

Vol. 18. No. 5.

Box 854, New Westminster, B.C.

47th

131st Dedicated to the Ideals and Comradeships We Knew in Two World Wars

Dec., 1969/Jan., 1970.

The Westminster Regt.

PRESIDENT'S GREETINGS:

Comrades, once again it is my pleasure to bring you greetings from the Executive and myself. This is the traditional season which brings families closer together and goodwill prevails more than any other time in the year. Our Association is no exception. We meet and exchange good wishes at our annual Smoker, as this event climaxes our year. For all the hard-working committees, and the people who labored so long and hard to ensure that our Christmas Draw will prove successful. Sincere Thanks . . . All the committees have been very active and the results speak for themselves. Soon-you will be able to bring your families and friends to visit our Museum-our newest and most interesting project. You will be able to acquaint your family proudly with the Regiment, The Association and its interesting and long standing traditions. I, personally, as I'm sure most of you are, extremely proud of OUR ASSOCIATION, the finest in Canada. I ask your continued support and even greater efforts in the coming year to assure our continuing growth and improvement.

104th

I single out one of our Active Executive members this year for special thanks. This man has been an executive member since the inception of the Association. He still frames pictures for our Museum Archives, inspects the Cadets, handles Life memberships, among many other tasks, and all at the young age of 83. Thanks Col. Bill Williams. To you and ALL the members of the Association - Buona Natale.

J. Ford.

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

SECRETARY'S CORNER:

The days grow short for the 60's and we are about to embark on a new decade. It is hoped that the Seventies will bring bigger and better things for our Association. The latter, of course, depends entirely on YOU AND YOU AND YOU, ETC. As a point of interest it is gratifying to note that our actual paid up membership is at an all time high, some 516 in number. We hope this is an indication for improvement in the future. 1969 saw a few setbacks where it hurts the most, in our

REMEMBRANCE DAY:

Traditional grey, damp skies rolled over the cenotaph in New Westminster during the 1969 Armistice Day Services. Some 25 members marched in the parade with the Association and there were a few others in the ranks of local service organizations. The principal service address was given by Rev. Koontz (A mere boy of 16 yrs. in Wartime Holland. His words were most appropriate as he spoke of the difficulties of life under harsh enemy occupation. He still recalled the almost unbelievable surprise and exhiliration, when he saw the first liberating Canadian Troops. A unique situation, probably known by many through the press, resulted at the post services gathering in the Officer's mess when Ron Mannering introduced Mr. Whilhelm Hartmann. Hartmann had been a young boy serving in the German Naval Marines in Holland. A very young looking man of 41 yrs., Hartmann has now been a Canadian Citizen for 18 vrs. and a successful businessman in Vancouver. He had been opposite the Westies in the spring of 45 and had sought aid through a Vancouver Newspaper as the whereabouts and welfare of his former enemies. There were no animosities present this day and Hartmann and all those present enjoyed a relaxed and friendly chat. (If we could only produce this solution to the violent beleaguered countries of the world to-day). The Sgt's Mess were their usual gracious hosts and warmth and goodwill prevailed throughout the afternoon and evening. It is only to be hoped that more of our members will turn out in the future . . . Ed. **化存在设在设在设设设计设设设计**

Its been many years since the memorable Christmas Dinner mentioned in this complete version of John Harrington's Poem. We hope it brings back many fond memories . . . Ed.

THE 47th BATTALION'S CHRISTMAS DINNER 1917

by John E. Harrington

December Nineteen Seventeen and the Forty Seventh lay, At La Targette west of Vimy. 'Twas a week to

Christmas Day.

Said, Carmichael the Adjutant, better known to all as Slats!
"Sir, next week we man the trenches fighting Heine,
mud and rats!"

Colonel Frances answered: "Winslow, held the Ridge with us last year,

"But our Christmas dinner was hard tack and that is

lousy cheer,

a treat!

So he shouted for his runner: "Get out there and beat the drum For the officers and sergeants as I want them all to come, And the Quartermaster and his bloke, the Sergeant Cook as They all know the ways of scrounging, so I'm sure they'll work like hell!" When he had them all assembled, he said: "Now you understand "That this dinner we'll be having has to be a banquet "So get out and start your scrounging, and instead of

using cash; "All the Frenchies love our bully beef, they'll grab it in a flash!" Now the scroungers did it handsome, getting rations from the store And exchanging them for items such as turkeys by the score; Then we pitched a wopping canvas what they call a big And we filled it up with tables and a stolen Christmas tree, That Trench Mat Willie had taken from the Chateau de la Haie, While the Brass Hats were 'Out of Bonds' down Camblain l' Abbe way. So we put on top a bright tin star to shine over the lot, Which the Pioneer Sergeant had cut from a madam's chamber pot. When the bugler sounded 'Mess Call,' you remember how it went? That old familiar 'Cook House' tune, we all marched into the tent, Where the tables were all filled with fresh vegatables,

Christmas meat! And the man to take all honours was Art Saunders, B's own cook, For he made the Christmas pudding fit for any gourmet's

But the big dish was the turkeys roasted brown, the

All the officers were waiters though it's not in K.R. Rule, But as Captain Mills said grinning: "Boy, I know I feel a fool!"

And our Padre McCausland, a man of godliness and cheer,

"But I don't see why we can't have ere we go into the line, | But he never was more cheery than when serving us the beer. "A Battalion Christmas dinner. It would make us all feel Now the band played lively music just like officers at Alternating with the drums and pipes in their new fancy

With the Bandmaster and Drum Major both looking proud as Punch,

While they wondered if there would be any turkey left

Now the companies were seated in their order A to D, Then the signallers, the runners with their boss, Tom

Next the gymnastic guys who tortured us with physical

Then the pioneers, and the scribes known as orderly room

So the Forty Seventh feasted; sure B. Company was there. With our Sergeant Major Crispin sitting in a big arm chair.

Here's the roll call at B's table: Andrews, Blackie and Gourlay,

Bullock, Campbell, Anderson, Hall, Fraser, Granger, Laird and Jay;

Hamilton, Leggett, Mulligan, Eckland, Hargraves, Neal and Payne,

Huston, Henry, Millar, Pollock, Rodgers, Teed, White and Despaine;

Farther down there sat Costello, Sweeting, Burton, Whilley, Strong,

Hogarth, Macintosh, Harrington, McIntyre and Shorty Long;

Also sitting near us that trio, Smith, Jones and Robinson, And opposite sat Port Moody's men, McCoy and Robertson. Then to add to our amusement, Tweedy hollered: 'I want

And Old Brasso came and served him and for once he was'nt sore.

Then our Inkpen and McWhinney with a nerve the joking

Laughed and asked Me Lad Yer Jackson for the Provost Sergeant's share.

Then the band played Christmas Carols and we sang them loud and clear,

Then we stood around the tables singing! 'O Canada,'

Jock Mackenzie played the bagpipes and we made 'Auld Lang Syne' ring,

Then we all stood to attention whilst we sang: 'God

Save the King!'

day,

When the Forty Seventh Battalion at Camp La Targette lay; But the cemeteries around tell those that went had courage high,

And I hope we all can meet again in far Valhalla's sky. J. E. H.

FROM THE POST:

From John Harrington of 4530 Edgeware Rd., San Diego, Calif., U.S.A. Nice to hear from you again John. Thanks for the material and hope you make your Christmas journey Northwards. Sincere thanks to Bill Haines of R.R. 2, Vernon, B.C. Most sorry to hear of your personal misfortune but many thanks for your kind donation and hope we can see you soon. Another Vernonite in the person of old stalwart S. E. (Ted) Burnby of Box 1022, Vernon, B.C. Appreciate your remarks and contributions Ted . . . By way of Box 854 New Westminster, B.C. Seasons Greetings and dues from Doug Allen. Doug lives at 18030 - 58A Ave., Surrey, B.C. Also of New Westminster at 1415 - 7th Ave. Dues and greetings from A. J. Innes . . . An Interesting note from Clarence T. Smith of Box 247 Rosetown, Sask. Nice to hear from you Smitty and many thanks for your kind remarks. Congratulation on your bumper harvest . . . Does this mean Miami? . . . (Ed's Note) Inadvertently some of the correspondence from last July's issue was omitted so will take this opportunity to thank the following for their letters of that time . . . Jimmy Lee, 55301/4 Carlton Way, Hollywood 28, Calif., U.S.A. Doug Furlot, 1740 Glendale Ave., Coquitlam, New Westminster, B.C. Bill Cosins, Coonie Carlson, Don Drummond, W. Cowin of 470 Quinn St., Pr. George, B.C.

O the years are long and many since that merry festive old Scribener of Jacquiet River, New Brunswick, John Somers of 96 Donegal Dr., Toronto 17, Ont. H. R. Johnstone of 248 - 11th St. E., Pr. Albert, Sask. Barry Haslock of 1510 Oakcrest Dr., Victoria, B.C. Heber Smith of Barrie, Ont. and from the U.K. a word from Joe Tattersall of 5 Kirklands Ave., Baildon Shipley Yorkshire. (You have seen Joe's first cartoon in the last issue of the Groundsheet and we eagerly await future submissions). 我我我我我我我我我我我

WELL SAID ROY:

The following interesting letter is reprinted from the Oct. 1969 Issue of The Legion National Magazine. This was written by former Westie of "C" Coy Roy Trimble. Many remember Roy from W.W. 2 days as rather quite and reticent. Years and a law degree, however, have made him more loquacious and his remarks are most timely and pertinent. — Ed.

No G.I. He!

As a former Canadian soldier I am increasingly distressed to find American terminology invading the war stories appearing in Canadian periodicals and in other Canadian media.

For example, I never heard of a foxhole until 1947. Canadian volunteers dug slit trenches.

Chow is a breed of dog. Chow as food may have been suitable for dog faces, but not for soldiers. I ate grub, good Canadian fare - bully, M & V and hardtack washed down by copious draughts of char - tea to the uninitiated.

As to Pvt., we didn't have those animals. Pte's, Spr's, Gnr's, Tpr's, we had in abundance. That man with the voice was a Sergeant-Major and didn't need to

Gordon (Corbould of Twee	dsmuir Lodge, Stule, B.C. Har-	(Continued on Page Six)
		ASSOCIATION CRESTS	PLEASE
	Please send me Crest(s) at \$5.00 Each.		
	NAME	Addı	ress
	City	Zone Prov	
	Mail Orders to "Association Crests", Box 854, New Westminster, B. C. No return postage required.		

PRIZE WINNERS 1969 DRAW

- 1. \$250.00 R. B. Salmon, P.O. Box 39, Assiniboia, Sask.
- 2. \$100.00 Mrs. Diane Parker, 102 Roy Ave. E., Penticton, B.C.
- 3. \$100.00 W. S. Hall, 8120 11th Ave., New Westminster, B.C.
- 4. \$100.00 Doug Waterhouse, No. 306-2908 Oak, Van. 9, B.C.
- 5. \$100.00 Dorothy Durrant, 446 E. 13th Ave., Van., B.C.
- 6. Case Scotch K. Moyes, P.O. Box 174, Merrit, B.C.
- 7. Case Rum Jim Mertton, 629 E. 62nd, Van., B.C.
- 8. Case Rye Cora Ruppy, 306-101 Royal Ave., New Westminster, B.C.
- 9. Case Vodka Len Kaiser, 1669 Cedar Ave., Trail, B.C.
- 10. 10 Doz. Beer J. Dunnigan, 692 Miller Rd., Sea Island, B.C.

20 CONSOLATION PRIZES OF \$10.00 EACH

- 11. R. Mack, New Westminster, B. C.
- 12. Mrs. J. Thompson, Toronto, Ont.
- 13. Rene Bailey, Hammond, B.C.
- 14. Ted Sorensen, Vancouver, B.C.
- 15. Mrs. E. Arendarski, Langley, B.C.
- 16. Claire McCallum, Vancouver, B.C.
- 17. John Genzel, Vancouver, B.C.
- 18. John Ginter, W.R.
- 19. Brian Hall, Port Moody, B.C.
- 20. Donald Lee, Vancouver, B.C.
- 21. M. Fuller, Delta, B.C.
- 22. Hilda Cooper, Powell River, B.C.
- 23. Mrs. Morehouse, New Westminster, B.C.
- 24. J. Roberts, Sardis, B.C.
- 25. Jim Fairley, North Vancouver, B.C.
- 26. Ernie Carriere, Prince George, B.C.
- 27. C. Price, Vancouver, B.C.
- 28. Elinor Matthews, Richmond, B.C.
- 29. J. Peshko, Delta, B.C.
- 30. Mr. & Mrs. W. J. Flintoff, West Vancouver, B.C.

SELLERS PRIZES \$25.00 EACH

G. W. Richardson, Prince George, B.C.

Claude, Nichol, Oliver, B.C.

Archie Browning, New Westminster, B.C.

W. N., Graham, South Burnaby, B.C.

(Continued from Page Four)

be called "First Sergeant" for everybody to know it. Ernest W. Barclay, Ste 3-815 Anderson Ave., Port And we had stretcher bearers, not corpsmen.

If we needed to do a lot of shooting in a hurry, we used Brens or Stens - BARS are places where you got a drink and there weren't any around where the shooting was going on. If you needed to shoot a little more, call in the Vickers, not Browning.

G.I. is an illiterate term coined by a crop of conscripts. I wasn't Government Issue, I volunteered. I started

free, I fought free and I ended free.

Incidentally, my enemies were Jerrys. Kraut was and is an insipid way to serve cabbage. Those bad people inhabiting Italy were Eyeties. Wops were and are hoods living in New York and Chicago.

If we Canadians are going to reminisce about our wars, let us do so in terms familiar to those of us who fought them. - A. R. Trimble, Osoyoos, B.C.

电影电影电影电影电影电影电影

KELLY

David Auld, 505A - 12th St., New Westminster Frank Thompson, Box 42 Station A, Vancouver Harry E. Timlock, 125 Windsor Rd. West, North Vanc. George Ward, 12142 - 7th Ave., Haney, B.C. R. McLeod, 622 - 8th Ave., New Westminster, B.C. Rev. D. D. Johnstone, 439 Buchanan Ave., New Westminster, B.C.

R. O. Burns, 326 - 3rd St., New Westminster, B.C.

Alberni, B.C.

D. H. Kitson, 4339 Morgan Cresc., West Vancouver, B.C. Jim Beltz, 275 E. 14th, Vancouver, B.C.

Mrs. M. Stobbart, Ste 101 - 8740 Selkirk St. Vanc., B.C. Olaf Olesen, 2153 Victoria Dr., Vancouver, B.C.

W. A. Riley, 859 East 64th Ave., Vancouver, B.C.

Thomas Taylor, 5875 Gilpin St., Burnaby, B.C.

E. R. Walmsley, 1680 Peterson Rd., Campbell River, B.C. Jim McEachern, 31 Amberjack Blv., Scarborough, Ont. Wm. H. Patterson, 608 Lougheed Blvd., Calgary, Alberta. James D. Brigham, 100 Down Village, Winnipeg. Man. N. G. Lougheed, Box 113, Crescent Beach, B.C.

W. H. Pretiss, Gen. Del., Mission City, B.C.

LEST WE FORGET



Paul Finlay, North Surrey, B.C., W.R. Tex Labere, Whittier, Calf., U.S.A., W.R.

Thomas Edward Gregg, Victoria, B.C. 47th Bn. & W.R.

RETURN REQUESTED

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

CANADA ... POSTAGE - POSTES 5 CTS. 2077 PERMIT No. VANCOUVER, B.C.

E.G. SHANNON 940 DIXON ST RICHMOND BC

