

# GROUND SHEET



## 1944 - 1971 27th Anniversary





## THE GROUND SHEET

President ..... DOUG GLENN  
6666 Walker Ave., Burnaby 1, B.C. — 522-0890

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

Treasurer ..... VERN ARDAGH  
c/o Bank of Montreal, 6th Avenue & 6th Street,  
New Westminster — Office 526-4461 Res. AM 6-4253

Honorary President ..... COL. BILL WILLIAMS  
927 Wall St., Coquitlam — WE 9-0190

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

I am most honored to have been selected as your President for the forthcoming year and sincerely pledge to do my utmost to fulfill the trust you have placed in me. I thank you all for providing a fine slate of executive officers, without which no organization can function effectively. I am particularly pleased to note that we have some new executive members, such as Stan Johnson and Stan Moorhouse and trust that this is an indication that more of you will be willing to serve in the future . . . To my predecessor, Nelson Scott, I say congratulations on a job well done and can only hope to emulate your fine efforts . . . It is gratifying to know that Vern Ardagh has agreed to act as your treasurer and that Ron Hurley will continue to perform his dual offices as Secretary and Editor of your Groundsheet . . . Our paper is our most important line of communications and I urge you all to participate in its production . . . As you are well aware from the many requests from the Secretary we can do much better to increase our paid up membership. We have a current mailing list of approx 900 of which but some 300 have paid. When it is realized that one third are subsidizing the other two thirds well — that's just not "100%". If you are part of the latter two thirds I beseech you to adjust your thinking and submit your 1971 dues NOW. . . I am confident that with YOUR HELP this association can function and prosper.

Thanking you again for the honour given me.

DOUG GLENN.

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:  
Held 18 March, 1971**

As usual sparsely attended by only 37 members. Those who did attend participated fully however and there was much lively discussion on the Scholarship, the Christmas Draw and the Museum. All of these matters will be brought to your attention more fully in later editions of the Groundsheet. Following is your elected slate of Officers for the current year. . . .

**Westminster Reg't. Assoc. Executive for 1971**

President ..... Doug Glenn  
6666 Walker Ave., Burnaby 1, B.C. — 522-0890  
Vice President ..... Trevor Whitehead  
2726 Lynbrook Dr., Van. 16, B.C. — 325-2801  
Past President ..... W. N. Scott  
335 Churchill, New Westminster - 521-3294  
Treasurer ..... Vern Ardagh  
c/o Bank of Montreal, 6th Ave. & 6th St.  
New Westminster - Ph. office: 526-4461 res.: Am6-4253  
Secretary & Editor ..... R. R. Hurley  
2229 Bonnyvale, Vancouver 16, B.C.  
Ph. home: 321-8464 - office: 666-3391

**Executive Members:**

J. Rosso, 4065 Brandon, S. Burnaby	433-7092
J. Hou, 703 - 1260 Bidwell	683-1509
Bill Williams, 927 Wall St., Coquitlam	We9-0190
John Ford, 3757 W. 35th, Vancouver	Am3-3682
W. Lyle, 614 - 4th Ave., New Westminster	521-3265
W. Robson, 2335 Wall St., Van.	254-2876
Bert Hoskin, 4736 - 62nd St. R.R. 3, Ladner	946-2277
Stan Conway, 1746 Shannon Court, Coquitlam	936-7071
Clarence Huff, 233 - 4th St., N. Westminster	521-2365
Andy Hunter, 1832 Dublin St. N. Westmin.	522-7845
C.O'S Rep.,	
Lt. Col. L. K. Deane, 5720 Monarch St., Burnaby 2,	291-1553
Sgt's Rep.:	
Terry Leith, 2139 - 250th St., Haney, B.C.	463-3330

**Executive Appointments:**

Stan Johnson, 5282 Neville St., Burnaby 1	433-2667
Stan Moorhouse, No. 209 - 841 McBride Blvd. New Westminster	522-3507
Robyn Hues, 308 - 236 - 8th St., N. Westmin.	521-7027



## MELFA DAY:

In a few short days now, we will be sharing another Melfa Day. No doubt, the large amount of interest shown in your letters means it will be a great Day. The visitors will be making arrangements at the close by hotels or with relatives or friends. You must also remember there is a reception on Sunday the next day. This will take place at the Drill Hall in the combined Officer's and Sergeant's messes, we will this time have our wives with us. The ladies and their escorts should begin arriving at 2:30 p.m. this 30th day of May. There will be refreshments. Members of the Regiment and the Association will enjoy this 2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. affair as it makes a worthwhile ending to a very festive time.

With the localites there has been a movement towards getting hotel accommodations just in case home seems too far away on Melfa night. The parking lot of Royal Canadian Legion takes cars on a first come first served basis so at 6:30 p.m. everyone should find a spot. The Melfa Day begins at 8:00 a.m. at the Hazelmere golf Club. The drive takes about an hour and if you like breakfast sixish will be none too soon. You get there by going from New Westminster to Cloverdale, keep going right through Cloverdale south on the highway until you reach the flats after going down a long hill, you then cross the flats and come to the coast meridian road, turn left for a half mile, watch for the club on the right. Barney Jones, 531-4479 or by mail 256 King George VI Highway, Surrey, B.C. Either write or phone him about your entry into the tournament, this he needs to know so he can advise the Pro and get the tee off times. Entry fee \$3.00 or three fifty, actually it comes to about three dollars and fifty cents. There will be fun and lots of enjoyment the course is good, the air is clean, and the walk will sharpen our appetites for a wonderful evening. Anyone can win that trophy so come and take a chance.

The Annual General meeting this year showed a trend in the modern style you could count a beard, some long hair and a smattering of sideburns, gad the Westminsters always had a flair for hair care. This out of only Thirty-seven present. The Scholarship will be divided in half, this to take care of the needs of Technical as well as Academic students therefore we may have reached the scope of students who may not otherwise have had a chance to compete for the Scholarship.

We did well this year with our Christmas Smoker.

Our financial report showed better this year, probably due to the increase, "Dedicated to the families

and friends of all those who served with the Westminsters". That is on the page in front of the contents part one of the Westminster's War Diary. We are still being asked for the Diary so there will be some available at the Dinner.

Any time you are in one of the Military hospitals on the lower mainland ask about the five dollar credit for purchases you may need. This has been established for several years.

Nelson Scott has had to resign due to the pressure of an expanding business, he is still in the executive but no longer the President. The newly elected President is Doug Glenn who will provide us with all the energy we need to do a good job. Nelson takes with him a world of knowledge which we will tap from time to time. Doug knows there is much to do and his way is to get it done.

We are trying to have the Museum open on the thirtieth of May between the hours of 2:30 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. at the open house, as well as between 4 to 6 p.m. on Melfa Day, May 29.

BILL ROBSON.

---

## "MELFA MASTERS"

Annual Melfa Golf Tournament at Hazelmere Golf Club at 8:00 a.m., May 29th, 1971  
Green fees \$4.00, carts and clubs available by rental.

This is our Centennial Year in B.C., so lets have a bumper crop of golfers or would be golfers turn out for this event.

Don Mannering is our prize committee and he has assured me we will have a nice selection of prizes for this years event.

In order that we can be on time at the tee off please phone your entry to,

B. E. Jones 531-4479 — Ian Douglas 522-3415

Stan Conway, 936-7071 — D. Mannering.  
Bring a visitor if you wish.

B. E. Jones.

---

AS a training officer I was teaching a class of recruits about the insignia worn by the various branches of the army. We had discussed the crossed rifles of the infantry and the crossed cannon of artillery. "Can anybody tell me what the signal corps wears?" I asked.

One recruit ventured, "Crossed wires?"



1939-45



27th ANNIVERSARY  
Regimental Association  
ANNUAL MELFA DINNER  
Saturday, May 29th

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

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

SUNDAY 30th MAY

2:30 p.m.

RECEPTION FOR THE LADIES  
OF REGIMENT & ASSOC.

*in the*

COMBINED OFFICER'S  
SERGEANT'S MESS

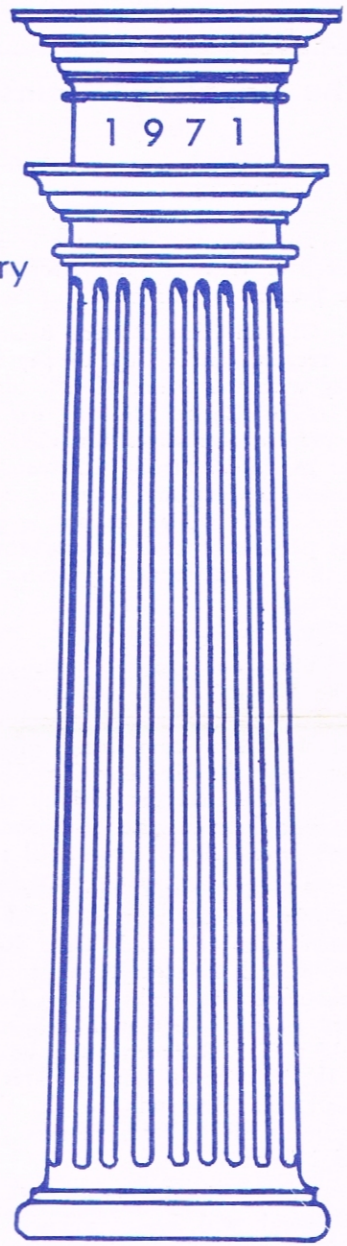
All members and Escorted Ladies may attend.

(By permission of the Commanding  
Officer Lt. Col. L. K. DEANE CD.)



1914-18





# MELFA DAY

May 29th, 1971

Twenty-seventh Anniversary  
of the Melfa

CHAIRMAN W. G. ROBSON

1944

## PROGRAMME

8:00 a.m. Melfa Golf Tournament - Hazelmere Golf Club

### DINNER

Smorgasbord, Baron of Beef

AT THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION

40 Begbie St., New Westminster

Price of the dinner \$3.00 - Bar 5 for \$2.00

6.30 p.m. Cocktails

8.00 p.m. One minute's Silence for our  
departed Comrades.

Grace

The Queen

Dinner

President's report and introduction of  
guest speaker.

To The Melfa.

### INTERMISSION

Introduction of the Head Table

Toast to the Regiment and its predecessors

The Reply, and the toast to the City  
of New Westminster

The Reply

Comrades in Arms

Golf Trophy presentation

Bar reopens for the good and welfare.

Museum Open 4 - 6 p.m.

Andy Hunter — in attendance



## The Royal Westminster Regiment

24 Apr 71

### GROUND SHEET

The Regiment is in the midst of a very active and successful training year. Recruiting has been good and the present establishment has been almost filled.

Captain Gerry Potter's B Coy, which is undertaking all recruit training up to pay level C, has been very busy with the influx of new blood. A Coy commanded by Major Chuck Marshall has been training all year to prepare themselves for their commitment this summer to Forces Mobile Command. They have conducted numerous Company exercises the most successful of which was a winter training exercise in Garibaldi Park. The purpose of that exercise was to train the Company in the use of arctic equipment and to teach survival techniques.

The Easter Camp at CFB Chilliwack which included all militia units in the Vancouver Militia District saw "The Westies" turn out the largest contingent which numbered 107 all ranks. B Coy was quartered in camp and was busy completing an infantryman course. A Coy spent the five day camp bivouaced in a defensive position they had prepared up the Veddar River. Spirits remained high despite the poor weather which ranged from drizzle through torrential rain to snow.

At the present time the unit is extremely busy preparing for the visit on 7 and 8 May of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth, and Their Royal Highnesses, Prince Phillip and Princess Anne to New Westminster and Abbotsford. All ranks of the Regiment are looking forward to this event with delight. On the afternoon of 8 May The Regiment will be receiving The Freedom of the District of Matsqui. This parade is to be held in Clearbrook. This will be the third Freedom that The Regiment has received, the others being New Westminster and Mission.

During the first week of July the Forces Mobile Command will be conducting their exercise at CFB Wainwright and the Regiment will be contributing a full Coy.

This is our second year as a member unit of FMC and have found that it has added a great deal of incentive to the recruits to complete their basic and trades training as quickly as possible in order to participate in it.

Captain M. H. H. STEEDE, Adjt.

## FROM THE POST:

A word of welcome from old friend I. (Killer) Batley of Chilliwack. Thanks for the donation and will see you in May.

From D. H. Drummond of Box 42, Honeymoon Bay dues and request for scholarship application.

A warm note from old 47th Bn. member Carl D. Porsser of 534 Ste. Marie St., Collingwood, Ontario. Thank you for your kind remarks re the Groundsheet and we agree its always sad to see our old Comrades fading from us. . . . By way of 6118 Greive Road, Duncan, B.C. a word from E. Wilson. Thank you for the submission but you will notice by the paper that with the exception of W.W. 1 members the dues are \$5.00 per yr. . . . An interesting letter from former 131st & 47th Bn. member in the person of Cecil E. Galley of R.R. 1, Campbell River, B.C. A most appreciated letter from Mrs. Nita H. Wickham of 806 Rochester Avenue, Coquitlam, New Westminster, B.C. Sorry to hear of Stan's condition and can tell you that we are trying our best to est. the Regimental Affiliation of all our members. In this way perhaps we can find out just how many W.W. 1 members we have amongst us. . . . We would be most pleased to publish a list of all these members when we have the information required.

From 12124 - 223rd St., Maple Ridge, B.C. a most interesting word from Harry G. Corder, ex 47th Bn. since 1915. Harry yours is a most interesting letter and most pleased to know that you are enjoying good health in your 81st year. I'm sure all your old comrades of No. 1 Platoon of the 47th will be delighted to hear of you.

By way of Box 285, Osoyoos, B.C. a request for membership from A. Dixon who served in France with the 47th Bn. Pleased to welcome you Mr. Dixon.

John MacLennan (father of our 1970 Scholarship winner) writes to say that he had visited with Col. Jack Mahony, V.C. and had enjoyed a nice chat. Gratified to know your daughter is progressing well in her studies and that we have been some help in this capacity. After all this is our Association at work as it should be. John lives at 223 Hoople Ave., Cornwall, Ontario.

From Box 6000, Port Alice a word from the roving logger Bud Buckoll. Bud we have sent you Crest, will get History and negative re your wife. Hope this finds you well.



A letter and kind donation from J. W. Straiton of 98 Durie St., Toronto 3, Ont. Many thanks for the kind greetings.

Ted Burnby of Box 1022, Vernon, B.C. writes requesting decals. Your'e in luck Ted this seems to be about the last of them. Perhaps we should entertain the idea of getting more if enough requests are forthcoming.

Again from the sunny Okanagan a note from Wilfred Gougeon of 850 Eckhardt Ave., E. Penticton, B.C. A nice note and donation from 88 yr. old Charles S. Cameron of 1523 - 8th Avenue, New Westminster. Most pleased to hear from you and note that you had served in the 104th, 131st and the 47th. It would be nice if some of our W.W. 2 members showed as much interest as folks like you.

From old friend Chuck Cousins of Box 337, Cumberland, B.C. dues and greetings to his old pals. Hope to see you down our way soon Chuck.

Another warm personal note from Mrs. Marty Sutherland on behalf of her husband, who informs us that although he is now unable to read or write he is still interested in hearing from the Groundsheet. Thanks also for your kind donation and perhaps if some of you get up to Cumberland on the Island you can drop in and see the Sutherlands.

Also from Vancouver Island at Box 152, Nanaimo, B.C. dues and greetings from Stephen J. D. Evans. . . A letter from old Westy Jim Palmer, who now resides at 46925 Acorn Ave., Chilliwack, B.C. Nice to hear of you again Jim and welcome back to the Association. I'm sure many of your old buddies will be pleased to note your Address and also phone No. 792-1109.

## I Thought I Heard a Drum This Night

I thought I heard a drum this night  
While all the house was still;  
And saw myself beside a road  
That climbed a shattered hill.

I thought I heard a snatch of song,  
A tired laugh or two;  
Then marching slowly up that road  
Came lads that once I knew.

Their sodden boots were caked with mud,  
Their packs were wet with rain;  
And some men marched as if asleep,  
And some as if in pain.

I saw again the brave ones,  
The craven ones; the bold;  
The merry ones, the bitter ones,  
The boys too soon grown old.

My heart leapt out to greet them,  
Comrades of other years;  
And memories swirled around me  
And my eyes were blind with tears.

And as that ghostly column passed  
I called each man by name;  
But no one turned to greet me  
Of the marchers on that lane.

Helpless I watched them disappear  
Into the dusk and the rain;  
The sounds of marching men grew faint  
And I was alone again.

Then of a sudden the darkness raised  
And I saw them cresting the slope;  
The sun burst on them warm and bright  
And my heart was filled with hope.

Beyond that hill I knew they'd find,  
An end to fear and pain;  
And quiet rest, and peace at last  
And time for love again.

The scene grows dim and slowly fades;  
The house is just as still;  
But yet my thoughts are with those lads  
Who marched that road and hill.

I know that these were ghosts I saw  
From miles and years away.  
Shall I be marching by their side  
When next that drum will play?

*By Robert P. Thompson*



## What Became of Kelly?

Dave McPherson, Apt. 312 - 27 Paxtonia Blvd.,  
Downsview, Ontario

Wm. Cowin, 470 Quinn St., Prince George, B.C.

J. C. Hunter, 3789 - 176th St., R.R. 2, Cloverdale, B.C.

L. E. Sawyer, 2557 Pinewood Dr., Winnipeg 12, Man.

G. W. Wright, 21585 River Rd., Haney, B.C.

R. A. Hanna, 358 Rosamond Rd., Richmond, B.C.

AT AN OVERSEAS airport which adjoins a harbor, an RAF transport plane overshot the runway and ran into the water. Luckily no one was hurt and the plane was recovered. For months afterward the squadron had to put up with endless ribbing.

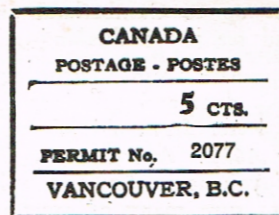
The last straw was when the captain of an incoming destroyer signaled the RAF station commander: "Spending night here. May we use your runway?"



IN ITALY during the war we supplemented our rations with eggs bought in the local market. At breakfast time we would present them for frying to an increasingly irritated mess cook, who finally complained to an officer. The following notice then appeared in company orders: Anyone requiring a fried egg at breakfast must lay it on the mess table before 0800 hours.

**RETURN  
REQUESTED**

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



**E.G. SHANNON**  
**940 DIXON ST**  
**RICHMOND BC**