

Volume 2009/Issue 2 April 2009



The GROUNDSHEET

The Official Publication of The Royal Westminster Regiment Association

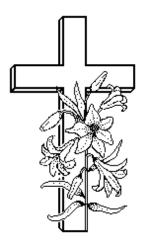
'Dedicated to the ideals and comradship we knew in wars and peace in our services both home and abroad.' 'Pro Rege et Patria'

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www.royal-westies-assn.ca

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In Memoriam

McLachlan William Haney March 9, 2009 Vancouver WWII

Health an Welfare

I believe that it is the resonsibility of all members of the regimental family to report both positive and negative apsects on our membership and their families. I am sure with such a young Regiment there will be births to report. So please drop me a line if you know anything.

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Editors Report

As I sit down to write this note I see the Canucks are winning against the Blues. This may be our year. This issue of the is chalked full of information on the TF 3-09 rotation to Afghanistan. As I have mentioned before, some of the units members are completing a diary on what they are goping through. I is fairly rough but does give a good idea of who they are meeting and what they are doing. I have enclosed a couple of their submissions. You can find more submissions on our website.

This years Melfa Weekend is shaping up to be a big one that requires maximum attendance by all. Please have your returns in by May 8th. This allows us to get appropriate quantities ordered.

Our kit shop now has lapel pins. The pins are of our Bucky Beaver and cost \$4.00. See the advertisement on page 7. Those of you who have purchased the blazer badges but not received should should be receiving them with this issue.

DIARY TF 3-09 (Work up)- TF Afghanistan OP ARCHER Rotation 8

Name: Capt CM

Unit attached to: 3 PPCLI

Position to be employed: OC Mentor OMLT Current Location: Chilliwack, New Westminster

Date: 26 Jan 08

Weather: Sunny -1/-8 C

Current News Items – President Barack Obama sworn to office; Patullo Bridge to reopen after fire destroyed a portion of the bridge (earlier than indicated). Unit is preparing Collective trg for EX Western Defender (MPC conducted this weekend in Calgary). OP PODIUM starting to ramp up. TF Vancouver Company, to stand up 1 Sep 09. However, HQ stand up 1 Feb for participation on EX Silver. Many of the lower mainland armories have been tasked for OP PODIUM. More to follow. Reserves may assist with TF Vancouver venues – Cypress Bowl and possibly Village

Activities: The last few weeks have been solely focused on the admin. This has been frustrated by the "last minute, must do now, tasks". Including a NSE Force Protection directed Exercise. Ex Cougar Afghan was conducted in OPSEE. Scope – Pl offensive operations – dry. Personally I cleared the Pl and sp staff into the trg area via ASU Ops. Hand it all over to Sgt H. Sunday went up for out clearance. Met Lt J Mc (SH of C). Previously a Pl Comd for me at Cougar Salvo. Good opportunity for his Pl to meet. The PL is a mixed Combat Arms Pl. There are suppose to be 2 FP Pl. One assigned to PRT the other for Convoy Operations. No GATE GUARD at KAF. We shall see. The PL is supposed to be equipped with the LAV III without

Afghanistan TF 3-09

Jan 16, 2009

"Democracy to an Afghan is as alien as a vegetable talking to you" General Vance

Greetings from Shilo! The above quote from Brigadier General Vance kicked off a series of Power Point presentations focusing on Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) training requirements and Afghanistan cultural awareness. The highlight of last week was a presentation from the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT). From it, the presenter focused on their department's priorities or big six projects:

- 1. security in Kandahar: notably by the Afghan police and army,
- 2. basic services ie. jobs, water etc,
- 3. humanitarian efforts,
- 4. border management and dialogue between Afghanistan and neighbouring Pakistan,
- 5. democratic development and national institutions, and
- 6. Afghan led reconciliation.

More recent successes by DFAIT are the Dahla dam project, polio eradication and inroads on education.

While Canadians should be proud of these achievements the civil situation in Afghanistan is still dire. Widespread poverty is the norm due to lack of sustainable socioeconomic activity in both rural and urban centers. Agricultural resources are scarce while intensive military campaigns have magnified an already dire situation. With little or no resources, many farmers resort to poppy cultivation as a means to survive. Currently 85% of the country is involved in poppy cultivation. As a result, the government has found itself in a serious dilemma. As it campaigns to eradicate this epidemic there is limited or no compensation to the farmer. Thus, enter the Taliban. In exchange for loyalty and allegiance, the Taliban and drug lords offer money, food and protection. Moreover, Pashtun culture is an honour and revenge based society (refer to Afghanistan 2). Given that the national government is corrupt and bribes are a way of life (example: it costs \$300 to obtain a licence) for any type of service delivery, one can understand why some people choose to join the Taliban.

Well...that's it for now. God bless.

TY

Presidents Report

Melfa 2009 is fast approaching, and once again I bring greetings and invite one and all to take part. The Melfa weekend as previously stated in the last issue of "The Groundsheet" will be held on the weekend of May 15 – 17, 2009. Plans are well underway. The Golf Tournament will be held once again at Maple Ridge Golf Course and will be on Friday May 15th. First tee-off at 9:00 a.m. Cost \$42.00 per golfer which includes golf, and a sandwich and beer after the game. There should be the usual bevy of prizes, and I have it on good authority that all the correct requisitions have been issued for good weather. Last year we had an above average turn out, so hopefully this year we can better it.

The dinner this year will be once again be held Saturday May 16th in the Armoury. Cocktails at 6:00 p.m. with dinner following at 7:00 p.m. The menu this year will be the same as last year, as we received positive comments about the meal last year, so we'll go with it again.

On Sunday May 18th we will be holding our Brunch followed by the annual general Meeting. Brunch will start at 9:00 a.m. with the meeting to follow at approximately 11:00 a.m.

An additional event this Melfa weekend, will be the long awaited re-dedication of the two plaques which were stolen back in 2006. We have purchased replacement plaques made from marble. The re-dedication will commence at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday May 16th. The Regiment will be on parade and we have a number of guests attending to join us in unveiling and consecration of the plaques. All members of our regimental family are invited to this event. Lunch for guests will follow in the Officers's/W.O.'s & Sgt's Mess at approximately 12:30 p.m.

This is my last report, as I will be stepping down from the President's position at the A.G.M. I have served as your President for three years, and I believe that it is important to pass on the gavel to a new President. It has been a great privilege to serve as your President and I have found it very rewarding. We all belong to an organization that has been and remains to be an important part of our history. I wish the new President all the best. I will continue to be involved in a background capacity.

As all of us are aware, the world is going through a major economic crisis. Unfortunately, this will have an effect on our association over the next year or so. We have been informed by the Vancouver Foundation that the next years income from our Future Fund will be approximately half what we normally receive. This will mean that we may have to tighten our belt a little, unless we can find replacement donations. This may be a good point to mention, that if your membership dues are owing to please bring them up to date. Every bit helps on the bottom line.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the Melfa. Pro Rege et Patria Alan Morton, President

The Regiment

Greetings current and former Westies,

As I write this, we are spooling up for EX Western Defender, an area-wide 10-day Exercise in Suffield in early May. After that, we'll wind down our training year. We will end the year on May 16th with a parade (to rededicate the VC winner plaques that will replace those that were stolen some time ago) in the early afternoon, then we'll set up for the Melfa Dinner. This annual dinner is organized by the Association, and will be a wonderful chance to share a meal with former Westies, including the few remaining WW2 vets. Like last year, we'll use it to finish off the year. Unlike last year, we'll have a lighter agenda for the evening, so it won't take quite so long to get through the meal!

Our twenty soldiers on pre-deployment training are off on exercise to CFB Suffield for the next four weeks. I had the chance to visit them a couple of weeks ago, and in typical Westie fashion, they're impressing their mounting units with their professionalism and drive.

We also have 35 Westies that have volunteered to form a security platoon for the 2010 Olympic Games. These soldiers will begin workup training in September and will be full-time from September to March. This will leave the unit a bit thin on the ground, but both groups will come back from their respective operations with some excellent experience to pass on to the next generation of Westies.

The plan for next year is still tentative, but at the moment it has us working on patrolling from September to March, when we'll begin preparations for a live-fire gun camp in April / May. We will also be conducting a PLQ course in the fall, and a Platoon Support Weapons Course in the Winter/Spring. Of course, we will continue to emphasize fitness and battlecraft, but our emphasis on patrolling should hone fieldcraft to a very high level.

As I mentioned in my last submission, we're still in the middle of a big push for recruits. If any of you know of suitable young men and women, encourage them to call recruiting at 604-666-4282 to learn more about how to become a Westie. In closing, I'd like to thank all Westie soldiers for their hard work this past year. I'd also like to thank all spouses, former Westies, and other members of the 'extended Westie family' for the support you've shown to our deployed and deploying soldiers. Enjoy your summer, and if we don't see you at Melfa on May 16th, we'll see you at stand-to on Saturday, September 12th, 2009. Make sure you mark your calendars for the unit change of command parade on Sunday, September 13th, when I will hand over command of our fine regiment to the current DCO, Maj Doug Poitras.

Pro Rege et Patria

M.P. Haussmann Lieutenant-Colonel Commanding Officer

Our Cadets

1789 Agassiz - No Report.

2316 New Westminster

2316 RCACC had QueensSweep Clean up on Apr 26th and 1 day Absei /Canoe Day ex on 02 May.

This cadet corps celebrates 60 years.

The Annual Inspection is May 22nd.

All cadets who applied for summer camp have been accepted and are all pleased about their course selections

Cadet corps is a little small in numbers BUT BIG of Heart!!!

Capt. WE Blomme CO 2316 RCACC

1838 Maple Ridge - No Report.

2822 Surrey - See page 8.

1922 Aldergrove - No Report.

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 deductable 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.

MIA/AWOL

Gerry Churley
David Crossfield
Pat Hyska
Beryl McKinney
Tom Rusnak
Richard Ruggles
M.J. Gillis

Jeff Courson
Ed Farkas
Kirsten Luomala
Ken Moyes
Ken Moyes
Ben Vaughn
Rick Cable

Kit Shop

Association Tie	\$35.00
Association Blazer Badge	•
Association Lapel Pin	\$ 4.00
Association Beret with Cap Badge	Free

Contact the Regimental Museum during open hours on Tuesdays and Thurdays.



Last November, as one of the cadet aims is to increase an awareness in the Armed Forces and also for citizenship training, I asked the cadet Master Corporals in our corps to write some letters and cards to M/Cpl J Curran . We put together a package of letters, pictures Christmas cards, puzle books, etc and mailed it to him.

John replied saying everyone over there was overwhelmed by the support shown by the cadets. To quote from his letter:

"I sincerely appreciate it. What you did with the cadets signing post cards and composing letters was fantastic and very much appreciated too. Their letters are interesting, inspiring and most of all genuine"

John and his comrades in arms signed a Canadian flag and sent it to me for presentation to the corps in appreciation of their support given to our troo[s overseas.

The photo above is three of our cadets holding the flag who corresponded with M/Cpl J Curran.

The cadets are:

M/Cpl Stanhope, M/Cpl Bryant and M/Cpl Evans

Submitted by 2Lt B Chessell 2822 RCACC turret but with Remote Weapons System (RWS). The RWS could be fitted with C6, 0.50 cal HMG or maybe even the new Automatic 40 mm Grenade Launcher. However the LAV has not been delivered yet. Discussion occurred regarding M/Cpl A. K. He is currently slotted as a Section Comd. Suggested to Lt J Mc that he have him WSE (While So Employed) to Sgt. Lt J. Mc. indicated M/Cpl A. K. is his strongest NCO. Also LAV qualified. The same has been discussed with M/Cpl P. K. Cpl D. B. on Thursday asked to be added to TF 3-09. Got him a position in NSE. Now he needs to get DAG. The exercise seems to be OK as a shake out. It seems that NSE yet again was flinching. All of this trg will be repeated during workup.

M/Cpl Irvine has ramrodded the admin. Thank GOD! Got trg sorted for this Tues in regards to TPP in Afghanistan... Looks interesting. Oh did the BFT last week and passed 2hrs and 8 mins. Ow. But good place to start the physical fitness.... My personal biggest challenge. Also the last hurtle for my promotion to Major. Now it is wait and see. Starting to get excited about going! Seeing old friends, conducting new training etc. Also it looks like my bride will drive with me to the frozen strip mall they call Edmonton.

Date: 11 Feb 09

Weather: Sunny -12/-18 C

Position to be employed: OC Mentor OMLT

Current Location: Edmonton, ABr

Current News Items – Well over the last few weeks it has been difficult to keep appraised of news items. Will need to focus on this.

Activities

First Week 2 Feb – 6 Feb 09

Weather: Sunny -3/-8 C Occasional Snow flurries. Very warm weather for Edmonton. Thank God.

Traveling here was uneventful except for the snow in Coqihalla and Jasper. Krysten remain in Vernon. Met some of the Roosevelt Deer in Jasper Park... in my headlights. Finally stop in Hinton AB. Pushed on to Edmonton to report for the 1st Feb. Got lost in Edmonton. Forgot my point of reference was Griesbach which is now closed. The area around the old base and northward has built up a little bit. Nameo, I now remember for this is where DZ Buxton is located and my para course was conducted. No Officers quarters so housed in OR new quarters (Building 164 – Wing E). Its Ok. Private room shared bath. No Lounge in the building. Ever troop seems to have there own TV. The rap music competition is getting to me. Probably better if they were in stereo. I guess it beats CW.

This week involved us reporting to the 1 VP AAG. This was conducted in the LTF – Lecture training Facility. The AAG took a while . Sure glad MCpl I. had done the work he did. Of course it still is fouled up. Missing Security Clearance . Brought copy. Apparently there was a foul up with medical. Still trying to sort out. Cpl J. H. previous Westie ask me to sign his docs. He now is with 1 Fd Amb. He stated I was the only officer in the room who had known him for 15 plus years. I had ran him to him last year on his QL 3/paramedic crse in Chilliwack.

Took my First Aid refresher. I seem to be a Point of reference because of Successful CPR and other medical experiences? WO R. D. from SH of C is in the same class. He is a VFD firefighter. But you need the check in the box. Also participated in the IFT (Indirect Firing Trainer) done on the SAT Trainer (same as one at home). It really is a great way to teach indirect fire. Had Capt G. R. with me and a M/Cpl K. from 744 Com Regt.

According to M/Cpl's A. K. and P. K. FP (Force Protection is still having issues. Lt J. Mc. from SH of C. and I have discussed his personnel issues including having two Pl WO's. He tried to speak to his Coy 2IC but she did not want to get involved! She is an EME Officer so it isn't really the kind of thing she deals with. Problem is the FP Coy is split between here and Shilo.

Finally got sucked away to 3 VP and reported to the OMLT organization. Meet my Sgt Maj. I have meet a few of the SR NCO- MWO P. (Sonny- ex RCR) is a great CSM. Seem to hit it off.

We are missing an OC. Two NCO's on course and three of the other OC Mentors still with there Pl. Therefore, I was appointed as acting OC for the Trg Kandak. Our S1/S4 is a Capt T. D. from 1 CMBG. A previous CFR and Inf Reservists(Cal High) soldier prior to being a Regular force officer. Great guy!

We think that Capt B. W. will join us later once he has completed trg at the AAG. He is from 5 Fd Bty and suppose to

The remainder of the week I attended a COIN PD session put on by 1 CMBG. The Comdr of 1 CMBG is Col Corbould. Related to the LCol Corbould who commanded the westies in WWII. Did get an opportunity to speak to him about his Grandfather.

The session was excellent. They spent the money for this one. I will get the schedule to demonstrate the topics. It was great because it did not paint a single picture of the Afghan people but of the complexities. I heard other soldier's state they wish they had receive this prior to deploying to Afghanistan. Very educational. There were also briefs by TF 1-08 LCol Corbould CO of 2 VP; as well as one Coy Commander; 1 Pl Comdr and 1 Pl WO. Very insightful.

Ran into Capt John Angelski. Currently the Int Staff at 1 CMBG. Previous Junior Officer at the Westies. As well as MWO Bill Annad. He was the RSS WO at SH of C last year. Apparently his wife is a triage nurse at VGH and in TFA

Got an mail from Trevor Shelrud who was Jr. Officer with Westies and now with LER's. As well as WO Sid Estey. He was part of the Reg F staff with our 10/90 BN.

Finally 3 VP had there Change of Command here last week. The new CO is LCol Pete Dawe. He is Capt Francis Dawe's brother. MCpl Colin Bason's Pl Comdr on TF 1-07 and was KIA with Colin. LCol Dawe and I go way back. We served in Cyprus together when he was a Tp Commander with 1 RCHA. The list goes on.

Col Brenne our CO arrived on Thursday. Spoke to us Friday. Then headed back to Ottawa to hand off. The DCO is the LCol Kennely previous CO of 3 VP. He is now on Leave but due back next week. I was to be loaded on the TCCC (Triage Casualty Care Course) for the next two weeks. But it was filled up. There is still plenty to do prior to leaving for Wainwright on Ex Spartan Mentor. An IBTS ex . We should be there the first three weeks of March.

Met up with the lads Friday evening at the Ramada. \$6.00 for a large pint. Ran also into Helen Goldie from CFRC Vancouver – previous Westie supply tech. As well as Sgt MacDonald – RSS RM RANG. Nice to see the boys. Got MCpl Colin Terry to join us. We talked about Cpl Andy Richards and his OT and subsequent deployment to TFA.

As normal. Shanna gins occurred. Drove Cpl M. L. and M. back to CFB Edmonton eventually. MCpl I. got hit by the "I'm now very drunk truck but I don't now why. Really she is cute!" The feud between Doyle and Berg continues. Cpl M. L. and MCpl A. K. sorted it out. Seeing MCpl A. K. in a Hawaiian shirt and shorts was aspiring! Saw Cpl D. early in the day on his way to the MIR. Still very sick. Saw Sgt G. B. one day. He seems to be fitting into the BG.

The flora of Edmonton felines was paraded in the dance club. The portions of the blonde lady entered the bar before she did. Unfortunately up close....thick make up. She wasn't a Cougar, yet! Her friend dance and it was all clear. They were dancers and paid for girlfriends (escorts). He appeared happy.

Second Week 9 Feb - 13 Feb 09

Weather: Sunny -12/-18 C Sunny Cold. .

Start of week started with a run on PT with CSM....5 kms he said but I believe it was more like 8 kms. Sore later!

AAG into OMLT BOR. However, the MBOR is holding my DAG file. Went and saw Cpl James Cooley to see what was up. Apparently until we are all DAG Green and Class C Contracts sign they are hanging onto our files.

Spent and hour standing in Base supply but got issued new 80 liter Rucksack. It will hold 200 lbs of kit. Great someone will fill it up. They only cost \$600.00 each. Only Field units will be issued with them. As well as replaced my gas mask carrier. Finally, got issued a new raincoat. But I did not have rain pants so they gave me a rain coat only. Oh well. The rain coat was MCpl Bason's so it was a little sad to see it go. MCpl Bason picture is displayed on 3 VP Memorial wall. Plus there is a soldier here that looks just like him. Uncanny, I thought I had seen a ghost.

Well as part of every army issue there were the ambiguous three period lectures on the Rucksack. Clothe the Soldier folks did the presentation. The Sgt Thomlinson from GGFG, a CTS staff, ask me if I knew WO Brian McKenna. Apparently they were on the 3B Course together. These lectures were conducted in the LdSH lines. Same hanger that the TOW LAVs are parked. (Days of the Direct Fire Support Company and the MGS). At least there not rusting...yet! The lectures were informative.

This week is supposed to be weapons issue. Apparently we are getting C8's. Followed by TOETs, Comms refresher, Foreign Weapons lecture. Next Monday is a day off and we have possible culture briefing s and Group and zeroing.

We will see. MTF. Got evicted from OR quarters. Suppose to move to Officers Quarters. My wife Krysten had a scare with possible emergency gall bladder surgery. Following day they had postpone it. That was a relief.

Well after an hour I got my weapons issue. 1x 9mm pistol, 1 x C8 Heavy barrel, 1 x eotec site, 1 x IR/White light flashlight to be fitted on rails of C8. A distress IR beacon, BFA, sling, Ne w C7a2 bayonet, scabbard, and frog. 1 x pistol holster. Glad I had not purchased a holster. We will see how it works with the Frag vest and tac vest on. Also got a TCCC pouch. Got Sgt T to go through it. They have quite a few items: nasopharyngeal tube, tracheotomy kit, sterile compressed badges, tourniquets, Israeli bandages, scissors. It was missing Quick Clot. The sgt Suggested I refill with compress bandages. And double what is in the bag. The black latex gloves were melted from the heat of Afghanistan.

My peer who will remain nameless and is suppose to be our S3 is driving me crazy. It is like he never listens to the advice that is given to him. Doesn't trust those around him. Always looking for the easy way out. Try to find a loop hole in the system to avoid doing things. I.e he did the express test versus the BFT. They will not DAG him Green until the physical fitness box has been checked off. He believes that since he did the Express test versus the BFT that he is good to go. However, the army standard for fitness is the BFT. Wow. He asked me today if he should go on the Inf Dismounted Coy Comd Crse. I told him that he needed to be fit. It was a great course. Especially if you had ATOC. The course is based on the conduct of operations as a Inf Coy. He told me that MCSC trumped that requirement.... I think he may be in for a shock! Further to this the Sgt Maj yelled at him to day to stop looking for the easy way out. Get use to it. The hard way is the only way! My peer is an Reserve Arty Officer. Capt J told me I should sort him out at happy hour on Friday. Of course that it what he would say. There is a possibility he may become the Acting OC. Sgt Maj was not impressed! Nor am I.

Tomorrow is a half day. We have Crossfit in the gym. See what is planned for Tuesday. CO is back. I suppose to attend culture training. X 2 days. Then Ranges for two days. TOETS and Gp and zero.

Melfa Weekend 2009 May 15, 16, and 17

Location - Maple Ridge Golf Course 208818 Golf Lane

Date - May 15, 2009 Tee-Off - 9:00 AM

Maple Ridge, B.C.

Melfa Golf:

Cost - \$42.00 per Golfer (Includes	s Golf, Sandwich, and a Beer)
Registration - By May 8th 2009	
Contact - Terry Leith	
(604) 521-0042 or en	nail tmleith@gmail.com
Plaque Rededication:	
Location - Armoury	
New Westminster, B	.C.
Date - May 16, 2009	
Time - 1030 - 1230 Hrs.	
Melfa Dinner:	
Location - Armoury	_
New Westminster, B	.C.
Date - May 16, 2009	
Time - Cocktails 1800 Hrs. Dinner	1900 Hrs.
Cost - \$45.00 per Person	
Brunch/ AGM:	
Location - Armoury	0
New Westminster, B	.C.
Date - MAy 17, 2009	
Time - 0900 Hrs Brunch/ 1100 Hrs	AGM
Melfa Weekend RSVP Tear of	f and mail to Association by May 8th.
Golf (\$42.00/Person)	= \$
·	
Plaque Rededication	_= NA
Dinner (\$45.00/Person)	= \$
Brunch/AGM (No Cost)	_= NA
Total	<u>\$</u>
Print Name	Phone#