

The GROUND SHEET



1944 - 1968 24th Anniversary

MELFA



THE GROUND SHEET

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"THE MELFA DINNER VINTAGE '68"

Committee Chairman, Art Miller

. . . Would you believe three Melfa dinners this year . . . By the time you receive this issue the Toronto Chapter will have celebrated Dinner No. 1 at the Pickfair Banquet Hotel in Toronto. A telegram was dispatched to them at that address and we are sure that they have all celebrated in the grand traditional style . . .

On May 1st in the wee small hours of the morn' Walter Lyle and his chapter group jetted off to England, Holland and Cassino, Italy to enjoy a return visit to the Melfa and to have a luncheon on the 24th May at the actual sight of our famous battle and later to Cassino in the evening for a Melfa Dinner with the Mayor of that once battered and beleaguered city. We all wish them bon voyage and would love to be there too. Perhaps next year . . .

Now Hear This. All of us stay at homes (delinquents from the charter that is) will meet in New Westminster at the Drill Hall at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, May 25th. We have invited Lt. Col. Herb Hamm and his Royal Westminster Regiment officer's, N.C.O.'s and men to parade with us.

The parade will march to the cenotaph where a wreath will be laid in honour of our fallen comrades. The Battalion and Association members will march past on Royal Avenue (a very short distance chaps) and will be dismissed on Royal Avenue (close to the Legion). We will meet again as soon as we can make our way to the Royal Canadian Legion in New Westminster. This year's dinner will be held at the Legion Banquet Hall. Guest speaker will be Rev. Padre George Turpin, the very first padre formally attached to our unit in 1940.

Now hear this again: The price is only \$2.00 each

to the members. Surely the best bargain available at today's inflated prices. See you there.

* * *

MELFA DINNER PLAN 1968

LOCATION: New Westminster, B.C. — auditorium of Royal Canadian Legion.

PLAN: Meet at 18:20 hours at Drill Hall, Queens Ave., fall in at 18:30 on left of Royal Westminster Regt. Band will lead parade. Parade moves off on command of senior officer present to Cenotaph. Person in charge — Major L. K. Deane.

Regimental Padre will give short address.

Association will present wreath to Cenotaph — Col. W. J. Williams arrange for wreath (Scott's House of Flowers).

On command Battalion and Association will move off to right — marching to Royal Ave. thence west on Royal. Salute to be taken by Col. Bill and party, Mayor or rep., Lt. Col. H. Hamm, Padre, etc.

Party turn north on 6th, at Royal. The Regiment proceed to Drill Hall, Association turn on to City Hall parking lot. Dismiss at this point.

19:00 hrs. — all troops and members meet at auditorium for cocktails (3 per \$1.00).

20:00 hrs. — Grace by Regimental Padre — dinner (smorgasbord) — wine and beer at tables. The Queen.

21:15 — introduce head table guests — N. Scott. General toast to supporting arms (Strathcona Horse, B.C.Ds', etc.)

TOAST LIST:

City of New Westminster — Col. W. J. Williams. Response Mayor or rep.

Royal Westminster Regt. and predecessors —

Clarence Huff. Response — Lt. Col. H. Hamm.

Introduction of Guest Speaker — Ian Douglas.

Guest Speaker — Rev. Dr. George Turpin.

Toast to the Melfa.

Reading of telegrams and messages.

Disbursement of golf tournament trophies — Barney Jones and Ian Douglas.

GENERAL CHAIRMAN — Art Miller.

SUB-COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN:

Military liaison — Art Miller.

Arrange for wreath — Col. Bill Williams (Scott's House of Flowers).

Military arrangement — Lt. Col. H. Hamm or Delegate.

Registration — J. Hou and Bert Stephens.

Arrange for liquor, beer, wine, bartender, permit, etc. — Doug Glenn.

Sell tickets for bar — Jack Graham and Sonny Jackson.

Greeters to look after distinguished guests and seat them at head table — Ian Douglas and Bill Williams. To welcome and look after ex 47th and 104th — Clarence Huff.

CONTACT ART MILLER AT 277-8010 FOR ANY CLARIFICATION.

ANNUAL MELFA GOLF TOURNAMENT

1 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.

* * *

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, at the Royal Canadian Legion in New Westminster, B.C. 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.

* * *

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 —

MELFA DIVOTIONS, MAY 25.

If you haven't yet made up your mind to attend the Annual Association Golf Tournament, do it now. The quality of the golf has ranged from highly respectable to hilarious, but each year we have had a lot of fun — in the action and after.

Here's the dope: 8:00 a.m. That leaves time to get comfortably to dinner.

Hazelmere Golf Course. \$3.00 Greens fee.
(South Surrey) \$1.00 Tournament entry.
Club rentals available.

Ron Mannering is chairman of the prize committee and has already got a handsome array of loot. Since the Calloway system of scoring will be used, we'll all have a chance at The Main Trophy, the replica, and all the rest.

Barney Jones is chairman this year — who else! He lives at 256 King George Highway, R.R. No. 2, White Rock; (531-4479). If you want an early flight, let him or Ian Douglas (522-3415) know. Otherwise, roll up by 8:00. Merritt, Victoria, Alberni were represented last year. This year we'd like to double the numbers.

By the way, each year we have had the pleasure of meeting and playing a round with guests of Association members. Ron Mannering advises your editor that in anticipation of visitors this year he has arranged prizes for them also.

1939-45



24th ANNIVERSARY
Regimental Association
ANNUAL MELFA DINNER

SOMME 1916
ARRAS 1917-1918
VIMY 1917
HILL 70 1917
YPRES
PASSCHENDAELE
GROCOURT QUEANT
CAHAL-DU-NORD
AMIENS
VALENCIENNES.

MELFA CROSSING
GOTHIC LINE
CORIANO
LAMONE CROSSING
MISANO RIDGE
NAVIGLIO RIDGE
ITALY 1944-1945
IJSSEL MEER.
DELFIJL POCKET.
NORTHWEST EUROPE 45

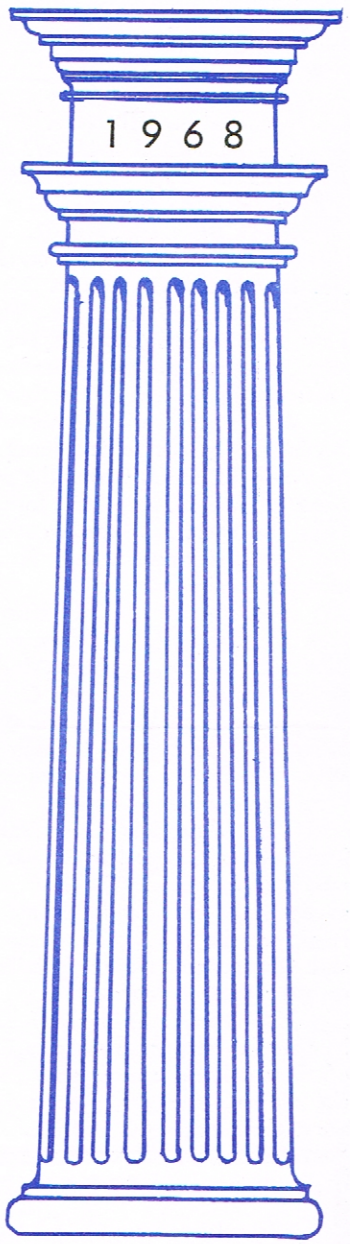
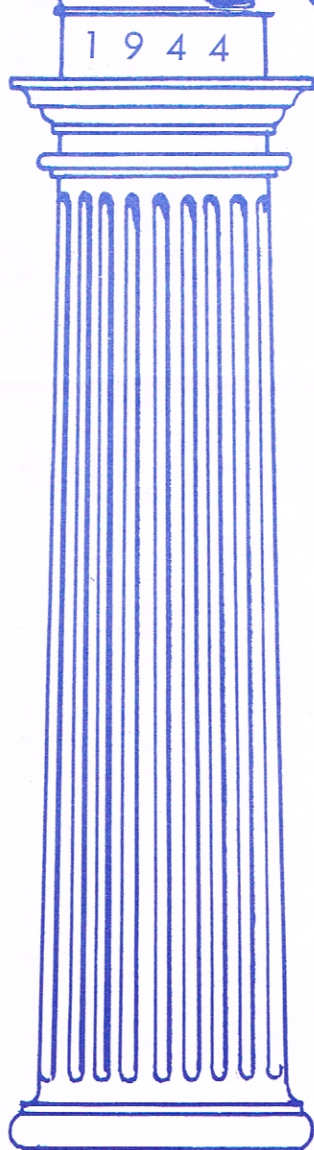
M E N U

GIANT SMORGASBORD
COLD MEATS SALADS CHEESES
HOT DISHES PICKLES
ROLLS BUTTER
VINO.

PRICE: ONLY \$2.00



1914-18



MELFA DINNER

Saturday, May 25th, 1968

NELSON SCOTT — CHAIRMAN

PROGRAMME

MELFA GOLF TOURNAMENT

8:00 A.M. — HAZELMERE GOLF CLUB

PARADE: 6:30 P.M.

DRILL HALL, NEW WESTMINSTER

COCKTAILS 7:15 P.M.

DINNER 8:00 P.M.

ONE MINUTE'S SILENCE FOR FALLEN COMRADES

GRACE

TOAST TO QUEEN

INTRODUCTION OF HEAD TABLE

TOAST TO CITY OF NEW WESTMINSTER

TOAST TO REGIMENT and PREDECESSORS

MELFA ADDRESS *Rev. George Turpin*

BAR REOPENS

FELLOWSHIP

OUR MELFA DINNER

THE WHOLE EXECUTIVE IS THE COMMITTEE FOR THIS EVENT, AND THEY WOULD LIKE, WITH YOUR HELP, TO MAKE THIS REUNION ONE TO BE REMEMBERED.

There are still men around who served in the 104th Bn. before the first Great War; this unit was followed by the 47th Bn., 131st Bn., The Westminster Regt. (M) First and Second Bns. Anyone who served at any time, with one of the aforementioned units is eligible for Membership in The Westminster Regiment Association.

It should be remembered that The Westminster Regiment is the oldest unit in B.C. It came into existence in 1863 when the Royal Engineers were disbanded. These men were formed into a Reserve Army Unit and there has been a continuity of the same Reserve Unit to the present day; it is now The Royal Westminster Regiment.

During two World Wars, many Decorations were won by Officers and other ranks of the 47th Bn. and The Westminster Regiment and those that we are proudest of are the two Victoria Crosses. One won by Corporal Filip Konowal, V.C., during the Great War and the other by Major Jack Mahony during the Second Great War. We have been members of Units that we can be very proud of.

The Westminster Regiment is affiliated with an Imperial Unit, The Royal Warwickshire Regiment. This unit was founded by William, Prince of Orange, in 1674, as the 6th Foot, and became The Royal Warwickshire Regiment in 1881. The colours of this Unit are Blue and Orange and we are privileged, as an affiliated Unit, to wear those colours.

The Queen's Colour and The Regimental Colour will be paraded here at the Melfa Dinner. We are very proud of these colours, and as they are paraded before and after the dinner, everyone present will stand to attention to show their pride and devotion.

LEST WE FORGET

W. P. McPhee, Courtenay, B.C.
 F. Lemay, Kamloops, B.C.
 W. J. Barge, White Rock, B.C.
 W. T. Amos, Sidney, B.C.

EDITOR'S COMMENTS:**A Salute To The Boys From The 47th, 104th, 131st.**

1968 marks the 50th anniversary of the cessation of hostilities of "The Great War". It has been a memorable and changing 50 years but the memory of your magnificent contribution is as sharp and poignant as if it were yesterday. Your glorious, selfless sacrifices at The Marne, The Somme, Vimy and other notable places will live in the annals of history for all time to come. It is with pleasure that I reprint this poem from John E. Harrington of San Diego, Calif. It is a fine piece of writing. — Ed.

OUR ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Association relies on you, the readers of The Groundsheet, to encourage likely candidates to apply for our annual scholarship. In these days of high costs of university education the \$500 that goes with our award is worth having. It may make the difference between getting and not getting a year of valuable training. It was to help worthy sons and daughters of old comrades that we established the scholarship, and we want them to know about the opportunity — not only to win the money but also to carry the distinction that goes with the award. But don't expect young students to know about the scholarship. Some will have seen notices in university calendars and other academic publications, but The Groundsheet is the only news medium that reaches all our people in Canada and abroad. Please pass the word.

- You remember that a student, to be eligible, must
- (a) be a descendant (son, daughter, grandson, grand-daughter) of one who served with The Westminster or with one of its predecessors — the 47th, the 104th, and the 131st Battalions. (One who is presently serving with The Royal Westminster Regiment but who is NOT so descended is not eligible).
 - (b) have completed by July 31 this year, or previously, high-school graduation or its equivalent, and be proceeding to studies in an institution "of higher learning". The B.C. Institute of Technology or similar institution comes within the meaning of that term.

Something new has been added this year. Since we have reached the place where, for some applicants, filial eligibility cannot readily be established by employing the memories of members of the scholarship committee or other local referees, we are requiring that

ALL applicants provide "official" assurance of their relationship to members of The Westminsters or its predecessors. This assurance may be obtained in this way: write to Mr. Walter Tyler, V.W.S.,

Department of Veterans' Affairs,
1231 Haro Street,
Vancouver 5, B.C.

(Important: mark your envelope PERSONAL!)

Mr. Tyler will use resources immediately available to him to provide the "official assurance" needed. In difficult cases he or the applicant or both may have to refer to War Archives or War Service Records, Ottawa. Obviously, the more detail given Mr. Tyler, the more readily will assurance be established. Since all documents pertinent to applications must be mailed to our committee by July 31, communications re filial eligibility should not be delayed.

Application forms may be obtained by writing to our Association P.O. box number, or directly to I. F. Douglas, 824 Ladner Street, New Westminster, B.C. The Scholarship Committee meets in August after all applications have been assembled for examination. It is expected that each candidate will have been advised of the results before the end of the third week in August.

EUROPE '68

All you "multi bono Canadese" who were so well versed in Italiano that you never lacked for "ouvas, wine or women" will of course be able to translate this letter.

It is one of thanks and acceptance to our invitation for Il Sindaca (the Mayor) of Cassino to attend our Melfa Dinner in his City.

Unfortunately I had Harry Irneman write the letter for me in Italian so the Good Dottore Ferraro probably thinks I'm fluent in it. Well I hope he speaks English for my total Italian ends at "Quanta costa signorita."

Walter Lyle.

CITTA' DI CASSINO

Medaglia D'Oro Al V.M.

li, 12 aprile 1968

IL SINDACO

Egregio Sig. Capitano,

La ringrazio per il cortese invito e Le confermo la mia partecipazione alla cena stabilita per il giorno 24 maggio p.v.

Le sono, comunque, grato per la piacevole occasione

offerta di trascorrere delle ore lieto' con gli eroici combattenti canadesi.

La prego di accogliere le espressioni della mia più sincera cordialità, estensibile a tutti gli iscritti all'Associazione.

(Dr. Antonio Ferraro)

Egr. Cap. Walter Lyle
Presidente
The Westminster Regiment Association
NEW WESTMINSTER

* * *
614 Fourth Avenue,
NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C., CANADA
25 April 1968.

Dr. Antonio Ferraro,
Il Sindaco,
Citta di Cassino, ITALY.

Dear Dr. Ferraro,

We are very pleased that you, and your lady, will be able to attend our "Melfa Dinner" in the Hotel Excelsior on 24 May.

As is our usual custom at these dinners we intend to have a short programme of speeches. This will include a "toast" to the City of Cassino and we would like very much if you will reply to it (we will have an interpreter).

I am sending, under separate cover, a copy of the history of our regiment. This would serve to give you some background information about us. Recently, the title "Royal" was awarded to the regiment, so it's name is now, THE ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT.

We, who are making this "pilgrimage" back to some of the scenes of our war-time service, and our ladies, are looking forward with pleasant anticipation to meeting you and your lady, on the 24th.

Very truly yours,

Walter Lyle.

* * *

Just in case you want to write to us while we're away, here's our hotel list.

May 1-7th London: President Hotel, Russell Sq., WCI.

May 8th Brussels: Hotel Splendid, 14, rue des Croisades.

May 9th-10th Ostend: Westminster Hotel, 22, Van Iseghemiaan, 22.

May 10th-13th Paris: Hotel de l'Ocean, 7, rue Mayran.

(Continued on Page 8)

(Continued from Page 7)

- May 13th-14th Lyon: Hotel Piola & Lutetia, 112 bd des Belges.
- May 14th-16th Nice: Hotel d'Albion, 25, bvd Dubouchage
- May 16th-17th Milano: Hotel Adam, via Palmanova 153.
- May 17th-19th Rimini: Hotel II Milione, via M. Grazia 4, Viserva de Rimini.
- May 19th-20th Firenze: Hotel Columbus, 22, Lungarno Christ, Colombo.
- May 20th-23rd Rome: Hotel Residence Palace, 69 via Archimede.
- May 23rd-25th Cassino: Hotel Excelsior, Corso della Republica I.
- May 25th-26th Bologna: Garden Hotel, 109 via della Lame.
- May 26th-27th Innsbruck: Hotel Kapeller.
- May 27th-28th Rudesheim: Hotel Traube, Rheinallee 6.
- May 28th-30th Amsterdam: Hotel Victoria, I Damrak.

So it's off to jolly old "blighty" and elsewhere. You'll be hearing from us at the Melfa Dinner in New Westminster on the 25th. — Be there if you can't be with us.

Walter Lyle.

A BARGAIN INDEED:

You will note that your hard working Melfa Committee Chairman has set the price of this year's Dinner at \$2.00. This is a real buy but I believe that the member's should realize that this does not constitute the full cost of the meal. Your Association has always subsidised all of your Dinners but not at such a bargain as this year's function promises to be. Chairman Art Miller has come up with something new for us in the offering of a smorgasbord. Knowing Art's tremendous ability re things culinary I am sure that this will be delightful and you won't want to miss it. Please give him your support.

Ed.—

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

E.G. SHANNON
940 DIXON ST
RICHMOND BC