



The **GROUNDSHEET**

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF
THE ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

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

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

VOL. 23, No. 4

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

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER, 1974

1974 ANNUAL SMOKER 1974

Saturday, December 7th

TIME: 7:00 p.m. PLACE: The Armoury, New Westminster, B.C.

PRIZES — SURPRISES — FOOD — DRINK — COMPANIONSHIP

PLEASE COME - - - - - NO ADMISSION FEE

SMOKER CHAIRMAN: WALTER HOGG

N.B. Lots of Coffee

You may purchase your Association Crest at the Smoker from the Secretary.

YOUR 1975 DUES ARE WELCOMED

Your hardworking committees have done their work well. You have all received your tickets. The success of this year's venture is in your hands.

SELL WELL! And attend in record numbers.

THE GROUND SHEET

President BERT HOSKINS
4376 62nd Street, Delta, B.C. — 946-2277

Editor and Secretary RON HURLEY
2229 Bonnyvale Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. V5P 2G4 — 321-8464



1974 REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICES
All Association Members be at the
Armoury in New Westminster at 9:30 a.m.
Monday, November 11th. Official Parade
at 1000 Hrs. Let's have a large and worth-
while turnout. Your Medals, of course.
Berets will be available.

NOW HEAR THIS !
NOW HEAR THIS !
ONCE AGAIN AN
OPEN CHALLENGE TO THE 450
UNCOMMITTED MEMBERS

We Need Your 1975 Dues To
Guarantee our Continuation

You will be receiving, under separate cover, a statement for 1975 Dues. Your Card will be enclosed and a Return Envelope for which the Association will pay the return postage.

1. **DO NOT RETURN THE CARD.**
Simply sign the card with your own signature.
2. If you served in WORLD WAR 1, your membership is FREE. If you can afford to, we would welcome any donation, but W.W.1 are under no obligation. We would appreciate hearing of your W.W. 1 service so we may mark your file.
3. **ALL MEMBERS:** If for personal reasons you cannot afford the Dues, don't worry. We appreciate your reasons and there will be no names removed from our membership rolls for this reason.
4. There will be no post auditing of dues. i.e. If you know that you owe back dues and would care to submit same, they will be entered as current receipts. We CANNOT also accept prepaid dues for future years and as the dues structure might be changed under a change of executive, we will simply credit any surplus receipts to General Revenue.

5. We have exhausted many committees in an effort to discover why approximately 360 members continue to pay the shot for the entire membership of 825.
6. Previously, in an attempt to cut down costs, the Secretary had enclosed your Dues notice and Card in the October - November issue of your Groundsheet. He had been authorized to bear the additional postage in the hope that it might precipitate more member action.
7. If you are now 60 years of age, you might apply for your Life Membership by applying and submitting \$5.00 and in the next year your Dues will be \$3.00 per year thereafter.

Sincere appreciation to you loyal one-third and to all of you wonderful Vets from W.W.1 who by their continued Dues and donations enable this Association to continue to function.

NOTE: Dues—

W.W.1 Members	FREE
Life Members	\$3.00 per year
Other Ranks of Royal	
Westminster Reg't	\$3.00 per year
Serving Officers	\$5.00 per year
Ordinary Members	\$3.00 per year

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Now the summer holidays are over and everyone is back on the job, it's time for those of us on the Executive to take a good look at the past year's activities and make plans for the year September '74 - June '75.

Looking back over the previous year we realize that we had a few 'near

misses' but we did score a few 'bulls eyes' too! On the credit side and in spite of some early pessimism, the Draw thanks to the Draw Committee and the sellers and buyers, went quite well. The Regimental Museum has won accreditation as a Military Museum, the first one not operated by the Federal Government or Regular Army to do so, and many museums and archivists are casting envious eyes on the artifacts and documents of historical significance donated by our members and others.

Thanks to some hard working members, money from the Draw, and our determination to make our own way with our own fixtures, we have built and bought 20 banquet tables and 100 chairs and begun to accumulate decorations so that we need to "beg or borrow" from no one to make our dinners, smokers and other events as comfortable and attractive as possible.

Our Scholarship Awards attracted 11 very worthy applicants this year and Achievement Awards still in trial period, have been granted to 3 youngsters and 2 youth groups who have made a very significant contribution to their respective communities.

You will be pleased to know that the Executive under the leadership of Bill Robson (Sick and Visiting) on behalf of the Association held a party for Dan Cochrane, ex-47th, at George Derby Hospital on his 90th birthday.

Yes, we did pull a few boners too, and we did appreciate the constructive comments, both oral and written, that we asked you to make. We made the colossal mistake at the last smoker in forgetting that many don't care to indulge, we didn't have a running supply of coffee and snacks, we didn't guard against flat spots in the programme and we forgot to give credit to some of the members whose high ticket sales made the draw a success. The fault was ours for not giving the organizers of the smoker enough guidance, so don't blame them.

What about the future? It is important for us all to remember that the Annual Draw is really the life blood of the Association and we ask you all to do your very best to sell as many books as you can this year. Now we have been able to restore the two free tickets (or sell them and keep \$1.00

per book) it should prove more attractive this year.

This year our major emphasis is going to be on the membership, and our Annual Smoker and Dinner for example are being planned to overcome any past shortcomings, and the 1974 Melfa Dinner is a good indicator of the trend.

Finally, let me assure you that the Association is held in high regard by others who have complimented us on our high standards, preservation of the military history of the region, community participation and assistance to the Militia and Cadets. The loss of so many of our hard working membership should bring us closer together, so if you have let your membership lapse, if you just wanted to forget it all after the war, if you feel we as an association have selected the wrong priorities in your opinion, come on back.

Surely we all need each other, surely we've got enough in reserve to cross a few more rivers together before the final assault?

— Bert Hoskins

"TOGETHER AGAIN"

Under sunny early evening skies, with silent mountains as a background and while tall firs and cedars stood as silent sentinels, veteran Westie members of the old 'D' Coy remembered the fallen at their re-union Sunday, August 4.

The short, but moving remembrance was part of the first re-union of the Coy in 13 years. And for the first time at such an event, wives and widows joined their men.

Under command of former, respected Company Commander Peter F. Pirie, 'D' Coy Westies and the ladies marched silently to the flag base. John McConnell was marker for the vets, Lynne Edmonds, widow of Ken Edmonds, for the ladies. The unit faced west for the roll call by Gordon Higginson, repeated the closing lines of Bynion's "To the Fallen," and heard organist Mrs. Jane Clark play the traditional hymn to soldier dead "O Valiant Heart."

Peter Pirie faced the parade East following the memorial. Ed and Dick Shannon were the colour party for Retreat, which followed. The organist played "Crimond" and former RCE Staff-Sergeant Frank Langton sounded Retreat as the Maple Leaf was slowly lowered by the Shannon brothers.

D'Arcy Baldwin received the flag and the organist played the traditional evening hymn "The Day Thou Gavest." The formation marched off to "Old Lang Syne" and was dismissed by Peter Pirie "until next year."

The re-union, in picnic form, was organized by Leo Wright, president of the group and his wife Daisy. Assisting were Gordon 'Copper' Newitt and his wife Ruth along with D'Arcy and Elsie Baldwin, at whose home, Circle 6 Ranch, Columbia Valley, the event was held.

Westies will remember that "D" Coy, which had a long and honourable record as part of the battalion, disappeared officially during the war, when motor bns organized a support coy. The spirit and comradeship of "D" Coy did not die with the re-organization and its remaining members are organized under charter from the parent association.

"D" maintains a unique memorial to its dead. A silver flask, upon which the names of the dead are engraved with no rank ascribed is a treasured memento. It has been suitably mounted and embellished by Leo and Daisy Wright and was presented to the group Sunday. It contains 27 names and when the final name is inscribed will be passed to the Museum Committee.

A feature of the afternoon was a long-distance call to Doug McNabb, Thunder Bay, by his brother Jim, during which many of Doug's old comrades were able to say hullo. (It is understood that Jim placed the call collect!)

About 80 Westies and their wives attended, and enjoyed a carefree afternoon of fraternization. Many came from the greater Vancouver area; the longest traveller was Bob Franks, who bussed from Vavenby. Jock Kerr and his wife attended from the Okanagan. A distinguished visitor was the current CO, LCol Mike Steede who gave an interesting account of the present status and training excellence of the Regiment at a "bull session" in the "bull pen" during which Leo Wright was re-elected president.

Ian Douglas added to the pleasure of the day by bringing with him from the Museum photographs and other artifacts which were displayed along with other "D" Coy treasures, destined for the Museum.

While the day officially closed with

Retreat our most obliging lady organist Jane Clark stayed for three hours longer while various members including Ian Douglas, Pete Fraser, gave voice to old soldier songs, including of course, the male ensemble voicing "The Wiffenpoofs." It is unofficial, but rumoured that some old Westies just made it home for breakfast.

— D'Arcy Baldwin

FROM THE POST:

Thanks to all of you who kept in touch during the summer. It was pleasant to hear from many of you but saddened to hear of the loss of so many more of our comrades. The Groundsheet will continue to be sent to all those families who so requested.

Many thanks to that grand gentleman from San Diego, Calif., Mr. John Harrington, who once again has submitted an interesting feature of the 47th Bn. This will be published as submitted when space allows John and keep up the good work.

A nice word from Ernie Livingstone of R.R. 2, Vermillion, Alberta and we would like to see you out our way. Ernie urges all to keep eating beef (Preferably the Alberta variety). At the current prices Ernie you may have to invite us all out your way for a giant barbecue.

Received a most interesting letter from old friend E. A. "Gene" Palmer of Apt. 18 - 33523 3rd Ave., Mission, B.C. Nice to hear mention of names like La Croix, Red Fulton, Bill McIntyre, etc. Better we should see them all down our way. Sorry to hear of your ill health Gene but trust you are on the mend. Also sorry to hear of the death of Cecil Bert Anderson, but we thank you for the notification.

Pleasant words and greetings from Clarence (Silent) Smith of Box 247, Rosetown, Sask. Best of luck to you on your crop yields Clarence.

Thanks to Norm Brault of 156 Ferncliff Cres., Calgary S.E. Your remarks re our efforts are most appreciated Norm.

Finally for this issue the following two letters are published as submitted. The most generous and heart-warming letter from Mrs. Victor James Hollingum of 42 Morse St., San Francisco, Calif. 94112 should be an inspiration

to us all and I would trust it would provide some soul searching among our delinquent membership. Mrs. Hollingum has lost her husband for some years now but continues to support YOUR association in his memory. Sincere appreciation from us all Mrs. Hollingum and also for your kind remarks re Groundsheet.

The second letter is of different tone but also is most appreciated. G. E. Turriff has always praised this association and has corresponded at length with our treasurer Vern Ardagh.

See you at the Smoker.

— Ron Hurley, Editor

5 Canadian (Arm'd) Divisional
Signals (RCCS) Association
G. E. Turriff, Adjutant
40 Lesmar Drive
Islington, Ontario, Canada
M9B 2V2

The History,
Box 854,
New Westminster, B.C.
Dear Sirs:

I am enclosing my cheque for (\$10.50) in payment for 2 copies of your wonderful book, "The Westminsters" War Diary," by Major J. E. Oldfield, M.C. Please send them to the following addresses:

Mr. George Victor Shaw, 1204 Camden Tower, Whitehall Square, 15424 - 84 Avenue, Edmonton, Alta. T5R 4K4.

Mr. William Talaskavich, 82 Louth St., St. Catharines, Ont. L2S 2T4.

Many of our chaps are proud owners of this excellent history, and we have made a few presentations of these at our annual reunions.

A year or so ago I sent a donation towards the expense of sending out copies of The Groundsheet to me, as I then put them on display at our reunions, and forward copies of interesting highlights to our chaps who served with the Regiment. I wonder if you could mention this to someone on the committee.

I spent 6 weeks this year out in Western Canada, and visited many of our chaps in Vancouver, The Island and places north and inland in B.C. I was a little overwhelmed by Western hospitality but it was good seeing old comrades again.

I would appreciate it if you would acknowledge this letter and let us know if you still have a supply of the "History's" on hand.

Yours truly,

G. E. Turriff, Adjutant

San Francisco, California, U.S.A.
August 1, 1974

Mr. Ron Hurley

Dear Sir:

Enclosed is a cheque for the sum of five dollars (\$5.00) in which I send in Loving Memory of my husband, James Victor Hollingum, on his 84th Birthday, August 5th, 1974.

Please use it where you think it is most needed.

Trust you are enjoying good health, as it leaves me the same.

Very sincerely,

Mrs. James Victor Hollingum

P.S.

Always a Thank You for the Groundsheet, I so enjoy it.

THE REGIMENTAL MUSEUM COMMITTEE

(Continued from Last Issue)

The most notable public occasion was certainly the Official Opening, 13 Apr. '73. It was a fine example of co-operation between The Regiment and The Association, both of which must have derived benefits in addition to those accruing directly to The Museum. The Opening was conducted in pukka style, in a manner not likely to be seen often in other parts of the community, yet the media hardly noticed.

In the summer of '73 we enjoyed a windfall that must be noted. Through the interest and efforts of Mrs. J. Gresko, a professor of history at Douglas College, The Museum was granted by Imperial Oil Limited the sum of \$1,000.00 to employ a history student for ten weeks' work in The Museum. As a result there was cataloguing work done that would have taken Committee members a year to accomplish. We hope that this year there will be another

windfall like that, for there is still a great deal of registering, cataloguing, and tagging to be done.

It may be useful to prospective donors of artifacts to describe what happens when memorabilia of any kind, big or little, is offered to The Museum or is proposed for acquisition by other means. First, the Acquisition Sub-Committee decides whether or not The Museum should acquire the object. Sometimes items are offered as gifts, valuable to the donor but not appropriate in our collection. If acceptable the item is entered in the Acquisition Register, with details of source, date, description, etc. Then it is catalogued according to our system, which is based closely on that used by The Canadian War Museum, Ottawa. The object is tagged and then handed to the appropriate Historian for display or storage.

In 1972 information was received that status as a Canadian Forces Museum could be achieved and could be beneficial. Early in '73 the decision was made to apply for such a status, and communications began with Ottawa. On July 25, a Capt. Carpenter visited from Ottawa, met the CO, met Museum representatives, and made an on-site inspection of Room 109. His inspection was thorough, his comments flattering, and the inference drawn was that the Canadian Forces Museum Committee, NDHQ, was seriously interested in our application. We complied with the very detailed requests for information about our project, but when our members began to question whether the benefits of CF status outweighed the obligations we asked Ottawa to table our application until we got enough evidence to show that CF status was worth it. We have now concluded that obligation of status will be no more than we have already imposed on ourselves, and the benefits should be more considerable: money, furniture, display items, and services should become available — in what degree, of course, we can only guess. These two points have been made clear: that Ottawa understands that The Regimental Museum is, and can continue to be, a joint project of The Regiment and The Association; further that if our status as a CF Museum gives more headaches than benefits, we can drop it.

In the course of our study of the CF Status proposition we discovered Sec.

38 of the National Defence Act. It states what happens to regimental property in the event of a regiment disbanding. Public property goes back to Q stores, of course. Non-public property (and that would include non-public property in The Museum whether or not it had CF status) is passed to The Chief of Staff, NDHQ, who would dispose of it as he sees fit. The Committee was not apprehensive about the future of The Regiment; however, since other distinguished Canadian regiments have suffered "altered" circumstances" unpredictably, we thought it wise to safeguard the gifts of The Association and its friends against the possibility, however remote, of The Regiment disbanding and Museum property being dispersed outside our community.

Sec. 38, NDA, states that in the dispersal of non-public property loans shall be honored precisely as the loan terms were written. The device we adopted, therefore, was the striking of an agreement with The Association by which all gifts to The Museum acquired from or through The Association and its members should be considered to be loans returnable to the Association in the event of The Regimental Museum ceasing to function. In this matter, as well as in the matter of CF status, our Honorary Solicitor, J. Glenn Gates, guided us throughout. The result is that we have a Loan Agreement with The Association, drawn by Glenn Gates in elegant legal style and agreed to by the two parties. It safeguards Association interests in this project and keeps faith with what we think is the intention of the donors to The Museum.

The physical arrangements of The Museum have undergone some change from their beginning, and may need some more. John Rosso had to take down the hessian that he and his crew had labored to put on the walls. It looked good to us, but the Fire Marshal complained persistently. John then painted the walls a Mediterranean blue — for both economy and sentiment — and the fire hazard is somewhat lessened. Because we need more display space we are considering altering the present arrangement so as to have all our display cases employed on the vertical plane — as are those on the walls and Cases No. 1 and 10 near the doors. We now have two cases on the horizontal; we expect to stand those on edge and back each of them with a new case. We

expect also to get a new case through the good offices of Peter Adlem. He heard that we would be needing a gun case to house the Burr Rifles and others and has offered to build it and donate it to The Museum. We need a map case for our collection of First and Second World War maps, we need a typewriter, and we need to get the floor of the gun deck cleaned up — a job we've dodged too long. Most importantly we have to assess, catalogue, and organize the part of our collection stored in Room 209.

We have not yet solved the problems related to opening The Museum to the public on a regular, advertised basis. That is one of our aims, to show to the public the history of our unit and its vital part in their community. We had a part-time attendant, but unfortunately, his free time disappeared. We may solve that problem soon.

You will be interested to know that we are listed in The Directory of B.C. Museums and Art Galleries, which means that travellers will know of our existence, and some may visit. We expect to receive assistance from our Provincial Museum through its Museums Advisor. He conducted a useful workshop on display techniques at Fort Langley, March 8, 9 and 10; one member attended two sessions.

We are grateful for the assistance of LCol George Johnson and Capt. G. H. Churley in performing an audit of our accounts. Their statement is the subject of a separate report.

Yours truly,
H. F. Hoskin, LCol (Ret'd),
Chairman,
The Regimental Museum
Committee.

Your Association at Work SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Mr. R. R. Hurley, Secretary,
The Royal Westminster Regiment
Association,
2229 Bonnyvale Road,
Vancouver 16, B.C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I have the pleasure to report that at the annual selection meeting of the Awards Committee held at the home of Awards Committee Chairman Walter Lyle on August 25th, two winners were

selected to receive \$250.00 scholarships from the Association.

The first scholarship goes to Miss Elise Rowell of 603 Fort Rodd Hill Road, Victoria, B.C. Miss Rowell is enrolled in 4th year Biology at the University of Victoria. It is her intention to complete a B.Sc. degree this year. Ultimately, Janice hopes to work as a wildlife biologist in Canada's northland. She is the granddaughter of Captain Keith C. MacGowan, MC and 2 Bars, of the 47th Battalion, CEF.

The second scholarship goes to Mr. Robert Hugh Reynolds of 303 - 2820 Birch St., Vancouver, B.C. Mr. Reynolds is enrolled in 1st year Economics at Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario. He hopes to complete a B.A. (Honours) degree and then apply for a post with Canadian University Students Overseas. Robert is the son of Lt. Robert P. Reynolds of The Westminster Regiment.

I am sure the Association will be pleased to learn there were a large number of excellent candidates for the scholarships this year. As always the identity of the candidates remained anonymous until the balloting to determine the winners was completed.

Yours truly,

L. K. Deane,
Secretary, Awards Committee

ACHIEVEMENT AWARD APPRECIATED

To: Ron Hurley, Editor,
The Groundsheet
From: Les Deane, Secretary,
Awards Committee

In 1973, our Association began to give Achievement Awards of \$100.00 to deserving young people who have done outstanding service to their community. One of the recipients of a 1973 Achievement Award was Miss Cathy Shortt of Oak Bay, B.C. Cathy received the award in recognition of her efforts to organize soft ball leagues and other sporting events for the teenagers of Oak Bay. Cathy was nominated for this award by the Mayor and Council of Oak Bay.

The fact that there is a need for this type of award and that the presentation of such awards is appreciated is borne out by two letters received by

our president, Bert Hoskin. The letters, one from Mayor Frances H. Elford of Oak Bay and the other from Cathy Shortt, are reprinted below.

The Corporation of
The District of Oak Bay
Municipal Hall,
2167 Oak Bay Avenue
Victoria B.C. V8R 1G2

Mr. H. H. Hoskin
The Westminster Reg't Association
P.O. Box 854
New Westminster, B.C.

Dear Mr. Hoskin:

The Municipal Council wishes to extend to you and The Westminster Regiment Association their appreciation of the Achievement Award which you presented at their meeting on Monday, 19th, to Miss Catherine Shortt, of 1798 Elgin Road, Oak Bay. It is very gratifying to see the interest which you have taken in honouring deserving young people.

I am enclosing an excerpt from the Victoria Times of November 21, 1973, with the picture of Catherine. It is our hope to cover this item also in the next edition of our Oak Bay Newsletter, and when this is ready for distribution we will be pleased to send a copy to you.

Yours very truly,
Frances H. Elford
Mayor

1798 Elgin Road
Victoria, B.C.

Mr. H. F. Hoskin
The Westminster Reg't Association
P.O. Box 854
New Westminster, B.C.

Dear Sir:

I would like to thank you and the Westminster Regiment Association for the much appreciated plaque and cheque. I was very honoured to receive such an award. I would like to especially thank the gentlemen that came to Victoria to present the award. It was a very nice ceremony.

I am planning to attend college next September in Nanaimo to take a Recreation course, so the \$100.00 cheque

will really help out. I hope your organization continues to present awards to young people who do a lot for their community; there are really a lot of youth who do just that.

Thank you again for this honour.

Yours truly,
Cathy Shortt

**PTE. ATKINS
THANKS ASSOCIATION**

To: Ron Hurley, Editor,
The Groundsheet
From: Les Deane, Secretary,
Awards Committee

Two years ago, Pte. Murray Atkins of The Royal Westminster Regiment was the winner of a \$250.00 scholarship given by this Association. Murray Atkins has been a very busy young man over the last two years and has recently graduated with a Diploma in Technology in the field of computer programming. LCol M. H. H. Steede, the Commanding Officer, recently received a very nice letter from Murray Atkins which is reprinted below.

9255 - 118th Street
North Delta, B.C.

Lieutenant Colonel Steede
The Armoury
Sixth and Queens
New Westminster, B.C.

Dear Sir:

I would like to take this time to again thank you, the Regiment and the Westminster Association, for your help in furthering my education at B.C.I.T., and to let you know what I have been doing since.

The Computer Programming course at B.C.I.T. was a stiff challenge, and required quite a lot of effort. During my second year of study, I found it necessary to average over 6 days per week at school, and of course many hours of study at home, and "on the side" I managed to follow up my training with some machine operating as well, which turned into a great asset during my final months.

In January I was offered a job at Finning Tractor as a Programmer Analyst, to commence after graduation. I have been working for Finning since June, and have found it to be a very in-

teresting job with a clearly rewarding future. And finally, after two years of waiting, I now have the time and the means to pursue some of the activities which have always interested me.

I owe all of this in part to you, The Regiment, and the Association, and I hope that you will all accept my sincere thanks.

Yours truly,
Murray Atkins,
Dipl. of Tech.

NOW IT CAN BE TOLD

Now it can be told (or at least should be told). Summer training at various camps always produced their share of trials and tribulations — but more often humour. The one camp at Glenemma (near Vernon) had its share of all ingredients.

Ted Eakins (now Hon./Col. of the Regiment) was Commanding the Militia Group and I was his Chief Administration Officer. We had a magnificent camp location, carefully chosen for its beauty and function.

The only ingredient missing was a Cook. The word went out that two ex-Western C.O.'s were Cookless. The Regiment responded beautifully and sent us one - Boucher (qualified Cook only through his massive frame) — but eager he was; so eager that one morning he mistook Kerosene for Mazola Oil and served the Brig, and I with tastefully garnished eggs avec Kerosene.

He also forgot that the Army issue frying Chicken (in the whole) had the neck, gizzards, et al, carefully tucked in the body of the Chicken. Boucher roasted these delicate morsels and when one started to dissect the chicken, pieces of paper, gizzard, neck, began falling out of the "frame." Roast Chicken a-la Boucher.

There's more —

We had invited Maj. Gen. The Hon. George Pearkes V.C. to dine with us and the Commanding Officers of the units. In preparation for this special dinner, Gen. Eakins picked up some beautiful fillet steaks from his favorite Butcher in Langley Prairie. We took them with us in a cooler and deposited them with the R.C.A.S.C. Depot, with very explicit instructions to one, Major Bert Martin, not to issue to anyone

without our authority.

On the day of the dinner I dispatched an enterprising Captain from my staff to proceed to Camp Vernon and "procure" certain essentials for the dinner. Included in my instructions was a note to Major Martin to release the "Fillet Mignon." The Captain returned around noon, very jubilant over his successful scrounge. He deposited the steaks with the Chef — incidentally not Boucher, who has now been relegated to "Bull Cook." I personally visited the kitchen to inspect the steaks. When I unwrapped the parcel, to my horror I found pieces of ribs — assortment of bones — some stewing beef — but not Fillet Mignon.

This was too much, and my normal cool and collected attitude erupted into one of rage. I threatened the Captain with everything, including transfer to Pouce Coupe Rangers (non-existent). I virtually tore the 'phone off the desk in my call to the R.C.A.S.C. to get the (deleted expletive) steaks to our area without delay. The young soldier at the other end of the line had never been exposed to such a tirade from a Colonel and he responded magnificently.

In a matter of an hour a truck came "charging" over the hill, followed by a cloud of dust that could be seen for miles (straight up). The truck came to a screaming halt; driver almost fell out of the cab — finally regained composure — ran over to where the Brig. and I were "cooling" our tempers from a glass. The young man threw up a salute that was a credit to a Guardsman and stated in clear tones — "Your Stake, Sir." (note the spelling.) Eakins threw his glass at the tent, narrowly missing one cowling Captain.

As a result of my tirade, R.C.A.S.C. had gone to Emergency Vehicle Compound and taken a 3-ton Stake down off blocks, filled it with petrol and oil — put in a battery, and delivered it to our camp site in what must have been a new record of speed — even for the R.C.A.S.C.

At that moment a Jeep appeared, driven by Major Martin, and on his lap was the package of steak, and his face redder than the meat.

The dinner was a great success — the "Westies" under the late Jack Graham (God Bless him) performed like Vancouver Hotel Staff and the Steaks (Stakes) were magnificent.

Just a bit of nostalgia out of the

past that might be remembered by some of our members of the Association.

— Col. W. E. McKinney, C.D.
Colonel Bill MK II

Congratulations To John Ford

(Not to be outdone by that other literary man of letters Bert Stephens J. Ford has produced a technical publication of some considerable merit. This is best described by the copy of a brochure re-printed below.

The Association is most proud of you John and it is gratifying to the Association to know there are more adequate replacements for this tired old Editor).

an outstanding new book, superbly illustrated . . .

PHYSICAL MANAGEMENT FOR THE QUADRIPLAGIC PATIENT

By Jack R. Ford, RG, and Bridget Duckworth, MAOT, OTR, both, G.F. Strong Rehabilitation Centre, Vancouver, B.C.

394 pages, 1443 illustrations. \$20

We predict this handsome, outsized (10-3/4 x 10-3/4) work will quickly become the manual for occupational therapists, physio-therapists, nurses in extended care facilities, psychiatrists and all others who come in contact with cord-injured patients.

Not only is it a crystal-clear "how to" manual for the practitioner, but its logical organization and the many outstanding photographs will make it an invaluable teaching text.

Use the coupon below to order a copy of this exceptional book. Take 10 days to look it over. If for any reason it does not meet your requirements, just return it and owe us nothing.

F. A. DAVIS COMPANY
1915 Arch Street, Philadelphia,
Pa. 19103.

Please send a copy of 3675, Ford & Duckworth, Physical Management for the Quadriplegic Patient. \$20. I understand I may return in 10 days if not completely satisfied.

Name

Address

.....

A SOLDIER'S CROSS

The hearts of men become as shafts of steel.

No warmth or softness penetrates therein.

Slow disintegration of the soul.

A soldier's cross.

A sunset stripped of all its crimson veil, By memories that once were filled with love.

For now the scarlet rays reflect in blood,

A soldier's cross.

The joyous, gleeful shouts of kids at play,

Have long been stilled by destined hands of fate,

Replaced by fearful cries to seek and kill.

A soldier's cross.

The gay flamboyant stride of carefree feet

Have long since passed the realm of time.

One hears the measured steps of pounding boots.

A soldier's cross.

The nimble hands that on pianos raced No longer bring forth chords of mellow song,

For now they guide the spitting scythes of death.

A soldier's cross.

The family love that once was theirs to have

Has now been stripped of all eternal warmth,

Replaced by Satan's naked joust of pain. A soldier's cross.

Realty has now replaced the text. The nightmare is no longer just a dream.

Today it is a scream, a choking cry.

A soldier's cross.

And yet into these flaming jaws of Hell,

Free men have charged with courage unsurpassed.

That for this freedom, they may proudly bear

A soldier's cross.

The musty sands of ages blow anon. But that these men shall have not died in vain,

T'is ours to see that history buries not A soldier's cross.

— B. H. (Red) Fisher



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PEDRO

By J. W. Hodgson

Our 13th Platoon, D Coy., was moving north to Florence, Italy. From Campobasso we had advanced to just south of Rome, where we broke for camp. We unloaded our equipment which necessarily included four turkeys, one five-gallon keg of wine, one untuned piano, and Pedro, the camp mascot.

Pedro was an intelligent and very brave donkey, useful for carrying supplies in the mountainous terrain. Like the rest of the platoon, he wore a pith helmet. We had moved up quickly, and Pedro was on short rations. He had eaten his straw bonnet, so the helmet was suitably adapted to his ears.

Somewhat too close for an evening of wine and song, we could hear the Germans digging in their gun emplacements. We were short of guards, so it was decided to string a low trip-wire around the encampment. We suspended

the wire at intervals with grenade-loaded tin cans, intended to announce the approach of an enemy patrol. Pedro was tethered loosely in the middle of the enclosure to graze, and we sacked out in our pup tents.

The tether rope must have been just as tasty as Pedro's straw hat, because unknown to the guards he was soon foot-loose. We scrambled for our weapons when our sleep was shattered by explosions. Pedro had wandered into the trip-wire, and was charging around camp, triggering grenades, in an effort to find a quiet pasture. His "attack" routed the small German company, who retreated southward post-haste.

Pedro and the 13th platoon were shook-up, but unscathed. The camp was now secure, so we roasted the turkeys, consumed the wine, and someone thumped the piano. Along about dawn we presented Pedro with a hand-crafted M.M., (Magnificent Mule) for single-footedly routing the enemy.

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