THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE WESTMINSTER REGIMENT ASSN.

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

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

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#### 1968 ELECTION RESULTS

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- Jack Graham—822 4th St., New Westminster. Phone 522-1750.
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- M. Scotty Low-Huntingdon, B.C.
- Bill Robson—2335 Wall St., Vancouver 6, B.C. Phone 321-0947.
- Clarence Huff—(47th Bn.) 233 4th St., New Westminster, B.C. — Phone 521-2365.
- H. Bert Stephens-674 Gibbons Road, Richmond, B.C. Phone 277-8476.

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W. (Col. Bill) Williams—927 Walls, Coquitlam, New Westminster, B.C. — Phone WE 9-0190.

## MESSAGE FROM THE 1968 PRESIDENT

COMRADES: It is a great honor you have bestowed on me this year. I shall do my utmost to be worthy of your confidence.

Our Past President Ron Hurley has set a very high standard to be maintained. It will be my number one project this year to ensure this Association continues in the same progressive manner.

This year is the year for our first Official Pilgrimage to the scenes of our glorious past. I am fortunate and privileged to be on the European Tour. You may rest assured that while our Melfa River Dinner is celebrated in New Westminster, it will also be celebrated in Cassino. This, of course, will actually put us on location on the 24th May, starting with a picnic at the actual Battle scene. Nelson Scott, our very capable Vice President, will officiate at the local dinner.

My congratulations for choosing such a supporting executive, they are loyal bodies all, and will certainly make my term a pleasure!

There are many interesting items on this year's Agenda. Our good editor Ron will keep you posted as to events and dates; I would urge you all to give us your support and in so doing, help us provide another successful year.—JOHN R. FORD, President.

#### THE GROUNDSHEET

President JOHN R. FORD 3757 W. 35th Ave., Vancouver, B.C. AM 3-3682
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Editor
Ottawa, and for payment of postage in cash. Authorized as second class mail by the Post Office Department.

#### PAST PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

I take this opportunity to extend to you ALL my appreciation for entrusting me with the presidency of YOUR ASSOCIATION during these past two years. It was, above all, a significant privilege and honour to serve in that capacity and moreover a most pronounced pleasure as well. The latter was made so because of the capable and hard working executive you so wisely provided. They are a tireless and most capable group indeed. I extend also my thanks for your wisdom in providing such an efficient secretary in the person of Art Miller. With a secretary like Art, as in all our past secretaries such as Nelson Scott, Walter Lyle and Bob Carter the task of chairman is facilitated beyond description.

I reiterate, my sincere thanks for a most enjoyable two years, particularly 1967, our Centennial Year, and I shall always consider that portion of my term of office as My Centennial Project. . . Best of Luck to John Ford in the forthcoming year. Thank you.

RON HURLEY.

#### ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The General Meeting has come and gone, we were few, but out of it came the group that will handle the affairs of the Association for the next year. Each year a new executive is elected. This year, too, a new president was elected. As you know their term of office is two years. John Ford, our new President, will be at the helm. Johnny, a hardworking member of the executive, also secretary of the Scholarship Committee, played a very active part in getting the scholarship promoted to the solid position it now holds. His suggestion of this project was seized upon by the executive and brought to the point where it is now self supporting. We will have

pect the full co-operation of his new executive. Go to it Johnny.

Prior to the meeting, before anything started officially, John Ford, acting for Ian Douglas who was unavoidably detained, and who appeared later, introduced last year's scholarship winners to the assembly. Last year there was an extra scholarship because it was Canada's Centennial Year. This was from the McPhee and Eamer families in respect and loving memory of Sgt. Tupper McPhee, Pte. Stewart McPhee and Sgt. Alf Eamer. It was called the McPhee Eamer Centennial Year Memorial Scholarship. Hence, the two winners for last year. In 1968 we will be back to one scholarship. After being introduced, each winner spoke briefly of their proposed careers and expressed their appreciation of the help a scholarship can give. Following this, because of the need to study, our winners left the scene. Good luck, Mrs. Marjorie Crum and Mr. John Evans.

The meeting came to order and the minutes (last year's that is) were adopted as read. Boy, minutes once a vear.

Committee reports were clear and concise, the two which held our attention were the Treasurer's Report and the Scholarship Report. The Financial Report shows us in good standard and our Scholarship now running on its own two feet, with its committee following the standards of fair play and Justice in their quest for a winner. We find there is no need to worry on this score.

Other committees having made their reports we now turned to the elections. Ron Hurley, who has done a Trojan-like job of President and also kept up the position of Editor of the Groundsheet, spoke briefly, thanking his committees and the executive at large for their response to the needs of the Association. Pledging his support to the newly elected President and the executive (each retiring President stays in the executive for a term). He sat down and was accorded a tumultuous thanks from those assembled in recognition of a job well done. After the elections were completed and the ballots being duly destroyed the Executive this year will be: Pres., J. R. Ford; Vice Pres., Nelson Scott; Treasurer, E. V. Ardagh; Sect., H. A. Miller, and eight members, Scotty Lowe, Walter Lyle, Ian Douglas, Bill Williams, Bill Robson, Bert Stephens, Clarence Huff and John Hou. Andy Hunter declined the nomination this year but expressed the desire to remain with the museum committee. This will be done as he is greatly a fine President for the next two years and he can ex- interested in this project. Clarence Huff, a new name in the executive is our new liaison with our older com- one Christmas visit to The Royal Columbian Hospital rades, no stranger to the regiment or the town of New Westminster, having lived here for many years. He is an affable and friendly person who will be an asset to the Association.

Bill Williams, now in his mid-eighties celebrated his birthday on March 22. Healthy as a bear, drives his own car, never misses a meeting. He is a going concern from whom we expect many more years of friendly banter and timely advice. Happy Birthday, Bill.

Due to amalgamation some well known outfits are doomed to drift into obscurity in the near future. Our friends the Straths seem to be headed in that direction. Our affiliate, the Royal Warwickshires, seem headed the same way this St. Georges Day. It's a changing world, these happenings are sad affairs and there should be some way to remain in communication. Maybe an international registry of regimental associations is the answer.

Red Williams, recently hurt in an industrial accident, is now slowly recovering at home. Get well soon, Red.

Art Miller is again our secretary. This is a demanding work and he does it so well it looks easy.

Annual Church Parade, 2:30 p.m. April 28th. Christenings and a parade; more information can be had by calling LA 2-4342.

Barney Jones and Ian Douglas will again mastermind the Melfa Golf Tournament.

Flight: 100 to England; plus 45 to Rome.

There were 29 souls at the General Meeting. We need many more. For those with long memories the Annual General Meeting is held every third Thursday in March.

Fifty members of the Regiment enjoyed themselves last year at the Melfa Dinner. It is to be hoped they will return again this year.

Flight - Okay, so I bought a French beret. We'll be in Paris three days .- BILL ROBSON.

### SICK AND VISITING COMMITTEE REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1967

tennial Year, 1967. Made in all 18 visits to Shaughnessy up to see Clem a couple of times and when I saw him Hospital, 12 visits to George Derby, 6 visit to Pearson last night, the 27th March, he looked fine and was clear T.B. Hospital and 3 visits to St. Paul's Hospital, and as a bell. Clem loves to reminisce about the old days

to visit Buster Lynch (by Walter Lyle). We visited with some 48 of our comrades and left them the usual gifts from the Association and the knowledge that they are not forgotten.

Three very good friends of the Hospitalized passed on this year - my very good friend and co-chairman Tommy Thomson, next was Steve Andrews who often kept me supplied with pocket novels for the sick, and lastly Thomas Arthur Hamilton who every Christmas gave your committee \$25.00 for extra Christmas treats for the hospitalized.

Expenditures for the year .....\$200.00 Against this we had donations of ......\$127.00

Leaving a net cost of .....\$ 73.00

Many Thanks to the many members who kept your committee so well supplied with pocket novels and cash, and again thanks to Ron Mannering who made up a very nice parcel for the sick.

H. A. STEPHENS, Committee Chairman.

#### SICK AND VISITING COMMITTEE REPORT FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH, 1968

On my February visit to Shaughnessy Hospital I had quite a visit with Jimmy Wilson, who was in with a severe arthritic condition in his hands. They were trying what is a somewhat new method, to restore the necessary flexibility to his right hand, had cut right down to the knuckle of each finger and scraped all the bones so exposed, sewn them back together and had all his fingers on tension with controlled elastic bands, against which he worked to restore the strength of his fingers. Sounds quite complicated, but seemed to help; at least when I visited again in March Jimmy had gone home. Hope everything is going to be O.K. Jim, and let us hear from you. For the benefit of the Secretary, Jim Wilson's latest address is 20834 Power Line Road, Haney, B. C.

Clem Carmichael (Slats) the overseas Adjutant of the 47th had a very nasty fall on Robson Street some little time ago and wound up in Shaughnessy, broke a Your committee had a very active year in our Cen- few bones and suffered several nasty bruises. Have been

March, 1968.

with the 47th in France and about the period when he was so active in the practice of law in British Columbia. Clem, how about writing an article on The Proud Old 47th for the Groundsheet.

Also had a visit with Benny Witt last night in Shaughnessy where he is undergoing tests and X-Rays to try and find what is the matter internally. They suspect ulcers, and I was kidding Benny that if this was so he could say goodbye to the old suds and prepare to live a clean life.

Dan Corcoran is still resident in George Derby and still roams all over the countryside. Hasn't been in his room the last few times I have called. However, he knows that we still remember him as I always leave him cigarettes, candy and lots of reading when I call.

A few days ago saw the passing of a very staunch member of the Association, C. P. Armour, whose son Bill most Westies will recall, Comrade Armour has been in and out of hospital these last few years and I never called on him that he wasn't in the best of spirits. There was always a friendly rivalry between Comrade Armour and his son Bill at Christmas time to see who would sell the most tickets. Consequently, they were always in the top group of sellers.

quite awhile now went back to St. Paul's and we have Mess, where our host was Bert Hoskin and where Bill just been informed of his passing.

You will recall that last September we received word that Tommy Hayes had been in a very serious logging accident. Poor Tommy never regained consciousness and I received a letter just recently from Mrs. Hayes to say that Tommy had passed away. We are all so sorry to hear this, Mrs. Hayes, and please accept our sympathy.

Another very staunch member of our Association and a very good friend of the sick and visiting committee has passed on. T. A. S. Hamilton, for many years has sent to me a very substantial cheque to supply comforts for our Hospitalized comrades at Christmas. He was a very fine gentleman and I had the pleasure of visiting with him a few times. As he always helped to keep me supplied with pocket novels for the sick, we will miss him.

Paul Decker has been in and out of Hospital for these last few months and I always just miss seeing him. Will catch up with you one of these days, Paul. Last found two candidates who emerged as the unanimous heard that Gordon Miners was in hospital at Prince George; but haven't heard since. Hope everything is O.K., Gord .- H. A. STEPHENS, Chairman.

#### SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 1967-1968

824 Ladner Street, New Westminster, B. C. March 21, 1968.

Mr. Ron Hurley, President,

The Royal Westminster Regt. Association,

New Westminster, B. C.

Dear Mr. President:

I have the honor to submit, herewith, the report of the Scholarship Committee for the period 1967-1968.

This year's activities were distinguished by the fact that the committee had the privilege of administering two scholarships - our own Association award and The McPhee-Eamer Centennial Memorial award. It is expected that the winners of these two awards will be introduced at this annual meeting.

The process of arriving at these winners was essentially the same as the method used in previous years. Eleven applications were received - two from Prairie provinces and the others from various parts of B.C. The documents pertinent to the applications were checked and their contents summarized before the selection meeting. On the afternoon of the third Sunday in Aug-Joe Duhig, who has been in and out of hospital for ust the committee met, this time at the Jericho Officers' Williams squired our wives while we dealt with the business of selection. This special privilege was claimed by Bill because his grandson was one of the eleven candidates.

> In passing, and in defence of our committee's ability to make judgments - occasionally - without the assistance of our wives, it should be explained that our selection meetings being lengthy and our members very busy, Sundays have been found to be the best meeting days. Neglect of one's wife every day in the week is a risk good committee men have learned to avoid.

> As in previous years each committee member was provided with the original documents pertaining to one candidate and, in addition, a summary of the marks and other data of all the other candidates. Each member thus became responsible for the detailed presentation of "his" candidate's application.

> By a process of successive balloting the committee choice for the recipients of the two awards. Mrs. Marjorie Crum of North Vancouver, the daughter of a 47th Bn. man, received the Association Award of \$500. The

average of her academic marks was 80.3%. Her intention is to take a degree in Social Work at S.F.U.

Mr. John Evans, from Haney, grandson of Lt.-Col. W. J. Williams, Westminster Regiment, was awarded the McPhee-Eamer Centennial Memorial Scholarship. His matriculating average was 78.7%. His intention is to study medicine and commence that study at U.B.C.

The committee has kept in mind the selection guidelines laid own by Association - namely, that superior ability in preparatory studies plus evidence of a potential to fulfil a worthwhile vocational purpose be the main considerations, and that need of assistance be a further but not paramount consideration. We think we have been faithful to the purpose of our Association in our selection .

On January 29, 1968, the committee met again for the purpose of planning this year's activities. All the parts of our procedure were either confirmed or modified, the only one of which would be of interest to the meeting is the one pertaining to "regimental qualification." We think it wise now to require of each candidate that he produce documentary evidence from Army records, Ottawa, as to family relationship.

Incidentally, of the five studenta who have at this date required application forms for the '68 award, one must be disappointed because, although he been a member of the Westminsters, he is not a descendant of a member or any of the other eligible units.

The application form has undergone three revisions. The third form is being printed through the good auspices of Bert Hoskin, and will be used by the 1968 candidates.

The final date for mailing this year's applications is July 31.

Our next committee meeting is set for August 18. In the four previous years of our operation we have not required more than one meeting to select award winners. In spite of the minute examination that must be given all pertinent documents and the fact that more candidates than ever are to be expected this year, we hope to accomplish the selection on the appointed date.

It is our committee's desire to express publicly our appreciation of the interest and assistance given us by many people. Your executive have demonstrated a continuing and lively attention to our project. We recognize the pride the McPhee-Eamer families have in the been promised VIP treatment by the Dutch Legion.

members of their families who served with our regiment and its antecedents, and we take much satisfaction in the evidence of their continuing affection for our Association. The winner of their award has something very special by which to remember our centennial year.

On my own behalf I would like to thank the members of the Scholarship committee who have served it from the start very thoroughly and faithfully. They are Ron Hurley, ex officio; John Ford, Secretary; Bill Williams, John Hou, Walter Lyle, Bert Hoskin, Allan Coe, D'Arcy Baldwin and Pete Grossman.

I have the honor to be, your truly,

I. F. DOUGLAS, Chairman.

### WESTIES WILL RETURN TO EUROPE TO SCENE OF THEIR FAMOUS BATTLES

Many members of the Royal Westminster Regiment will celebrate the regiment's annual Melfa Dinner this year almost on the spot where they fought and won the battle of the Melfa river in 1944.

A plane load of more than 100 former and present "Westies," friends and wives will leave for a monthlong tour of England and Europe on May 1, with a schedule designed to place many of them at Cassino, Italy, on May 24, anniversary of the famous battle.

The regiment, which took part in many of the named battles of World Wars I and II, celebrates the anniversary of the Melfa as the one in which it gained the greatest honor. It was in the Battle of Melfa that Jack Mahony of New Westminster won the Victoria Cross.

The battle was fought near Cassino, now the site of several international war cemeteries where soldiers of New Westminster and district are buried.

En route to Europe, members of the tour will spend a week in London, where they will be entertained by the Royal Warwickshire Regiment.

The tour of other European countries will be made in buses, and the route will follow largely that taken by the 47th Battalion of New Westminster in World War I, and the Westminster Regiment in World War II.

In Holland, where Canadians are held in high esteem for their part in liberating the country near the end of the last war, the Westies and their friends have beek near Nijmegen, scene of heavy fighting as Canadians pushed the occuping armies out of Holland in 1945.

The Melfa Dinner at Cassino on May 24 is expected to become a civic affair with the mayor of the city and other dignitaries attending.

The customary Melfa Dinner in New Westminster, for past and present members of the regiment who do not go on the tour will be held on Saturday, May 25.

#### EUROPE '68

The following letter was forwarded to the Association via Evan Evans Tours Ltd., London, W.C.1. From: Major L. J. FitzGerald Reference: Your letter dated 15th March Dear Mr. Lyle:

I am now in the office of Evan Evans Tours Limited and have agreed with Mr. D. Gwyn Evans that the following would be the best plan:-

- 2nd May-A trip of all your available chaps and wives to Warwickshire, arriving at our Regiment Headquarters at about 12:00 noon for drinks and lunch and a look over our Regiment Museum, etc. Then in the afternoon, your London Hosts would lay on a trip to Stratford and perhaps Oxford on return.
- 4th May-We have a branch association dinner in Birmingham in the evening of Saturday, 4th May, and would be very pleased to entertain any of your party who happen to be near enough to accept. This invitation to include ladies and gentlemen.

Do let me know sometime after 8th April what you think of these plans .- Yours sincerely,

> L. J. FitzGerald, Secretary. The Royal Warwickshire Regimental Association.

Walter Lyle dispatched the following letter in reply: Major L. J. FitzGerald, The Royal Warwickshire Association, St. John's House - Warwick.

#### Dear Major FitzGerald:

Thank you sincerely for the suggestions you have given in your letter of March 22nd. From our point of view they are most wonderful and exciting.

One ceremonial reception will take place at Groes- I have circularized the people travelling and hope to be able to give you some idea on numbers shortly.

Yours sincerely,

Walter Lyle.

Editor's Note: Evan Evans Tours are the London Hosts to our Melfa Pilgrimage.

It's "down to the wire" now, for at one minute past midnight on April 30th our Boeing 707 jets out of Vancouver International Airport. It will carry with it a happy group of people about half of whom are bound for the Melfa Dinner "on the site" (or close at least-Cassino to be exact).

At approximately 10:00 a.m. on June 1st we will arrive back in Vancouver each of us with, I'm sure, an endless store of pleasant memories. Among the most pleasant of our memories will be our visit to Warwick House on the 2nd of May. Major FitzGerald of the Royal Warwickshire Association has extended a most wonderful invitation to us - see his letter above. You can be sure his invitation has been accepted. The date was one suggested by myself as being most suitable, before we all disperse to various parts of the U.K. for the first week and his invitation certainly appears to be an excellent way to kick-off the Europe '68 project.

And we'll be thinking about you all when we are at the Melfa River. We hope to be able to make some kind of direct communication with those of you who attend the Melfa Dinner in New Westminster.

- WALTER LYLE.



#### ANNUAL MELFA GOLF TOURNAMENT

We expect the Annual Melfa Golf Tournament to be better than ever. Last year we had better than 100%increase over the previous year. This year we have an hour 8 to 9 on the Melfa morn of May 25th. This should provide for a further 100% increase in Rackers.

The place is Hazelmere Golf Course — quarter mile east of the old Pacific Highway on the Campbell River Road — not far from the watering hole of "The Tudor Inn." Green Fee will be \$3.00 and the Tournament fee will be \$1.00. Ron Mannering is chairman of the prize committee and assures us that there will be adequate and varied loot to pick from. Chairman of the Tournament, Barney Jones, has arranged to display all the prizes and let the winners pick their own in order of their finish; there is of course the handsome Melfa Trophy recently held by Walt Tyler which will go to the low net with a replica for permanent possession. Scoring will be on the Calloway system which gives all of us a chance. Don't forget:

THE PLACE: Hazelmere Golf Club. THE TIME: 8:00 a.m. THE DATE: May 25th, 1968.

Please phone either Barney Jones at 531-4479 or Ian Douglas at 522-3415 and let them know of your plans.

#### CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

1. Regimental Church Parade and Christening

Will be held at the Drill Hall in New Westminster at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, April 28th. The Christening is a non-denominational service and ALL members of the Association are invited to participate. If you have children you would like Christened please contact Maj. Les Dean at the Drill Hall or Basil Morgan, 1547 54th St., Tsawwassen, B.C., phone 943-4177. Even if you have no children actively participating please come and enjoy a pleasant afternoon.

#### 2. Annual Melfa Dinner and Golf Tournament

Golf Tournament in morning of 25th at Hazelmere Club as per enclosed report from Ian Douglas.

Melfa Dinner in the evening on the 25th May, 1968, Thanks, Leo, for the kin at the Royal Canadian Legion in New Westminster, B.C. tion for your donation.

Please keep that date open. Some of our members will be in Italy on that very day and will be contacting us from the banks of the Melfa. Complete details of Melfa Dinner in next edition.

# 3. Changing Command Ceremonies and Trooping of Colours

This event marks the first time the new colours of The Royal Westminster Regiment will be on display. Popular Commanding Officer Lt. Col. Herb Hamm is relinquishing command of the unit and ALL Association members should turn out and bid him farewell. This event will take place on June 23rd at Queens Park with a reception to follow in the Drill Hall. Let's all turn out and make a truly significant showing for the Association. It is hoped to form an Association Parade replete with medals and berets.

Please Attend All the Above Events

#### FROM THE POST

A very nice letter from A. E. Gerow of Burkes Falls, Ontario, who writes to wish us all well and remembers with nostalgia the years of long ago. He was A Coy. Barber for awhile, so some of you chaps may remember him. He works in a mill in Burkes Falls now and is also the Steward of his local Legion. He reports that he has four sons and is now a Granddaddy. He particularly recalls his wartime association with ex A Coy driver Bill Price. We thank Mr. Gerow most sincerely for his nice letter and wish he and his family the best of everything. How about some of you A Coy vets dropping him a line?

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From our old friend John Harrington of 1934 Mission Ave., San Diego, California, U.S.A. 92116, a nice note and some material which I greatly appreciate and will use in the near future. Many thanks for the kind remarks, John, and we all hope that you are keeping well.

NCMMANS \*D.3\* \*

A kind word and donation to our Sick and Visiting Committee from Life Member Leopold H. Gaudetts of 1728 Edinburgh St., New Westminster, B.C. Thanks, Leo, for the kind thoughts and much appreciation for your donation.

March, 1968.

Again from the good old U.S.A. at Box 144, Snohomish, Washington, a word or two from Harry P. Fraser, from the old 47th. Thanks for the nice word, Harry, and will publish the information you require as soon as we find out.

A most interesting note from a long lost buddy in the person of Wane Reynor of Leduc, Alberta. Yes, Wane, it is a long time ago since we met and although some of the incidents have dimmed somewhat over the years, this old Editor does remember that you were there when he caught his blighty. Nice to hear from you again and come on out for the Melfa Dinner this a wonderful birthday and hope that Rasmussen, Gerrard, year. Please look us up whenever you are at the Coast. Watts and Clemas are surviving okay.

From Victoria and the Can. Scots, a word from Jim Dumont, now serving as a Sergeant in that fine outfit. Thanks for the note Iim and we can assure you that there will soon be a copy of our History in your Mess. Iim's address is 307 - 611 Admirals, Victoria, B.C. Jim would like to hear more from the Toronto Branch and we ALL would, so how about it. Toronto?

place is fixed mene

A warm word from John D. Van Horn of 1038 Finlayson Drive, Richmond, B.C., expressing his gratitude for receiving his Life Membership. Well, Van, we didn't know you had advanced to these golden years but congratulations from us all. We trust that you had

From THE WESTMINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION P. O. Box 854, New Westminster, B.C.

> E.G. SHANNON 940 DIXON ST RICHMOND BC