



Volume 2005/Issue 3  
November 2005



# 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'*

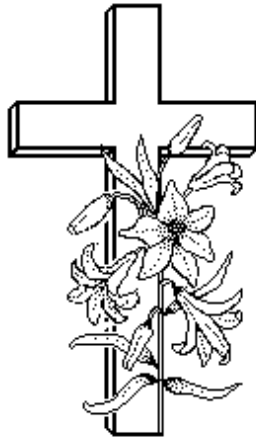
P.O. Box 854, New Westminster, BC. V3L 4Z8



## Lest We Forget

*Remembrance Day Service  
November 11th 10am  
at the Armoury.*

**THEY SHALL GROW NOT OLD AS WE  
THAT ARE LEFT GROW OLD;  
AGE SHALL NOT WEARY THEM NOR  
THE YEARS CONDEMN.  
AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN  
AND IN THE MORNING,  
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.**



## *In Memoriam*

**Vernon ARDAGH**, April 2005, Surrey BC

**Chuck SMITHERS**, May 2005, Coquitlam BC

**Claud NICHOL**, June 2005, Burnaby BC

**Robert (Bob) FOULIS**, September 2005, New Westminster BC

**Fred WILKS**, October 2005, Vancouver BC

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### **Health & Welfare**

There is nothing to report at this time. According to Ruby **Carey**, Committee Chair, she hasn't received any reports of anyone in serious ill health. If you know of anyone needing a visit or in poor ill health, please give Ruby a call at 604-266-8430. She is a willing and very able member of the Executive and would like to hear from you. I guess it is a good thing when there is nothing to report in this section. **Ted Usher, Editor**

**LCol Fred WILKS Passes** - It was noted that former CO (1981-85), **Fred Wilks** passed away at his home in Vancouver on October 13th. In later years, Fred was very active with the Regimental museum.

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### **Veterans' Commemorative Night of Music Celebrating music from the 30's and 40's.**

**Featuring Internationally acclaimed**

**Chor (Choir) Leoni**

**BC Regiment Concert Band**

**The Delta Police Pipe Band, and**

**Linda Jones**

**Friday November 4th 2005**

**7:30 to 10 pm**

**The Bell Centre for Performing Arts**

**6250 144th Street, Surrey**

**Tickets \$22.00 each or 5 for \$75.00**

**For ticket information call 604-538-5294**

## Here I Go Again! The Editor.

**May 22nd.** Just returned from the AGM held at the armoury. Not bad turnout but not great either. The Melfa Golf had 10 attend, the dinner had about 70, the AGM perhaps 20. Not a great showing. Good news is we have a new face on the Executive. **Darren Crumb** a former Sgt with the Regiment. My old, old friend, Brian, remains as our dedicated President. Brian, we appreciate what you are doing so keep it up. As you can see from the list to the left, this is your Executive for 2005/06.

Again, having to report the passing of a few more big supporters of the Association. **Vern Ardagh** and **Chuck Smithers**. Chuck served as our President and Vern was the Treasurer for many years. They will be missed.

In a couple of more weeks (June 19th) I head back to Camp Vernon as the Adjutant. I am so looking forward to this summer. Please, if you get a chance and you're in the Okanagan, please drop by the camp and say Hi. Would be happy to give you a tour. See what our youth are doing now.

It is now September and I made it through the summer at Vernon. Another great summer! We put close to 1600 cadets and staff through the place without too many problems. I plan on returning one more summer as the Adjt just to get it out of my system. Not sure what happens after that. Next summer will see a change of command from LCol Terry Kopan, who served four years as CO. We will have a new CO, DCO and RSM next summer. The best part of summer was to be on parade with 800 marching behind you. I was very proud marching with all those fine young Canadians. It was also a pleasure to escort Col **Deane** onto the parade square as an assistant Reviewing Officer.

What will the new season and 2006 bring? A Change of Command with the Regiment will have occurred by the time this issue comes out. LCol Glen **Richmond** moves on and we will be graced with a new CO. At this very moment I am writing this, I am not sure exactly who it will be.

There is something very near and dear to me, as you all know by now if you read my dribble; The Royal Canadian Army Cadets (RCAC)! The Canadian Cadet Movement (CCM) as we often refer to it as. A very important partner in the RCAC is the Army Cadet League of Canada. The Army Cadet League is an equal partner along with DND to support the CCM in Canada. A few members of our own Association are active members of the Army Cadet League; Col Les **Deane**, LCol Howe **Lee**, Maj Roy **Rigby-Jones** and Maj Tom **Buchenauer** to name a few. The Army Cadet League, BC Branch needs support and you can help. You can get involved in simply becoming a member of the League, helping to raise funds, or becoming a

### Your Executive

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Pat Hyska

Zone Chairman to work closely with the cadet corps CO. There are a variety of things that needs to be done and help is always appreciated. If you need any further information call the League office at 604-733-1980 or go to [www.armycadetleague.bc.ca](http://www.armycadetleague.bc.ca) and check it out.

I attended the Change of Command Parade this past Saturday in Queens Park. Unfortunately the occasion was overshadowed, in my opinion, by a fairly significant oversight. There were army cadets on parade from all five Westie affiliated corps that out numbered the Regimental troops by 2 to 1. With about 130 cadets forming up, marching on, doing the inspection and march past, no one mentioned in any public address that the cadets were even there. It wasn't hard to see them standing three ranks deep with two large platoons and two CIC Officer's in front. Not one mention that the cadets were there! Very disappointing. I understand several cadets made mention of this oversight. This was an unfortunate oversight by some and the cadets should be offered an apology.

The other concern I had was PR. Public relations! Media attention! This would have been a perfect opportunity to announce to the community that its Regiment and Cadets are parading through the streets and a significant event is taking place and invite them to attend. An opportunity to recruit both for the Regiment and the Cadets. I don't recall any media releases or articles in the local papers about the parade. We missed the mark to let people know WE are still here in their community.

The Regiment, Association and Cadet corps must do more to be seen in the public and increase awareness. We have the Freedom of several communities and we should take that opportunity to exercise that freedom. Be out there in mass on parade and in public view for its community to see who we are. The best Regiment in Canada!

**Ted Usher, Editor**

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## 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.

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**Melfa 2006  
MAY 19, 20 & 21  
MARK YOUR  
CALENDARS!!!!**

## Correspondence

A letter was received from Angus M **Wilson** of Cumberland Ontario. He served with the Westies during the war as a RC Signals electrician. He says he was with the Bn June 42 to Jan 45. Angus says he would like to get in touch with Seymour **Adleman** in Quebec. I've sent Angus, Seymour's address. He also says he is 84 and doing well and he can't complain. He remembers Ian **Douglas** very well as he spent time in HQ Coy as well as C Coy.

Always great to receive a letter the old fashion way. Thanks Angus.

Editor.

## Presidents Report

HELLO ALL! How was all the WESTIES' summer? Mine was spent with my beautiful wife in the magnificent Shuswap. Now its back to business and the affairs of the Regimental Association. On that note, I trust everyone had a good time at the Melfa celebrations. Its a tremendous boost to your executive to see so many faces at the Melfa weekend. I want to thank everyone for their support over the past year and I look forward to being your President for another term. We also have a few new faces serving on the Executive and we certainly appreciate them coming forward. You see, it doesn't hurt to come out and serve a little!

We are planning another Association event for the fall. The second annual OCTOBERFEST is going to be held on October 15th 2005 at the Armouries. The Regimental NCM's Mess is hosting it with support and help from us. This is an excellent event with lots of cheer and camaraderie to be had by all. Dust off that old Lederhosen and come out and have some fun!

Jerry **Gangur** is putting the trip to Italy together and will be sending out information on it as soon as he gets all the details worked out. This endeavour has been an awful lot of work on Jerry's part and he's trying his hardest to make it all come together.

Another Commanding Officer leaves us but we are gaining another into the family. I'm sure all the Association members wish Glen **Richmond** all the best in his future choices. I understand Edmonton is little cold in the winter Glen! The Change of Command Parade is on September 17th at 1300 hrs in Queens Park. We are looking forward to reading the first article from the new CO.

PRO REGI ET PATRIA

**Brian Knipstrom**, President

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## Report from the Melfa Links

This year the weather was against us, but the intrepid ten, Stan **Conway**, Joe **Bush**, Ken **Moyes**, Ken **Olcohowy**, Jerry **Gangur**, Terry **Killam**, Brian **Killam**, Brian **Knipstrom**, Len **Wohlgemuth** and your committee chair Bruce **Howells** ventured out and swung the mighty golf sticks.

The few endured rain showers, hail, thunder, lightening and the occasional sunny breaks but nothing dampened their spirits.

At the conclusion of the walkabout on the Maple Ridge Golf Course, the group retired to the Howells' back yard to enjoy a few cold ones and bugers off the barby. Through the wizardry of the Callaway Sysem of scoring, the following was determined:

Brian **Knipstrom** - Low Gross, Terry **Killam** - Low Net Regiment Member, Ken **Moyes** - Low Net Association Member, Jerry **Gangur** - Longest Drive.

A great time was had by all. It is unfortunate more members don't come out. Great job to Bruce **Howells** for putting on the event. See you next year?

Check out the photos on the next page.



Brian Knipstrom and his Low Gross Trophy



Ken Moyes and his Low Net Trophy



Jerry Gangur and the Long Drive Trophy

## Melfa Weekend Images

Cpl's Walsh & Stepan with guest.



Freda Hogg, Len Bailey & Unidentified Member  
at Melfa Dinner.



## Return to Netherlands by Stan Conway

It was an honour and a pleasure to represent this Regiment and Association at the 60th Anniversary of the repatriation of the Netherlands. After many phone calls, emails and reams of paper, my wife and I were ready to go. We left Vancouver Airport on April 29th for two day stay in Ottawa. When we get to the hotel in Ottawa we were met by the staff of the Department of Veterans Affairs. They treated us like VIP's. They were a super group and I'll never forget them.

The first day we were there they took us to the War Museum where they served us lunch. This was a sneak preview of the new museum as it wasn't still completed. The official opening was May 8th. The next day we went to the cenotaph to lay wreaths for the Battle of the North Atlantic. That evening we went to the airport and off we flew to the Netherlands.

At the airport, we were met by Cpl. Basson from the Regiment.

The first outing was to Groesbeek Cemetery and there were thousands of people there. There were speeches from the Governor General and Princess Margaret of the Netherlands. After the speeches there was a wreath laying by the various organizations present. This was followed by a reception where there was lots of beer, wine and goodies to eat. This is where they gave us medals that said 1945-2005 and the Dutch colors. This was a very nice event. We all appreciated it.

The next day we went to Holten Cemetery. This is a Canadian cemetery. Here we laid more wreaths and listened to various speeches from the Governor General and other officials. Again, there were thousands of people there to watch and great us veterans. It was also good to see Canadian troops and all the veterans. I met Herb **Tempe** for the second time.

A couple of days later we went back to Groesbeek for a private ceremony and laying a wreath for our regiment.

I was pleased to see our wreath as it said *The Westminster Regiment* on it. I was very proud of that. In evening we went to a tattoo where there were bands playing. The Canadian troops did a great job in the show as well. The event was held in a soccer stadium and there had to be at least 18,000 people in attendance to watch. Again, another great event to see.

The parade on May 8th had to be the highlight of the trip. There had to be 300,000 people on the parade route cheering and smiling at us for what we had done for them. It sure made us feel special. At the end of the parade we went to a large building call the Amiricahal at the trade show place. There I met Len **Bailey**, Cpl **Basson**, and Orme **Payne**. Orme is an honorary member of the Association. Also met a Westie from Kingston and Ken **McLeod** the historian from Langely.

The three high points of the trip were laying the wreath for the Westminster's, the fabulous parades and my daughter and granddaughter joining us after three days and staying in the same hotel as us. That was special.

As I said, it was a pleasure and honour to represent the Association and Regiment at such a special event. I was very proud to be a Westie!

**Stan Conway**

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### **Robert (Bob) Foulis Passes**

Bob Foulis passed away Sept 2005. Bob was the Regimental Padre to the Westie's, 15th Field and BCR's for many years. He passed away while out of the country in France.

Editor.

# **The Regiment**

## **A New Colonel Takes Command!**

Lieutenant Colonel Matthew P. Haussmann CD is the new Commanding Officer of The Royal Westminster Regiment. LCol Haussmann took over command of the Regiment in a ceremony held Saturday September 17 in Queens Park. Born in Rhode Island, USA, LCol Haussman moved to Vancouver in 1970 and was raised primarily in Vancouver, but spent several childhood years in Montreal and one year in France. He earned his Bachelor of Commerce degree from UBC in 1993, the Certified Management Account designation in 1996 and a Master of Business Administration degree from SFU in 2003.

In 1989 LCol Haussmann joined The Royal Westminster Regiment as a Private soldier. In 1991 he was commissioned and took the RESO Phase I & II Infantry in CFB Gagetown NB. In 1992 he completed the basic Parachute Course and Phase III Infantry. Later LCol Haussmann took the Militia Officer Staff Course (MOSC) and the Intermediate Tactics Course (ITC) where he tied four other candidates for the highest grade. In 1999 he completed the Dismounted Company Commanders Course. In 2003/2004 LCol Haussmann attended the Militia Command & Staff College where he was the top candidate on tutorial I.

LCol Haussmann has been employed in the Regiment as a Rifle Platoon Commander, Airborne Platoon Commander, Rifle Company Commander, Battalion Operations Officer and Deputy Commanding Officer. In 1993 he served as an umpire with the 1 PPCLI on Ex Nordic Defender in Cranbrook BC. Later that year he instructed on an Infantry Section Commanders Course and on the Basic Machine Gunners Course at the PPCLI Battle School in Wainwright AB. In 2000, LCol Haussmann deployed to Bosnia on Operation Palladium in the role of Liaison Officer.

In his civilian life, the new CO worked as an assistant controller for a gulf mining company then as a controller for a forest products company. He then became an executive for a non-profit organization before embarking on a career as a post secondary instructor for business while dabbling as a real estate investor.

LCol Haussmann resides with his wife and three daughters in Vancouver.

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### **Swimming Swedes**

During one of the Swedish army's annual exercises, a sign on a bridge tells everyone "This bridge is destroyed". The exercise commences, and the Commander in Charge, a Colonel, scans around with his binoculars. Suddenly, he sees a line of soldiers walking over the closed bridge, which is marked with red flags, to simulate that it has been destroyed by an artillery barrage. The Colonel jumps in his TGB11 (Terrängbil 11, Eg. Cross Country Vehicle 11) and races down the hill to the bridge to have a word with the lousy platoon commander that allowed his men to cross a simulated destroyed bridge. As he approaches, he can see that the first soldier in line, a 2nd Lieutenant, carries a poster which says, "Vi simmar (We swim!)"



## Accoutrements Update

We have essentially finalized the accoutrements the Association will have available for purchase. We will be receiving shortly the wire badges for our approval. We are trying to make a bulk initial purchase of 200 of each item. To set this up we are looking to do 2 things. First, have members place orders for items and second have some items remaining as part of a kit shop. To do this, members can place orders for what they would like and/or make a donation to the Accoutrements Fund. So far have received to date \$1,600.00 dollars towards the Accoutrements Fund. From this \$1,600.00, \$100.00 is for a purchase and the remainder has been donated to setup the fund. We are now ready to take orders. To place the order for a quantity of 200, we will need to raise a little over \$17,000.00. We need only to put half of this down when the order is placed and the rest on delivery. We are aiming at placing the order in December. Once the order is placed we would receive the items within 4 to 6 weeks. Below is the price list.

Forest Green Beret:	\$33.00
Wire/Embroidered Cap Badge	\$20.00
Cap Badge Sewn To Beret	\$ 3.00
Wire/Embroidered Blazer Badge	\$25.00
Woven Royal Blue Tie With Cap Badges	\$26.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$107.00</b>

The pricing accounts for PST, GST, setup charges, and shipping. Please make your cheque payable to The Royal Westminster Regiment Association (Accoutrements Fund). Also include the items you would like to purchase with your beret size and your address. If you are making a donation to the fund please ensure this is noted and your address is included for your tax receipt.

**Len Wohlgemuth**, Accoutrements Committee

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*Cadets & Band on Change of Command Parade*



*The Regiment & Cadets march on.*



# A Return Journey

## by Dave Adlem

In December 2004 I commenced planning to return to Holland in early May 2005 and visit the area I joined the Regiment sixty years earlier. I had continued to keep in touch with a couple I had met in Oosterwolde in 1945. I advised Lou and Helen van der Zee of my intentions. They were delighted to hear I would be visiting. Jim Oldfield was the OC A Coy along with Murray Hume, Bas Bean, George Brown and the writer. We were billeted in the Hotel Gouden Klok. The hotel was owned by the father of Lou van der Zee. Our soldiers were billeted in the school directly behind the hotel.

KLM dropped me in Amsterdams' Schipol Airport on 1 May. Train to The Hague, streets were crowded 'Queen Beatrix Birthday', people celebrating. Train to Groningen for two nights. Side trip to Delfzil passing through Loppersuma and Appingdam, return to Groningen. Cab to Eelde Airport, on to Roden where B Coy was located, then to Norg where Bn HQ was located. Unable to find the buildings the Regiment occupied in Roden and Norg. We spoke with some older Dutch people, none could remember where the unit was located. Many new buildings are probably in their place.

Arrived in Oosterwolde and checked into the Hotel de Zon. On entering the lobby a lady was talking to a gentleman who turned out to be the manager. The lady was Helen van der Zee and she was making sure I had a place to stay. Visited with Helen and Lou and had dinner in a new restaurant on the site where the Hotel de Gouden Klok used to be located. The Gouden Klok burned down some years ago.

Managed to locate Johl and Poke Sluiter who were the managers of the Gouden Klok when we were billeted there. Had a terrific visit with them. He is now 94 and she is 91, both are in good health. Left Oosterwolde for Emmen where a re-hab school was set up and I was joined by George Brown, Bill Williams and brother Peter Adlem for four months before commencing our journey back to Canada in 1946.

**Dave Adlem**

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*The new CO marches off leading his Regiment.*



*The Regimental Colors being cased after the parade.*



**Melfa 2006 (Italy)**  
**May 21 – June 01, 2006**

The long anticipated project by the Regimental Association to place a plaque in Italy at the location where the Westminster Regiment (Motor) crossed the Melfa River in May 1944 is to be realized in May 2006.

Members of our Association and Regiment have visited with our Italian hosts and viewed the location where our plaque will be erected. (Len **Bailey**, George **Dominique**, and Capt Ben **Pong** visited Italy in 2004) The plaque will be placed on the wall of a church, which is located approximately 500 meters from the point where the Westminster Regiment (M) crossed the Melfa River in May 1944. Those familiar with the history of the Regiment will also remember that at this battle Major Jack **Mahony**, VC was awarded the Victoria Cross for his actions during the battle of Melfa River May 23rd and 24th.

Should you wish to participate in this historic event would you contact SPECIAL TRAVEL INTERNATIONAL as noted below. Your contact is **Gery Valtiner**. Gery travels a lot, but his staff are well acquainted with this project.

A number of Association members are planning on attending this event. There is also a plan to take one army cadet from the Regiment's affiliated cadet corps along for the trip. The Association is covering that young person's trip. Donations will be gladly accepted to help cover the cost of the cadet.

**SPECIAL TRAVEL INTERNATIONAL**

3503 East Hastings Street Vancouver, BC V5K 2A8

ph: 604.291.1332

fax: 604.291.1378

e-mail: [sti@intergate.ca](mailto:sti@intergate.ca) website: [www.sticanada.com](http://www.sticanada.com)

Cost: From Vancouver: \$2,990.00 \* From Toronto: \$2,790.00

From Cal/Edmonton/Saskatoon/Winnipeg/Halifax: \$3,090.00

Single Supplement: \$430.00

Includes: Air fare Canada – Rome; Venice – Canada

Private bus and guide throughout; Accommodation in superior tourist class hotels based on double occupancy; Breakfast and dinner every day; Special visits and commemorations; Sightseeing and entrance fees per itinerary; Portage & local taxes and service charges. Not Included: Lunches \* Insurance \* Departure Taxes.

A Full Itinerary will be available to all expressing a wish to attend the ceremony.

**Jerry Gangur**, Melfa Italy 2006 Chairman

## Army Cadet Service Medal (ACSM)

The Army Cadet Service Medal (ACSM) was created as a result of the 125th Anniversary year of The Royal Canadian Army Cadets in 2004. To be eligible to wear the ACSM, you must have completed 5 years of cadet service and presently be serving as a cadet. A bar is awarded for an additional year or two of service.

Former cadets who served for more than 5 years are also eligible to obtain the medal. Serving cadets simply apply through their Commanding Officer. For former cadets you can make arrangements to obtain the medal from your former cadet corps. If that is not possible, you can apply through The Army Cadet League of Canada in Ottawa. There is a cost for the medal to former cadets and it is \$10.00.

Applications for the medal can be obtained from the Army Cadet League web page at [www.armycadetleague.ca](http://www.armycadetleague.ca). You can also check out the BC Branch of the Army Cadet League of Canada web page at [www.armycadetleague.bc.ca](http://www.armycadetleague.bc.ca) and there is a link to the national site.



The medal can only be worn by serving cadets. The medal is not considered “Official” and can not be worn with other Official medals. For former cadets, it is simply a memento. There is a space on the medal to engrave your name if you so wish.

If you require help in obtaining the medal, contact Captain Ted Usher. He is the Liaison Officer for the Regional Cadet Support Unit (Pac) and the Army Cadet League (BC Branch). Contact him at [usher.t@cadets.net](mailto:usher.t@cadets.net) or call the League office in Vancouver at 604-733-1980.

## Have You Ever Served at Vernon Army Camp?

Mr **Francois Arseneault** of Calgary has generated a commemorative coin for those who served at Vernon Army Cadet Camp or the present Vernon Army Cadet Summer Training Centre. Coins are a very popular item now and these coins are very impressive. Each coin is individually numbered and comes in a felt lined box. The front of the coin indicates the number of the coin along with the Army Cadet maple leaf, the camp name along with the motto “Without Equal”. The back of the coin has an engraved image of building C40, Battalion Headquarters and the words ‘Camp Vernon Since 1949’.

To obtain a coin, contact Francois at 403-282-6100 or email at [vacchistory@telusplanet.net](mailto:vacchistory@telusplanet.net).



If you want to see who has purchased a coin or to see what numbers are available, go to the Army Cadet History web page at [www.armycadethistory.com](http://www.armycadethistory.com). Each coin cost \$22.00. Shipping is extra.