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February 2005



The GROUNDSHEET

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

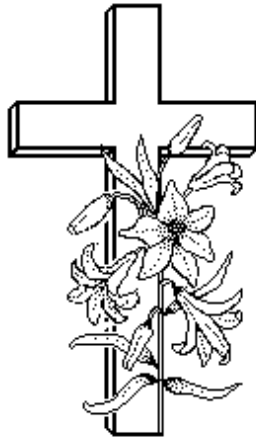
**Are You Heading to Melfa Weekend 2005?
Why not attend at least one event?
The dates are May 20,21 and 22. See you there!**

Have you got an interesting event or story to tell? How about a trip down memory lane from your military training? The readers would love to hear from you. Please send your material to the editor.

At right is the newly released official photograph of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Canada.
The originals are in color.



Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II
Queen of Canada



In Memoriam

G. Alan FINDLAY, January 2004, Carman, MB*

Wm (Bill) GRIFFEN, October 2004, Parksville BC

Charles L. ROBERTSON, November 2003, Westbank BC*

* Courtesy of Legion Magazine - Last Post.

Health & Welfare

Dear Royal Westminster Regiment Association Members:

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself, my name is Ruby **Carey** and I will be representing the Health and Welfare post of our Royal Westminster Regiment Executive Committee. I am happy to be a part of the Executive and look forward to speaking with and meeting you in the future.

I have been a member of The Royal Westminster Regiment for over 5 years and presently serve in the position of Recruiting Sergeant. I have over 24 years serving in the Reserves in 39 Canadian Brigade Group with The British Columbia Regiment, 6th Field Engineer Squadron and District Headquarters.

Part of my new job is keeping the rest of our colleagues up to date on how everyone is doing. If someone is going in for surgery or just not feeling up to par and might enjoy a visit or a little cheering up, we would be pleased to help. Please keep in touch with me either by phone, 604.266.8430 or email if you have access to the internet, ruby.carey@shaw.ca or drop me a note, #7-8619 Hudson St., Vancouver, BC, V6P 4M6.

If there is anything that The Royal Westminster Regiment Association can do please do not hesitate to let me know, you are very important to us and we look forward to hearing how you're doing.

Ruby Carey



New Chief of Defence Staff Appointed 14 January

The Prime Minister announced on 14 January that the new Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) will be Lieutenant General Rick **Hillier** (pictured at left). He replaces General Ray **Henault** who is now the Chair of NATO's Military Committee. This appointment of Hillier places an 'army' person in Canada's top military post. The Change of Command takes place 4 February.

The Editor's Trench!

Happy New Year to All! I hope you had a festive season with your family and friends. We are now back at it gearing up for a great Spring and Summer to follow. Melfa Weekend is coming in May so make your plans. Your Executive work very hard and your support at Melfa and the AGM is what makes them keep going.

I must thank those that call or send emails about my effort in putting out this newsletter. It truly inspires me to keep going. I had a number of positive comments about my article on Camp Vernon. It appears it brought back some memories. Thanks! I also received comments on the sample brochure about the Museum. Fred **Wilkes** and I put that together and we hope it generates the support that is needed to keep that excellent facility going for a long time.

The Octoberfest was a huge success. I am sure more will be planned. Again, great work by President Brian (along with wife Holly) and the Executive.

On a personal note, I have moved on from 2316 army cadet corps housed in the Armoury. I am now the new Liaison Officer between the Army Cadet League of Canada (BC Branch) and the Regional Cadet Support Unit (Pacific) in Victoria. I've been given some office space at the League office in 39 Brigade HQ in Vancouver where I will work part time helping to resolve issues between cadet corps and their sponsors. It is a new position that I am really looking forward to. I am also working with an 'old' friend of the Regiment, Roy **Rigby-Jones**. Roy is the Executive Director of the BC Branch.

You will notice a letter sent to us from England on page 12. It appears cutbacks are the thing in England and our allied regiment is in danger of being disbanded. Have a look at the web page at the end of the letter and offer some support if you can.

Not sure if I mentioned this before but the Legion Magazine is on the internet and if you go to the web site it has a searchable data base for looking up fallen comrades. You can search by name or regiment. I find this very helpful, as can note from the previous page, to locate our soldiers who have died and the information hadn't been passed on to me.

You might notice that issues of the Groundsheet have an abundance of 'cadet' material. I am always looking for material from past and present members of the Regiment, but I just don't get much. What I do receive I publish. I must fill the pages with something so why not 'army' cadet material. No one has complained.....yet!

Your Executive

President

Brian Knipstrom
604-986-3021
bknipstrom@nwpolice.org

Vice President

Jerry Gangur
604-929-5785
jgan@telus.net

Secretary

Karyn Copeland
604-939-3830

Treasurer

Lee Cooke
604-931-7232

Editor

Ted Usher
604-526-4605
captain66@shaw.ca

Editor Emeritus

Ron Hurley
2999 Bonnyvale Ave.
Vancouver V5P 2G4

Directors

Stan Conway
Herb Hamm
Ruby Carey
Mike Kvammen
Shane Michalowski
Bruce Howells
Ben Pong
Len Wohlgemuth (PP)

How observant are you? Have you noticed something different on the front page of the Groundsheet? I am not going to tell you. Have another look and then if you need to see the answer, check the back page.

I was surfing through a web site called army.ca and noticed a person signed in by the name of 'x westie'. So being the curious one, I signed in and looked at the persons profile. Found Mike **Grimshaw**. He lives in Chilliwack and served in the Regiment from 1971-73. He says he served under Mike **Steed**, Jerry **Potter**, Herb **Hamm** was the CO and Gerry **Pickell** was the RSM. (*Now those were the days!*). I now have Mike on the mail list for the GS. Good hearing back from you Mike. Hope to see you at the Melfa.

I recently created my own web page for the purposes of my family tree. So far the site is only there for family members but I plan on putting it out on the web. Since we don't have a unit web page, I will be posting the Groundsheet on my web page. I will also load in past editions for people to see. New (or old) people we locate will be directed there to see past editions of the GS.

The web page is <http://members.shaw.ca/captain66/index.htm> **Please have a look.**

Well we've recently had a blast of winter here in the lower mainland. Minus temperatures for a two week period. Nice to see the rain. Just around the corner - spring and that means golf. My plans, golf, little work, and then some more golf. I am also planning on heading back to Camp Vernon again this summer. I will most likely fill the Adjutants spot again working for LCol Terry **Kopan**. As you know from last report, it was a role I thoroughly enjoyed. Until next issue in May, enjoy the rest of the winter and enjoy the spring. I look forward to seeing more out to Melfa this year. Please make an effort. **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.

Melfa 2005!
The dates are
May 20, 21 & 22.
MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Email Addresses!

It was noticed in a recent issue of an allied regiments newsletter, that they published an list of email addresses for those members that have internet email and wished others to know them. This could be a great idea. Many of our members (young and old) have now got email and what a way to connect old friends. Perhaps you will find an easy way to connect with that old soldier buddy you haven't seen in many years.

If you want your email address published in a future issue of the Groundsheet, send a note to Editor **Ted Usher** at captain66@shaw.ca

Ted will publish a list when he receives a number that will make it worthwhile.

GET CONNECTED!

Presidents Report

HAPPY NEW YEAR! I trust everyone had an excellent Christmas season. The Association is typically quiet during the holidays as the entire executive is off enjoying their families and friends. Its a brand new year with a lot of expectations and ventures on the go. The first and foremost being the trip to Italy to dedicate the plaque and cairn. The chairman for this project, as you know, is Jerry **Gangur**. He has been laid up with some unexpected surgery and is now on the mend. He will be providing us with an update on the Italy trip as soon as possible. I've received several calls from members wanting to take part in the visit and I want to make every effort to ensure all the necessary information is made available. Please be patient. This is a tremendous undertaking and Jerry is doing all he can to make this happen.

Everyone (approx. 120 pers) had a great time at the OCTOBERFEST on October 16th 2004. It was a tremendous success. We raised approximately \$1600.00 towards the Italy trip. I wish to thank my wife Holly Knipstrom and other members of the executive in all the preparation and work in setting the Armoury up. The community and the Regimental family came together on this occasion. The donations were tremendous and well received by everyone who won or bought the items.

Remember, the Association is only as strong as the membership. Your executive is working hard to ensure the Regimental family remains strong in numbers so bring in that "old" member sitting on the fence. Get them down to the Melfa dinner this year. The golf tournament is May 20th, dinner is May 21st and the AGM is on Sunday May 22nd. Come on down and enjoy YOUR friends.

Brian N Knipstrom

PRO REGI ET PATRIA

The Royal Westminster Regiment

Children's Christmas Party 2004

The "Westies" held their annual Children's Christmas Party again this year on December 12th and it was a great success, attended by 24 kids and 35 parents. The party was organized by Sgt Michael **Morrison** and assisted by Sgt's Ruby **Carey** and Mike **Kelly**.

The children and their families began arriving at 11:00 a.m. and started in playing soccer and catch on the Parade Square. There was a gingerbread decorating event which was attended by most of the children and quite a few parents. There certainly are some very artistic children in our unit and Sgt **Carey** was very impressed by many of the gingerbread men that were created.

Sgt **Morrison** lead everyone in singing some Christmas carols to welcome Santa who arrived right on time with lots of presents to give out. Airplanes, dolls, bead sets, and games were excitedly opened and played with. Santa left to visit other children and lunch was served. We ate 7 dozen hotdogs, and bags and bags of potato chips and cheezies, all washed down with juice. The kids played with their toys and soon it was time to go. Everyone had a great time and the smiles and laughter was a great testament to this. Next year the Children's Christmas Party may be hosted by A Coy in Aldergrove.

The Regiment

Greetings All; It's 2005 already! How did that happen? With the operational tempo of our Army at such a high pitch, the weeks and months seem to go by in a blur!

I recently attended the Senior Leaders Symposium in Calgary 7-9 Jan where all of the command teams (COs & RSMs) from all of the units within Land Forces Western Area (LFWA) were in attendance (some 200+). The main theme of this Symposium was to emphasize 'the way ahead' for the Army. The immediate objective is for the Army to grow/regenerate. The Regular force has been mandated to grow by some 5,000 soldiers whereas the Reserves have been mandated to grow by an additional 3,000 across 10 reserve brigades. The short-term training focus will be on Individual Training (IT) followed shortly (Spring 2006) by a state now known as Managed Readiness (MR). MR essentially replaces the Army Training Operational Focus (ATOF) Cycle and will see the Army maintain operational ready Tasks Forces (TFs) across three Areas. Within each TF, Reserve sub-sub units (from platoon to company size) will train with their Regular Force counterparts as a ready-to-deploy operational unit. This is great news for the Militia as we will continue to gain the experience we need along with the respect that we deserve!

The Symposium was also a grand opportunity to speak to the Chief of the Land Staff (CLS – Commander of the Army) - LGen Hillier and the LFWA Commander – BGen Stu Beare. Some of you may remember Stu Beare as having been a former Vernon Army Cadet Camp (VACC) cadet from the late 70's (along with yours truly). When he had visited last fall, I had spoken to him at length about the desire to grow the Westie's to 300 within the next year. With the recruiting restrictions temporarily lifted, he stated that he is "Watching us with keen interest". Sounds like a challenge to me and our recruiting staff are busy tooling-up to meet this challenge. And since the Westie's *have never failed to take an objective*, I am confident that we will capture this one!

I also managed to corner the CLS (LGen Hillier) for a fairly pointed conversation about the need to build a second armoury for the Westie's at Canadian Forces Station (CFS) Aldergrove. About 10 years ago, we planted the seeds of a platoon organization out there which, I'm pleased to report, has grown to some 65 soldiers all-ranks. This company-minus organization has all the indications of even greater growth and we are continuing to cultivate recruits from one of the richest recruiting areas in British Columbia. LGen Hillier was most interested in this proposition which has been proposed (on paper) and supported by the Brigade Headquarters and appears to be gathering momentum. The proposed Armoury would be a larger-scale version of the new Armoury recently completed for the Canadian Scottish Regiment (CScotR) in Nanaimo and would also house a Battery (Bty) of the 15th Field Royal Canadian Artillery (RCA).

As I head toward the home stretch of my tenure as the CO, I am reminded of just how fortunate I am to command such fine group of men and woman. Our future looks even brighter with the quality and level of forward-thinking commanders at higher headquarters. I look forward to seeing many of you at our Annual Officers' Mess Dinner on the 19th of February. Until then.... Pro Rege et Patria!

G.W.J. Richmond
Commanding Officer

Our Cadets

A significant event has recently taken place that is somewhat historical. The Royal Westminster Regiment Association will soon be the official Sponsor to 2316 The Royal Westminster Regiment Army Cadet Corps. This is the corps that is housed in the armoury. For many years, 2316 RCACC has been sponsored by the Regiment. So what does a Sponsor do? The main responsibility is to look after the well being of the cadet corps. And this is done by financial support for things such as accommodations, extra equipment, administration costs and other items such as that. Many cadet corps are sponsored by RC Legions, Lions Clubs and other local community groups. Some cadet corps are sponsored by their affiliated regiment if they are located within the armoury. NDHQ and Director Cadets have requested that those army cadet corps still officially sponsored by affiliated militia units, find new sponsors. Only a few exist under this current situation. 2316 RCACC was one. The reason for the change: militia units don't have the resources to sponsor cadet corps. With cutbacks and other financial restraints, both cadet corps and militia units are looking for cash to spend on many things. Cadets need the cash for extra items and militia units can't provide it. Sponsor groups like the Association are better equipped to help out due to their connection in the community and the better opportunity to raise funds.

The cadet program in Canada is not what it used to be a number of years ago. The Canadian Cadet Movement (CCM) is a youth organization and not a 'farm team' for militia units. The focus on army cadet training is adventured based and not tactical army training. One of the aims of the CCM is still to stimulate interest in the CF. We do that in many ways by being affiliated to reserve units. As a side note, only a small number of cadets actually join the militia.

So how will this effect your Association? Very little. It creates a new chain of command for the Association to be involved in. The Army Cadet League of Canada (BC Branch) will now be linked to the Association for purposes of looking after 2316 RCACC. The cadet corps will still operate the same as it has. The corps CO will work with and report to the executive of the Association on matters dealing with the corps general operation.

The Regiment is still in the picture. The relationship that has been there for many years will continue as it has in the past. The corps will still draw upon resources that the affiliated unit has to offer and the cadets will still make every effort to support the Regiment when requested. The CO of the Regiment will still be kept in the loop as to activities of the cadet corps. This is done through the Cadet Liaison Officer.

This new sponsorship will benefit both the Association and the cadet corps. The Association can now speak of being a sponsor and official caretaker to a youth group in its community. It is hoped that you, the members of the Association will help support the cadet corps when asked. A few fund-raising events are held each year for the cadets. You will be notified and your support will be appreciated.

Another very important aspect in this 'chain of command' is the Sponsoring Committee. This is a group of members of the public, normally parents of cadets, who organize themselves into a committee to help the CO with recruiting and fund raising initiatives. The Sponsoring Committee's very important to the total success of the army cadet corps. The Sponsor, Sponsoring Committees and the Army Cadet League are 'partners' with DND to help run these corps. Think about helping out! Call the Army Cadet League.

The Army Cadet League of Canada

Mission: The Army Cadet League of Canada, a civilian nonprofit organization, commits to support the Army Cadets by working in partnership with local communities and the Canadian Forces in the development of policies and methods for achieving the aims and objectives of the Canadian Cadet Movement in general, and the Royal Canadian Army Cadets in particular.

Role: Encourage army cadets to become better Canadians through citizenship and leadership training.

The Army Cadet League of Canada (League) was officially formed in 1971 to work with the Department of National Defence (DND) in support of army cadets and has a branch office in each of the 10 provinces and the Northern region. The League is the supervisory sponsor for 450 cadet corps across Canada. With the aid of each branch office, the League ensures financial, accommodations and transportation support for programs and services not provided by the Department of National Defence to more than 21,000 army cadets. As a registered charitable organization, the League is supported by donations and a grant from DND. With an operating budget of \$250,000.00, the League employs four full-time staff at the national office. In 2000, League volunteers donated 378,000 hours of service (approximately 3,000 volunteers who work an average of three hours per week for 42 weeks) to the organization.

Objectives:

- Encourage and promote interest in and support for the Royal Canadian Army Cadets.
- Facilitate and recommend the formation of army cadet corps.
- Assist in the recruitment of cadet instructors and participate in the recruitment of cadets.

- Provide and supervise local sponsors.
- Ensure that the Army Cadet Program is adventure-oriented, challenging, consistent with our aims and relevant to present society.
- Collect, receive, hold and invest funds and property from contributions, gifts, grants, subscriptions or legacies and use such funds, subject to the donor's direction, for the benefit of the Royal Canadian Army Cadets.
- Protect the overall interests of the Army Cadet League of Canada.
- Coordinate and influence effective support of Army Cadet Corps at all levels.

The BC Branch of The Army Cadet League is located in the 39 Brigade HQ in Vancouver. The office is staffed by the Executive Director, our friend Roy **Rigby-Jones**. Roy has been the backbone of the BC Branch since the early days of it forming back in the early 1970s. Roy is also the past President of the Branch. Another friend, Col Leslie **Deane** is the Past President of the national arm of the League. Col Deane continues to be an ardent supporter of the cadet movement.

Are you looking for something worthwhile to get involved with? How about serving with the Army Cadet League. Help is always needed. Give the League a call at 604-733-1980.



Canada Remembers the Italian Campaign

Who is going to Italy? It was decided in one parade night and it turned out I was chosen to go. I had the honour of representing both our country and my unit during the 60th Anniversary of the Italian Campaign. Before I knew it I was on a plane to Ottawa to meet up with the rest of the guard contingent where there were approximately 40 of us from coast to coast representing each unit in the Italian campaign (not including the RCMP and youth delegates from every province). After spending a night in Ottawa, our contingent was to link up with the official delegation in Italy via Toronto. Unfortunately Lufthansa had other ideas! The trip had not even begun and we were already delayed. Long story short, after spending 2 days in just airports alone, we made it to Italy, physically at least.

The trip was broken down into two parts, roughly 5 days on the mainland and 5 days on the Italian island of Sicily. When we arrived in Rome, we had already missed the first ceremony of remembrance at the Cassino War Cemetery in Cassino Italy. While on the mainland we did one more ceremony of remembrance at the Moro River War Cemetery in Ortona while attending commemorations in the Piazza de Plebiscito – Ortona, Piazza del Popolo – Cesena, and Piazza Cavour – Rimini. We spent the remainder of the trip on the island of Sicily in a city called Catania. While on Sicily we did the final ceremony of remembrance in Agira Italy at the Agira Canadian War Cemetery and also attending a commemoration in the Piazza Regina Margherita in Ispica Italy. Although the trip started off rough in the end it was a trip and a year of remembrance I will never forget. I have no right to complain about the honour I have been given because after all this trip was not for me, but I will say one thing though; I never thought I

would learn so much about the Seaforth Highlanders (no offence to the Seaforths). It was a big disappointment that I went through that whole trip hearing about other units and their contributions while nothing was said about the Westies. As a soldier for Canada I was there in Italy to remember everyone who fought and died for our country, which I am grateful for, but as a soldier with The Royal Westminster Regiment, I was also there for my unit and for our veterans. To all the veterans of The Royal Westminster Regiment who fought for our country.... Thank you for everything!

Cpl. LaPorte M.W.



Walter Barnum & Cpl. Matt LaPort
Casena Italy

Captain Don Nicks CD



In the early 70's he was known as Don or Sgt Nicks to many within the Regiment. Don came from a military family, being born in the Maritimes and raised in many of Canada's provinces. When his father retired from active service, he returned to BC and lived in Burnaby. Don attested to the Regiment in September 1970 and served with them until October 1974. During that time, he rose from the rank of private to sergeant and just prior to departing for CFOCS (CF Officer Candidate School), he continued to parade as an Officer Cadet. He was a member of the Regiment's shooting teams between 1971-1974 achieving a 4th place in the 1974 BCRA competition. He was a keen supporter of the cadet corps of the Regiment, driving many hours in support cadet training exercises.

In 1974, Don joined the Air Operations Branch of the Canadian Armed Forces. In 1976, he graduated from CFANS (CF Air Navigations School) in Winnipeg, MB and proceeded to his first tour of duty. He served 5 years with 416 All Weather Fighter Squadron, CFB Chatham,

NB. During his time there he represented Canada at the prestigious William Tell Air Competition in 1980. 1980 was a good year for Don; he was promoted to Captain and married his current wife, Wanda.

1982 brought new challenges and a new job for him, pilot training. After graduating from 2 CFFTS (CF Flying Training School) Moose Jaw SK, he was posted to 880 Maritime Reconnaissance Squadron CFB Summerside PEI. Returning to Moose Jaw in 1986, he taught ab initio pilots, was a deputy flight commander and eventually the Chief of Ground Training. By 1989 it was time for another change of locations and an opening at the 1 Canadian Air Division in Lahr FRG, came available. After attending the CF Staff School in Toronto ON, he proceeded to Germany. After serving with 1 CAD and 3 Fighter Wing Lahr FRG, he returned to Canada in 1992 and a tour at Fighter Group HQ North Bay ON. Here Don was responsible for preparing operational plans for fighter forces in NATO. With the closure of FGHQ in 1997, he returned to Moose Jaw and to the Flying Instructor's School (FIS) to teach ab initio instructors. With the closure of FIS in 2000 he was posted to 2 CFFTS Moose Jaw to continue teaching instructors. With the introduction of a new pilot training aircraft, the CT-156 Harvard II, he was a part of the initial cadre to train of this aircraft in Wichita KS. Don has continued teaching at the NATO Flying Training Centre (NFTC) and 2 CFFTS Moose Jaw SK. He is currently the Harvard Flight Commander at the instructor training cell there.

Don has accumulated over 6000 hours of flying in his career of which over 2000 hours have been instructing and has flown CC-130 Hercules, T-33 Silver Star, CF-101 Voodoo, CT-114 Tutor, CP-121 Tracker, CF-118 Hornet and CT-156 Harvard aircraft. He holds the Canadian Forces Decoration and 2 Bars, the Special Service Medal (NATO) and the Queen's Golden Jubilee medals. He has written three books on Canadian Military history, 25th Anniversary of Canadians in Lahr, A History of the Air Defence of Canada 1948-1997 and A History of the Military Air Services of Canada. He currently lives with his wife of 25 years and his 16 year old son Drew in Moose Jaw SK.

The Gurkha, The Lendendary Soldier

Many of you Veterans may have fought beside a Gurkha Battalion. Browsing through Walter's collection of military books, I came across this Booklet/Program of the Brigade of Gurkhas when their Band Contingent visited New Westminster in 1980. Their performance was outstanding and was held in the Royal Canadian Legion auditorium on Begbie Street. The Pipes and Drums of The Queen's Gurkha Engineers and Queen's Gurkha Signals included such heart-felt pieces as The Black Bear and The Highland Laddie, The Green Hills of Tyrol and When the Battle is Over, The 79th Farewell to Gibraltar, The Skye Boat Song, etc., concluding with the Brigade of Gurkhas March, Yo Nepali.

The Gurkha has been termed the Legendary Soldier and as you veterans know, has skill unparalleled in the use of the kukri. He is from the hills of Nepal and is small in stature but great in courage and endurance. This booklet contains information on their many decorations earned in combat.

I recently polished the kukri that Walt brought home from overseas in 1945 except that I could not clean the small knife attached to the hilt which was used as an eating utensil. I have presented it to the Museum.

The Pensioner's Song (from the Booklet)

Sahib, I am old, my fighting says are done
I cannot hear you when you call my name,
But as I sit against the mud wall in the sun
I live through all our battles once again.
Do you remember, Sahib, the Burmese hills
The creeping mist, the thunder of the guns
The men that died and never more returned
Ah, Sahib, you and I we were the lucky ones.
Our friends we left behind us in the mist, Sahib,
With many a V.C. and a bugle call,
But one thing I know, and it is this, Sahib,
I am glad to be in the sun against the wall.
Are Malayan days as hot as when we lay, Sahib
Amongst the thickets waiting for our foe,
And wondering if the tip-off was O.K. Sahib,
It does not seem so very long ago.

And now you come and see ;me in my village
It is good to see your face and hold your hand
And dream with you of things we loved and knew
And talk of things that soldiers understand.
And now in a lighter vein:
The Gurkha swung his Kukri with a deft sideways
cutting movement.
"Ha! Missed, " cried the German.
"Try shaking your head" , retorted the Gurkha.

Freda Hogg

Associate Member The Royal Westminster
Regiment Association
Associate Member Officers' Mess
Honorary Secretary Officers' Mess
January 10, 2005

**Looking for a great web
site? Check out
www.army.ca**

**Have you got an interesting
web site we would be
interested in looking at? Let
us know.**

Are you aware that as a former member of the CF, you are entitled to obtain the new BC Veteran licence plate?

Here's how! If you have access to the internet go to the ICBC web page (www.icbc.com) and select the image you see with the Veteran plate and simply follow the directions. If you don't have the internet, simply attend any ICBC agent's office and complete an application. There is a \$5.00 fee for service. Everything else is free! You must supply some sort of record of service in order to qualify. When the plates come in, they contact you and you simply hand over the old plates and get the new ones. As a service veteran you deserve to be recognized. Order your plate today!



Missing In Action!

The following members are missing. Their last Groundsheet came back by Canada Post. If you know them, please ask them to send in a change of address.

- Lloyd **Stewart**, Hardisty AB
- W.S **Westland**, Crossfield AB
- L.L. **Griffiths**, Vernon BC
- Bruce **Marshall**, Maple Ridge BC

Letters and Other Itmes

A great package of items arrived at the Museum this past November. Our fellow member, George **Demetruck** who lives in Lompac California, sent up a box containing close to one hundred assorted hat badges from the WWII era. What a donation! Some very rare and unique badges. Thanks George!

Sir,

I am writing to you to inform you of the threat hanging over the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers. In recent weeks the UK government have given a stay of execution on the decision to disband the Black Watch due to the media attention that regiment has recieved. However, HM government and the MoD have now stated that they wish to disband 2RRF instead. As you may be aware after the first Gulf War 3RRF was disbanded regardless of the excellent account they gave of themselves in that War. Now a year after the invasion of Iraq and 1RRF's honourable and praiseworthy conduct the sword of Damaclese once more is hanging over the RRF.

As the Royal Westminster Regiment is our allied/sister regiment in Canada, we would be most grateful if you could bring this to the attention of our brothers in the RWR and encourage them to sign the petition (link bellow) to save the RRF.

Yours respectfully, *CSgt M Kavaz RRF*
www.ipetitions.com/campaigns/Save_Fusiliers/



Answer: A new Bucky Beaver. Notice its now "The" with the Queens crown.