



The GROUND SHEET

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF
THE ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

104th — 47th — 131st — The Westminster Regt.

Dedicated to the Ideals and Comradeship We knew in Two World Wars

VOL. 23, No. 1

BOX 854, NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C. V3L 4Z8

FEBRUARY - MARCH, 1974

Annual General Meeting

OF THE ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

AND

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Friday, March 22, 1974

PLACE: Combined Officers' and Sergeants' Mess in New Westminster Armoury

TIME: 8:00 p.m.

Parking in City Hall Parking Lot

IF YOU ARE EVEN REMOTELY INTERESTED IN
YOUR ASSOCIATION YOU WILL **BE** THERE!

These Are Crucial Times For YOUR Association

WE NEED **YOUR** ADVICE AND SUPPORT

AND WE NEED YOUR DUES FOR 1974

THE GROUND SHEET

President DOUG GLENN
6666 Walker Ave., Burnaby 1, B. C. — 522-0890

Editor & Secretary RON HURLEY
2229 Bonnyvale Road, Vancouver 16, B. C. — FA 1-8464

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The time has come to look back over the year's progress of the Association. 1973 has been no exception over the past years.

If you can find time to come to our Annual General Meeting on Friday, March 22, and hear the reports by the Chairmen of all our Committees, I can say without fear of contradiction that you will realize we have a good hard working dedicated executive of which I have been fortunate and very grateful to have been associated with, over the past years.

Although 1973 was a progressive year for our executive, it was also a sad one, as we lost three of our members, Col. Bill Williams, who was the first to receive a Life Membership to our executive. The Museum was hardest hit with the loss of Andy Hunter and Peter Grossman, dedicated men such as they, we will find hard to replace.

For my part as President, I must apologize for not being able to carry out all the duties of President in the last few months, due to a change in employment. I was fortunate in having a good Vice President by the name of Bert Hoskins.

In closing my report I wish to thank the Executives and the Members for accepting me as their President for the past three years, it was a pleasure and an honor. I sincerely wish the Association a continuing success in the years ahead.

D. W. Glenn

NOW HEAR THIS

In a very short time the Thirtieth Annual Meeting of the Association will come to pass, perhaps the most important meeting ever held, second only to the Founding Meeting in 1945.

One might ask, "Why is this year's meeting so important?" The answer is that we have reached that point in

time where the decisions we reach this March will either see the continuation of the Association as a viable organization or its gradual demise.

We face extinction for two reasons, first as is inevitable, time is taking its toll of the membership as the In Memoriam column of the Groundsheet so sadly reflects. Second, for some reason we have over the years been unable to reach or to motivate so many who served with the Regiment and who for whatever reason let their memberships lapse or who have never participated. Yet this association has strived to make a major contribution to the community and nation as our endeavours such as Scholarships, Achievement Awards, Sick and Visiting, Support of the Serving Regiment and Cadets, annual Smoker, Annual Dinner and Regimental Museum so testify.

Of course we have made mistakes and welcome constructive criticism, and we know that we may, unintentionally, have offended some former members of our family of regiments, but silence and non-participation will never help us improve. So this March we must decide two things, how do we maintain membership to counter attrition? What goals should we strive to achieve in the future to make the Association more meaningful and attractive to all who served?

For example, should we now offer associate (non-voting) memberships to sons and grandsons, etc., of those who served with the Regiment or were attached to the Regiment? Should we offer associate (non-voting) membership to veterans from allied regiments such as the BCD's who have no local association? Should we have a Ladies Auxiliary? How do we make the Annual Smoker and Dinner more attractive?

PLEASE, whether you are an active member, former member or a non-member who served with the Regiment or as an attached sub-unit, come and help us determine the future of the Association.

Bert Hoskin

FROM THE POST

First, apologies to Roger Hassard of 2315 Garnet St., Regina, Sask. Yes, Roger we did receive your first letter but too late for last edition. I take the privilege of publishing it in full this ation.

Will also offer, as written, a letter from Don Drummond of Box 854, Lake Cowichan, B.C. V0R 2G0. Don has been a loyal member and paying member of this association and is most entitled to his views and we thank you for expressing them. As a matter of interest Don, we received several comments from members who enjoyed those "lousy" hamburgers. Your comments will be passed on at the Annual Meeting and perhaps they will assist the 1974 Smoker Chairman in his planning.

A nice word from Maurice Klinkhammer of 1007 Baker St., Cranbrook, B.C. V1C 1A6. Your letter came to us, courtesy of the Postal Dept., with the kind assistance of a C. Kooerchuk of New Westminster, B.C., who made no less than two attempts to explain that it did not belong there. Nice to hear from you again and keep in touch.

A letter of thanks from D. Cuthbertson of Maple Ridge who was the first prize winner in the 1973 Draw. We congratulate you on your good fortune and invite you to participate in the future.

A wonderful letter from a Grand Lady, Mrs. James Victor Hollingum of 42 Morse Street, San Francisco, Calif., U.S.A. 94112. I sincerely hope that Mrs. Hollingum's fine gesture will prompt many more of those, close at hand, to respond with their 1974 dues.

From Mayor Tom Hall of the City of Port Moody, a letter of appreciation to the Awards Committee. It is doubly pleasant to have been able to present this award with a fellow member entering in the proceedings so prominently.

Jan. 18, 1974

Dear Ron:

We are having a real old time winter in Sask. Loads of snow and more than our share of cold weather. Keeps one busy keepng the walks clean, or else walk in snow up to your hips. I wrote you a letter last fall about a trip to Holland and of seeing our friend or a friend

of A. Coy Westminster Regt., G. Bruinsima of Osterwolde, Holland. He asked me about several A. Coy men. Joe Dewynter, Jim Oldfield, Drake and transport Sgt. at that time, etc. He wishes to be remembered to them and as I don't have the addresses of these comrades, I told him I would write to you and maybe you could see that his Good Wishes were passed on through the Groundsheet. I believe I told you where Johnny lives now and his occupation. Anyway I have never seen this mentioned in your last two Groundsheets. Did you not get my letter or was there not room in the Groundsheet. I was wondering about it, as I see your list From The Post.

If you have not received my letter would you pass Johnny's Good Wishes on through your Groundsheet. He hopes to visit Canada in the future. His address in Holland is: G. Bruinsima, A Bonnastraat 11, Vianen (211), Holland.

I still work as a Commissionaire at Regina Airport. One will never get rich at this job. But it is all I have been able to do since 1967, was ill for almost a year. But my wife works for the Income Tax, a Government Department we all love. Had cards for Christmas from Jim Oldfield, Hockley Kyle and of course Guitre, who is now over 70 years old and has so many grand children here and coming, it is a job to count them. But he can still run. This S. W. Myslick who now lives in Regina, was he an A Coy Scout? Maybe it would be easier for me to phone him to find out. Must be off to work. All the best for the New Year. Cheerio.

R. Hassard
2315 Garnet St.
Regina, Sask.

* * *

G. E. Turriff, Adjutant
40 Lesmar Drive
Islington, Ontario, Canada
M9B 2V2

5 Canadian (Arm'd) Divisional
Signals (RCCS) Association

December 6, 1973

Mr. E. V. Ardagh,
4938 Arbutus Street,
Vancouver 13, B.C.

Dear Vern:

Thank you for your letter of Dec. 3. When I returned home from my two weeks audit at Thunder Bay, I found that the June-July and Oct. - Nov. issues of the Groundsheet had arrived. I found much of interest in these and must congratulate your association.

I was also pleased to read that the present REGIMENT has continued to keep up the same high standards as it achieved during the war years, by winning the Gzowski Trophy, for the third consecutive year. The name Casimer Gzowski has a special meaning for me also, as I was hired just over 25 years ago by a personnel officer of this name. He was a direct descendant of Sir Casimir. The park along Lake Ontario, formerly known as Sunnyside Beach has been named in honour of Sir Casimir. I also appreciated your articles on the Gurkhas. Their band created a real interest in these stalwart soldiers, I have shared many cups of the very sweet drink they called tea, with them. My wife's cousin, MacCallum, won a V.C. with the Gurkhas on the Indian frontier between the wars. Ian Douglas's memories and the story of that 93 year old gentleman, Alfred Hawkins was very interesting. I even read my own letter in the paper and my name has been added to the mailing list. I have decided to make up a folder of the copies of the Groundsheets and send them out to members on request. I will mention this in our next epistle. I would be remiss if I did not mention how impressed I was with both the Association Scholarship and the Achievement awards. I will enclose my cheque for the membership fee. The amount does not appear as such but I hope I guessed right at \$5. If more I will remit, if less, let the difference go for stamps. I know only too well how the mailing costs have gone up.

Thank you again for your prompt letter, and pass on my thanks to Ron Hurley. If you or your comrades would like to read the history of the other Motor Battalion, I would be pleased to lend it to you.

Sincerely,
G. E. Turriff.

42 Morse Street,
San Francisco, California,
U.S.A. 94112
February 13, 1974

Dear Mr. Hurley:

I wish to thank you very sincerely for the card of MEMBERSHIP that you were so very nice to send me. I know that it would of pleased my husband very much.

Enclosed is a cheque for \$5.00 which I send in memory of his passing. February 17, 1963.

Please use it where you think it is needed.

Peace be with you.
Very sincerely yours,
Mrs. James Victor Hollingum

* * *

City of Port Moody
City Hall
2425 St. Johns Street
P.O. Box 36
Port Moody, B.C. V3H 3E1

February 7, 1974

Mr. Douglas W. Glenn
President
Westminster Regiment Association
6666 Walker
Burnaby 1, B.C.

Dear Doug:

It was an extreme pleasure at last Monday night's Council meeting in this City of Port Moody to have Walter Lyle present to make a presentation of an Association plaque and a cash honorarium to a person deserving of this type of award. Would you please pass on to your executive and the Selection Committee our thanks for all their consideration.

I have received a number of fine comments on this action by the Association and I would be pleased if you would also pass this information on to the Association.

Best personal regards,

Sincerely,
T. W. Hall
Mayor

* * *

P.O. Box 854
Lake Cowichan, B.C.
V0R 2G0

February 1, 1974

The Westminster Regt. Assoc.
New Westminster, B.C.

Dear Sirs:

I attended the Association's Annual Smoker on Dec. 8th and to say the least I wish I hadn't taken the time or expense to attend. It has deteriorated to a point where it isn't worth the effort.

It appears to me the sole aim of the Smoker is to make as much money in the shortest time with the least outlay possible without regard to the enjoyment of the members attending. After greeting old comrades and reminiscing over old times there was nothing to do but stand around and guzzle booze in a building which leaves a lot to be desired.

To crown it off was the lousy, cold and soggy hamburgers and chips which were dished out a la army style. Why wasn't a hot cup of coffee made available to those who didn't wish to wash down the aforementioned hamburgers, etc. with alcohol. Was it because there is no profit in coffee as there is in booze? If so, I would have gladly paid the price of a drink of liquor for a cup of coffee.

I am not suggesting that a feast should have been served, but surely a tub of good hot clam chowder and coffee would have been appreciated a lot more than the four-bit MacDonalds' special.

I know complaints should be aired at the General Meeting, but distance and expense does not permit me to do so. However, I hope those veterans who shared my views will attend and express the same as I have tried to do some of them on paper.

I will not attend any more Smokers and please do not send me any more tickets to sell. Rather if any of my comrades are in hospital and are in need of financial aid, I will only be too happy to make a yearly donation.

Yours truly,

D. F. Drummond

"The Royal Westminster Regiment Association"

How does that word "Royal" grab you? Whatever one may think, it's YOUR Official Designation. You may ask "Why hasn't it been used more widely heretofore?" A good question. I hope I can provide a good answer. Many of you will remember and are undoubtedly proud that The Regiment was granted the title "The Royal Westminster Regiment" in 1967. Certainly a fine honor and well earned distinction. The culmination, perhaps, of ALL the efforts of so many who had served before; from the days of the Royal Engineers, the 101st, 131st, 47th Bn and The Westminster Regiment (Motor) of W.W. 2.

With pardonable pride, your executive at the Feb. 1967 meeting formally moved, seconded and unanimously carried a motion that your Association hereinafter be known as "The Royal Westminster Association". Although passed, there were some second thoughts and it was decided to seek sanction for our actions at the March 1967 Annual General Meeting. This was done and there a lively discussion arose as to the legalities of our actions. A motion supporting your executive's actions was passed with but two registered negative votes.

Well, why haven't we acted? Two reasons: 1. A rather large stock of printed stationery. 2. A still lingering uncertainty. We are now almost out of old stationery stock so this is no longer a reason for delay. To clarify further our actions a letter was forwarded to N. A. Buckingham, Director of Ceremonial for Chief of Defence, Ottawa. Here is his published reply.

1901-5127 (DC)
National Defence Headquarters
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0K2

13 November, 1973

R. R. Hurley, Esq.
Secretary
The Westminster Regiment Association
P.O. Box 854
New Westminster, B.C.

Dear Sir:

In reply to your letter dated 5 November, 1973 I would observe that as

the Association derives its title from the Regiment it is therefore in order to adapt the Association's title to that of the parent organization. The Regiment is now entitled "The Royal Westminster Regiment", therefore its Regimental Association should correctly be entitled "The Royal Westminster Regiment Association".

In a word, it is the Regiment which has been designated as Royal and not the Association, and therefore no further sanction is required.

Yours sincerely,
N. A. Buckingham
Director of Ceremonial
for Chief of Defence Staff

He concurs with our proposals so there you have it. These actions were taken after due democratic voting. To those who do not agree we can only hope that your personal feelings will not blind you to the wishes of the majority. There are many similar precedents and it is almost certain that none will dispute that ALL of the units, noted above, have contributed and earned this distinction in their own right.

R. Hurley, Editor.

Let's Do It Together

Spring is close at hand and this is the time we all think of our big event of the year. The Melfa Weekend. Saturday and Sunday, both full days. Saturday begins at five or six in the morning depending on whether you are fast or slow with your morning coffee. The golf game begins around eight and the groups tee off in succession according to their position on the list of arrivals, as each group of four are told off. They approach the tee area and wait their turn. Right here you wonder if you can hit the ball. Maybe a short prayer would help. Anyway you do hit the ball and you start down the fairway, your day has started.

Early in the evening the cocktails and the dinner. Here you meet most of those you want to see and probably a face from out of the past. Each year there are new faces. Some too will be sadly missed. There will be partying into the wee small hours of early Sunday morning.

For Sunday afternoon there is the get together for our ladies and their escorts at the Officers' Mess. For us this is one of life's many pleasures. It

will be an easy chatty afternoon with refreshments. A nice climax to a very pleasant time.

We are also approaching another important time which is always held in March. The combined Officers' and Sergeants' Mess will be opened for our comfort. At the completion of the evening's activity, refreshments will be served. By the time the night is over, we will have another year, the direction in which we move and the behaviour of the executive being set by our being at the General Meeting; so please come.

Another activity which goes on month by month is our hospital visitations. All we require is to be told who is at what hospital. Our visits so far are confined mostly to Vancouver, Burnaby and New Westminster. If you know of anyone who is in the hospitals in the area, drop him a line, it would be much appreciated.

Yours truly
W. G. Robson

COMING EVENTS Mark Your Calendar

TORONTO CHAPTER MELFA DINNER

Place: Queen's Own Rifles Mess, corner of Queen St. East at Jarvis St., Toronto. Date: Saturday, 11 May. Time: Cocktails 6:30 to 7:15 p.m. Dinner: 7:30 p.m. sharp. Anyone wishing information re this dinner contact Alfie White, 200 Bogert Ave., Willowdale, Tor., Ont. phone 221-2018.

30th ANNIVERSARY MELFA CELEBRATIONS

May 18th and 19th, 1974, New Westminster, B.C.

MELFA GOLF TOURNAMENT

Tssawwassen Golf & Country Club, 8:00 a.m., Sat. 18 May, 1974. Contact Barney Jones, 256 King George Highway, Surrey, phone 531-4479; Ron Mannering, 210 - 321 Hospital St., New Westminster, B.C., phone 521-8325. Arrange your foursome early. Melfa Dinner and Sunday Reception to follow. Complete details in next issue of Groundsheet or phone Stan Moorehouse, 704 - 700 Hamilton St., New Westminster, B.C. 522-3507.

My Father "Col. Bill"

By Mrs. Fred "Eileen" Evans
Born March 22, 1885 in Southport,

England. Raised in Hattan, Warwickshire. As a young lad he joined the Royal Warwickshire Regt. In 1906 he came to Canada. Spent one winter in Fort William, Ont. (nearly froze to death). Moved to B.C. to Nelson - Nakusp.

World War 1 joined up Kootenay Regt. and transferred to Machine Gun Unit, British Army and was commissioned. On return went to Trail to teach in Trail High School. In 1925 to Trapp Tech in New Westminster to retirement in 1950. In 1926 he joined Westminsters. Mobilized when war was declared. Major B. Co. when unit went overseas. Commanded 2nd Battalion.

Personally, I remember he always felt a rolled up Saturday Evening Post was best way to discipline. Only happened about 3 times. He was always so happy when the Regt. thought of him — the dinner dance on his 85th. His grandson, John, was his pride. "I'm his only grandparent and he's my only grandson". John and Susan were married 2 days after his 88th and their rehearsal dinner also honored him.

In August, 1973, Fred and I took him by car to all his old haunts — Vernon, Nakusp, Kaslo, Nelson and Trail. He saw old friends of over 50 years. Even visited in the house he built in Nakusp in 1911.

He was Hon. Vice President of New Westminster Branch of the Canadian Red Cross. In 1920 he helped start the G.W.V.A. in Trail. Since 1926 a member of the Canadian Legion in New Westminster. He was on the Executive of the Retired Teachers' Association. He had his 50 year jewel from A.F. & A.M. presented in 1969 by Lewis Lodge in New Westminster.

He was a wonderful father and grandfather. We will miss him very much. While he taught in New Westminster, he was very interested in the Inter High Sports. Fred often took him in to watch them the last few years.

Decorations Gained by Royal City's Famous 47th

A very yellowed clipping from the Daily Province recently came into my possession. The clipping bears the date Saturday, June 7, 1919 and the headline reads, "Decorations Gained By Royal City's Famous 47th." The brief

text underneath says, "The following is a full list of decorations gained by members of the 47th Battalion on active service. It totals 270 decorations and Mentioned in Despatches. It is doubtful if any unit can boast a prouder record than this of the New Westminster battalion. The record has been brought up to date by Capt. T. S. Annandale, himself a former member of the unit and now paymaster of the 11th Garrison Regiment."

The twenty inch long column lists the names of all the recipients. Space here does not permit repeating all the names so I made a list of all the various decorations won and the number of winners for each. This tally of the 47th Battalion's personal heroism reads as follows:

VICTORIA CROSS — 1

Distinguished Service Order — 7

Military Cross — 39

Second Bar to Military Cross — 1

First Bar to Military Cross — 10

Distinguished Conduct Medal — 8

Military Medal — 166

Bar to Military Medal — 11

Meritorious Service Medal — 3

Mentioned in Despatches — 18

Italian Bronze Medal — 1

Croix de Guerre (France) — 1

Croix de Guerre (Belgium) — 2

Cross of St. George (Russia) — 2

270

As the Province reporter stated, it would be hard to find a unit with a prouder record of courage. This list of decorations won on active service during the bloody campaigns of World War 1 must act as an inspiration to the young militia soldiers serving in The Royal Westminster Regiment which perpetuates the 47th Battalion C.E.F. The collar badge of the 47th, the Maple Leaf with 47 in the centre, is still today the official collar badge of the Regiment. Present day members can be justly proud of this privilege.

L. K. Deane.

**LEST WE FORGET**

W. J. "Col. Bill" Williams
47th Bn W.W. 1
Westminster Regt. W.W. 2

†

A. "ANDY" HUNTER
47th Bn W.W.1
Westminster Regt. W.W. 2

†

ED LENNIE
Westminster Regt. W.W. 2

†

JACK "DINTY" MOORE
Westminster Regt. W.W. 2

†

IVAN "KILLER" BAILEY
Westminster Regt. W.W. 2

†

ERNIE "RED" DAY
Westminster Regt. W.W. 2

†

CHARLES S. CAMERON
47th Bn W.W. 1

†

C. A. VAN NORMAN
W.W. 1

†

E. TED BELTZ
Westminster Regt. W.W. 2

†

FRANK SMITH
Westminster Regt. W.W. 2

WHAT BECAME OF KELLY?

Harry Herman, 48 West 60th, Vancouver, B.C.

R. Reynolds, 2110 West 37th, Vancouver 13, B.C.

A. Wallace, 3750 Georgia Street, North Burnaby, B.C.

J. W. Colling, 374 Gladmer Street, Calgary 7, Alberta.

Capt. H. A. Seddon, 1679 Ayleslynn Crescent, North Vancouver, B.C.

Earle MacDonald, 117 Henderson, Chilliwack, B.C.

Ron V. Forrest, 3457 Kent Avenue, Abbotsford, B.C.

A. S. Crowder, 7157 Nanaimo Street, Vancouver, B.C.

Reg Thompson, 5289 Rumble Street, Burnaby, B.C.

J. R. Elliott, 22551 Dewdney Trunk Road, Maple Ridge, B.C.

NEW ADDRESSES AND CHANGES —**PLEASE AMEND YOUR DIRECTORY COPY**

G. Pickell, c/o Aquacraft Marine Ltd., 1136 Boundary Road, B.C. V5K 4T5.

Fred A. Fraser, 2275 - 153 A Street, Whiterock, B.C. V4A 4R4.

M. Crispin, 3068 Claudia Court, Clearbrook, B.C. V2T 2W6

R. J. Salsbury, 5140 Grafton Crescent, Burnaby, B.C. V5H 1M7.

D. Teal, 12208 - 206 Street, Maple Ridge, B.C.

J. E. "Duke" Wellington, 7981 - 19th Avenue, Burnaby 3, B.C.

A. C. Livingston, Box 401, Uculet, B.C.

L. A. Watkins, 11269 - 150th Street, Surrey, B.C.

Jack "Ducky" Drake, c/o Nicola Lake Ranch, Box 4000, Merritt, B.C.

Harry Williamson, 6957 Kerr Street, Vancouver, B.C.

Ed Burt, 7700 - 168th Street, Surrey, B.C.

Gerald Biggar, 13875 - 90th Avenue, Surrey, B.C.

RETURN
REQUESTED

THE WESTMINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION
P. O. Box 854, New Westminster, B. C.

