

The Groundsheet



Volume 2015/Issue 1
February 2015



The 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’

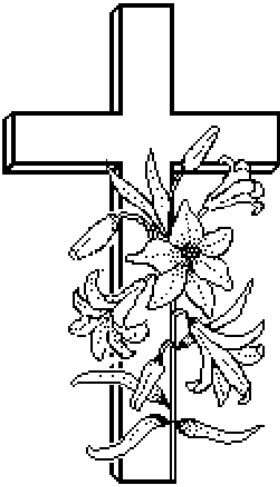
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In Memoriam



Gents.

My uncle, Thomas "Tom" Arthur Myers passed away today at his home in Qualicum Beach. He turned 94 this past June. Tom served the Westminster Regiment in the Band for over 25 years back in the 1960 era. He was a loyal member of the Sergeant's Mess and attended many Regimental functions until my aunt and uncle moved to the Island. I am sure he is still a member of the Association. Tom was very active up to the time of his death. Matter of fact only 1.5 years ago when I visited them he was in the process of teaching an 89 year old to play the clarinet. Can you please have this information submitted into the next issue of the Groundsheet.

Thanks,
Ted

Ted Usher

Thomas "Tom" Myers	January 2015	Qualicum Beach BC	Royal Westminster Regiment
Wilfred Johnsen	December 2014	Kelowna BC	Westminster Regiment WWII
Freda Hogg	October 2014	New Westminster BC	Association Member
Kenneth Clarson	October 2014	Abbotsford BC	Westminster Regiment WWII
Walter Tyler	August 2014	Vancouver BC	Westminster Regiment WWII
Donald Cassie	August 2014	Maple Ridge BC	CAF
Larry Watkins	May 2014	Vancouver BC	Royal Westminster Regiment
Howard Mansfield	January 2014	Ottawa ON	Westminster Regiment WWII
Preston L Storey	May 2013	Victoria BC	Westminster Regiment WWII

Health and Welfare

I believe that it is the responsibility of all members of the regimental family to report both positive and negative aspects 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.

Editor's Report

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Hello all again. This issue will not be a light one. In fact I have to apologize to Capt. Dave Evans for not including his article at this time. I will be including it in the next issue.

I have already mentioned that we will be transitioning to a more email base system. We have decided to do this over a few issues. Those that have request to remain on the standard postal service will always be getting your issues through the postal service. This issue we will be transitioning the Regimental members to the email issue. We have more email addresses for these members. For the Association, regimental retired members, we will be supplying both and email issue and a Postal issue. This is to ensure you get your issue. For the latter members, if you have requested an email issue I will only provide the email issue.

One interesting point is that by doing email issue I can provide a full colour issue. This does not cost us, as a printed issue would.

I would like to let your know that my intension is to retire from the Groundsheet and Webmaster duties in September. The executive is looking for a couple of volunteers to step into these positions.

Finally, we are trying to get information out faster to our members. To do this we would like to have every members email. Please forward this to my email at tedwohl@telus.net.

Len Wohlgemuth
Editor



From
The Chilliwack
Progress

B.C. military team prepares to put its skills to the test



A team of 8 soldiers from the Royal Westminster Regiment were in Chilliwack on Saturday training for Canadian Patrol Concentration – a national competition that tests soldiers’ sore and tactical skills. That day a group practised rappel training in Columbia Valley. Four soldiers rappelled at the same time down separate 90-foot ropes, as the other four were on the ground ready to gather the rappel lines once they were released from the chopper. The two groups of four then rotated jobs. The CH-146 Griffon military helicopter was flown from 408 Squadron in Edmonton for the training scenario that day. The other techniques include shooting, ambush, navigation training, and avoiding detection. The group is the only team that will be representing B.C. in the competition which takes place Nov. 21-24 in Wainwright AB.



Presidents Report

Good Day Fellow Westies

Its my pleasure to talk to you again via these means. This will be the last version of our groundsheets that is strictly delivered by ground mail . As mentioned before , for the majority of our membership we will be altering our distribution method to email. Our intent is to deliver the groundsheets on a PDF format, from now on, with the exception of those who specifically ask to remain on ground mail. We have received some submissions to stay on ground mail and we will honour those. If you wish to be part of the ground mail plan, please advise us within the next two months.

As you know, Melfa weekend approaches us soon and you can find details on it further on in this issue. This remains our only real face to face event where we all gather together . I'm looking forward to seeing you all there.

In the coming months, I intent to meet up with the presidents of the other brigade associations to see if there are any best practices we can see from them. I'm also meeting soon with the kind folks at BC command of the legion; in order to make sure that we are up to speed on whats advancing in the veterans world.

I want to take this opportunity to explain to all Westies a few things about finances. Our associations finances of course will be available to view at the AGM, but to sum it up we have a few dollars that can be used to better our organization. I intend to bring those items up at the AGM. One of the main new initiatives is a bursary we are looking to build for our serving battalion.

As an education piece, I'd also like to use this forum to advise our members of the different accounts that are part of the regimental family. As you know, our association collects dues from our members either through a yearly subscription or through life memberships. This includes all the serving soldiers of our serving battalion who pay their messes, and the messes pay us. Those funds are allocated , according to the association constitution and the votes of the membership. This is completely separate from the unit fund. The only connection is that the association, by practice not policy, has donated money at the soldiers Christmas dinner to the unit fund. The unit fund is a non public fund. It is not funded by the tax payer, but as a military fund it still has multiple directions and rules to follow. It gets used for items that are for the betterment of the serving battalion as a whole. It does not get used to fund any mess events.

Brian Mckenna

Our Cadets

2822 Surrey- No Report

1789 Hope – See page 10

2316 New Westminster – No Report

1838 Maple Ridge – Submitted but not enough space. Will publish next issue

2822 Surrey – No report..

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 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.

MIA/AWOL

These are people we have lost contact with and need updated addresses.

Attony Pinel,
MacInnis SC,
Boyd SA,
Brown JA,
Smith CS,
Howton DT.

Museum

For anyone who has memorabilia and artifacts that pertain to the Regimental history, the Museum would appreciate the items being donated to us. We would rather have the items here than being tossed in the garbage can. You can contact the museum through the website or come into the Museum. We are open on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 11:00 AM and 3:00 pm.

The Regiment

Every training year builds up to an end of summer competition between Regiments of 39th Brigade. Last year as part of the conclusion to the 2013/2014 training year the Royal Westminster regiment sent 28 of its members - the largest contingent fielded by the 39th brigade - to take part in the ten day long brigade level war games exercise. The exercise included a series of stations hosted by each of the participating units. The Westie platoon was lead by Lt. Anderson (1 Platoon Commander) under the direction of Major MacKinnon (DCO D Company). The platoons first station, hosted by the Seaforth highlanders, was a chance to shoot a set of foreign and close quarters weaponry (AK-47, SKS, Shotgun, Pistol) before proceeding to a solo jungle lane. Despite a challenging course and having a number of inexperienced members the platoon averaged a score of over 30/50 rounds on target, ranking second highest overall. Over the next several days unit members were able to participate in a well-coordinated series of activities including; urban combat simulation, combat search and rescue, grenade ranges, CBRN training and helicopter insertion/exfiltrations. Overall, the combined expertise of Lt. Anderson and then Sergeant Barron allowed the Westies to capture their second consecutive victory at the brigade exercise level.

The first exercise of the new training year took place from September 19th to the 21st nicknamed Westie Sharpshooter was co-sponsored by the Royal Westminster and the British Columbia Regiment it was a chance to qualify and re-qualify active members on the PWT3. The range involved a series of progressive marksmanship activities (C7-C9) separated by 100-meter sprints designed to simulate the physicality of combat environments.

On October the 4th New Westminster and the Royal Westminster Regiment were the setting for the "Wait for me daddy" monument dedication, which took place at the site of the historic photo. The photo, taken by Claude P. Dettloff on October 1, 1940 captures a little boy (Warren "Whitey" Bernard) reaching out for his fathers hand as his unit (British Columbia Regiment) sets off on a long journey to England as part of Canada's military commitment to the war effort. The piece has long been of special significance to the Royal Westminster Regiment, the BCR's and the community of New Westminster, and on the ____ anniversary of the photo the city unveiled a commemorative monument as part of the cities continuing celebration of the event. Contingents from both the Royal Westminster Regiment and the British Columbia Regiment had the privilege of forming the honour guard for the event in recognition of both the tremendous contributions made by the city of New Westminster and the sacrifices of the men featured in the photo.

On the 9th of November the Royal Westminster Regiment was proud to dedicate a World War II Bren Gun carrier LCol Vernon accepted the dedication as part of a small ceremony attended by Mayor Wayne Wright. The Carrier, now permanently located at on Queen street, was one of 113 000 such vehicles manufactured and introduced to immediate active service in 1940 until 1960 when the fleet was decommissioned. The carrier was originally designed to transport support weapons throughout the battle space but also found success as a personnel,

equipment and machine gun platform. Its versatility on the battlefield helped to make it one of the most successful and widely produced armoured fighting vehicles in history.

November saw the unit take part in Westie Roundup, part of a continued effort to provide our soldiers with the highest level of training, members of A Company's platoon support teams headed to Fort Lewis in Washington to take part in a three day long platoon heavy weapons certification range. The facilities featured a live fire, state of the art system designed to challenge the marksmanship skills of each soldier and provide them with the most realistic training environment available.

November 11th 2014 marked the 100th anniversary of the onset of the First World War. This year's ceremony was presided over by Mayor Wayne Wright, attended by more than two thousand people and was of special importance in light of the tragic deaths of Warrant Officer [Patrice Vincent](#) and Corporal Nathan Cirillo several weeks prior in Quebec and Ontario. In a show of solidarity the Royal Westminster joined contingents from the Police and Fire departments in an emotional ceremony outside the cenotaph on the grounds of city hall.

November was also the setting for the "Wait for me daddy" monument dedication, which took place at the site of the historic photo. The photo, taken by Claude P. Dettloff on October 1, 1940 captures a little boy (Warren "Whitey" Bernard) reaching out for his fathers hand as his unit (British Columbia Regiment) sets off on a long journey to England as part of Canada's military commitment to the war effort. The piece has long been of special significance to the Royal Westminster Regiment, the BCR's and the community of New Westminster, and on the ____ anniversary of the photo the city unveiled a commemorative monument as part of the cities continuing celebration of the event. Contingents from both the Royal Westminster Regiment and the British Columbia Regiment had the privilege of forming the honour guard for the event in recognition of both the tremendous contributions made by the city of New Westminster and the sacrifices of the men featured in the photo.

In January (23-25) the Royal Westminster Regiment took part in a two and a half day long winter operations exercise. Manning Park saw the Westies and an attachment from the 15th field artillery regiment and the 12 Medical Regiment conduct a defensive operation as well as several coordinated reconnaissance patrols throughout the parks mountainous terrain. These exercises were aimed at increasing soldier's abilities to operate in artic environments

February's (19-22) Westie Warrior will see individual platoons pitted against one another in a defensive competition in Chiliwack's OPSEE. 2014/15 marks the first time in a number of years that the regiment has been able to focus on defensive operations. The exercise will pit elements of three Westie platoons against each other with each assuming both a defensive and offensive posture. The exercise scenario will resemble many of the operations Canadian Forces have experienced over seas in peacekeeping and wartime circumstances. The platoon with the offensive tasking will attempt to mimic an insurgent force probing for weaknesses in allied lines. The platoon in charge of defensive activities will incorporate the support of 15th field and 12 Med to affect a blocking operation to disrupt enemy operations. The recent inclusion of large contingents from other units has been a significant learning opportunity for the three regiments

involved and has been aimed at intensifying the training environment to match real life pace and difficulty.

Ducimus Thunder (30 April – 3 May) is set to represent the culmination of the multi-unit cooperative exercises. With the Westie's leading the way, the unit will travel to Yakima in the United States with a contingent of 15th field to use the MPRC range system. Here the Westies will conduct a defensive exercise with that will involve the use of live-fire, fire missions supported by the 15th Field gunners. The MPRC system is a state of the art system that incorporates interactive target systems, it is also the only one of its kind available on the West Coast.

Following Ducimus Thunder the regiment will again turn to remembrance as May 23rd marks the 71st anniversary of the Melfa river crossing. In the two day long battle to cross the river, the Royal Westminster regiment fought alongside 11 other Canadian regiments in order to establish a beachhead across a critical obstacle anchoring the German lines. . Officers and distinguished guests from the Royal Westminster Regiment, the Canadian Cadet Corp and members of the New Westminster community will gather together to commemorate this event and the bravery of all the soldiers who fought as part of the _____(brigade or army group), especially that of Major John K. Mahony who despite being wounded once in the head and twice in the leg continued to orchestrate the defense of the allied bridgehead for five hours until supporting companies and heavy weapons were moved up to support them.

The commemoration will mark the last major event before the regiment attends the brigade level exercise in August (14-21). "Western Defender" will take place in an area of the BC interior known as the Chilcotin Valley; there the Westies will hope to expand on their previous years' successes in joint operations exercises. This year's task will involve the creation and defense of a bridgehead across one of the many rivers in the area. Championed by the 39th Combat Engineer Regiment, the brigade will practice defending a critical asset against a variety of enemy forces.

OCdt Richardson
R Westmr R



1789
THE ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT
ROYAL CANADIAN ARMY
CADET CORPS



The training year for all the Corps started off with the usual busy flurry of activity as each Corps returned for another training year. Last fall/winter every cadet corps has had a fall Field Training Exercise (FTX) and conducted successful and fun Christmas Holiday Dinners. This year the Cadet Corps have the following Commanding Officers:

1789 RCACC, Hope: Captain M. Ronholm
1838 RCACC, Maple Ridge: Captain D. Evans
1922 RCACC, Abbotsford: Captain T. Henderson
2316 RCACC, New Westminster: Major P. Savoie
2822 RCACC, Surrey: Captain M. Hilmer

Most of the staff from each cadet corps were available to attend this year's New Years' Levee held at the Regiment on 1 January 2015, and the rest of the month continued with weekly training nights.

January ended off on a high note with the return of a favourite "Westie Family" fun event, the **Westie Cup**. This is an Inter-Corps Air Rifle Competition designed to emulate a regional competition and provide an opportunity for all the Westie Cadet Corps to gather together at the Regimental Armoury. 2316 RCACC once again took home the cup, with 1789 RCACC in second place and 1838 RCACC in third place.

Cadets and staff love these opportunities to get together as "family" and the Association took advantage of having all the cadet corps together to present the banners the Association had made to present to each cadet corps. Special thanks to LCol Vernon, Terry Leith and Mike Kvammen for taking time from their weekend to come down and make the presentations. Very special thanks to Janet Kvammen for taking the official photographs.

Sam Ronholm
RWRA Director, Media & Cadet Liaison
Pro Rege et Patria



MELFA WEEKEND 2015

May 22, and 23

MELFA GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Melfa Golf Tournament will be held at The Delta Golf Course on May 22nd 2014. First Tee time is 9:00 am The Cost is \$60.00 per golfer which includes Golf and Beer and a Sandwich If you are planning on entering, Please contact Alan Morton @ amorton25@telus.net Or Terry Leith @ tmleith@gmail.com. Or send a cheque or money order to the Association at 530 Queens Avenue

New Westminster, B.C. V3L 1K3

Entries must be received by May 15th. In the past people have said they were coming and cancelled at the last minute. We have to pay for the number that we tell the Golf course that we will have, so it is important that if you say you are going to play please show up.

AGM

Saturday May 23rd at 1:00 PM in order to have more of the serving members attend the AGM and find out more about The Association. .

Melfa Dinner:

Location—The Armoury New Westminster

Date – Saturday May 23, 2015

Cocktails 1800 to 1900 Hrs.

Dinner at 1900 Hrs.

Dress—Casual Dress (No Jeans) or Uniform

Cost--\$50.00 per person by May 10, 2015—No Tickets after that date

RSVP by mail or e-mail to brianrmckenna@hotmail.com

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