



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. 19 No. 3.

Box 854, New Westminster, B.C.

June-July, 1970.

1970 MELFA GATHERING A SMALL BUT EXCITING REUNION

1970, being the 25th anniversary of V.E. Day, it was hoped that a larger than usual crowd would attend the annual Melfa day celebrations. This was, unfortunately, not to be, but for aprox. 130 or so who did attend it proved to be a weekend to long remember. Bright and early, under clear sunny weather, between 30 and 40 avid divoteers moved from the start line to assault the Hazelmere salient in quest of the annual Melfa Challenge Trophy. Alas, defending champion Bill (Judge Robson) was basking on the beaches of Hawaii and this left the title up for grabs to a new breed. After much hacking (some odd bit of cursing), slashing, etc. the trophy lay resting in the chubby fingers of Shorty Ashton. Kindness, to old comrades, prohibits disclosure of the score but suffice to say that it complimented Bill's winning mark of the previous year . . . Organizer Barney Jones is to be congratulated on his fine efforts, especially when it should be known that he came direct from his sickbed to ensure the continuing success of this fine venture. Accolades were extended to all contestants and, over a pint or two, consolations to Hammersley, Hurley and Armstrong for their inability to crash the prize winning circle, despite their brilliant manoeuvres in the face of almost overwhelming obstacles . . . From the scarred turf of Hazelmere it was back to H.Q. at the Drill Hall for the afternoon and evening activities. Melfa Co-Chairman Nelson Scott and Doug Glenn had labored long and hard to make Melfa '70 as good, if not better, than ever. Their efforts were not in vain and despite the relatively small turnout, it

was a damned fine effort. The theme of any Melfa gathering is, of course, camaraderie. This there was an abundance of and, the re-unions, within the reunion, continued long into the night and, in many cases the next day. Some had made some really fantastic efforts in order to attend and the tale of Herb Timpe from Biggar, Sask. and Clarence (Silent) Smith of Rosetown, Sask. reads like an early pioneer trek. It seems a railway bridge, in advance of the onrushing Prairie Express, burned to the ground, momentarily delaying our heroes Timpe and Smith in the hinterlands of the B.C.-Alberta border. Undaunted the two mushed onward. By truck, school bus, etc. they finally arrived in Kamloops, B.C. They were late and some 300 miles from the target but they were on the way and determined to make it. Unknown to the two plucky voyageurs, President Nelson Scott and others had gone to the station to meet the train but there was to be no platform welcome this night. The two resourceful and intrepid travellers had, in concert with a stranded wedding party, hired a U-Drive and had continued westward with the greatest dispatch. They made it at approx 1:30 p.m. They missed their dinner but they had arived and were made most welcome. If only those who lived within a ten mile radius of New Westminster could exert just a portion of that effort what a turnout we would have . . . Former President and Secretary Art Miller also came from Kamloops and Art is as brisk and active as ever. Old stalwarts Ted Churchill, Claude Nichol and Ivan (Killer) Bailey were other guests from out of town as was, of course our guest

(Continued on page 2)

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(Continued from page 1)

speaker, Roy Trimble. Your writer did not, unfortunately, hear Roy's address but it can certainly be said, agreed or otherwise it stimulated some rather diverse comments. The talk conviviality prevailed throughout the evening and for those who had attended for the first time it was a real experience and others who had returned like Gus Krieger (Trim and Fit as ever) it was a chance to renew old acquaintances. Thanks to the foresight of the previous years some, like, Mr. & Mrs. Mel Glover, Mr. & Mrs. Sandy Rollo along with your secretary and good lady, had booked accommodations in a local hotel (Ah! those tolerant staff in the Russell) and in conjunction with Ted Hammersley's H.Q. at the Towers this provided some forward outposts for further deployment. The Sunday afternoon tea (Tea?) for the members and their ladies, held in the joint Officer's and Sgt's mess was once again a most enjoyable affair and although attended by somewhat fewer than the previous year, was enthusiastically endorsed by all. An impromptu group comprising Alec Gibson and his lovely wife Grace along with Sandy Rollo and yours truly escorted the two heroes Timpe and Smith to the train for their long return journey and this time it is hoped that they burned their bridges behind them.

Back to Ted Hammersley's Pad for a final wrap up and it was most interesting to note that he had a bit of a re-union going himself. For the first time since Italy their old sniper section was re-united, and for Len Bailey, M. Bob Brown, John Parker and Ted himself, it was a happy occasion. It was a fitting close to an extremely warm and friendly weekend and to those who could not or did not see fit to attend . . . Remember Melfa 1971 is not that far off and believe me YOU WILL REALLY ENJOY THIS GET TOGETHER.

— RON HURLEY.

SECRETARY'S CORNER:

We will now take a short break for the summer, at least as far as the publication of the Groundsheet is concerned. I will be busy, as usual, with the membership

and dues administration. To those of you who have responded to our pleas for dues 1970, many thanks. To those of you who have not yet obliged I urge you to reconsider and keep the mails coming, with your enclosures, throughout the summer. To date we have received dues from but 305 members and obviously this leaves much to be desired. TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE RECEIVED EXTRA REMINDER ENVELOPES IN THE LAST FEW EDITIONS OF YOUR GROUND-SHEET . . . THIS MEANS THAT YOU ARE STILL AN UN-PAID MEMBER FOR 1970 . . . PLEASE HELP US BY HELPING YOURSELVES. IF YOU DO NOT CONSIDER IT WORTHWHILE TO RECEIVE THE PAPER OR ENJOY THE OTHER PRIVILEGES OF YOUR ASSOCIATION PLEASE ADVISE US OF YOUR DESIRE AND WE PERHAPS CAN CUT THE COSTS OF PUBLICATION. . . We still have some 100 Crests on hand and would welcome your orders . . . You might be interested to know that your Association is now 24 yrs. old and we should all be proud of our record and, of course, we should all strive to ensure that we are no less active in the 24 years to come . . . Personally, the very best of the summer holiday season to you all and trust that we will all meet again in the fall . . .

R. Hurley, Secretary.

NOW HEAR THIS . . .

NOW HEAR THIS IMPORTANT NOTICE:

THE DEADLINE FOR THE RECEPTION OF 1970 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS IS JULY 31st, 1970. ALL THOSE INVOLVED OR WHO ARE AWARE OF POSSIBLE APPLICANTS PLEASE ASSIST YOUR SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE BY ENSURING THAT ALL APPLICATIONS ARE RECEIVED IN TIME . . . AFTER THE CLOSING DATE THE SELECTION COMMITTEE HAS A LONG AND ARDUOUS TASK BEFORE THE FINAL CHOICE IS MADE. MAIL ALL APPLICATIONS TO BOX 854, NEW WESTMINSTER, B. C. AND MARK THE OUTSIDE ENVELOPE "SCHOLARSHIP"! GOOD LUCK TO ALL WHO APPLY . . .

Eve Calder is a long time friend of Col. Bill Williams and his charming wife Rae. Miss Calder is an author of some note and a long time member of the women's literary guild. It is obvious, by her comments, that she is most capable at her work . . . Ed.

THAT SPECIAL NIGHT

By Eve Calder

I was fortunate again to be in New Westminster in the spring, the city aglow with the welcome of blossoms.

The welcome this time was further emphasized when on the night of March 21st I was privileged to enjoy the gracious hospitality of the officers of the Royal Westminster Regiment and the Westminster Regimental Association who were joint hosts that evening.

The occasion was a candle-light dinner honoring the 85th birthday anniversary of the regiment's revered, Colonel Bill.

It was a happy surprise for the honored guest when, with his lady, Rae, he walked into the mess to be greeted by 150 jubilant voices singing Happy Birthday to You.

A high grade of good fellowship was evident as friends old and young elbowed in to offer congratulations and good wishes. Throughout the dinner, many other expressions of regard were voiced with no small touch of emotion which set this evening apart.

Capt. K. Gillis, on behalf of the serving officers of the regiment, presented Colonel Bill with a set of gold cufflinks set with the regimental crest.

Another special gift was made by Capt. Tom Harris. It was a copy of his wife's (Christy Harris) latest book, LET X BE EXCITEMENT which was to be added to the regiment's library in the name of Colonel Bill.

In thanking his numerous friends for the happy surprise, Colonel Bill recalled other surprises, beginning with the surprise he gave his mother in March, 1885, when she was expecting a baby girl. "She was not really convinced, I believe, until my grandmother looked things over and declared, 'If my memory serves me right, it's a boy.'"

Later in the evening, an orchestra provided music for dancing and sprightly background for much table-hopping and nostalgic reminiscence.

When someone started The Whiffenpoof Song, there was a closing in that brought a mistiness to more than one pair of eyes.

It was a great evening for all but especially for one young eighty-five-year-old whose attachment for his regiment goes very deep indeed.

ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT STILL POSSESSED OF KEEN EYES

Your association is most proud to note that the 1970 famed Bisley Shoot has a strong Regimental and Association flavor attached to the Canadian team. Former Commanding Officer Tom Hall is the leader of the Canadian Team and his son Brian is one of the capable and active competing members. The results are not available for 1970 but as a point of interest here is a summary of the 1969 activities. You will note that the Royal Westminster Regiment has acquitted itself well . . . Ed.

Annex A
To RWR 5140-1
Date 24 Oct 69.

THE ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT MILITARY RIFLE ASSOCIATION

Dominion of Canada Rifle Association Competition,
Ottawa, 1969.

Sir Arthur Currie Match

Winner Expert Class — Lt. D. Turney — Score 181.
(If he had been a serving member he would have won the Queen's Medal)

The winner was Major E. L. Warner of the Sherbrooke Regiment with a score of 174. This is the active service conditions match.

Team Match Member (Winners)

1st Place — Victoria Rifles of Canada Trophy —
C.L.R.C.C. Western Command.

1st Place — The Steinhardt Trophy — LCol T. W. Hall
B.C. Team.

4th Place — The Senator McDonald — Cdt. B. V. Hall
Western Command Team.

- 4th Place — The Gordon Highlanders Match — Royal Westminster Regiment.
- 1st Place — The Victoria Rifles of Canada Match — Cdt. B. V. Hall — Western Command.
- 3rd Place — The City of Ottawa Match — Royal Westminster Regiment.
- 1st Place — The Carling Breweries Match — D. Keizer & R. LaBoyne of Westminster on 8 man team — B. C. Team.
- 1st Place — The Bostock Trophy — Cpl D. Keizer — Royal Westminster Regiment.
- 4th Place — Provincial Bankers Match — 3 Westminster — LCol T. W. Hall, D. Keizer, B. Pinney — B. C. Team.
- 3rd Place — The Palma Match — J. Gibault of Royal Westminster Regiment — Canada Team.
- 1st Place — The George Morin Trophy — Cdt B. V. Hall — Western Command Team.
- 2nd Place — The MacDonald Tobacco Company Match — 5 Royal Westminster Regiment members on team.
- 3rd Place — The Provincial Team Match — 3 Royal Westminster Regiment members on team (LCol T. W. Hall, Cdt B. V. Hall, Cpl D. Keizer).

Bisley Team for 1970

Cpl D. Keizer (RCMP), Royal Westminster Regiment
 Cpl B. V. Hall, Royal Westminster Regiment
 J. Gibault (associate), waiting person (pretty sure to be on senior team).

FROM THE POST:

As promised a few of the people who have written and were not mentioned in the last issue. . . Ed.

Dues and a note from Jas. A Carmichael of R.R. 8, St. Thomas, Ontario. From 5511 Norfolk St., Burnaby 2, a donation and wishes from G. Fehr. A most newsy letter from long time associate in the person of Ron Grinstead who resides at 203 - 4555 Rae St., Regina, Sask. A most welcome letter Ron and sorry to hear of Cec's misfortunes in 1969. Trust things are better for both of you and please keep writing. . .

A note and request for Groundsheet from George Gray of 468 Kelly St., Sapperton, B.C. and we trust you have received your paper by now. Carl D. Rosser of 534 Ste Marie St., Collingwood, Ont. writes to express his very best to the association and to include his dues, etc. Thank you for the kind thoughts Carl and hopefully you can make it out our way some year . . .

A note and dues from Frank Wright of 1879 E. 56th Ave., Van. 15, B.C. and we trust things go well with you Frank . . . From Van Is at 6127 Grieve Rd., Duncan, B.C. a note and dues and best wishes from Sidney E. Howard. Sid, you might be interested that an old buddy of yours in the person of Bill Gunn lives in your fair city and works at the plant in Crofton . . .

From H. L. Jones of Maryfield, Sask., a note and extra buck for the paper and we promise we will make every effort to continue the publication of the Groundsheet . . . From old buddy Herb Buckoll of Rayonier of Canada at Box 6000, Pt. Alice, B.C. a note of inquiry. Buck, old boy, if you would let us know where you are your paper wouldn't come back. Have sent you your card

ASSOCIATION CRESTS PLEASE

Please send me Crest(s) at \$5.00 Each.

NAME Address

City Zone Prov.

Mail Orders to "Association Crests", Box 854, New Westminister, B. C. No return postage required.

and paper to above address as requested and yes there is an extra levy of \$1.00 per yr. for the paper. Please keep in touch if you should move.

A note from former "C" Coy stalwart Gordon Radmore of Mission City, B.C. We share your pride in your son's decorations, Bronze Star, Air Medal, and Efficiency Award, for service in Vietnam and share also in your joy at his safe return. We trust your other son on submarine duty will also return to you soon . . .

A nice note from Tom Oldale's lovely wife Jessie up the sunshine coast at No. 317 - 7080 Glacier, Powell River, B.C. Thank you for the donation and please return soon . Many thanks for the nice note from J. A. Dumont of 3959 Kremlin St., Victoria, B.C. and appreciate your information re the late Dick Somerville. It is regrettable but it is sometimes most difficult to keep track of all of our members . . . A letter and dues from L. Carpick of 393 Home St., Winnipeg 10, Man. Note that you are a Sgt. of the Detective squad, Len, and you might like to know that former President Ernie Dayton is living in your city and is located at Molson's Brewery.

Yet another nice note from Ed. Lennie of 8060 Watkins Drive, Clayton 5, Missouri, U.S.A. Have passed along your comment re Walter Lyle and you will be pleased to know that Walter and his family have just recently returned from another junket to Holland . . . An interesting letter from O. St. P. Aitkens, M.C. 423 Chesterton Ave., Kelowna, B.C. Apologies and trust the mystery of your cheque has been solved by now. Note your interesting anecdote and will save for future publication . . .

From Stan Moorhouse of 208 - 841 McBride Blvd., New Westminster, B.C. a note and welcome dues.

Another word from the golden hills of Alberta from C. L. Wilkins of Peers, Alta. Many thanks for your dues and kind remarks . . . From old stalwart J. W. (Jack) Straiton ex 131st Bn. W.W. 1 of 98 Durie St., Toronto 159, Ont. Appreciate your kind remarks re the Groundsheet Jack and hope you continue to enjoy it in the future . . . By way of the U.S.A. at P.O. Box 550 Snohomish, Washington 98290, a word from old comrade Harry Fraser . . . Your enclosed article is most welcome Harry and will save for future publication . . .

A word from Billy Armour of 3847 Merriman Dr., Victoria, B.C. Thanks for the letter Bill and will send you some Decals forthwith . . .

Again from the east a note from G. E. Turriff of 40 Lesmar Drive, Islington, Ont. Have received your cheque and your History is on the way . . .

A greeting from long time comrade John Sheppard of 509 St. George St., New Westminster, B.C. Sorry to hear of your misfortunes, John, and trust the future will prove brighter for you. . . Another mention to Gordon Turriff the "Acting Adjutant" 5th Canadian (Arm'd) Div. Signals R.C.C.S. our regrets that your material re your re-union arrived to late for publication prior to your May 30th Reunion. The entire Westminster Regt. Assoc. extends their best to you and sincerely hope that you had a grand get together. Your remarks re our History are most kind and will gladly fill all future orders . . .

Delighted to hear from ex 47th Bn. Reg. Le Brun of Box 72 Anacortes, Washington, U.S.A. 98221 . . . Your clippings are most appreciated and congratulations on your selection as Senior Citizen of the Year and the national recognition you received therefrom . . . We need more like you, Reg. Congratulations also to Mrs. Le Brun and yourself on the celebration of your Golden Wedding Anniversary. Also agree with your closing remark that you are indeed "The Best Unpaid Ambassador Canada Ever Had" . . .

WHAT BECAME OF KELLY-

- C. J. Fisher, 423 School St., North Chilliwack, B.C.
 John Moore, 6940 Union St., Burnaby 2, B.C.
 R. Borden Kenyon, Box 457, Gull Lake, Sask.
 W. G. Hopkins, 5319 Victory St., Burnaby, B.C.
 George Martin, Box 602 - 100 Mile House, B.C.
 A. McKay, 11708 - 88th Ave., R.R. No. 9, Surrey, B.C.
 Tony Wilson, 302 Princes St., New Westminster, B.C.
 F. W. Wiggan, 10525 River Road, R.R. No. 1, North
 Surrey, B.C.
 Danny Pastro, Liard Constr. Co., Box 1768,
 Whitehorse, Y.T.
 Arthur Burton, No. 10 - 22777, 118B Ave., Haney, B.C.
 Ike Jackson, 2903 - 28th St., Vernon, B.C.
 C. L. Jackson, 2903 - 28th St., Vernon, B.C.

J. E. Gamble, 7838 - 18th Ave., Burnaby 3, B.C.
 Gerry Roberts, Ste 104 - 1835 Comox, Van. 5, B.C.
 Leopold H. Gaudette, 1728 Edinburgh St., New
 Westminster, B.C.
 E. G. Nerada, 7169 Rosewood, Burnaby 1, B.C.
 Al. Harvey, Box 1428, Quesnel, B.C.
 Wm. Reed, 445 W. 15th Ave., Van. 10, B.C.
 E. R. McLean, Ste 102 - 430, 9th St., New West-
 minster, B.C.
 G. D. Williams, 26811 Lougheed, Box 25,
 Whonnock, B.C.
 E. E. Davies, 737 - 2nd St., New Westminster, B.C.
 R. J. Adams, 1390 Granville St., Van. 2, B.C.
 F. Ayres, Ayres Furniture Ltd., Langley, B.C.
 Mrs. E. W. Hodges, Box 721, Quesnel, B.C.

LEST WE FORGET



J. Cairns, North Surrey, B.C.

Lindsay Bremner, New Westminster, B.C.

Donald Stanley Montgomery

47th Bn., Vancouver, B.C.

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