



# 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. 20, No. 3

Box 854, New Westminster, B.C.

July-August, 1971

## CHECK YOUR SCORE "THAT'S NOT PERFORMANCE"

We Mail Out Approximately 1,000 Groundsheets:

Only 345 Have Paid Their Dues To Date:

LET'S AIM FOR THE CENTRE

**YOU  
SHOULD  
BE  
HERE**



x 10  
x 9  
x 8  
x 7  
x 6  
x 5  
x 0

TOTAL 345

You Are  
Here.

**YOU'RE SHOOTING LOUSY—DEFINITELY NOT 100%**

**If You Don't Pay 1971 Dues NOW, We'll All Be Off The Target.**

## 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

**SECRETARY'S CORNER:**

This is our last issue for the summer and once again, as so often in the past I am appealing to those of you who have not paid your 1971 dues. . . . You will note from the front page diagram that there are a large number of you who have either forgotten or just don't care. . . . I might mention that even the figure of 345 is not as good as it appears for among that total are several donations given generously by many of our loyal First War comrades who are under no obligation to pay at all. . . . I can tell you all that your executive has given long thought to how we can remedy this situation. We were forced to raise our dues and as expected, the loyal one third have paid and borne the burden without complaint. . . . This does not sound like the Westies of old as Little Joe would say, "Not Good enough," "Not 100 percent." We do not wish to resort to billing by name and we will not deny any of the membership a Groundsheet as long as we can afford to print. We appreciate that many of you might not be able to afford to contribute and this message is not aimed in your direction. We entreat those who can however to please sit down as soon as you receive this edition of the paper and mail us your cheque or money order. We need to help one another as we did long ago. . . . We have incurred yet another postage increase as of July 1 and can expect another on next January. In case you have forgotten the dues structure is as follows: \$5.00 per year for most active members with the exception of: \$3.00 for serving other ranks of the Royal Westminster Regiment. All First World War veterans who qualify for membership, FREE.

Note: At age 60 you may submit application with \$5.00 for life membership and you then may contribute but \$3.00 annually for the Groundsheet.

What ever you do, do it NOW!

Appeal to all W.W. 1 veterans. Please send in your regimental affiliation from W.W. 1 so we can complete our files.

You will read elsewhere of our Melfa Dinner and you will note the poor turnout. What in hell has happened to all you

old foot sloggers. Don't tell us You've all DROPPED OUT.

By now all the applications for the scholarship should have been in and the committee will be hard at work to make the selection.

Have a pleasant holiday and see you in the fall.

Ron Hurley, Secy.

**MELFA 71**

Happiness is thirty seven of us trooping out onto the practice tee. The time at exactly eight o'clock, the day of our golf tournament. Imagine a forest of clubs, drivers and irons, slashing the air as we waited our turn at the tee. All had dressed to look the part, they all looked like pro's. In the golf bags of a few with an eye on the clouds, there could be seen the occasional umbrella. As it was they weren't needed, the few drops that did fall merely freshened up the air that was blued as someone sliced off the tee. The course has a most beautiful rough. A big job that went like clockwork was done on this golf game by Barney Jones. He placed our foursomes, arranged the prizes and their disposition as the scores came in. Many of the prizes were donated by interested members of the association.

At two o'clock most of us were in the clubhouse having a light lunch with our beer or coffee, which ever was preferred. We talked mostly golf and were anticipating the evening. The drive back to New Westminster from Hazelmere takes about an hour so most of us were on our way home by three fifteen. Some of us to put our golf clubs away for another year. Some of us with a resolve to stop at the nearest driving range, rent a basket of balls and Drive, Drive, Drive!!! When most of us arrived at the green it was Putt, Putt, Putt, and Putt.

With our cocktail hour in the offing we were anticipating a good time. This we had. Scheduled to start at six-thirty it got away a little earlier because many came early. On this day no one stands too close to the rules. Many comments came to us about the Smorgasbord. They said, "It was absolutely fabulous". Come to think of it, it was. There was a large plate with a pedestal in the centre liter-

ally covered in shrimps placed on it in a most appetizing manner. There was salmon, turkey, mouth watering cold jellied things and a Baron of Beef served hot. The table was laden with a variety of other dishes and everyone soon reached the not another bite stage. From the podium at the head table, Doug Glenn called for order and introduced our guest speaker, Scotty Low, who spoke to the Melfa. It was nice to hear Scotty's comments of the time of the Melfa and our changing world since as he saw it. Most of the tables had been marked with A coy, B coy, WW 1 vets, Support Coy, etc., and after the speeches were over the various groups could be seen enjoying the evening in a friendly atmosphere that, thank goodness, is available to us each year. Our estimate as to how many would appear was one hundred and seventy five, those who came were one hundred and eighteen strong. So, by simple arithmetic, we were short fifty seven. On the basis that you can't order anything without paying for it, the bill has been duly paid and that is one of the reasons that we had such a fabulous dinner. There was much more than plenty for all.

Since the dinner we have had our last meeting for the Summer (if it ever dries up) and we are still planning some means at our next meeting in the fall to find some solution to getting everyone out. We number in the nine hundreds in the lower Mainland so any figure less than four hundred looks pretty puny. We are looking for any comment on this and if you wish to write during the Summer with any idea of how we can beat this small figure at our functions, the address is on the back of any Groundsheet. At our first meeting in September we read our biggest mail, so we invite you to make it bigger than ever this year.

As an aftermath to the Melfa several of us went up to the Russel Hotel where a party was in progress. There was loud talk and many laughs and it felt good to be caught up in the wee small hours with such congenial company, but the day had been long and it was time for going home so . . .

On Sunday the following day there was a gathering at the combined officer's mess and Sgt's mess for our wives and it was an enjoyable afternoon. The museum was open and we all had a peek. Although there isn't much room, it is nicely set up and with that great

cannon in there it sure looks like a museum. We had light refreshments at our Sunday do and it is in the plans to make this a permanent fixture of our Melfa weekend. Our only comment, "Do Come".

Bill Robson.

## Good Bye From The Commanding Officer

On July 31st, I relinquish command of The Royal Westminster Regiment and retire from the active militia, having completed my term of office. Before I leave I would like to express my thanks to the Executive and Members of The Westminster Regiment Association for all the help, encouragement, and moral support which I personally have received from the Association.

What a vivid picture I have in my mind of the red-bereted members of the Association marching under command of Bert Hoskin at the Trooping of the Colour and Change of Command Parade when I received command of the Regiment. Seeing these veterans marching so smartly made me realize what a vast storehouse of experience was available to help guide the present young militiamen. Throughout my term as CO, I have endeavoured to bring all members of the Regimental family; veterans, serving militiamen, cadets and friends, closer together and so strengthen the Regiment which we have all served and loved.

I would like to thank the Association for making available to the Battalion each year a large cash donation. This financial aid is virtually the only one that the unit receives and upon which it must rely to supply all the "extras" so necessary to the functioning of a militia unit.

Also, I believe that the Association work toward the establishment of the Regimental Museum is worthy of a great deal of praise. This museum will become the physical embodiment of the history and past achievements of our Regiment and the guardian of its tradition. A great deal of credit must go to John Rosso and his committee who transformed the old bandroom into the present museum including the moving of the cannon. Now to Bert Hoskin and his committee goes the difficult task of collecting and cataloguing the artifacts

and pictures that portray the Regiment's exploits. The young men of today's battalion are eager to learn of the regiment's past history. The museum will make it possible for them to obtain a true picture of their heritage.

It has been a source of satisfaction to me to see so many young soldiers attending your annual smoker in December and your Melfa dinner in May. Thank you for inviting them. As younger brothers in the Regimental family they must be encouraged to become active in the Association so as to safeguard its future strength. To this end the Executive is to be congratulated for making a place on the executive for a representative from each of the three messes of the present militiamen.

I have been very proud of having had the privilege of commanding the Regiment and now I must say "Good-bye" as Commanding Officer. However, I am looking forward to being able to continue as a member of The Westminster Regiment Association.

L. K. Deane LCol.

## The Regiment Reports:

The morning of May 7th, a beautifully sunny day, saw the members of the battalion busy putting the last touches on gleaming brass and shining boots for that was the day they were to see and be seen by their Sovereign. Yes, the Regiment was to line the driveway of the City Hall in New Westminster during the visit of H.M. the Queen and H.R.H. Prince Philip. The Regimental Band was duty band for the occasion and was also given the distinction of playing for the Civic Luncheon given for Her Majesty.

LCol Deane, as CO, was presented to the Queen on behalf of all "Westies." After the luncheon the Queen and Prince Philip stopped to speak to the Band and to compliment them upon their performance. It is a tribute to their loyalty that although it was a civilian working day, 23 officers and every Senior NCO in the battalion were on parade. In all some 200 members of the Regiment turned out on this occasion. The greatest feat of the day was the movement and redeployment of the troops from the City Hall to Queen's Park Stadium. The same troops were required in both places while the Queen was present. The Queen was to

leave the City Hall at 1422 hours and was to arrive at the Stadium at 1430 hours. The troops could not move from the City Hall until the Queen's carcade had left. Then the crash action began. Ten two and a half ton trucks roared into position and the troops climbed aboard with much rehearsed efficiency. Then following a different route to the one the Queen was taking the trucks sped to Queens Park under escort of MP's. The troops dismounted and reformed in position well ahead of the Queen's arrival, the whole operation being completed in six short minutes.

The next day, May 8th, the Regiment was again on parade to greet the Queen, this time at the Abbotsford Airport. Here the Queen and Prince Philip were very friendly and spoke to at least six members of the unit. After the royal aircraft had taken off, the members on parade were treated to a delicious buffet luncheon by the District of Matsqui. Then the Regiment moved to South Fraser Way where it formed up to march to the Masqui Municipal Hall for the ceremony of receiving the Freedom of the District. With Drum Major Mel Johnson in the lead, the Regiment approached the Municipal Hall when the way was barred by Chief Constable Smith with the traditional challenge, "Halt! Who goes there?" LCol Deane answered the challenge and requested permission to march into the District. The parade halted in front of the hall and Major Douglas Taylor, a former Westminster officer, addressed the troops reminding everyone of the contributions to Canada of the Regiment during its 107 years of service. The Mayor then read the Deed of Privilege granting The Royal Westminster Regiment the Freedom of the District of Matsqui. Having received the Freedom, the CO then ordered "Fix Bayonets" and "Uncase the Colours" and the Regiment marched past with bayonets fixed, colours flying, drums beating and band playing.

The unit is making plans for its summer training. One fall company under Major Chuck Marshall will go to Wainwright for Force Mobile Command Training with 3 PPCLI (Regulars). Other soldiers will train in the Armoury on the Student Summer Employment Programme run by Capt. Gerry Potter while three lucky fellows go to Germany to serve 4 CIBG while on Exercise Pegasus. All in all it looks like a busy summer.

Also of interest is the news that two regimental officers, Major Larry Watkins and Lt (W) M. L. Esau, are being posted to the District Headquarters staff where they will join Capt. Harry Seddon who is already on staff.

The final item to report is that the command of the Regiment changes on August 1st when LCol L. K. Deane is replaced by LCol H. E. Hamm, the former commanding officer.

#### THE ANNUAL ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP, 1971

This is a special year for this project, for this award will be the last one (unless something unforeseen occurs) to have a monetary value of \$500.00. As the Groundsheet has told you, the Annual Meeting of the Association, March 18, 1971, approved the recommendation of your executive that our scholarship be divided into two, and that each of the two carry an award of \$250.00. The new arrangement could not become effective until 1972; so, this year there will be one winner and the award will amount to \$500.00.

The Secretary,  
The Westminster Regiment Association,  
2229 Bonnyvale Road,  
Vancouver 16, B. C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Please convey to the President, Executive and Members of the Association my sincere thanks for the fine dinner and wonderful testimonial which was given

to me. I was touched more than words can tell to think that you would honour me so. I have enjoyed my association with the executive and members during my years in command very much. I believe that we must all pull together in the Regimental family to protect those ideals in which we all believe and for which so many of you fought and suffered.

Please pass along my request to the members that they continue to watch

#### WHAT BECAME OF KELLY ?

M. McGiverin, 797 Clark Rd., Coquitlam, B.C.  
Lt. A. S. Gill, 4437 Grace Ave., Burnaby, B.C.  
W. Smith, 2773 W 33rd, Vancouver 13, B.C.  
J. J. Farkas, No. 304 - 222 Ash St., New Westminster, B.C.  
R. T. Green, R. R. 3, Salmon Arm, B.C.  
M. Seragini, 1063 Ridgeway, Coquitlam, B.C.  
Calvin Marshall, 6829 Dumas St., Montreal 20, P.Q.  
O. R. Ballam, 995 Ringwood Ave., Vancouver 10, B.C.

out for the young members of the present battalion and to see that they are made aware of the great tradition to which they are heirs.

Once again, many many thanks for all you have done for me and the Regiment. I hope I will have the privilege of serving as a member of the Association for many years to come.

Yours sincerely,

Leslie Deane.

#### LEST WE FORGET



JOCK SUTHERLAND, Gen. Del., Cumberland, B.C.  
DAVID HILL, No. 203 - 250 Douglas St. Victoria, B.C.  
J. G. HOULE, R.R. 1, Vars, Ontario, Canada  
JOHN THOMAS DRYBROUGH, 310 Roberston St., Victoria, B.C.

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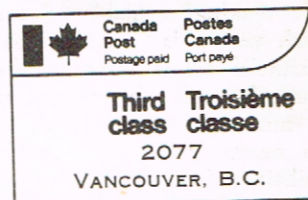
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