



The GROUND SHEET

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF
THE WESTMINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

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

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

Vol. 19, No. 5.

Box 854, New Westminster, B.C.

December, 1970.

President's Christmas Message

On behalf of the officers and all the Executive members of this Association, may I extend sincere Christmas Greetings to all our members and their families. Coupled with this festive greeting go our best wishes for the fulfillment of your hopes and aspirations for the coming year.

"Never a Christmas morning,
Never the old year ends,
But someone thinks of someone,
Old days, old times, old friends."

THE PRESIDENT.

THE GROUNDSHEET

President W. NELSON SCOTT
 335 Churchill Street, New Westminster — 521-3294
 Editor & Secretary RON HURLEY
 2229 Bonnyvale Road, Vancouver 16, B. C. — FA 1-8464

ALL MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE

There were times in our tenure of service in the Military for us to disregard the book; — so it is with the Association.

Special circumstances demand special actions, and, as your President, I have authorized a new DUES STRUCTURE, to take effect immediately. This action takes place subsequent to a full committee study and report to the Executive of this Association, who saw fit to endorse the report unanimously.

As your President, I have deferred the usual "Notice of Motion" to amend the bylaws, as well as having the consent of an Annual Meeting to adopt these changes, as to follow such a course would take eighteen months, and that is too long a gestation period. I'll put my job on the line at the March meeting, 1971.

For all dues, and effective for the Dues Year 1971, (that is as of January 1st, 1971), the following schedule is operating:

1. Dues, including the subscription to the Groundsheet, for all members, except as hereunder, per year \$5.00
2. All War I members and members who presently hold Life Membership, per year \$3.00
3. Serving other Ranks, The Royal Westminster Regiment, per year \$3.00

To those of you who have paid your dues for 1971 under the old schedule, may I ask that you remit the difference.

To those of you who have not paid, may I earnestly solicit your immediate remission — (I was going to say "get off your butt and get the necessary in the mail" but that would be inappropriate in a publication of our standard) — but we do need your attention to this small, but very necessary, detail.

If you will refer back to my original "President's remarks" as published in the Groundsheet, the theme was YOU and YOUR PARTICIPATION — well, now is your opportunity to participate in a very necessary manner.

W. N. SCOTT (SCOTTY) President.

"A TIMELY WORD"

The Editor
 The Groundsheet
 Dear sir:

May I pass on to your many readers, service personnel, veterans, and families of these people, that may visit or have a stay at Shaughnessy Military Hospital in Vancouver, the facilities made available to them at Red Cross Lodge there.

Mrs. Barker, one of the many hostesses, at Red Cross Lodge, took me on a tour of this home away from home, and aside from the beautiful setting, she enlightened me on the many facilities that are available to visitors, as well as veterans.

There are separate rooms off the main hall, for T.V., quiet rooms, reading rooms, and a very generous library. Hostesses are there to help those that are handicapped.

There is a cafeteria that is spon-

sored and staffed by voluntary workers and is operated at cost.

There is a show case in the main entrance that has handicrafts in it that are sold at a very moderate cost and all money goes back to the veteran responsible.

Mrs. Barker showed me a service that is available for people that are from out of town. They have rooms that are rented out at \$3.00 per night and this includes breakfast. These rooms are very well kept and have every facility for the person renting them.

I was also informed of a very good Xmas party that is planned for veterans and guests on December 15/70, at 7 p.m. This show is being put on by the Arbutus Club of Vancouver and is apparently quite entertaining. The public is invited, so be there early for a good seat.

J. Graham,
 Sgt. RWR New Westminster, B.C.

SECRETARY'S CORNER:

You will note that, in his usual forthright manner, president Nelson Scott has explained the need for a new dues structure. I can only echo his remarks and to tell you that the matter had been considered at great length and the final result was a step that the president and entire executive were most reluctant to take . . . As many of you are probably somewhat fed up with my constant appeals for increased dues participation in the many past issues of the Groundsheet, you will appreciate the fact some rather drastic measures were in order . . . records compiled over the years simply confirm the fact that just slightly over one third of our membership of approx 1,000 submit their dues consistently. These same one third will of course continue to bear the increased burdens but without them we simply cannot continue. The remaining two thirds of our membership are the benefactors of their continuing loyalty . . . We are most indebted to all of you who have displayed such loyal support and if you have already submitted dues for 1971 at the old rate can only trust you to submit the remainder at your earliest convenience. . .

PLEASE NOTE: You will receive your 1971 card stapled within this issue of your Groundsheet: Sign your own name across the top to validate it . . . **DO NOT RETURN THIS CARD:** It is yours whether you pay your dues or not but we urge you to remit your 1971 dues NOW. No one, paid or otherwise, will be denied a Groundsheet, as long as we have you on the correct mailing list . . . Please advise us of any changes of address. To reiterate the president's remarks, we trust you will receive this news of a dues increase, perhaps somewhat inappropriate at this time of the year, with your customary good grace and continue to keep this the very best Regimental Association anywhere . . . Keep your letters and articles coming for the Groundsheet and sincerest compliments to you all for the festive season. . .

R. R. HURLEY, Secretary
 and Editor.

PRIZE WINNERS 1970 DRAW**MAIN PRIZES:**

1. \$250.00 No. K695 — A. J. Rollo, 1768 E. 34th Ave., Vancouver 15, B.C.
2. 100.00 No. L450 — W. L. Stirling, 2204 E. 38th Ave., Van. 16, B.C.
3. 100.00 No. W1119 — W. Roby, 2307 Westminster Hwy, Richmond, B.C.
4. 100.00 No. K712 V. Stangland.
5. 100.00 No. X209 — Roy Thwaites, 834 Chestnut St., N. Westminster, B.C.
- Case of Scotch No. J13 — W. Gillespie, 49950 Patterson, Chilliwack, B.C.
- Case of Rum No. 87 — T. Marcel, (?) 608 Church St., Toronto, Ont., Canada.
- Case of Rye No. L154 — Lucille Markhauer, Port Hardy, B.C.
- Case of Vodka No. F688 — G. E. Hogarth, 3001 Victoria Drive, Van., B.C.
- 10 Doz. Beer No. H1190 — W. H. Vine, CFB, Chilliwack, B.C.

20 CONSOLATION PRIZES OF \$10.00 EACH

1. Bob Bell, No. 949 C
2. Mrs. J. Briscoe, R.R. No. 1, Oliver, B.C.
3. Ed Amos, No. A84 — 669 Martin St., Penticton, B.C.
4. P. Zapt, No. 1029 R — 557 E. 27th Ave., Vancouver, B.C.
5. J. D. Drummond, No. 1144 X — 1394 Rossier, North Burnaby, B.C.
6. John Jacobs, No. 1091 G — 4840 Victoria Dr., Vancouver, B.C.
7. R. C. Shannon, No. 1055 K — 3857 Glengyle, Vancouver, B.C.
8. D. Furlot, No. 1140 D — 1740 Glendale Pt., Coquitlam, B.C.
9. Ray Jallot, No. 770 J — 15820 Fraser Hwy., Surrey, B.C.
20. Gury Ryan, No. 348 G — 5793 - 176th St., Surrey, B.C.
11. Mel Sloan, No. 767 B — 1555 E. 13th St., Vancouver, B.C.
12. L. Stead, No. 1108 D — 1614 - 7th Ave., Van., B.C.
13. Wm. Bradley, No. 246 C — c/o Coral Park, Campbellville
14. Glen Gates, No. 1200 D — 834 Massey, New Westminster, B.C.
15. H. Hunzker, No. 309 R — 335622 Braun, Abbotsford, B.C.
16. R. E. Oswald, No. 245 G — 15916 Russell Ave., Whiterock, B.C.
17. R. H. McLaughlin, No. 24 J — Ryder Lake, R.R. 2, Sardis, B.C.
18. J. A. Wald, No. 306 G — 1627 Grant Pt., Coquitlam, B.C.
19. Larry Nelson, No. 417 J — 1074 Galerno Rd., Campbell River, B.C.
20. Isabel Smith, No. 183 L — 237 Hart St., Coquitlam, B.C.

SPECIAL \$25.00 SELLERS DRAW:

1. Cliff Newbigging 47T — 366 Culford Rd., Toronto, Ont. Canada.
2. P. E. Jacques 91G — 2195 E. 33rd Ave., Vancouver 16, B.C.
3. R. H. Carter 69B — 685 W. Hastings St., Vancouver 2, B.C.
4. V. H. Cooper 27C — 5376 Manson Ave., Powell River, B.C.

SELLERS OF TOP TEN PRIZES WERE:

A. J. ROLLO	W. L. STIRLING	R. THWAITES
GRANT HARDING	No. K47005	R. H. MCLAUGHLIN
B. DORIAN	G. E. SMITH	G. E. HOGARTH
	R. H. MCLAUGHLIN.	

WHAT BECAME OF KELLY ?

- Earl Handford, Burnaby, B.C.
 Don A. Purver, R.R. 1, Courtenay, B.C.
 P. Sprout, R.R. 2, Courtenay, B.C.
 L. C. Meise, R.R. 1, Prince George, B.C.
 Doug Mohr, 6351 Chester St., Vancouver, B.C.
 D. G. Johnson, 2994 Abbott, Kelowna, B.C.
 Robt. Woof, R.R. 1, Port Kells, B.C.
 Capt. Swinkles, 821 Fairfax, New Westminster, B.C.
 T. Soderstrom, Coquitlam, B.C.
 E. J. Berkey, Haney, B.C.
 J. Sheppard, 509 St. George, New Westminster, B.C.
 D. Frost, Ladner, B.C.
 T. Gladson, Chilliwack, B.C.
 H. E. Mahood, Nelson, B.C.
 A. E. Simpson, Nanaimo, B.C.
 A. L. Pradine, Edmonton Alberta
 D. Edmonds, Vancouver, B.C.

FROM THE POST:

A nice note and donation from Jim Delaney of 1183 Gouin, Verdun, Que. Sorry to hear that your mail has been mislaid Jim but am still forwarding to address above. Will send you some back issues to catch up on . . . From Geo Harkness at 112 Colley St., Trail, B.C. Dues and donation on behalf of himself and C. D. McQuarrie . . . Yet another Irish Ticket from Ivan Bailey of 45852 Railway Ave., Chilliwack. Ivan tells us that our Nom-de Plume is "Melfa" and heres hoping that it produces similar results . . . Greetings from Kinnaird, B.C. from Mel "Ding" De Anna and many thanks Ding for the kind words. Like to see you down this way soon . . . From Sgt. Ethel Johnstone dues and donation to the hospital fund. Many thanks Ethel its nice to hear from the distaff side once in awhile . . . From Walt Tyler on his travels in Kelowna dues on behalf of Fred Evans of 1327 South Highland Dr., Kelowna, B.C. . . How did we ever lose you Fred and please drop down this way again . . . An interesting letter and dues etc. from old friend Wick Stewart of Box 41, Kitimat, B.C. Congratulations on your catch of 48 lb. Spring Salmon and that should at least help you tolerate the expected 30 feet of snow you mention . . . From far off blighty a most welcome and interesting letter from H. M. Ogilive of 131 Pullham Court, Streat-ham Hill, London S.W. 2, U.K. Thank you for the 5 Quid and am most pleased to hear that you enjoy the Groundsheet. Perhaps you will have noticed the letter in the last edition from Billy Myers now residing in the U.K. It would be most interesting if you could get together . . . From J. J. Claxton of 4837 Rowan Ave., North Burnaby, B.C. a nice note and best wishes for the season. Sorry to hear of your ill health and trust this finds you on the mend. . . From Tom Smith of 266 Chestnut Ave., Kamloops, B.C. a message of good will to the association and ticket returns. Hope you make the Melfa, as you say Tom . . . A letter and order for crest from N. V. Dunn of 2192 Calder Ave., Ottawa 5, Ont. Its on the way and
 (Continued on Page Five)

ARMORIES TROPHY Cannon Gets New Home

New Westminster's first line of defence disappeared Thursday.

The ancient three-ton cannon which stood ominously outside the Queen's Avenue armories for more than 50 years, was removed by a group of men in military-type combat coveralls.

The incident took place in daylight before a group of onlookers who didn't really know what was going on.

Another FLQ raid on a military base? Fortunately not.

The troops were regular CAF engineers from Vancouver, called in to hoist the cannon into the Royal Westminster Regiment's museum, which is currently undergoing restoration.

Lt.-Col. L. K. Deane, commanding officer of the RWR, said the gun was originally placed inside the armories to discourage Finian (Irish) rebels shortly after the American civil war.

It evidently worked, since there are no reports of Finian raids having been carried out in B.C.

The cannon was one of two which were strategically sited in the armories because it afforded a commanding view of the Fraser River.



S. CONWAY; A. COE; operator, (Finning Tractor); Pres. N. SCOTT; J. ROSSO.

No one seems sure what happened to the other.

"It could be the one beside the Pattullo bridge or another located at the Beatty Street armories in Vancouver," said Deane.

The regimental museum is in what was originally the gun-room of the New Westminster Volunteer Rifles, forerunners of the present day militia battalion.

Deane pointed out the original gun-ports facing the river and the sloping floor of the museum.

"The slope was to allow for the recoil of the guns, which were quite something," he said.

The floor of the museum had been specially strengthened to take the extra weight.

Even gun slinging is within the realm of Super Crane and Rigging, recently enlisted by Royal Westminster Regiment Association to move century old cannon. 450 truck-mounted Bantam Telecrane with a lift capacity of 35,000 lb. and a reach of 82 feet, made light work of hoisting two and a half ton barrel through window of newly established military museum in New Westminster armoury Cannon, from the gun deck of an early British warship, has stood for many years outside armour but is now positioned behind the gun hole from which it once stood guard to protect the cit against attack from across the Fraser River.



More on the Cannon

November 17, 1970
7828 Canada Way
Burnaby 3, B.C.

Dear Ron:

I am sending this along for what it is worth. The original article is quite lengthy but I will only extract the portions dealing with the cannon.

Unfortunately no note was made of the newspaper from which the article was clipped nor the date, but other articles are dated April, 1941. I would say that it was taken from the British Columbian.

"Back in the 90's the 2nd Battalion, 5th Brigade, Garrison Artillery, under Lt. Col. T. O. Townley, used a drill hall on the present site of the Fisheries Building on Carnarvon and McKenzie Streets. Periodically the Battery fired brass muzzle-loaders from the Albert Crescent bastion, the round iron balls plopping across the river at, canvas targets on the mud flats of the south shore.

In 1897, through the efforts of the late G. E. Corbould, M.P. (the grandfather of Gordon Corbould of the "Westies") an appropriation was granted for a new drill hall on Sixth Street and the contract was awarded to John Calbick. (could be the grandfather of Bill Foster and the late Bob Foster of "B" Company) The floor was laid with three-by-sixes on edge to bear the weight of the ponderous artillery pieces. There was no basement and the foundations comprised a forest of cedar posts four feet apart.

The Unit exchanged its TWO brass cannon for a 64-pounder, weighing 6400 pounds. This rifled muzzle-loader had to be moved and sighted with peavies and crowbars. It was stored in what was later the Battalion quartermaster's stores where the floor was inclined to two ports in the south wall. *Theoretically* the recoil of the piece was supposed to drive the gun back from the port up the inclined floor. In the Battery drill the man hauled the gun back with a block and tackle to get at the muzzle for cleaning and re-loading. The piece was fired by a detonator and lanvard."

The article goes on to tell of the transition from Artillery to D.C.O.R.'s. 104th Bn., 131st Bn., 47th Bn. and the Westminster Regt. I would say that the

article was probably taken from the British Columbian and must have been written by some one very familiar with the early history of the Regiment. Incidentally the underlining and brackets are my own. I am enclosing the Columbian story and picture.

kindest regards,

NORMAN J. McASKILL.

* * *

November 27th, 1970.

Mr. Allan Coe,
Finning Tractor & Equipment Ltd.,
555 Great Northern Way,
Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Allan:

"Thank you" — two small words, which, when uttered with sincerity, convey the true sense of appreciation for your kind intervention, cooperation and assistance to the completion of the Museum project, i.e. — the gun barrel.

Formally, the Executive of this Association is officially on record, by a minute of the last meeting, expressing thanks to you and through you to the Finning Tractor & Equipment Co. Ltd., without whose assistance that damned barrel would still be on the floor of the Armouries! Through your efforts, the Association has now completed another phase in its Museum project; its members can benefit financially because the completion of this phase guarantees a payment from a Colonel Howard of a sum of money, which will by its payment, give us a further incentive to carry on.

What else is there to say, except again, our thanks.

Very truly yours,
THE WESTMINSTER REGIMENT
ASSOCIATION,
W. N. SCOTT, President.

FROM THE POST

(Continued from page 5)

would sure like to sell a few more of these lovely crests to the membership. . . Dues from Ross Douglas for which many thanks . . . Dues also from John Reeves of No. 1 - 6111 Tisdall, Van. 13, and again many thanks . . . A note and dues from G. Corman of R.R. 1, Millgrove, Ont. and hope your winter has improved. A word from W. Smith of 2773 W. 33rd, Vancouver 13, B.C. and also kind words and nice donation from Wilson Hall of Wawota, Sask. Hope you get your wish to travel westward. Finally seasons greetings and donations from Chas. H. A. Brown of 614 E. 12th, Van. 10, B.C. and Doug Allen of 1830 58A, Surrey. To all these and to all I may not have acknowledged a very merry Xmas . . . The Editor.

NOTICE:

MEMBERS CONFINED TO HOSPITALS: Please notify the chairman of the sick and visiting committee. . . We have a service to offer but without your assistance as to your whereabouts it is impossible. Donations of pocket novels and books would be greatly appreciated . . . Please call me at address listed below . . .

DOUG GLENN
6666 Walker Ave.
Phone 522 - 0890.

NOTICE:

The R.S.M. would like to hear from any former R.S.M.'s of the unit or anyone who could give information regarding names of R.S.M.'s and the dates that they served as R.S.M.

Please send all correspondence to:

P.M.C.
Spts. Mess
The Royal Westminster Regt.
Sixth & Queens
New Westminster, B. C.



LEST WE FORGET

HARRY FRASER — 47th Bn.
Snohomish, Wash., U.S.A.
Hugh Grant, W.R. — White Rock, B.C.

Correction to be noted in Obits from last issue: Should have read Jimmy Lee and not Sammy Lee as published.

Bob Davis Recalls

OVERSEAS CUSSING REGULATIONS IN ONE LESSON

Winnipeg, Canada.—“Do you see that short, broad shouldered man standing at the entrance of the fruit store?” asked the citizen with whom I was rambling down the main street.

“The one with the cane over his arm?”

“No, the fellow buying the grapes. He’s paying for them now; gray felt hat.”

“I see the man you mean. What about him?”

“He was of the Princes Pat’s. Enlisted from this town. One of the first.”

“Very few of them came back, I understand.”

“That’s right, but wait till I tell you. His name is George Herbert Lash, acting captain of the Forty-seventh Battalion Infantry at the taking of Valenciennes, November 6, 1918.” I know I was there.

“Now come along with the human interest,” I urged, confident that he had something up his sleeve.

“I can do that too. When the Canadians began the attack on a sixteen mile front an order was given that the barrage being laid down was not to shell Valenciennes, which contained many non-combatant civilians. To Acting Captain Lash was given the task of taking a bridgehead so that the Second Division could come through and enfilade the town. He soon discovered that progress was quite impossible because of the fact that a large building on the edge of the town was occupied by the enemy, operating from the tower. There was nothing to do but attack at that point despite the orders. Otherwise the bridgehead was not attainable.

“About that period in the proceed-

ings a young man in the uniform of a British captain suddenly appeared upon the scene with the announcement that he had lost his unit. He saluted Acting Captain Lash and asked if there was anything he could do to be of assistance. ‘Yes,’ replied Lash, ‘go and find Lieutenant McCallum, who is in support with brigade trench mortars, and tell him to blow hell out of that building from which the enemy is sniping. Tell him to knock the damned thing down, orders or no orders from elsewhere.’”

“The British captain saluted, hustled away, found McCallum, delivered the Lash order word for word and returned with a verbal report of his action. ‘Is there anything more I can do for you?’ he inquired. ‘Not at the moment,’ answered Lash, ‘but you had better stick around in case anything occurs. You are sure you gave McCallum my message just as I give it to you?’ The Briton assured him that even to the slightest inflection he had communicated the order of the Canadian officer.

“In the meantime the tower on the communal building was rocked to its destruction and the enemy evacuated. The ambitious runner who still considered himself under the orders of Captain Lash stayed close at hand pending further developments. At the moment when the Forty-seventh Battalion was ready to proceed there appeared upon the scene a British staff officer who upon spotting the young captain who had lost his unit promptly engaged him in earnest conversation, in the midst of which both withdrew from the Lash jurisdiction and disappeared.

“During a lull in the rout that fol-

lowed the capture of the bridgehead an officer from McCallum’s battery had a short conversation with Acting Captain Lash. ‘What did you mean by sending those profane orders to us?’ he inquired. ‘Your runner blew in and shot the stuff with an unctuous ring in his voice. Told us that you said to knock the damned thing down — to blow hell out of it. Was that right?’ Lash reiterated his command with frills and ratified everything.

“Well, you might be,’ said Lash’s informant, ‘surprised to know that attached to the Canadian contingent there is a certain popular young Englishman listed in the army regulations as Captain Windsor. He is also better and perhaps more popularly known, at least in civil life, as H. R. H. the Prince of Wales. And that’s the person you selected as a runner between the Forty-seventh Battalion and Lieutenant McCallum.’

“‘Did he deliver my message?’ asked Lash.

“‘He certainly did — profanity and all. I call him a true solder when it comes to obeying orders. You got to give it to him for that. If this ever leaks out in the army gossip — well, George, you taught the young man something. Put it there.’”

Eight years later Captain Windsor and Acting Captain George Herbert Lash met at a public function for the Prince of Wales en route to his ranch in Calgary. There was a swift glance of recognition, and almost perceptible royal command, which Lash, now back in civil life, caught and understood. When the visiting throng thinned out the Prince asked the citizen if they had not met before, — perhaps, at Valenciennes, France, November 6, 1918.

Buddies: that’s all.

RETURN
REQUESTED

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



E.G. SHANNON
940 DIXON ST
RICHMOND BC