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The GROUNDSHEET

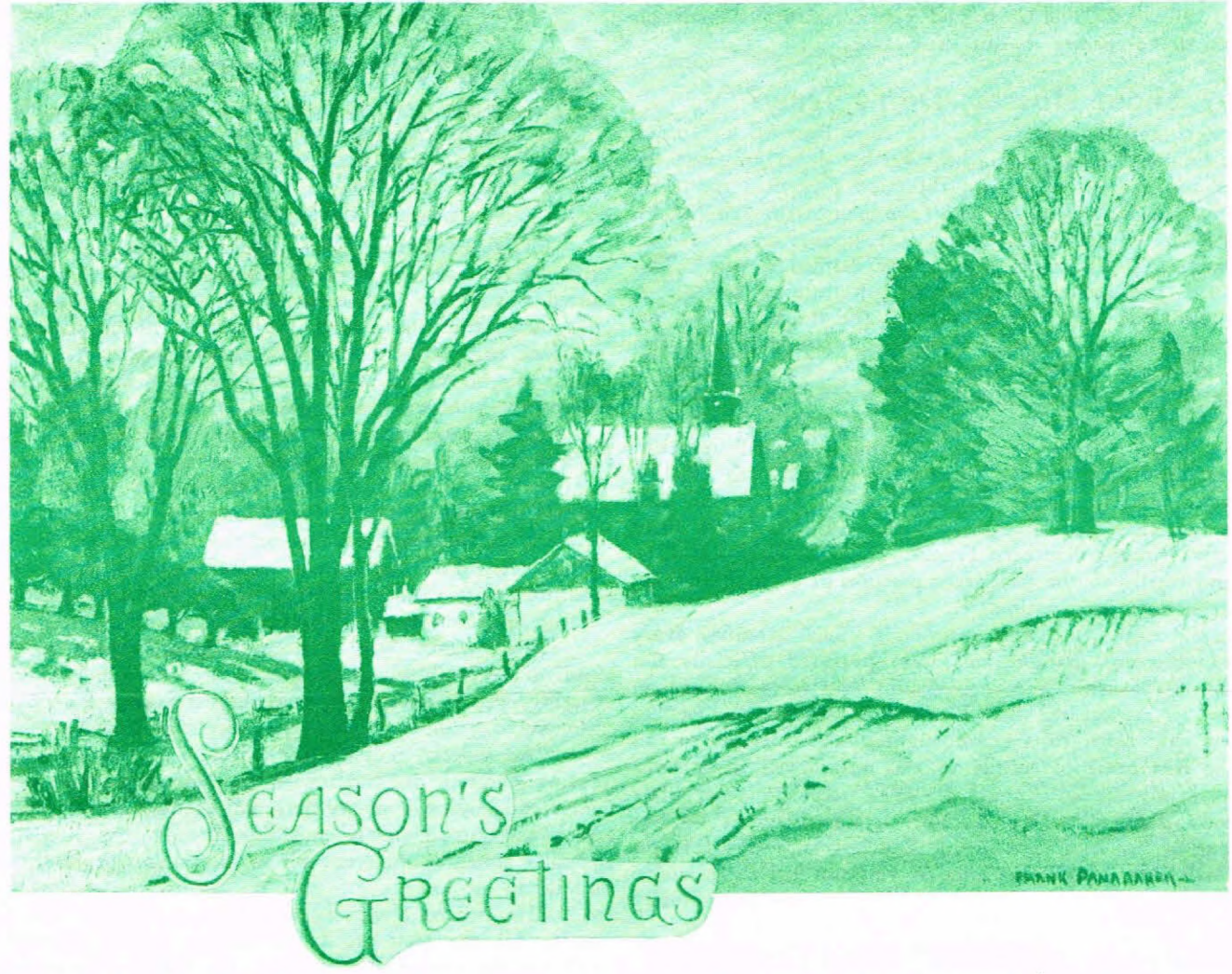
THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF
THE ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

104th — 47th — 131st — The Royal Westminster Regt.
Dedicated to the Ideals and Comradeship We knew in Two World Wars

Vol. 23, No. 5

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

DECEMBER, 1974



As we approach the celebration of Christmas it seems almost unbelievable that over 25 years have passed since we gained that brief respite in Ravenna to celebrate the birth of Christ. Perhaps in retrospect, man has learned very little in spite of the sacrifices made to free the World of tyranny and injustice during those dark years.

All the more reason to continue as individuals, and much more effectively as an Association, to make a contribution to the stability and orderliness of our society.

My thanks to a hard working Executive and Membership for their unfailing support of the Association this past year, and the sincerest of best wishes to all who served the Regiment for a warm and meaningful Christmas and a year of achievement and fulfillment.

BERT HOSKIN, President



THE GROUNDSHEET

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Regimental Blood Donor Clinic

The Regiment has authorized a parade of all ranks in aid of the Red Cross Blood Bank. The Parade to be held at the Armoury Tuesday evening 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., 21st of January, 1975. All Cadet Corps and The Regimental Association are asked to co-operate in this joint effort.

"They Shoot Horses, Don't They?"

Not if they belong to the 8th New Brunswick Hussars Princess Louise. Nothing could be a further departure from the words of the above well known theatrical play than the treatment accorded one Special Horse by the men of the 8th N.B.H. I wonder how many of you saw a T.V. special on the eve of Remembrance Day entitled "A Horse Named Louise." This was a fine production made doubly entertaining because it was all true. The Old Film footage of the Italian Gothic line action had many scenes with 5th Div Infantry and if one looked real close . . . well they could have been Westies.

The Hussars M.O. patched up a terrified and wounded young filly at Coriano Ridge and the entire unit fell in love with this young colt and each man became a personal protector. The fact that this animal became the official 8th N.B.H. Mascot and suitably named "Princess Louise" was obvious but the fact that they were able to keep the "Princess" with them from Italy through Southern France, Holland, Belgium, Germany and finally to the lush green pastures of New Brunswick is almost beyond imagination.

There's more . . . This marvelous animal attended every post war Hussar's Parade and was appointed officially On Strength of the Unit. She thrived and bore foals of her own but they all predeceased her. Not before however one of her daughters gave birth to a granddaughter who survives to this day. The end came peacefully to this most loved of mascots in New Brunswick in August of 1973 some 29 years after the Bloody Ridge that was Coriano. It was different — but to me one of the most interesting Remembrance Day features I have ever seen. I hope that some of you also had the pleasure.

— Ron Hurley

"Good-Bye to a Friend" (and Comrade)

As I stood today in the rain
To say my last good-bye with sorrow and pain,
My mind ranged back through the years
And memories crowded close, filled with laughter and tears.
Thoughts and hopes and dreams — and secrets shared in our youth —
A drink or two — and more — comrades-in-arms for a while
— You stayed with the troop —
And I tried my wings and our paths went separate ways
For a while, but finally they merged again — and friends
made contact as if years were only days —

Dear friend of mine, to say my last good-bye silently in the rain

Brings me much sadness and a deep aching pain.

It's hard to lose a friend,

But oh, how much less my life would be

If I went through it to the end

Never knowing one like you — My friend so dear to me.

This fitting tribute was submitted by Les Knight of Chilliwack, B.C. And they were written by his wife to the memory of Ted Beltz who passed away almost a year ago. They are a most moving and meaningful collection of thoughts and so appropriate to "Remembrance" now and always. — Ed.

IS IT NOTHING TO YOU

The above words inscribed on the War Memorial Cenotaph in Vancouver, B.C. have obviously lost their meaning to many. Jack Wasserman, that most erudite Vancouver Sun Columnist, has provided a most poignant "Remembrance Day" afterpiece.

CITY BY THE SEE — My earnest young associate who goes by the name of Bruce Birdog in occasional columns ventured out shopping Saturday. The experience was a slice of life that rather shook him. He wrote a memo, describing the incident and the man he saw. It wasn't written for publication but I was so moved that I pass it on, just the way I found it on my desk Monday afternoon.

"Jack, I followed and watched this man for a half hour. I was worried about him from the first minute I saw him, and watched from a distance thinking he might eventually need some help. Here's what happened.

"It is Saturday morning on the Woodward's side of Park Royal. As usual the store is crowded with West Vancouver matrons, West Enders and people from places unknown who travel miles out of their way to shop here.

"The World War vets are standing outside in the rain, and in the Mall, selling poppies. Few of the busy shoppers are buying poppies today, all in a hurry to stock up on food, as Monday is a "holiday" and the stores are closed.

"An elderly gentlerman, probably approaching 80, is wandering through the mall with the help of a cane, staring at faces and buying a poppy here and there. I notice him because he is walking so slowly and I've already seen him buy three poppies at three different places. I think this might become an item.

"He would obviously like a place to sit, but there is none. All the seats are taken up by women, sipping coffee, talking; by young children and by the youth, smoking and talking about each other, school, their cars, about their allowances.

"The man makes his way down the mall to the busy food floor and stops. He supports himself with his cane and fishes in the pocket of his old grey overcoat for a dollar. He finds it and shuffles forward to the bakery counter and stands in line.

"He is just one body away from being served, when a matron edges past him. He doesn't blink. He pauses and waits, supporting himself with his cane. A young woman with two children edges her way in front of him. He moves back two

steps to avoid being jostled. One of the children turns around and gives him a stare. He smiles. The child frowns and turns away.

"In a few minutes he finds himself at the end of the line again. He looks tired and he looks like he could benefit from a rest in a chair. But soon there is only one person in front of him again, and he is certain he will be served.

"Again, another matron edges her way in front of him, and the man puts the dollar back in his overcoat pocket and shuffles out and off down the mall. He stops in front of Murchies, looks and then goes inside, looking for something he doesn't find. He walks out onto the Mall and sees a vacant bench in the distance and he starts toward it. By the time he is half way there the seat is occupied.

"He heads toward the food floor again, still a crowd hanging around, waiting to be served. He makes his way to the bakery counter once more. He notices that I have been watching him. He smiles. I am concerned that the man is not in good health and that the trip has been too much for him.

"But I am also feeling guilty that I didn't help him when I first noticed his problem. I was intrigued and worried. But I didn't want to get involved because I had originally braved the crowds in search of a single tin of brass cleaner.

"But now he is smiling at me and I walk over — after a half an hour of watching — and ask him if he wants some help. He says, "No." He is used to this. It is a busy day, he says, for all the young people working in the store. They are earning their money today, he says.

He lines up again. He is again pushed out of the way. I am having trouble believing that this can happen three times when he turns around and heads for the exit. I swear I see a tear inching its way down his cheek.

"I intercede. I ask him what it is he wants, find him a vacant seat and go buy him a loaf of brown bread, unsliced. He must have it from the counter rather than the shelf because it is fresher and lasts longer. He apologetically explains that it takes him a long time to eat one loaf of bread.

"I am young and formidable. Nobody tries to push past me. I purchase the bread and take it to the man. As I give it to him, tears well up in his eyes. He says that he wants to thank me but he doesn't know how. He has nothing to give me.

"I explain that I don't need any thanks. I was glad to help, I say. The sight of the old man about to cry is making me feel just as uncomfortable as I had before, with my guilt. But the old man insists. Ignoring my protests he fishes around in the pockets of his old gray overcoat and pulls out a poppy. One of the three he'd bought earlier. He hands it to me and shuffles off down the mall into the crowd. And now it's me who feels like crying.

"Lest We Forget? We did!"

* * * *

WASSERMANIA — After reading young Bruce's memo I thought of a slogan for the shoving 70s, as it applies to our older citizens: They never get served who only stand and wait.

FROM THE POST:—

So many letters, mostly referring to Dues that I will postpone mention until later edition. To all those who have

been so prompt with their Dues returns, sincere thanks and the best of the Festive Season to you all.

— Editor and Secretary, Ron Hurley.

"THE FIGHTING FORTY-SEVENTH"

Copied from The Daily Sun, Vancouver, B.C., Monday, September 22, 1919.

So many and so great honors have been won by Canadian battalions in the field, and so wonderful have been the records, particularly of the western units in the line that it cannot possibly be said that any particular unit is entitled to more notice of praise than the other, but when men in the line themselves voluntarily pick upon a battalion and give it a nickname, the accuracy of their judgment need never be called into question. Such was the case with that splendid British Columbia battalion, the 47th, called by the men of the Canadian Corps the "Fighting Forty-Seventh" raised and equipped in the Lower Mainland of this Province.

The accuracy of the judgment of the men who named the 47th a fighting unit of the first water is beyond question, and the record of the battalion in France and Flanders is one that makes it one of the particular units which British Columbia is proud to claim for her own, for when the 47th returned to the Pacific Coast after its four years service overseas it left behind it with the great Canadian Corps a reputation second to none in the whole overseas army.

Arriving in France at a time when the world resounded with the wide spread praise of the First Canadian fighting men — green, untried, with strength unknown — it seemed that the task of upholding the reputation that the Canadian troops already had would be a huge one, and a task before which any group of men might well hesitate. It was, too, at a period when the German armies were in great fettle and when they had noticed the wisdom of opposing their finest divisions to the troops from the British Overseas Dominions.

The authority for mobilization of the 47th Battalion was granted to Lieutenant Colonel W. N. Winsby in March, 1915 and recruiting was at once commenced in Vancouver and New Westminster. So well was the work carried out that within a few months the battalion left the coast for training at Vernon, and in November embarked for overseas as a fighting unit ready for the front. On arriving in England the 47th was taken into the 4th Division which was then forming, and in the following year left for France to join the other Canadian units in the Ypres Salient.

The trip to the Salient was a short one, for in little more than a month the battalion moved to the Somme to take part in the great battle then in progress there. Here it made the reputation which it always upheld, in the capture of the strongest and most formidable enemy position, known as Regina Trench. The celebrated trench action is well known and will be remembered by the 47th, and in the opinion of the battalion it was only in the battle of The Triangle, near Lens, in May 1917 that the desperate hand to hand fighting of Regina Trench was surpassed.

After the Somme engagement the battalion marched in December, 1916 to Vimy Ridge for trench tours and in preparation for the famous attack on the Ridge by the Canadian

Corps on Easter Monday, April 9th, 1917 in the course of which the Corps made one of the most brilliant and successful moves by capturing the Ridge and consolidating it so it always remained in Allied hands during the war.

Next came the battle of The Triangle, not a large scale engagement when compared with the operations on the whole British front, but to the 47th Battalion an engagement for which fierce fighting with rifle and bayonet has been without parallel in its whole history in the line.

A few months later after the usual tours of trenches with its various raids, the Canadian Corps took part in the great battle of Hill 70 at Lens. At 4:30 a.m. our barrage opened with intensity with A. Company and a platoon from D. Company attacking on the left of the battalion sector, and B. Company with a platoon of C. Company on the right. Both companies moved quickly across No Man's Land although hampered by accordion trip wires hidden in the long grass which for a while held up both companies, but did not prevent them reaching their objectives, A Company Aconite trench and B Company Bell Street in spite of the enfilading machine gun fire along the Len-Arras Road and the big slag heap the Green Carsier with its tunnels from which the Germans made frequent counter attacks until with much heroism a platoon from B Company blew up the entrance of the tunnel. It was during this affair that Corporal Konoval of B Company finding seven Germans in a shell crater jumped in and killed six of them in quick order with his bayonet then breaking his bayonet on a breast plate worn by the seventh killed him with the butt of his rifle. He then rushed a strong machine gun post killing the officer in charge and the entire gun crew. It was for this fighting that Corporal Konoval received the Victoria Cross for valour in the face of the enemy.

From Lens the battalion moved again to the Ypres Salient and took part in the attack upon Passchendaele where the Battalion again distinguished itself in that, as one of the generals called it, "A Death trap of mud!"

After this great engagement the 47th with the whole of the Canadian Corps moved south toward Vimy to hold the line in the Avion and Willarval sector of the Arras front where it was stationed during the great German attacks of the spring of 1918 and aided the plans of General Headquarters materially by making a number of very successful raids.

In May the 47th moved into reserve at Bouvigny Wood and here the training which played such an important part in the final great battles of the war was carried out. Early in August the battalion moved to Amiens and on August 8th took part in that famous counter thrust which freed the city and wrested forever the power of offence from the enemy.

From there the fighting was hard and continuous, the battalion being in all the major operations, the Droucourt-Queant line; Canal Du Nord; Cambrai; Denain; La Sentinella and finally Valenciennes in which city the battalion was when the armistice was signed, November 11th, 1918.

Some idea of the nature of the fighting the 47th Canadian Infantry Battalion was engaged in may be secured from the fact that 138 officers and 4,359 other ranks have passed through its nominal rolls. It has had four commanding officers in the field, Lt. Col. W. N. Winsby; Lt. Col. M. Francis, D.S.O.; Lt. Col. R. H. Webb, D.S.O., M.C.; and Lt. Col. H. L. Keegan, D.S.O., who commanded the battalion through the desperate

battles of the summer and fall of 1918 and brought it back to Canada.

The 47th had 14 officers and 495 other ranks killed in action; 8 officers and 144 other ranks died of wounds; 48 officers and 1,918 other ranks wounded. It had including Corporal Konoval's Victoria Cross; 7 Companions of the Distinguished Service Order; 39 Military Cross; 10 bars to Military Cross; 1 Second Bar to Military Cross; 8 Distinguished Conduct medal; 166 Military Medal; 11 Bar to Military Medal; 3 Meritorious Service Medal; Croix de Guerre, France, 1; Croix de Guerre, Belgium, 2; Italian Bronze Medal, 1; Cross of St. George, Russia, 2; Mentioned in Dispatches, 22.

So with pride British Columbia welcomes her gallant Battalion; "The Fighting Forty-Seventh."

This old flashback from old friend John Harrington, and at the moment of going to press we are disturbed to hear that John has suffered recent ill health. We are all pulling for you John and have appreciated your support and many submissions to this paper over the years . . . John would appreciate a word from any of you, particularly you vets of the 47th Bn. His new address is Knollwood West Convalescent Hospital, 7944 Birmingham Drive, San Diego, Calif., U.S.A. 92123.

A LONDON JOURNEY

On May 15th, the day after our 25th Wedding Anniversary, my wife (Frankie) and I took off for London, England with three objectives in mind. Firstly for me was, as Honorary Colonel of The Royal Westminster Regiment, to attend The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers Tercentenary Dinner at Mansion House on May 17th. Secondly, as President of The Army Cadet League of Canada, to meet with my opposite numbers in England to discuss cadets in general and to promote a greater inter-exchange of cadets in both countries. Thirdly, but not the least important, was to visit friends and relatives, see a few shows and have a good holiday. Before describing the dinner. I would like to put you all in the picture. The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers was formed on St. George's Day, 23 April, 1668, by the union of the four Regiments of The Fusilier Brigade: The Fifth Foot, The Royal Northumberland Fusiliers, 1674; The Sixth Foot, The Royal Warwickshire Fusiliers, 1674; The Seventh Foot, The Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment), 1685; and The Twentieth Foot, The Lancashire Fusiliers, 1688. We are now allied to The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.

The Colonel-In-Chief is H.R.H. The Duke of Kent. The Colonel of The Regiment is General Sir Kenneth Darling with four deputy colonels representing Northumberland, Warwickshire, City of London and Lancashire.

General Darling was most kind. He asked me; General Dan Spry, Colonel, The Royal Canadian Regiment; Colonel J. R. Barber, Honorary Colonel, the Lorne Scots, to meet him at the Army Navy Club at 1800 hrs. for a drink before going on to Mansion House. We then proceeded in General Darling's car to Mansion House where we were briefed as to protocol — first a glass of champagne before H.R.H. The Duke of Kent arrived and then join the line to be introduced to H.R.H. The Duke of Kent. Then more champagne and the finding of mutual friends. Major David Houlton (he visited New Westminster about five years ago) looked after me very well, introducing, getting drinks, etc. Dinner was called at 2000 hrs.

The guest list was enormous (a copy will be shown in The Regimental Museum). To mention a few, H.R.H. The Duke of Kent, The Lord Mayor, three Field Marshals, The C.G.S., The Admiral of the Fleet, the Marshal of The Royal Air Force, etc. The dinner was simple—mousse of avocado, sea trout with Hollandaise sauce, saddle of lamb, strawberries and cream. Everything was beautifully cooked and served with appropriate wines.

During dinner the Band of the 3rd Bn. of The Regiment played extremely well, including all four Regimental Marches — Minden March, Fighting with the 7th Royal Fusiliers, Warwickshire Lads and Blaydon Races.

The Toasts were as follows:

THE QUEEN: The Lord Mayor, The Corporation of London and The Sheriffs (Proposed by H.R.H. The Duke of Kent, Colonel-in-Chief).

THE REGIMENT: (Proposed by The Right Honourable The Lord Mayor, Sir Hugh Wontner).

THE GUESTS: (Proposed by General Kenneth Darling, Colonel of the Regiment). Response by Field Marshal Sir Gerald Templar.

The above toasts were of course well researched, beautifully delivered, and a pleasure to hear.

I would like to say at this point, for the benefit of our own P.M.C., that the Port is passed in normal fashion and may touch the table at any time.

My invitation stated "carriages at 10:30" so I was prepared to leave at that time, but like all plans, this one did not work out. H.R.H. The Duke of Kent was most interested in meeting people, particularly those from the Commonwealth. As a result, I had a very pleasant five minute chat with H.R.H. The Duke of Kent.

10:30 was long gone but H.R.H. The Duke of Kent was now talking with the young officers and obviously enjoying the evening and did not leave until 11:15. It was about 12:30 when General Darling, Spry, and I left the Army Navy. The bar was closed but the younger officers had made the necessary arrangements so it was about 2:00 a.m. when I arrived back at the Connaught Hotel. My wife beat me in by 15 minutes. A great evening, one that I will not forget. So ended Part One!

Part Two is combined with Part Three — Fun in England. Saturday, no hangover, lunch with our niece, Dr. Lynn McDonald, from New Westminster. Lynn is a Professor at McMaster University but on a Sabbatical living in Paris and writing a book. Took her to the Prospect of Whitby on the Thames for lunch. Lovely day. That evening a play then a late dinner at the Cafe Royale.

Sunday a trip to Sussex for lunch with Mr. and Mrs. Bill Newcombe. Bill is Secretary of the Army Cadets in England, has been so employed for some 28 years and is still most enthusiastic on the cadet movement. Had a lovely lunch and walk in their garden, then back to London for a small dinner party including Ross and Kay Parry. Ross has a sister, Maggi Leech, with the Columbian in New Westminster.

On Tuesday Col. Roger Schjelderup, Senior Army Officer on the Cdn. Liaison Staff, gave a luncheon for me at Norway House. Included were General Sir Tony Reed, Chairman of the Army Cadet Force, Major Gen. Peter Shapland, newly appointed to the post of Territorials and Cadets, Colonel Tony

Ricketts, Commander, S.E. London Branch. A.C.F., Bill Newcombe and others. A most successful lunch that opened many doors on the cadet side of my visit. Wednesday, took a train to Farnborough to look at Frimley Park, Camberley. This is a year round establishment run by the regular army to train the equivalent of our cadet instructor list officers. Something we must have in Canada. Left Farnborough by train for London, Frankie and I had been invited by our High Commissioner, His Excellency Mr. Jack Warren to attend a reception at Canada House for visiting V.C.'s. Frankie was delighted, hoping to see Jack Mahoney, V.C. who lived next door to her on 5th Street in New Westminster. Jack and his wife did turn up and my wife tried to bring Jack up to date with Westminster (a tough job in two hours). Smokey Smith was also there, two Victoria Crosses from 5th Street, New Westminster.

That really ended Phase Two and we entered into Phase Three with great delight — sightseeing, shopping, dining out, etc. General Ken Darling had asked us to spend a night with them on Monday (bank holiday) so hired a car and with my navigator (she is better than Col. Bill McKinney), we headed for the Vicarage Farmhouse, Chesterton, Nr. Bicester, Oxfordshire via lunch at Skindles at Maidenhead. Arrived in time for a walk around the farm, a drink or two, change for dinner, lovely evening. The Darlings had asked Mrs. Vivian Street, widow of an old friend of mine from Rifle Brigade days — Major Gen. V. Street. Very embarrassed next day, on leaving our hired car would not start so Lady Darling opened the bonnet (hood) claiming the distributor was at fault, cleaned it, replaced it and off we went via Windsor, Staines, Byfleet, Leatherhead, Reigate, Redhill to Godstone, East Grinstead to Tunbridge Wells (old Canadian Army land).

Stayed with friends at Tunbridge Wells — A full Colonel who had served with me in the Rifle Brigade. A delightful time doing trips to Brighton, Hever Castle Westerham, Chartwell, Sissinghurst Castle and many more. Our time was running out so drove back to London and spent the next few days wining and dining with friends.

Paid a good bye visit to Colonel W. W. Etches, Regimental Secretary at Regimental H.Q. in H.M. Tower of London. Bill is a tremendous chap, gave me clean copies of the menu and seating plan for our museum. Spoke to him about wearing the Fusilier tie, (we have always worn the Regimental tie of our British Allied Regt.). We both felt that this was a must. Everyone I met from the Royal Regiment was terribly enthusiastic about maintaining our affiliation and in this I am sure we all concur.

Our three weeks were great, fun, business, and so forth. England was lovely — one day of rain in three weeks, the countryside in flower, the pubs as you all know them are the same.

Who on earth is going to ask me to another Tercentenary Dinner!!

E. G. Eakins (B/Gen. Rtd.)

Hon. Col.

The Royal Westminster Regiment.

Appreciation to Brig. Ted Eakins for his "London Journey." It provides a marvellous insight to what must indeed have been a wonderful journey. — Ed.

SOME ACCOLADES FROM 1945

Westminsters Developed Outstanding "Team Technique" In Bitter Battles

By WILLIAM ROSS (Canadian Press War Correspondent).

WITH CANADIAN FORCES IN THE NETHERLANDS, Oct. 30 — Battle experience of The Westminster Regiment (M) with the 5th Canadian (Armoured) Division, produced one of the outstanding team personalities of the war.

Fighting days totalled 191 in Italy, 41 in northwest Europe, representing much more action than that seen by any other regiment in the division.

The fighting developed a "team technique" comparable perhaps to only two other regiments — the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada and the Loyal Edmonton Regiment.

ONLY THREE CAPTURED

Since and including the Hitler Line in Italy, its first major action, the regiment had only three men taken captive by the enemy.

During its whole period in a straight infantry role throughout the Gothic Line and winter campaigns, and in its later resumed motor battalion task, the regiment lost not one prisoner.

But the honor roll lists 161 Westminsters who gave their lives and 521 suffered wounds during the regiment's campaigns, which saw unit personnel receive 38 decorations, topped by the Victoria Cross awarded Major Jack Mahony of New Westminster for his performance at the Melfa Crossing, and including 15 military medals.

More honors and awards are believed forthcoming.

DECIMATED ENEMY

A summary of enemy personnel and equipment accounted for does not include German dead or wounded but shows more than 3000 prisoners taken and 60 vehicles, 12 self-propelled guns, eight light tanks, 20 heavy guns, 50 miscellaneous guns, 40 nebelwerfers and mortars and hundreds of small arms.

Commanding officer in all the Westminster's major battles was Lieut.-Col. Gordon C. Corbould, D.S.O., of New Westminster, though Lieut.-Col. Ralph Tindall, Toronto, was in command while the unit held part of the Ortona front opposite Crechio, in January and February of 1944.

Colonel Corbould's father, Lieut.-Col. G. Bruce Corbould, also of New Westminster, led the unit during pre-war non-permanent militia days.

GERMANS REPELLED

The regiment was first committed to action in northwest Europe in March, when it relieved the 12th Manitoba Dragoons along the line of the lower Waal River, west of Nijmegen.

With three companies it held a 10,000-yard front against intense German patrol activity. Highlight of the period was a night clash between strong enemy and Westminster Patrols led by Lieut. Bert Stephens, New Westminster.

Second role was the relief elements of 49th British (West Riding) Division along the Neder Rijn, opposite Arnhem, which they held, helped by intense smoke screens, until they

crossed the Ijssel River to rejoin 5th Canadian Armoured Division and exploit the capture of Arnhem by dashing north to the Zuider Zee.

SUPPORTED DRAGOONS

The task was accomplished in four days. Companies under Majors H. F. Hoskin and I. F. Douglas, both of New Westminster, led off supporting tanks of the British Columbia Dragoons of Vernon and the 8th New Brunswick Hussars.

A third company under Major W. J. Neil, Vancouver, was committed to clear out enemy who infiltrated behind the rapidly-moving front and were holding a hilltop position north of Arnhem.

Neat inter-play of the companies brought Major Hoskins with the tanks of the 8th New Brunswick Hussars to the Zuider Zee.

TECHNICAL TRAINING

In the 106-hour operation the unit scored 81 Germans killed in action and 480 prisoners.

Keynote of activity since V-E Day has been the unit's rehabilitation program, run by Capt. Bill McLachlan, Vancouver, and the educational project, supervised by second-in-command, Maj. Don MacKenzie, Vancouver.

Sgt. Peter Adlem, New Westminster, is chief technical instructor, while his brother, Lieut. Dave Adlem, in charge of school administration.

Academics are taught in a school whose principal is Pte. Charles Undsworth, Vancouver. More than 500 members of the regiment have taken one or more courses of varying duration since the scheme's inception.

GUARD EQUIPMENT

Part of the responsibility for guarding the equipment and ammunition dumps at Nijmegen is borne by the regiment, which has a detachment of 125 men there under Capt. Arlo Kipp, Chilliwack. A further party of 47 under Sgts. Frank H. Barnes, Deroche, and Allan A. Manuel, Shuswap, have been detailed to assist in guarding Gen. Simmonds' headquarters in Apeldoorn.

Capt. K. B. Harrison, Vancouver, was technical adjutant, while Lieut. (now Capt.) Frank R. Smith, New Westminster, was intelligence officer. Lieut. J. A. Fowlie, Strathroy, Ont., was signals officer, while Capt. C. A. Cousins, Ottawa, Toronto and Vancouver, is paymaster.

Transport officer was Lieut. J. S. Moore, while in charge of the light aid detachment was Capt. A. M. Caldicott, Trail.

MAJOR DROWNED

Commanding headquarters company was Capt. E. V. Ardagh, New Westminster. The support company commander, Major F. Shawcross, New Westminster, was drowned when his armoured car overturned and fell into a canal the day before he was to leave on repatriation. Drowned with him were two little Dutch girls to whom he was giving a brief spin in his vehicle.

Padre was Capt. the Rev. D. R. G. Owen, Toronto, son of the Anglican Primate of Canada. R.S.M. Jack Clifford, of Trail and Chilliwack, was replaced by Phil Abbott, also of Chilliwack, when he went home on repatriation. Orderly room sergeant is Bill Dennis, New Westminster.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DRAW — 1974

FIRST PRIZE: No. 120B — K. Campbell, 2008 Lorraine, Coquitlam. Seller: E. Campbell.	\$250.00 \$ 50.00	6. No. 295L — Jim Wilson, 11265 - 79A Ave., North Delta. Seller: J. Wilson.	\$20.00
SECOND PRIZE: No. 649D — R. Gougeon, 41 Sage Mesa, Penticton. Seller: W. F. Gougeon.	\$100.00 \$ 50.00	7. No. 615M — Marion Mitchell, 103 - 345 Springfield Dr., Richmond. Seller: K. K.	\$20.00
THIRD PRIZE: No. 495P — Valerie Blair, McLure P.O., McLure. Seller: Gordon Moore.	\$100.00 \$ 50.00	8. No. 368F — Dave McKay, 1708 Nanaimo St. Seller: J. C. Knill.	\$20.00
FOURTH PRIZE: No. 467L — Diane Kettles, 4858 57A St., Delta. Seller: R. York.	\$100.00 \$ 50.00	9. No. 1044W — P. Moore, 3717 Inverness St., Port Coquitlam. Seller: P. Moore.	\$20.00
FIFTH PRIZE: No. 27M — I. Gelderblom, Box 254, Savona. Seller: Sam Field.	\$100.00 \$ 50.00	10. No. 849E — Mrs. E. Janelle, 6870 Merrit Ave., S. South Burnaby. Seller: Mr. R. Janelle (Curly).	\$20.00
SIXTH PRIZE: No. 557F — Les Blower, 828 Bebek Rd., Westsyde, Kamloops. 1 Case Scotch Whiskey. Seller: J. Le-Comte.	\$ 84.42 \$ 25.00		
SEVENTH PRIZE: No. 245W Shelley Morisset, 833 Burnaby St., New Westminster. 1 Case of Rum. Seller: Warren Nyack.	\$ 78.75 \$ 25.00		
EIGHTH PRIZE: No. 114J — Toni Brown, P.O. Box 605, Port Hardy. 1 Case Rye. Seller: G. E. Smith.	\$ 78.12 \$ 25.00		
NINTH PRIZE: No. 611F — David A. Leedham, Mission City. 1 Case of Vodka. Seller: David A. Leedham.	\$ 69.30 \$ 25.00		
TENTH PRIZE: No. 132E — Simone Fraser, 544 Richmond St., New Westminster. 1 Case of Gin. Seller: Grace Head.	\$ 66.78 \$ 25.00		
ELEVENTH PRIZE: No. 252E — Gar Eby, 11947 92nd Ave., Delta. 10 Dozen Beer. Seller: John L. Hiscock.	\$ 35.51		
TWELFTH PRIZE: No. 236A — Vern Banfield, 847 Carrie St., Victoria. 10 Dozen Beer. Seller: W. L. Armour.	\$ 35.51		

10 CONSOLATION PRIZES

1. No. 617L — Casey Dekker, Swansea, Abbotsford. Seller: R. Mannering.	\$20.00
2. No. 791J — Daphne Hession, Slesse Park, O'Byrne Road, Sardis. Seller: Barbara Shannon.	\$20.00
3. No. 1067A — P. Kosh, 2511 - 46th Ave., SE Calgary, Alberta. Seller: Bob Brown.	\$20.00
4. No. 922E — P. A. Scarrow, 6464 Prince Albert. Seller: W. Johnson.	\$20.00
5. 539Y — Bob Carter. Seller: Bob Carter.	\$20.00

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 beyond 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.

Reality 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

Circa 1860 Lincoln Wrote:

"You cannot bring about prosperity by discouraging thrift.

"You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong.

"You cannot help the wage earner by pulling down the wage payer.

"You cannot further the brotherhood of man by encouraging class hatred.

"You cannot help the poor by destroying the rich.

"You cannot establish sound security on borrowed money.

"You cannot keep out of trouble by spending more than you earn.

"You cannot build character and courage by taking away initiative and independence.

"You cannot help men permanently by doing for them what they could and should do for themselves."

These fine words were issued many years ago. They are as pertinent today as the date of their original publication.

— Ed.



LEST WE FORGET

†

ROBT. M. GILLOTT
Westminster Regiment W.W.2
Vancouver, B.C.

†

HUGH J. MCGIVERN
Westminster Regiment W.W.2
New Westminster, B.C.

†

FRED A. FRASER
Life Member
White Rock, B.C.

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