



# The GROUND SHEET

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*

Vol. 18, No. 1.

Box 854, New Westminster, B.C.

February, 1969.

## Annual General Meeting

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

1969

TIME: 8:00 P.M.

PLACE: Hut Below Drill Hall in New Westminster

Parking in City Hall Parking Lot

IF YOU ARE EVEN REMOTELY INTERESTED IN  
**YOUR ASSOCIATION YOU WILL BE THERE!**

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION RE-YOUR GROUND SHEET

As Editor, I draw your attention to some rather startling facts. I am sure that it is common knowledge to most of you that we are living in an ever increasing inflationary period of time. For years we have published a Groundsheet to approx 1,000 of you without any additional personal cost to you, other than the very small dues fee of \$1.00 per member. We have struggled with increasing difficulty to maintain things within this level. As is must come to all of us, we have to admit that we can no longer operate in this manner and hope

to continue publication as we have in the past. There are several reasons for this turn of events, chief among them is the fact that, Annual Dues collected have never provided enough revenue to pay for the publishing and mailing of the paper. For example, during the past 10 years our records indicate an average receipt of dues as \$494.00 per year. During this same period the expenses for printing the Groundsheet have averaged \$659.00 annually. Bearing in mind increased costs of supplies, printing and soon a 500% increase in postage fees I am sure that it will be appreciated that we shall have to take some drastic action.

## THE GROUNDSHEET

President ..... JOHN R. FORD  
 3757 W. 35th Ave., Vancouver, B.C. .... AM 3-3682

Editor & Secretary ..... RON HURLEY  
 2229 Bonnyvale Rd., Vancouver 16, B.C. .... FA 1-8464

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

We have relied almost solely on the receipts of our Annual Xmas Draw program to finance our many projects. We have done well in the past but the last few years have shown steadily diminishing returns. The receipts of 1968 have hit an all time low. We don't exactly know why — but there it is. I can assure you that the entire executive have worked long and hard and have explored all the facets of this problem. Perhaps our dues structure has always been too low or we may have been overly ambitious in our programs. The members however, seem to recognize that the Groundsheet is an integral part of our association and we would like very much to keep it up to

Our By-laws do not allow for annual dues unless properly presented by motion at the Annual General Meeting, in writing, and previous to the meeting to which it is intended to be considered. Obviously even if such a change were recommended it would take a year to put in force and would not produce the needed revenue for some time. Accordingly your executive, by motion and vote, have recommended that the membership at the Annual General Meeting be informed that a levy of \$1.00, in addition to the \$1,00 for dues, be assessed the members annually for the specific use of the Groundsheet. It was generally agreed at executive level, that a motion from the floor to this effect, would be most heartily welcomed. In conjunction with increased costs it was noted by the Editor that there has been a marked DECREASE in contributions for the paper. It is becoming more and more difficult for One person to compose and sustain interest in the publication every month. The role of Editor was never intended to be confused with that of Writer and surely it is realized that what is needed is constant contributions from the members at large. Accordingly in view of these factors the Editor sought and obtained sanction from the executive to reduce publication to a bi-monthly basis, or 6 copies a year. It is hoped that we can help defray expenses by this

method and still retain the quality of the paper itself. THE GROUNDSHEET IS YOUR PAPER AND CAN ONLY FUNCTION IF YOU SUPPORT IT BOTH FINANCIALLY AND MATERIALLY . . .

RON HURLEY, Editor.

NOTE: The following published letter is from Postal H.Q. in Ottawa, and the increase in Postage they mention changes the rate per copy from 1c to 5c.

\* \* \*

Mr. R. R. Hurley  
 Secretary and Editor  
 The Westminster Reg. Assn.  
 2229 Bonnyvale  
 VANCOUVER 16, B.C.

Confederation Heights  
 Ottawa 8, Ontario  
 24th January 1969

Dear Mr. Hurley:

This refers to your letter of the 3rd January 1969 respecting the impending postage rate adjustments as they will affect mailings of your publication "The Groundsheet".

The changes embodied in the recent postal legislation on newspapers and periodicals first is to take a long and second class mail pays its fair share of postal costs by substantially increasing the postage rates on newspapers and periodicals. The second objective is to modify and clarify the terms of the conditions under which the statutory second class rates apply and thereby establish a more logical basis for determination of entitlement to the special privileges.

Section 11 (1) (i) of the Act excludes from admissibility to second class rates many publications published by or under auspices of fraternal, trade, professional and other associations, trade unions, credit unions, co-operatives, and local church congregations. Please note also that the regulations make no provision for a second class rate of postage for these publications.

The above is a major change in the conditions for admissibility to second class rates of postage. It was discussed thoroughly during the course of the Parliamentary debates on the second class postage bill and, in this connection, the Minister explained that members of organizations such as those in question should not be looking to the general taxpayer for assistance in meeting their postage bills but should be prepared to pay the full postal costs of distributing their publications.

In view of the above, the lowest possible rate at which copies of your publication will be accepted after

the 31st March 1969 is the third or fourth class rates of postage.

Yours sincerely,  
F. Pageau  
Director of Postal Rates  
and Classification

### WANTED VOLUNTEERS

We know what you were taught in the army about volunteering but can change your thinking on this one. Your Museum Committee under the leadership of chairman John Rosso is hard at work establishing our Museum project. They are currently doing alteration work to the old Gun Store Room in the Armouries to make it suitable for a home (at least temporarily) to house our Museum Artifacts. The committee is in need of some help from CARPENTERS, ELECTRICIANS, CABINETMAKERS etc. If you can spare the time LEND US YOUR TALENT. You may contact John Rosso at Phone 433-7092. With reference to the Museum Program and its progress John reported that already we are in receipt of several articles and that only recently some valued Artifacts from the Royal Warwicks had arrived. We are sure that you will all be extremely proud of this endeavor in the future so LEND A HAND PLEASE.

### Good Luck to Major L. J. Fitzgerald, Secretary Past 5 Years of Royal Warwickshire Regimental Association.

Old soldiers of the former Royal Warwickshire Regiment will miss Major L. J. Fitzgerald, who has been secretary of their Regimental Association for the past five years and who has now taken up an appointment on the security staff of a diamond mine in Sierra Leone.

He served in the regiment for 20 years and in 1963 was appointed Assistant Regimental Secretary at the St. John's headquarters and curator of the regimental museum. His post became redundant when the Royal Warwickshire Fusiliers were absorbed into the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.

After leaving the British Army and before joining the St. John's staff Major Fitzgerald served for a time with the Ghana Army.

### A SMILE FOR REMEMBRANCE

We were all saddened to learn of Buster Lynch's passing. And particularly those of us who had the

good fortune to share his company these many years. Buster was one of the architects of this Association and was instrumental in the organization of this group some 20 years ago. He authored the By-Laws with which we have administered The Association and whether in Active Office or not he was always a most loyal supporter. Many may not have known that Buster suffered grievous illness for many long years and All with that wonderful Irish humor and sparkling smile. Buster was a character but a happy and well loved one and his sunny disposition will be remembered by all who knew him. . . . Ed.

### FROM THE POST:

Walter C. Lockhart  
No. 45 - 1350 Winding Trail  
Mississauga, Ontario

Jan. 2/69

Dear Ron:

Best wishes for the New Year — and I hope Santa was good to you and yours.

Enclosed is the necessary \$ for dues in the envelope provided. It just came to light due to our moving on November 18th to the above address. We are here temporarily and hope to build a new house on our farm starting April or May. I'm gonna be a bloody redneck after vowing never to go near a farm again — but that was a long time ago. Will let you know the address change when it happens. By August 1st.

I had a nice card from each of Ernie Seel and Andy Kroll and these little memos sure shake up the memories, don't they?

Pat McCarthy — the smili'n Irishman — is cooking up an overseas venture for later this year and as usual he's putting the works into the project.

I took a minute off from this to call Bill Majury and his wife tells me he was down at Greenwood track watching(?) the trotters. He's a bear for punishment!

You too! You must be a bundle of energy to take on all the offices you accept on our behalf. I wish you were on our business staff!

On seeing the obituary square I notice one D. Manuel and wondered if it was our comrade from C. Coy.

Nice to find out where Norm Topham can be reached.

I would appreciate having Art Millers address when he gets settled in Kamloops. I remember asking E. D. Horton once about what there was at Kamloops

and he said, "there's sagebrush, tomatoes and lots of rattlesnakes." Horton had a terrific sense of humour — dry as sand — but funny as hell. Maybe he was telling the truth for all I know about Kamloops.

I sent out our new address to friends in our old home town of Longlac in the cold ole North and on their Xmas Card they said "Are you still in Metro Toronto or is Mississouga a reserve!"

Where do you people manage to come across the nostalgic items like the one on the Gurkha Brigade? Its history I wasn't aware of but having been with these little fellows one cannot help a twinge of sorrow and remorse crossing the heart.

Very best wishes for all that is good in 1969 for you and yours.

Sincerely, Walter Lockhart.

From Tiny Robertson in Gronnigen, Holland a note of appreciation and Dues and we concur with your remarks re-Stevie and his fine work in the Visiting Committee . . . From C. L. Wilkins of Box 15, Jasper, Alta. Dues and kind regards . . . From Lloyd Stuart Dues and a donation for which many thanks.

A nice message of appreciation from Doug McNaughton of Long Sault, Ont. . . From Geo Dyson of 235 Beechwood Ave., Victoria, B.C. a note of welcome and thanks and interesting to note that Geo. is Sect-

Treasurer of W.W. 1 88th Batt Assoc. and that they also celebrate May 23rd with a dinner to commemorate the day they departed Canada in 1916. Geo Joined the 47th when the 88th was broken up in the U.K. . . . From Jim Delany of 1183 Godin St., Verdun, Que., a nice letter and Jim we will keep you posted via the Groundsheet of any a special events . . . A donation and regards from Life Member G. R. Purvis, of Royal Canadian Military Inst. of Toronto, Ont.

PLEASE NOTE: DO NOT SEND BACK YOUR 1969 CARD OF MEMBERSHIP ALONG WITH YOUR \$1.00 Dues. THIS IS YOURS TO KEEP.

#### WHAT BECAME OF KELLY?

Clement Carmichael, 1724 Barclay St., Van. 5, B.C.

#### LEST WE FORGET



John Buster Lynch, W.R. W.W. 2.  
J. Nelson Brown, 47th Bn.  
M. Maximillian Clairmont, 47th Bn.

From THE WESTMINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

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

E.G. SHANNON  
940 DIXON ST  
RICHMOND BC