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October 2002



The GROUND SHEET

The Official Publication of
The Royal Westminster Regiment Association

*'Dedicated to the ideals and comradeship
we knew in wars and peace in our
services both home and abroad.'*

'Pro Rege et Patria'

P.O. Box 854, New Westminster, BC. V3L 4Z8



Lest We Forget

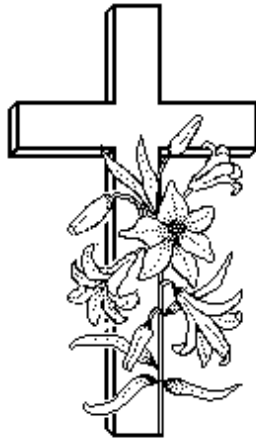
November 11, 2002

**Service at the Armoury and march to the Cenotaphe.
Please come and join your comrades.**

Time of service: 10:00 AM

(Be seated by 09:45)

In Memoriam



Dennis Joseph **HUNEAULT** (Ontario) Westminster Regiment WWII
Jack **FLETCHER** Westminster Regiment WWII
Thomas **O'CONNOR** (Ontario) Westminster Regiment WWII
Malacolg **FLEWWELLING** (Nova Sc) Westminster Regiment WWII

May They Rest In Peace

HEALTH & WELFARE

Many of our members are slowing down. Some sooner than others. What has and continues to impress me is the spirit of those Westies who may be hospitalized or confined to their home. All have greeted me with similes some even leave me laughing. All leave me with a great sense of admiration for them. I don't know if all Veterans are such great fellows or whether the Westminster Regiment(M) just happen to get the best of the bunch.

Norm Palmer has been hospitalized for some months now with a broken hip. From Surrey Memorial, he has moved to the Kinsmen's Lodge on Old Yale Road, Surrey. His wife Dorothy is also confined. Norm; to you and your bride, we wish you all the best. Vernon Ardagh continues to deal with his problems (604-535-9093) and finds himself having to spend more time on his back and in the wheel chair than he would like. To Vernon & wife Helen we say hello. Colin McQuarrie, always a gentleman, has been a resident for some time at Canada Way Care Center, Burnaby, BC. His former law partner Glen Gates reports that Colin remains in good spirits, but his bite isn't as sharp as it used to be. Ron Hurley, a former Editor of the Groundsheet, tells me that he is slowing down somewhat and that it takes a little longer to do things that before he took for granted. Ron & Ruth, we think of both of you and wish you both the best. Chuck Smithers is in good humor, but he finds himself confined to a wheel chair. Chuck is a great fellow and we have many fond memories of you. Bill McIntyre reports that he is slowing down and finds walking rather difficult. Fred West reports that he will be visiting a throat specialist. Fred we are pulling for you. Dave Growler continues on his road to recovery from his stroke and we look forward to having him back on parade. Cross Canada Information Required: No matter what part of Canada you reside in, we want to know when you have problems with your health or find yourself confined to home. If you know of a comrade who is not in the best of health or has experienced a family tragedy, pick up the phone and call me (Jerry @ 604 929-5785). NO MOD-ESTY, WE WANT TO KNOW IF SOMETHING HAPPENS TO YOUR STATE OF HEALTH!!!

Jerry Gangur

YOUR EXECUTIVE

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If you have any correspondence to send to any executive member, please send it to the post office box number listed on the front of the **Groundsheet** or you can email your letters to the appropriate person.

EDITORS REPORT

This special edition of the Groundsheet will have an extra long report from the Editor. The reason? A new Editor! Before I start, I have to thank the former Editor, Jerry Gangur for the years he has dedicated to publishing the Groundsheet, taking over and helping when Ron Hurley was no longer able to handle the job. Jerry, you should be very proud of what you did. In your last 'Editor's Corner' your comment on how the Groundsheet was "upgraded" and that it wasn't any reflection on the previous editors. This is very true. Due to technology, software and other factors, this Groundsheet and the next ones will also be upgraded. Absolutely no reflection on what you produced. Thanks again Jerry for allowing me to take on this very important role. A role I will be truly dedicated to.

Many of you will know me or my name. Who the heck am I? Please allow me to give you a brief history of my background. My name is Ted Usher and I was born and raised in New Westminster. In 1955 I was christened in a Regimental ceremony on the parade square in the armoury. (I'm surprised I wasn't born in the building.) Anyway, my family on both sides of my parents go back a long way in the Regiment. My grandfather, Benjamin Naylor was a member of the 104th. My grandfather Jack Usher (senior) was a member of the Regiment during WWII. My father, Jack Usher, also served the Regiment for almost 40 years from WWII to the late 1970s. My older brother Ken Usher served in the cadets and the Regiment until he moved on to the Regular Force. My younger brother Scott was also in cadets and the Regiment. Me? I joined army cadets in 1969. I was also in the Regiment at the same time. In 1973 I received my Commission and worked with the cadet corps and the Regiment until I retired in 1994. I've also served on the Executive of the Association for several years as a Director. Presently I'm a police officer with the New Westminster Police Service. I've worked for the City of over 27 years. *Continued on page 4*

My experience in the publishing field comes from the fact I researched and published a book titled Policing the Royal City, A History of the New Westminster Police Service. I also have a fair amount of experience publishing newsletters and other computer related documents. The software I'm using to produce the Groundsheet is desktop publishing software.

I will endeavour to provide the material and quality of information you've been use to in the past years the Groundsheet has been published. I will, however, add a few new features as time goes on. I will also be putting my own touches to the Groundsheet. If you're happy or unhappy with what you see, let me know. Feedback is what we need and that's the only way I'll know if you like my style or not. I hope to also include more photographs of things happening around the Regiment. I'm also considering the idea of sending the Groundsheet over the internet using email and software called Acrobat Reader. If you have access to the internet, the Groundsheet can be easily sent to you. The software, Acrobat Reader, can be downloaded from the internet for free. It will allow you to read and print off a copy of the Groundsheet, thus saving the Association the postage and envelope. This idea will be looked in to for the future. I know many seniors who are using the internet. My mom is 75 and she surfs like a pro. If you have email, please send me a note to let me know you're on line.

Remember, the Groundsheet is the tool we use to communicate with about our membership and the activities of the Regiment. If you have a story, and idea, a comment or a complaint, please let me know. Again my email is tedusher@shaw.ca or you can mail me at the Association address.

I truly hope you support me in this new venture. I certainly will be a pest to you for your feedback and support. Please enjoy this edition of the Groundsheet. *Ted Usher*

Are Your Dues Up To Date?

The Royal Westminster Regiment Association depends on your dues and donations. Yearly dues are \$15 and a Life Membership is \$100. How about a tax deductible donation? You can identify where you want the donation to go. The Future Fund, Cadets, Health & Welfare, or whatever you feel is worthwhile. Whatever you support, it is appreciated. Send in your dues today. Thanks.

When is Melfa 2003?

The dates are set for

May 23,24 & 25.

More in the spring issue.

HELP!!!!!!!!!!

YOUR ASSOCIATION NEEDS HELP...NOW!
The Association Executive use to have 10-12 members to help out on things like special projects or weekends like Melfa. It has now been the same three or four people doing it. We need help if this Association is to survive. Where are you post war people? Where are the ranks from the 60s,70s and 80s? That's who we're looking for. Ten meetings a year and a little work in May for Melfa. Doesn't sound like much does it? New ideas and fresh help is required NOW! Get in touch with President Len for details. The WWII vets who started this Association 50+ years ago are handing this over to us young bucks. We can't fail them. We have to get more people involved or we will have failed our 'Founding Fathers'. GET INVOLVED...NOW.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Hello again fellow Westies. Here is just a quick update before our Remembrance Day.

After our summer rest, your executive is back at work. There have been some changes as most of you are aware of. First, Jerry Gangur has passed the editor of the Groundsheet to Ted Usher. I think all of us thank Jerry for his excellent work in maintaining this important communications link to all of our members. Ted is already working very hard at getting this issue out and making relevant input at our executive meetings.

Not satisfied to just sit back on his laurels Jerry has stepped up to become chairman of our Sick and Visiting Committee. To move the committee in to more modern times we have changed the name to the Health and Welfare Committee. Jerry has already completed some actions that I am sure he will share with all of us.

As I mentioned in the last issue we have been having problems about receiving our funds from the Gaming Commission. Lee Cooke has found out that since the VC lighting was not installed when we made our submission that things were delayed. Since the lights are now installed and we have re-submitted and the funds should be forth coming.

As usual the Melfa Weekend was a great success. I would like to thank all of those who helped make this possible. With short notice, Bruce Howells ran a great golf tournament. For his reward he has volunteered to chair the 2003 golf tournament. The members of the Regiment did a superb job in setting up and taking down the dinner furniture. Without regimental support it would be impossible to have the dinner at the armouries. Mike Kelly, as usual, gave us a brunch that made the weekend.

From the Melfa Weekend came 2 new projects that we are working on. One is the purchase of the restored bren gun carrier for the museum and the second is the placement of a plaque/memorial at the Melfa. Fred West is handling the bren gun carrier and we hope to report some news soon. For the Melfa project Walter Tyler, Stan Conway, and Fred West have volunteered to serve on this committee. I have contacted them and we should be hearing more information soon.

Finally, I would again like to talk briefly about membership. Graham Reimer has volunteered to chair this committee. Ted Usher has provided some names of old(er) Westies that we are contacting. I expect that there will be further news on this event as this year progresses.

Pro Regie et Patria

Len Wohlgemuth
Association President

Not sure if it was every mentioned previously, a long serving member of the Association and Regiment is now the new Honorary Colonel of the Regiment. Les Deane has been appointed to replace Bill McKinney who passed away a while back. We know Les will serve with distinction with the best interests of the Regimental Family in mind. Congratulations.

THE REGIMENT

Greetings All

It's hard to believe that a year has gone by since the World Trade Centre and Pentagon attacks. The world economy was rocked and military and Federal institutions all over the world increased their security considerably. Our sense of "home security" has changed and we are more aware than ever that peace doesn't just "happen" - - it must be won!

This summer, Reserve units all across Canada were asked to contribute more than ever before as their Regular counterparts were heavily tasked both at home and abroad. For the first time in many years, Reservists were actually training Reservists, as there simply weren't enough Reg Force personnel available to assist. Also for the first time in many years, Reservists were once again being trained at CFB Chilliwack as we in 39 CBG were able to convince the Army that it was more fiscally prudent to do so.

With both the Regular and Reserve Army so heavily tasked, progress on our "courtyard project" came to a halt as the personnel at the Administrative Support Unit were tasked to perform more pressing duties. The Project was seriously jeopardized when Defence contractors finally conducted a geo-technical survey of the ground behind the Armoury. They determined that the plan as conceived would require a "heavily reinforced" retaining wall, which has been estimated to cost between 45-60K. We have since gone back to the drawing board and have come up with a more workable plan, which the staff of the ASU has, agreed to in principal. I will update you on our progress in the next issue of the Groundsheet.

The Regiment continues to grow. So much so, that we actually have more soldiers than we are permitted. Our "mission element" (our recognized establishment size) is a "company plus with a regimental HQ". With 60 soldiers regularly parading in Aldergrove, we are quickly becoming a "two company" organization and we will be seeking "a second mission element" which will increase our recognized establishment strength along with the requisite funding. Our first parade saw 110 personnel all ranks on parade (29 of those will be training to go to Bosnia). We have implemented a new training schedule which will see the troops parading only two Thursdays each month, one training Saturday and one weekend exercise per month. This was done mainly to accomplish more on one training Saturday then on two Thursday nights. This should also give us the flexibility that we need to do Officer/ Senior NCO training. This year, our troops will focus on fitness, advance to contact and/or patrolling. Our soldiers are keen and dedicated and our mission is clear. We will continue to support our country and our local community as necessary and train hard to ensure that the peace and security are indeed won! Pro Rege et Patria!

G.W.J. Richmond, Lieutenant Colonel

Commanding Officer, The Royal Westminster Regiment

North American Brothers in Arms by Capt. Chuck MacKinnon CD

Members of 39 Canadian Brigade Group (CBG) participated again this year in Washington's Army National Guard (WANG) - Annual Training Camp (ATC). This year the ATC was conducted in Yakima, WA. The objective of this exercise was to test the skill set (Battle Task Standards) of the WANG En-

hanced 81st Separate Brigade (e81sBdge). This year Infantry members from: The Royal Westminster Regiment (Westies), The Seaforth Highlanders of Canada (Seaforths) and The Canadian Scottish Regiment (Can Scot's) formed a composite platoon which was integrated within the Raven (OPFOR) Task Force (a Combat Team minus).

Under the command of LCol John Andrew of the Kansas Army National Guard, the Raven Task Force was predominantly heavy mechanized. The task force command and control was under the auspices of the 635th Armor Regiment of the Kansas Army National Guard. The Army Reserve members of British Columbia, themselves, were the additional light infantry component or “dismounts” within Charlie Company, 1-160th Mechanized Infantry of California's Army National Guard (CANG). This Infantry Company, under the command of Captain Chris Silva, of the Raven Task Force was predominantly mechanized infantry.

For some of the Canadians seeing approx. 4300 personnel in one location was awe inspiring but even more so when seeing the equivalent amount of mechanized equipment. From the latest Abrams tank to the many variants of the Bradley AFV's and M-113's, to name a few. Considering my past experiences on Canadian Reserve exercises national versus actual was quite impressive. Further to the impressive amount of equipment was learning that the US Army National Guard, even though state controlled, is actually the combat arms reserve component for the US Army. Each Brigade consisting of different units across the continental USA and being at a different states of readiness. The e81sBdge are actually undergoing evaluation and training to increase their state of readiness. Unlike the Canadian Army Reserve, the US Army Reserve consists mainly of logistics units. A major challenge for the soldiers, from British Columbia was acclimatizing to the dry extreme heat of the northern desert (104°F).

During the first week the “dismounts” participated in Battle runs, at the Platoon level, as the OPFOR against the e81sBdge. The Battle runs were either mechanized infantry or armoured dominate- conducted during day and night-time operations. With thanks to Captain Scott MacDonald (RSS of the Can Scots) the Liaison Officer for the Canadians. The US/Canadian members of Charlie Company, 1-160th Mechanized Infantry of CANG participated in Blackhawk helicopter familiarization and reces (recon as they say in the South). This eventually led to the Canadians being tasked to conduct a night patrol against the OPFOR Mortar Platoon. The patrol was also made up of both Canadian and US NCO's and soldiers. The orders process for this patrol was made interesting due to the fact that both Canadian terminology and US had to be used so that all the commanders, soldiers and elements understood the task at hand. During the ATC, a common pattern to Canadian operations seemed to occur every where the Canadian platoon went. Due to the lack of trees, the dryness of Yakima, the wind and pyrotechnics use, the Canadians left a devastating “scorched earth “ signature.

In the second week, the element size was increased culminating in the e81sBdge versus the Raven Task Force (Combat Team). During this battle run, the Canadians were tasked to hold a strong point on the right flank of the task force defense. Remembering our Patricia brethren in Afghanistan the strong point became nicknamed by the Canadians – as “Kap'yong”. LCol. John Andrew, US Army Raven Task Force commander, commented on the success of the Canadian portion of the operation. He stated, “The 22 light infantry soldiers blocked and attributed more than two companies of infantry and forced the entire enemy (e81sBdge) to re-orient and conduct an assault into the center of our sector which eventually led

to the demise of the enemy task force”.

LCol. John Andrew also stated; “...it was the first time in my 20 years we worked with Canadian soldiers. The result was that we learned that the Reserve component in Canada is faced with many of the same challenges that the Reserve component in the U.S. are faced with.” He also stated that “ In this setting the (sic-Canadian) soldiers were motivated, disciplined, skilled and well led. Their strict adherence to the planning and orders process left me feeling like my soldiers and leaders have something to learn from our brothers to the North.”

Not only were the members of 39 CBG pleased with their efforts but they also had created new friendships with their brothers in arms across the border. This point was reinforced to all when 1st Sgt. Paul Kinsbury (Company Sgt.-Major of Charlie Company, 1/160th Mechanized Infantry of CANG) presented the United States National and California State flags to Warrant Officer Terry Killam (the Platoon Warrant Officer from the Westies).

Further unit exchanges are being discussed. The events of September the 11th focusing the conscience of all. Exercises, like this one, bringing our countries together not only overseas but at home as well. Making us North American Brothers in Arms.

NEW HONORARY LIEUTENANT COLONEL APPOINTED



It appears that before Bill McKinney passed on, he was making plans to have a new Honorary Lieutenant Colonel and Honorary Colonel in place to help look after the Regiment after he left us. Late last year Leslie Deane was appointed the new Honorary Colonel, after serving many years as the Honorary LCOL. To succeed Les was someone very familiar to the city and community. Dr. Peter Legge (left), CSP, CPAE, LLD (Hon.) was appointed as the new Honorary Lieutenant Colonel late last year.

Peter Legge is a very familiar face in the community. Peter is also is a community leader tirelessly devoting his time to many worthwhile organizations and charities. He is a former Governor of the Royal Life Saving Society, and the Director of Variety Club of BC children's charity and Telethon Host. In addition, he is an International Ambassador of Variety Clubs International and Chair of the Vancouver Board of Trade.

Peter has been the President and CEO of Canada Wide Magazines & Communications Ltd. for 26 years. Another passion Peter has is that of a motivational speaker. This has earned him many top accolades. He is the recipient of the prestigious Golden Gavel Award and Top Speaker in North American Award from Toastmasters International and is a Hall of Fame member of both the National Speakers Association and the Canadian Association of Professional Speakers. Recently, Simon Fraser University awarded Peter an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree in recognition of his outstanding service to the community. Peter is also an accomplished author of several motivational books.

As a youth growing up in New Westminster, Peter was a Sea Cadet with the HMCS Fraser. This is the sea cadet corps that has been parading in the armoury for many years.

The one thing that will always be first in Peter's life besides his family is his love for New

Westminster. He is very proud to have grown up in the City. And that is why Peter Legge is now the Regiment's new Honorary LCOL. Through his resources, motivation and community spirit, Dr. Peter Legge is surely welcomed into our Regimental family. We all look forward to his commitment and support.

What Does it Take?

In May I attended my first Regimental Association Executive meeting in several years. I was a member of the Executive for a number of years until work and family took me away. I served as your Melfa Chairmen for three or four years. Remember the Association pins? That was me. Anyway, I attended the meeting as the new Editor of the Groundsheet and the first thing that struck me was "*Where was everyone?*" Not so long ago the monthly Executive meetings held in the Officers Mess sat sometimes as many as 12 to 15 people. At this meeting there was seven, counting me. At the old meetings they would be full of interesting stories and tidbits of history. There was also a little drink, food and sometimes cards afterwards. "*What does it take?*" What does it take to get people involved to support this Association? We need the young men and women from the Regiment to come forward. I know a few have over the years supported the

Association well. Nowadays, many Regimental members have seen service overseas as peace keepers. It was this overseas duty in WWII that the Association was built on. At this meeting I heard that the Executive has been lacking good support from the Regiment for anyone to attend the Executive meetings. Surely one or two people can commit to one evening a month to help the Association? It is sad to see this. It is sad after all the years the Association has carried on with fantastic support from Regimental members after WWII, that we can't find one or two committed soles to serve on the Executive for one year. I know the Commanding Officer and the Regiment are under constraints for budgets and training. But with a Regiment at optimum strength, perhaps the CO could appoint one or two *interested* persons to serve the Association. It would also be good to see the CO or DCO attend each meeting. Support is a two way street. Ted Usher

From Our Allies

The following message was received by the Orderly Room at Regimental HQ's on May 21st.

"From CO LDSH RC Edmonton to CO RWestmrR. Battle Honour Celebration. The Co, Officers and all Ranks Lord Strathcona Horse (RC) send best wishes to all personnel of the Royal Westminster Regiment on the 58th anniversary of the battle of the Melfa River. Although we are unable to celebrate together, we will raise our glasses in honour of Major J.K.Mahony and all brave members of the Royal Westminster Regiment, The Westies. Perserverance."

FROM THE MELFA WEEKEND

News from the Links!

The Melfa Weekend started at 0900 hours at the Delta Golf Course. Stalwart golfer Dick Armstrong was there to cheer everyone (14 to be exact) off on the first tee box. Unfortunately, Dick was not able to play golf this year. The turnout, in general, was poor. Three WWII vets played along with only three active unit members. The rest was made up of Association members and a couple of guests. We need help with attendance and prizes to keep this tournament going. How about some corporate help and posters around the Armoury a month or two earlier? We also need the ladies to come back.

The day was great for golf. Sunny and warm. When the scores were added up and all the handicaps were in, a breathing-taking and action packed play-off ensued. Because Terry Leith and Ted Usher tied in their score, Stan Conway suggested a one-shot putt-off. Closest to the pin wins the Low Gross trophy. A coin was tossed and Terry won. He opted for Ted to go first. The drama continued as the tension built. There was Ted standing on the practise green listening to the jeers and cheers from his loyal fans He faced about a thirty foot putt with a downhill slop. He swung his trusty 24 carat gold putter and to everyone's surprise (including his), that little white ball followed the roll and undulation of the green and then disappeared into the cup. The crowd roared. Terry gave it his best shot and came up short. A try worthy of a champion. A great time was had by all. Thanks to Bruce Howells for organizing the day. Our President Len had the best day. He got the most swings for his money.

The Melfa Dinner

The dinner was attended by approximately 65 Association and Regimental members, spouses and guests. The number of WWII and post war members was quit low. Less than 15 vet's were in attendance. A sign of the times I guess. A nice evening was held in the Armoury socializing and just getting together. It's unfortunate not more people can attend.

The Sunday Brunch and AGM

Breakfast was prepared by members of the Regiment utilizing the newly remodelled kitchen. After the breakfast the AGM was held in the Officers Mess. President Len will make comments in his Presidents Report. We hope to see more out for next years Brunch and AGM.

Have you got any ideas on how to improve attendance at the Melfa Weekend? Send a letter in or email President Len or Editor Ted with your ideas. How about a Smoker following golf? Or golf on Saturday? Let us know before the wheels get into motion for next year. If you have new ideas or thoughts, perhaps come out to an Executive meeting. Firsy Monday of each month. Ed.

A Bit of Memory From the Past

Whenever I stand inside the armouries on Queens Avenue, an overwhelming flood of memories goes through my mind. It is not so easy to recall names, places or dates after such a long time. I joined the Regimental Band in 1937 as a clarinetist. The band at that time was under the baton of Harry Moss. Throughout the war I remained in the militia. Over the years the band saw the baton pass to others: Jim Stobbart, Harold Barwood, Fred Turner, Eric Iles, Ron Grierson, Albert Morris and Rod Thomson. More than a few hot summers were spent at camp in Vernon. Luckily the red serge was not worn in those temperatures. The last band camp I attended was in 1971. It was not all work, but I received my Group 3, Sergeant stripe and later Staff Sergeant working in the Orderly Room. There was always work to do in the music library and for two or three years I was librarian. The Regiment could always count on the band for Mess dinners, Remembrance Day Parades, May Day, tattoos and other military events. One thing I remember about the band is that the members were top rate musicians and met the challenge of both the difficult concert arrangements and the parade marches. There are plenty of good recollections of comrades and the stories swapped in the Sergeant's Mess. All the friends that come and go are part of the good times we never forget. In my fifty years associated with first the 47th, that became the Westminster Regiment (Motor), to the Royal Westminster Regiment, I was always extremely proud to wear the uniform and I will forever cherish all the memories.

Thomas (Tom) A. Myers Reg. #459855 Served: 1937-1987.

Who's Been Writing Us?

A small note from **W. Douglas MCNAUGHTON** from Cornwall about the passing of **D.J. HUNEALT**. The obit was included with a photo of D.J. Said he served with the Cameron's and Westminster's. Life Membership from **Walter WEBSTER** of Sardis. Good to have you aboard Walt.

A great letter and photos from **Lawrence CARPICK** of Winnipeg. He sent photos of him and his cohorts in Italy while serving with the Regimental Police Section. He mentions how a Westie was shot one time for not knowing the password when he was challenged. He also writes about his service in May 1944 at the Melfa and being stationed at the roadway to the Melfa. I will save the letter and try getting it all in the next issue. The photos and negatives are being passed over to the Museum. Thanks.

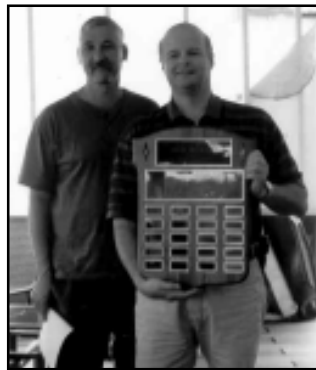
We've received some short notes with dues, but that is about it. Send in your letters, cards and notes. We love to receive them. We will always find room to print a tid bit of activity about our members. You can send the note by email to Ted Usher or snail mail to the box address.



*(LtoR) Ted Usher, Brian Knipstrom,
Len Wohlgemuth, Terry Leith*



*(LtoR) Chris Stier, Terry Killam,
Brian Killam, Perry Fiedler*



Bruce Howells, Ted Usher



Len Wohlgemuth



Ken Olchoway, Stan Conway, Joe Bush, Ken Moyes

A few images from the Melfa Golf Tournament 2002.

Hello,

Not to much to report from Banja Luka, Bosnia. I finally arrived a few days ago and I'm in the process of going through a handover with my predecessor. My job here is with the Multi National Divisional HQ. I am the Deputy Chief/Planner for the Joint Military Affairs Section. It is an offshoot to the G3 shop. We are the section that enforces the rules concerning the military that came out of the Dayton Accord. The battle groups do the actual inspections but we are the ones that task the jobs down to them. That is the normal day to day business but if something special occurs, such as the elections that are happening in October, I am in the planning group that gives options to the Commander on a course of action. Quite interesting stuff really. This Div HQ stuff is quite different from Thursday night parading at the unit. The HQ staff were conducting pre deployment training in Croatia for a few weeks prior to the move over into Bosnia. This training mostly covered the Nato working standard for a Div HQ. It is a multinational effort. My boss is a British LCol. I am also working with Australians, New Zealand and Dutch officers and soldiers and many more from other nations. Once I am settled into the job I will fill you in with more details. Until then, Louis (Major Beglaw)