
Who sleep from battles won.

### VIMY

Much has been said and perhaps much been left unsaid on the 50th anniversary of Vimy. The remarks of Lt. Col. Fair, U.S. viously taken out of context, precipitated protest from almost every quarter of the least disturbed by all this commotion seemed Vimy vets themselves and this perhaps is a be. History accurately records that they accor to that time, what no other Allied ground been able to achieve. They performed this g with a display of cool headed efficiency h heralded in so called modern warfare. They but here again accepted the sacrifice with honor. It has been stated on many occasio one valiant enterprise in a war torn world w beginning of the Canada we know today.

Despite what today's placard-bearing make of this it is indeed as noble a poi our beginning as any that comes to my mir you may have witnessed, via the marvels Television the on-the-spot ceremonies at the orial in France. Despite the absence of Le G it was a momentous occasion when A. E. D stepped forward to place the wreath on be 47th Battalion. In Ottawa a similar ceremon ing place and here too, Sgt. Art Hargreave: 47th Bn wreath at the base of the Canadian orial. It is with a great deal of pride that y tion salutes these two gallant gentlemen ar W.W. 1 stalwarts on this your much h anniversary.—Ed.

Following is the text of the card attached to the wreath presented by Sgt. Hargreaves in Ottawa and a letter of Art's trip to the capital. It is hoped that we will hear from Mr. Davies for our next issue.

*50th*  
*Vimy Anniversary Wreath*  
*Laid by*  
*Arthur Hargreaves*  
*Sergeant, 47th Battalion, C.E.F.*  
*Royal Westminster Regt.*  
*British Columbia*  
*In Remembrance*  
\* \* \*

9 Conifer Crescent,  
Winnipeg 6, Manitoba.

Mr. Ron Hurley, Groundsheet:

Sir—I thought I would write a few lines and let you know how I made out on my visit to Ottawa. I left Vancouver at 9:15 a.m. and it only seemed a few minutes the Captain announced that we were passing over the Okanagan and very soon we would pass over the Rockies at 37,000 ft. and 635 miles per hour.

After a very smooth trip we arrived Toronto just after 4 p.m. (1 p.m. Vancouver time), waited about an hour, then took a smaller plane to Ottawa, arriving at 6:30 p.m. After being allotted our rooms we went down to the briefing room. As our names were called we were handed a large brown envelope containing details and sketches of the Ceremony, a plastic covered name badge to wear on the lapel.

We were briefed by three 2nd War Veterans and I must say they were very well versed and the whole arrangement was well organized. We were transported by bus everywhere we went, even the two blocks from the Hotel to the Cenotaph.

Sunday morning was fine and sunny. I took a walk to see the War Memorial and Parliament Buildings and took pictures. At 2 p.m. the bus took us a round-about way, then we marched to allotted places over the Red Carpet where we had chairs on which was our individual wreath with 47th Bn on the ribbon and my card. It was raining by now and we didn't have overcoats. As each name was called we walked to the front of the Cenotaph and laid the wreath, then back to our chairs. I don't know if you saw any broadcast but I haven't seen it yet but I understand it will be shown here on Saturday. Although there were four cameras set up I

don't think they were operating when we laid the wreaths. In the evening to the Parliament Buildings where we had a group picture taken, then to two rooms all fixed up with a bar where we could have anything from beer to cocktails. Then into the banquet room which was about the most beautiful room I have ever seen. There were 4 long tables and the head table. Beside the 74 Vets there were many other guests amounting to about 300.

At the head table were Prime Minister Pearson, Roger Teillet, Veterans Affairs, Paul Hellyer, Brig. Gen. Melville, in charge of our group, Judy LaMarsh and others.

Some of the fellows were getting their autographs and as my table was only about 15 feet from the head table and a little hesitation and as we were considered brave heroes I went with my Menu and direct to Judy and asked if she would oblige, and as my name was on the card she said graciously, with pleasure Mr. Hargreaves. Back to my place I showed the fellows I was with the autograph so they went and got theirs. I got the P.M. and others at the table.

The banquet was first class with two kinds of wine, music supplied by a military band playing all the old army tunes.

The speeches were not too long but were very appropriate for the occasion.

Back to the hotel by bus, visiting a 54th Bt. Vet from Vancouver who brought his wife with him when I met Bert Herridge, M.P. for Kootenay, and enjoyed listening to him talking about his early life in the Kootenays. Up early on Monday to catch the plane to Winnipeg where I am visiting my daughter and family.

It has been a wonderful event in my life and am grateful to all who made it possible.

Yours truly,

ART HARGREAVES.

LEST WE FORGET



S/SGT. ALEC McGRAW  
Santa Barbara, California

**APRIL IS VIMY MONTH — ENSHRINED  
FOREVER IN GALLANTRY AND HONOR**

Your Association Salutes the Men of the  
104th — 47th — 131st — On This  
Hallowed Occasion.

**REMINISCENCE**

My thoughts return at Easter week,  
To Vimy Ridge, a Monday bleak,  
With sleet, and mud of tortured earth,  
Barraged and mined to wasteful dearth,  
The roaring fury battle clang,  
That thundered with the guns harangue,  
To chorus loud in angry breath,  
The Shrapnel Symphony of Death. \_

I still can see that shell scarred Ridge,  
Perhaps it was a sacrilege,  
That Easter's Peace was wracked by shell,  
And made a carnage fit for Hell,  
And youth that had all life before,  
Paid full the price of bloody war;  
Thus fear and courage marched that day,  
With glory onward to the fray.

And those of us that lived the fight,  
Remember now in mellow light,  
A battle won from stubborn foe,  
Forgetting rain, and mud, and snow,  
The screaming shells, the bullets whine,  
So toast the memory in wine,  
To glory, and our youth aglow,  
On Vimy Ridge long years ago.

John E. Harrington,  
San Diego, California.

**EUROPE '68**

**Notice of Meeting — Monday 29 May  
Drill Hall, New Westminster — 8 p.m.**

Everyone is welcome who is interested in finding out more about our plans, whether they are Club members or not. Your friends are welcome also. Refreshments will be served.

Harry Trueman is off to Europe on other business and will be taking the opportunity to "recce" our European Tour route. He will be making some enquiries if

not tentative arrangements, possibly in one new hotels in Cassino, for our Melfa Dinn the rubble has been cleared from that famo last we saw it.) Or he may find something to our river. He will be back in time to interesting possibilities to discuss at the m

Herewith the latest list of Club mmbc many familiar names add up, in my mind at prospect of A GREAT BIG WONDERFUL

E. Clare, M. E. Currie, Archie Davis, I A. A. Donald, R. Fleming, L. German, Wa M. S. Low, Walter Lyle, Art Miller, Stan Miss E. Pett, C. R. Richmond, E. Staton, man, Jack Usher, B. I. Barton, Doug Glenn P. Bergman, R. A. Boulter, L. Hadley, Jo C. Douglas, J. V. McDonald, A. Young, T Fred Day, M. G. Klinkhamer, F. C. John Oldale, Mrs. E. W. Hodges, Allan Coe, Vi O. Pook, Mrs. H. Marshall, S. J. Burton, ridge, Fred Church, G. Berry, J. E. Mooreh Hunt.

WALT

**WALTER LYLE**

614 Fourth Ave.  
New Westminster, B. C.

- I enclose one dollar membership fee f in the Westminster Regiment Associa
- I am interested in the Europe '68 Tra
  - Charter flight to U.K. only.
  - Charter flight and Continental T for myself and the following 1 my family:

NAME .....  
Address .....

*Dedicated to all generations of Can  
by Lieut. Col. W. J. Williams  
(Big Bear)  
The Royal Westminster Regiment  
16 April 1967*

These words appear on a little silver will hold a prominent place in the home c executive of the Westminster Regiment A: J. McGivern.

This, a private Flag raising ceremony, Which may be the first of its kind in Canada, was conceived by Hugh McGivern and some friends of the family as a multiple project, partly on occasion of the Centennial year, partly to celebrate his sister's Birthday, and also to open the McGivern family pub to be known as "Ye Olde Horseshoe Inn". The pub being in a recently renovated area of the house which had formerly been a two-car garage. Now it is nicely decorated, has a bar, and the floor is complete with a wall to wall carpet. The Flag raising ceremony took place at three o'clock in the afternoon of the sixteenth of April, Nineteen hundred and Sixty seven.

The Mayor of New Westminster, J. Stuart Gifford, Lt. Col. H. E. Hamm, C.D., of the Royal Westminster Regiment, were among the hundred or more guests who listened as Lt. Col. W. J. Williams dedicated the flag prior to it being raised. Big Bear as he is affectionately known, paid tribute to our new Emblem with a sincere enthusiasm which met with the full approval of the as-

sembled guests. The presence of Smokey Smith, V.C., the winner of the Empire's highest decoration for Bravery, further enhanced the gathering as he stood at the "Present Arms" while the Flag was being raised and Canada's Anthem was being sung by those assembled. It seemed quite proper that such a young Flag should be raised by young hands and this was capably handled by Hugh's nephew John Graham, nine years old.

The ceremony being over and the weather being mildly damp, the guests returned to the comfort of the living room. Many of the guests took this opportunity to wish Hugh's sister, Esther, a Happy Birthday. Another event which took place was the presentation of a heavy wooden shield by Bert Libby. This shield of oak had on it a horseshoe design suitably inscribed with the words "Ye Olde Horseshoe Inn." This will hang in the bar to be admired by those who may drink a toast to those two lasting mediums, Family and Friends.

— BILL ROBSON.

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From THE WESTMINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

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



B. V. MORGAN,  
1547 - 54TH STREET,  
TSAWWASSEN, B. C.