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Dedicated to the ideals and Comradeship  
We knew in Wars and Peace and in  
Our services both Home and Abroad.



# THE GROUNDSHEET

The Official Publication of

The Royal Westminster Regiment Association  
P.O. Box 854, New Westminster, BC V3L 4Z8

October, 2000

1914

1918

1939

1945



## NOT FORGOTTEN



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## Editor's Corner ..... Jerry N. Gangur

Often when we look for inspiration, it is those younger than us than that can provide it. When you consider that most of the movies we go to or TV programs we watch it is the youth of the nation that is responsible for the product. Remember, it wasn't the old timers that invented the internet (excluding Al Gore). Sometimes the younger generation can surprise us and demonstrate in very clear and precise means that they understand the past and are prepared to deal with the future in a very meaningful way. This was my mind set when I read the article on page 9, *What the Poppy Means to Me*.

Once I used to say that one of the greatest inventions was the Fax machine. Today it would be the computer chip and the internet. For the many veterans who will read this Groundsheet, can you imagine coming off a patrol, sitting down in front of a typewriter (computer today), describing what you did, press a button on your machine and send the summary to your wife back home and dozens of your friends. And realize that they would all receive your message within seconds of your pressing the **send** button. This communication is called electronic mail (email for short) and is what you will find in the pages devoted to the regiment. Westies serving with the UN, communicating with us almost in real time.

Some notes. To **Bob Boyd**. Finally using your photos and will pass others on to Basil Morgan Nov. 11. Many thanks for your patience and understanding. To **Jack Hogarth**, now everyone knows who the world's best golfer is. Many thanks for the golfers hat. Will cherish for all time. To **Bill McIntyre**, nice photo of your mistress, hope the need for twice daily walks keeps you in good shape. To **Doug McNaughton** thanks for obituary.

To many who may wish to write to Ron Hurley, in the interests of efficiency, perhaps a letter to his home address might be an option and something Ron might enjoy.



## President's Report

Len Wohlgemuth

Hello again. Well, your executive is now back from our summer break and hard at work. My last letter was before the Melfa and a lot has happened since then. From the comments I received during the Melfa and afterwards, the Melfa weekend seemed to be a great success. Some of the problems with the public address system and having the AGM earlier during Sunday morning will be addressed at Melfa 2001. I believe that we only lost \$200.00. I would like to thank the Regiment and those in the Association that helped to make it a success.

The executive has already held its first meeting and some interesting news has come forward. Although our efforts did not succeed for the trip to the dedication ceremony for the Konowal monument in Ukraine, Jerry is resubmitting a request to send members of the regiment to Konowal's village in September or October 2001. Some good news at our first executive meeting was that the Gaming Commission has changed our status from a service organization to a cultural organization. Additionally, we have been funded with \$20,000.00 this year. With this change, we are now allowed to spend funds on our own organization. This funding was proposed to help with the regimental museum, sick & visiting, provide a lamp for our V.C. monument and to produce the Jan Mahony booklet. We also asked for further funds for the cadets, but were rejected as part of the status change. We are looking into what we can do about the cadets and how we can spend funds on the association. We will be forming a subcommittee to ensure that the funds are spent appropriately and we get the most from them.

Also discussed at our meeting was our need to rededicate ourselves to achieving the original goal for the future fund. Originally, the goal was to achieve \$100,000.00 by donation. To date, we have received approximately \$55,000.00. Jerry has taken on the task of organizing a drive to gain the \$45,000.00 and achieve our goal. One thing to note is that we have approximately \$75,000.00 in the future fund through the interest on the principle and the donations. This shows that by having a fund, such as this, will eventually give the association financial freedom in the future.

One final note is that we need to do something about recruiting. The life blood of an association is its' members. Without growth in the membership, the association will not survive. I will be looking at this issue with our membership committee and we will be devising a plan to obtain other Westies into our association ranks.



## The Regiment

### Change of Command

On 30 September 2000, command of the Regiment passed from  
 LCol . Mark Fisher, CD  
 to  
 LCol. Glen W Richmond, CD

LCol. Mark Fisher is moving to Ontario and will continue serving in the reserves. We thank him for his service to the Regiment and wish him good health and good fortune.

LCol. Glen Richmond, in his civilian role is a policeman with the City of New Westminster. We congratulate him on his appoint and wish him well and look forward to working with him.

LCol. Richmond informed the editor that he would defer making a CO's report to the February issue of the Groundsheet.

As many of you are already aware, the Cdn Armed Forces have been assigned numerous peacekeeping or peacemaking duties in different parts of the world. In order to meet these commitments, the regular force has found it necessary to look to reserve units across Canada for human resources. We will be devoting the next few pages to those serving overseas and pass on some of the email forwarded to us.

**Editor**

## Westies Off to Bosnia

Pte. Craig Goldsby

After a long summer of work-up training conducted in Manitoba, sixteen Westies left for Bosnia in September as members of the 2 PPCLI Battle Group for Operation Palladium Roto 7. These members represented part of the large number of reservists who are augmenting the regular force for this mission, consisting of upwards of twenty percent of the individuals who make up the battle group. These members left for Winnipeg in late May where such training commenced. After dealing with the administrative matters such a large influx of individuals demand, individual training began. This involved both refreshing skills regularly practiced, such as regular infantry skills, including various live fire ranges with various weapons, mine awareness training, vehicle recognition, and first aid. As well, new mission specific training was included, such as cultural awareness and language training, rules of engagement, and other peace support operations training. After taking a short break in July for leave, training quickly resumed with the battle group departing for three weeks of high intensity training in the field at CFB Shilo and in the Interlake region an hour north of Winnipeg. At Shilo, training included mechanized live fire attacks up to combat team level which involved a company of mechanized infantry, with armour, artillery, and engineer support working together to breach obstacles and destroy the enemy. As well, night live fire training was conducted up to section level. In addition, live close quarters battle training was conducted in pairs and fours. This had a team



breaking into a simulated building constructed of plywood, completely dug into the ground, and discerning both friendly and engaging hostile targets at close range while clearing rooms. Finally, as a finale, the entire battle group conducted one massive battalion dry series of attacks. With the live fire war fighting training completed, the focus of training shifted to specific peace support operations training. This involved training for specific tasks such as the establishment of vehicle checkpoints, camp security, and cordon and searches for illegal weapons caches. With the battle group moving to the Interlake region north of Winnipeg, such skills were utilized during the battle group collective validation exercise conducted there. Small cities and towns in this area represented the various locations and camps to be found in the Canadian Area of Responsibility in Bosnia-Herzegovina. An enemy force provided realistic scenarios for the soldiers and commanders of the battle group to deal with and the towns provided the area to practice the patrolling techniques and other skills to be used in theatre. For me, and I am sure for the other individuals who also conducted the pre-deployment training, the training proved to be both valuable and interesting. I was able to participate in training I had not experienced before, such as large scale mechanized operations, and given a chance to learn and practice new skills which will make all of us better soldiers. In Bosnia all of this training will be put to good use.

The members of the Regiment leaving for Bosnia in September are as follows:

Lt Phillips  
 WO Plante  
 Cpl Alan Kerekanich  
 Cpl Paul Kullar  
 Cpl Mike Major

Cpl Brad Nixon  
 Cpl Dave Antolinos  
 Cpl Petrie  
 Cpl David Scrivens  
 Cpl Brian Woodcock  
 Pte Dutertre  
 Pte Craig Goldsby  
 Pte Chris Obradovich  
 Pte Nick Pellegrin  
 Pte Eddie Tang  
 Pte Rayna Watson

**Croatia Impression** Cpl Brian  
 Woodcock, 9 Platoon, Charlie Coy, 2PPCLI

So the flight here sucked as usual. We flew over on a Military Flight. ( Enough said ). We flew from Winnipeg to Ottawa and then to Zagreb the capital of Croatia. We then drove from Croatia across the border to Velika Kladusa and then down to Coralici where we will be based for the next six months excluding a two month stint in Bihac. Driving through Croatia was an eye opener to say the least. Very little repair has been done since the war and everything is more or less shot to hell in some places and then a block away it is untouched. It is very easy to tell which houses are occupied by each nationality depending on if it is damaged or not. Bosnia is worse off then Croatia due to its lack of economy and the fact it wasn't prepared for separation. Add that to a brutal war and now you know why we have to be here. This country is overrun by dogs. They are everywhere. I love dogs myself but you don't dare touch these ones cause who knows what it could be carrying. Right outside the main gate is a UXO pit ( unexploded ordnance ) where the locals drop off any mines, bullets, or munitions that they have found in there fields. This is the only shelter around outside the camp so the dogs live in there. This one dog has had three litters of pups this year ( ten or so )but only has two left to show for it. So that's what life is like here. Its pretty easy really. The work up training has prepared everyone and now we put our training to work. When you talk to those who are leaving from



**Croatia Impression cont.**

Roto 6 they say they have seen a significant difference since they got here so if I can say the same at the end of Roto 7 then it will all have been worth it. To all the Westies: if you haven't done a tour already, do one; I've only been here a week and its the chance of a lifetime. Except when the boredom kicks in. Then it sucks.

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<b>Bosnia - Captain Matthew Haussmann</b>
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I hope you are all well. I am doing quite well, with only 1 ½ weeks left until my 19 day leave. Today is the four month mark for me, with 2 ½ months to go. In a few days, the headquarters will move to a different camp from me, which will make my life enormously more enjoyable! No more stupid little jobs that nobody else wanted to do will land in my lap!

It has been some time since I sent out an update to you all, so here goes. The results of the April elections were that those elected are somewhat more moderate than their hard-line predecessors. This has had the effect of increasing public confidence in their personal security. There are still incidents of municipal councillors being beaten up by members of opposing political parties. In one particular case, the councillor was a war invalid and was unable to defend himself. This happened in a café in the middle of town in broad daylight. Of course, no one moved to help him. The majority of police in that municipality are card-carrying members of the party whose members were the aggressors. What usually happens is that the perpetrators are arrested, tried in misdemeanour court and fined \$150 for common assault. It is up to the international community to pressure the judicial system into trying a case like this in criminal court, where the punishments are more severe (as thumping an elected official is not common assault).

However, events like this are decreasing in frequency. In general, the situation is getting better. There is an

independent newspaper that is publishing articles that name local people who committed criminal acts during the war. Needless to say, the editor has received numerous death threats, but he's also making a small fortune so he keeps at it. During the war, which was vicious by our standards, the area in question was besieged for nearly five years, and most able-bodied men were armed and fought. Life was desperate and people were starving at various times. People used the war as an excuse to settle old scores with plenty of people accused of being traitors and beaten, tortured or executed, frequently by the police. This was very prevalent, as life was extremely cheap during this time. Most of these people are still walking free, as no one has had the courage to accuse them yet, until this newspaper came along. The paper has had slipover effects, as a former Chief of Special Police who was arrested and tortured during the war turned over his personal archives to us. He kept meticulous files on all his contemporaries which he was able to keep hidden from them. He had sent copies off to the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in the Hague, but hadn't heard back for several years. He became frustrated and approached us. We were able to get ICTY to put this area on their agenda, and they will be visiting to investigate sometime soon. He also told us locations of several suspected mass graves, one of which I visited. We are now waiting for the exhumation team to arrive. There is so much residual hatred here, I think it will take several generations until life will truly be back to normal. Yet at the same time, the people are usually very friendly and happy with our presence for its stabilizing effect. The more time I spend here, the more I become attuned to the presence of organized crime. This is about the only sector of society here that does not want us here. The photos I'm enclosing are of Drvar, south of my area. It is less prosperous as the people are essentially still fighting, using politics instead of weapons. This has had the effect of slowing any kind of economic recovery. The area is so corrupt that after being taken for a ride one too many times, most of the international community pulled out several years ago.

⇒



## Bosnia cont

We have been able to calm things down to a point where the humanitarian agencies are starting to return, which is a huge step forward. They actually had violence-free elections which nobody would have predicted.

I have been occupying myself by trying to drum up attention and support (read \$\$) for a small Bosnian-Serb village in a Muslim area. The village was completely razed during the war, and people started to return two years ago, but they still are without electricity or water, and only a few houses have been rebuilt. People are starting to return in earnest now as they face eviction where they live now (in someone else's apartment. In another city where they fled to during the war). But without reconstruction assistance, the older ones may not make it through the winter. It now looks like most of the houses needed will be reconstructed. I was also able to convince a local bus company to run a weekly bus service to a large town about 10 km away, on a trial basis. This will have the effect of reintegrating these villagers into the neighbouring Muslim community (the villagers are mostly elderly, and did not fight in the war). It may seem insignificant, but progress here is measured in baby steps.

So that is what I have been up to for the last few weeks. Those are in fact the highlights, most of the time it was routine. At the end of May, I did get one four day leave to London where I met up with Alex. It was, needless to say, wonderful. So that sums it up, keep well and I will see most of you soon.

(Ed. Capt. Haussmann has returned and was on parade at the change of command ).

### ***Regimental Appointment***

Capt. **Darcy Wright**, newly posted from the regular force has been appointed **Adjutant**. We welcome him and look forward to a mutually beneficial experience.

### **Sick & Visiting** Jerry Gangur

Until a chairman of the Sick & Visiting is found, I will attempt to keep members informed of those who may be under the weather.

As you will notice, **Doug Glenn**, our sick & visiting representative for some years at George Derby Health Care Centre, is remembered in the *In memoriam section*. His wife **Pam**, will continue to visit our members in George Derby and for this we thank her. Others in George Derby include **Walter Jackson** and **Bill Thorarinson**. Sad, but unknown to us, **Gordon Headridge** of WW2 vintage was in George Derby and he failed to answer the roll this last month. .. In Eagle Ridge Hospital in Port Moody is **Hector Roberge**, recovering from a stroke. He comes home on weekends,,, To **Nelson Scott** suffering form broken bones, we wish you an early recovery. To **Chuck Smithers** we hope all is well. **Bill McKinney** is slowing down, but seems to make all functions put on by the regiment....In the Serving Bn, Sgt **Terry Killam** is recovering from a back operation, Capt **Joe Melonari** is also experiencing back difficulties. Cpl **George Hovell** is recovering from an injured knee, Sgt **Stu Stephen** has also suffered a setback. **Bill McIntyre** tells us walking is not as easy as it once was. **Ron Hurley** reports that he to is experiencing some difficulties. ....To all those in the sick & visiting roll, we wish you good health and a speedy return to your regular duties.



## Then

The Queen & Prince Philip  
With Lt. Col. Eric Snow, former  
Commanding Officer of Westminster  
Regiment (M) and later Brigadier.

Photo courtesy Bob Boyd (Powell River)



## Now

Annual Cadet Inspection: President  
Len Wholgemuth inspects Cadet Corps.  
Cadet Sgt Chris Quinn to his right and  
Pte. Daryl Patterson to his left.



## What the Poppy Means to Me

It was the twelfth of November: the day after Remembrance Day. The autumn morning was cold and dreary, and my mind was as cloudy as the drab sky above. Angry at the world and the people in it, I walked swiftly, lost in my own thoughts. Almost mechanically, I drew my coat around myself and sat down on the seasoned park bench beside the cenotaph commemorating the men killed in the World Wars and the Korean War. There I stayed, seeing no one who passed and caring about nothing but my own problems.

Then, out of the corner of my eye, I noticed a stooped figure, slowly making his way in the brisk wind. With his head down, and gnarled hands clutching his over coat, the old gentleman walked as though every step were an effort. Unaware of my presence, the man stopped nearby. He drew himself up with dignity. His eyes held a look of pride. Following his gaze, I saw that the old gentleman's eyes were upon the cenotaph, which was newly laden in wreaths. Probably he was a veteran of one of the world wars. I smiled and looked back to him. His eyes were no longer on the monument. He was staring into the grass near the bench where I sat. Tears welled up in his eyes. Sadly he shook his head and started off down the street.

I was puzzled. What object could make man as I had just seen, so distressed? My eyes searched the ground for what was lying there, and there it was - a poppy. It was not even real. Just a simple plastic poppy was on the ground. I frowned. How could such a forlorn little flower make a man so heavy-hearted? What did it matter? Remembrance Day was already over.

Then I realized how much that poppy meant. That simple little flower was not just a scrap of plastic; it stood for important things. It was peace, and freedom - not only mine- but the peace and freedom of my family, and friends and neighbors. Yet, it was more than these. That poppy was the soldiers. Soldiers fighting at Vimy Ridge and at Dieppe. It was these men, fighting for their freedom, and freedom for the world. It was their families back home in Canada, lying here on the soggy ground.

I shrugged. Remembrance Day was over. That poppy wouldn't matter again until next year. I tried to think of my own concerns, but I couldn't concentrate. My mind wandered. Once again I saw the old man's face as the fears come into his eyes. I saw the poppy, lying in the grass, and I was ashamed. Remembering the soldiers who fought for Canada was not just a yearly obligation. Their gift of peace lasts all year round, and so should their memories. I had sat here, moments before, angry at the world, when those men loved the world so much that they gave their youth, many their lives for us. These were the people to be grateful to, not just on Remembrance Day, but every day, for they were the ones who earned our freedom.

For the first time that day, the world seemed friendly to me. I knelt down, rescued the poppy from the wet grass and proudly pinned it to my coat. The rest of the world might have thought it was just a battered and shabby poppy, but to me it was special - for now I knew what it meant.

**Author High School Student 5, Powell River**



## Salute to Veterans ! BC Lions Game November 4<sup>th</sup>

*BC Lions Salute Canada's Veterans  
and provide a Great Fundraising  
Opportunity for Veterans Groups*

This year the BC Lions November 4 game Vs Saskatchewan will feature a special salute to Veterans to kick off Veterans Week in Canada. Half time salute will include a spectacular massed band performance, with one of our directors, **Lee Cooke** participating as Drum Major.

For each ticket sold or purchased by a member of our association we will receive a 25% donation. When you order your tickets be sure to register your purchase under the number **47**. Mention of this number will ensure that the association receives the 25% donation.

This program has been arranged by the Veterans Affairs Commemoration Committee and is comprised of representatives from various Regimental Associations, the Royal Canadian Legion, Army & Navy and Airforce Branches .

Questions? Phone our Fred West  
at: 942-6275 or BC Lions office  
at 604 - 662-4630.

They do not answer.

Others have mention that our *In Memoriam* column sometimes receives too many applicants. Ever since I can remember, the association has had an understanding that no one individual upon his death would receive any special attention or praise. Honouring this rule is becoming more difficult as the years go by. How can we not pay special mention to Westies such as **Art Castle** (a contemporary of **Filip Konowal, V.C.**) **Doug Glenn**, someone whom I met when he was president of the association and who put in many years as a director, president and in later years as our sick and visiting representative, especially at George Derby Health Care Center. **Bruce Hardy**, a contemporary of mine and a very fine human being. **Mike Kedziora**, a veteran of WW2 and later with the UN in Congo. The torture and abuse he experienced at the hands his captors would destroy most men. The other candidates who made the list, I did not know as well, but only well enough to know that they were some magnificent representatives of the Westminster Regiment and the its' family. Goodbye comrades, you will not be forgotten.....Editor



## Westies Correspondent

Report from the Front - Ron Hurley

This is the voice of the Westies, Ron Hurley. I've not too much to report to you, as I have received little of anything in by way of letter or any other thing. My main job basically has been checking a tremendous amount of names in the Legion Obituaries.....

Now, its now fall and the shouting and the tumult has died and the Captains and the Kings have departed, that I mean by way of the Olympic games which just recently ended. I saw ever single minute I could see of that during the whole 26 and a half days, this was sort of a therapy for me in as much as I was house bound and bed bound thanks to my fellow medical people in Bellingham Washington who ten years ago nuked me with a radiation machine. I have had many problems since then but I'm still trying to fulfill my obligations. Now I've not too much to say about by way of letters, I will however say report, nice to hear from **Ted Usher** through the Ground Sheet.... I've spent most of the summer home-bound anyway, but what else are you going to do when radiation burns out your vital organs, even after ten years which is ten years this month since I've had that radiation, which the people in the excited states overburnt or overcooked me which is as I understand. Anyway as I mentioned, Ted Usher I hope you have tremendous success with your planned book and the story about the first constable in New Westminster coming from the Royal Engineers is very interesting .... I've not much to add as far as the Association is concerned re the Westies, .....But I made it a promise that I would keep in touch with the Westies as long as I could physically do it. But I do ask you for your help because I really need it, if you would just write me I would be most appreciative, also you could phone if you want, I do get a few phone calls. Speaking of that recently I got a call from Powell River, from **Bob Boyd**, whom advised me of the death of **Bob Campbell** of Powell River which will appear in this Ground Sheet. I also sadly received a call from **Ted Hammersly** that his beloved wife Dolly past away, she was well known to the Association the life of the party where ever she went, so that will also appear

here.. I wonder what happened to all my good old letter writers, like **George Bain** in Nova Scotia, but I do appreciate the ones who do call me by phone, people like **Bill McIntyre**, **Al Manuel** from Kamloops and may others. Now as for myself, but the Olympic Games were sort of a therapy for me, they helped pass the time, now that has gone, I can only look forward from hearing from more of you ...Now I haven't got any other pertinent material to offer to you but I would hope that you are all well or as well as possible as we all are probably in the old age bracket by now I'm sure most of us are at least. Many people are ill, it would be very nice for somebody that you know somebody that you could make a phone call to them and possibly brighten their day. ...So anyway I have to offer my congratulations to the young people who are now operating the executive they are doing a fine job and it must be difficult for them to try and cope with us old people who are still managing to hang on. So my last word to you ... let us know how you are doing if you've got a phone handy give me a call and lets hope to see you, all, later in the fall. I know that the Ground Sheet is a little bit different in its time of publishing because of the changing of the of the annual general meeting which you'll hear more about a little bit later, I know our efficient editor **Jerry Gangur** will keep you fully informed. So for now good luck and good health to you all, Thanks, Ron

Jerry I unfortunately passed by one of the most important obituaries and I'm sure you can add to it, in reference I am speaking of **Doug Glen** one of the most active members of our association for many many many years and a person who shared the joys of post cancer treatment. Doug was a tremendous man as sick as he was he did not miss an opportunity for he and his wife to visit George Derby and I've missed him very much. The Westies in particular will be sad to hear of his passing.

Another omission, I include sincere gratitude to Sharpshooter Sniper **Bob Brown** for his interesting telephone calls.



## In Memoriam

Bob Campbell (Powell River).....	Westminster Regiment (M) WW2
Art Castle (Port Coquitlam).....	47 <sup>th</sup> Bn WW 1
Doug Glenn (Buranby) .....	Westminster Regiment (M) WW2
Bruce Hardy (Burnaby) .....	The Royal Westminster Regiment
Gordon Headridge Burnaby.....	Westminster Regiment (M) WW2
Mike Kedziora (North Vancouver) .....	RCASC WW2, Congo and The Royal Westminster Regiment
Donal McMillan (Ottaw) .....	Westminster Regiment (M) WW2
Harold Searle (Burnaby) .....	Westminster Regiment (M) WW2
James Wilson (Coquitlam) .....	Westminster Regiment (M) WW2

## Remembrance Day Service

- 47<sup>th</sup> Anniversary - End of Korean War**
- 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary - End of World War 2**
- 82<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary - End of World War 1**

The ceremonies marking Remembrance Day will model the pattern of previous years. A service held in the Armoury will be followed by a Cenotaph ceremony in front of City Hall. Respective messes will be open after completion of official ceremonies.

- ..... Timings: 0945 hrs - Indoor Service
- 1030 Hrs - Form up and march to Cenotaph
- 1045 hrs - Cenotaph Ceremony

Space reserved for Veterans in front rows. If you need a ride, call any executive member

**Dress: Blazers, Berets & Medals**