



The GROUND SHEET

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. 24, No. 3

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

JUNE - JULY, 1975



THE GROUND SHEET

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

Editor RON HURLEY
2229 Bonnyvale Road, Vancouver 16, B.C. — 321-8464

Secretary RON MANNERING
7290 11th Ave., Burnaby, B.C. V3N 2M8 — 521-8325

Last year's reunion was a companionable affair, with ample time for visiting, recollecting, and enjoying each others company.

D'Arcy Baldwin
Lindell Beach P.O., B.C. V0X 1P0
Circle Six

FROM THE EDITOR:

This represents my last official issue as Editor of your Groundsheet. I will however, in conjunction with Ian Douglas, be preparing an account of our trip to Italy. I take this opportunity to thank all those who have contributed to the success of The Groundsheet over the many years I have been involved with its publication and would ask that you contribute every assistance you can to your new Editor, Allan Coe.

Arriverdici.

FROM THE POST:

Limited correspondence during these summer months but hereby acknowledge those few that have arrived:

Nice to hear from Al Harding of Nanaimo, B.C. and pleased to hear that you met with old friends Al Little, Les Dance, Geo. Johnson and others. Please take a trip our way soon Al.

Sincere appreciation to Peter F. Pirie of 47005 Russell Road, R.R. 2, Sardis, B.C. for the donation of the delightful publication "Stump Ranch." You may be assured that the Museum will be most interested.

A nice word from John Somers of Downsview, Ontario M3N 2J8. Glad to note that you have had a pleasant trip to Holland John and the Groundsheet would be pleased to hear more of your visit.

Dear Ron:

An invitation is issued to all ex-Westies and their wives to attend "D" Coy re-union on Sunday, August 3, 1975 at the Baldwin's Circle Six Ranch, Columbia, Valley Highway, starting at 1300 hours.

It is an outdoor picnic affair, rain or shine, ample parking, lots of space. Everyone brings their own food and refreshments. Barbecue facilities available. Come dressed for outdoors.

No fees, no formalities, except for a brief Memorial Service and the sounding of Retreat at 1700 hours.

THE ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD IN NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C., AT THE ARMOURY ON THURSDAY, MARCH 20th, 1975

The meeting was opened at 8:10 p.m. with one minute silence in honour of fallen comrades. President Bert Hoskin, presiding, 27 members in attendance. The President welcomed the members attending, declared we had the necessary quorum of 15 and proceeded forthwith. The minutes of the previous Annual Meeting were adopted as circulated on motion of Ford/Glenn.

CHANGE OVER DINNER

On June 20th the incoming and outgoing executive members entertained their good ladies at an informal dinner at the Royal Towers Hotel in New Westminster. Thirty-one attended and all agreed that it was a most pleasurable night. Conversation flowed freely and was brisk as it was diverse. President Bert Hoskin expressed the appreciation of the entire Association to the retiring Secretary and Editor and also extended this appreciation to Ruth Hurley for her many years of valued assistance to her husband and Association alike.

EASTERN HOSPITALITY — FAR OUT

The origin of that old cliché of "Western Hospitality" is vague but it should be discounted once and for all as it is most parochial. The most marvellous Eastern welcome was extended to my wife Ruth and myself on the occasion of The Toronto Chapter of The Melfa Dinner held in Toronto on May 9th. This was a particular special event for me personally as I had just returned from a visit to the actual Melfa River as a representative on The Veterans' Pilgrimage to the Canadian War Graves in Italy. (more of this in a later issue)

Secretary Alf White (an old C. Coy buddy of mine) met us at the station upon our arrival from Montreal by the Rapido Train. Alf and his charming wife had worked prodigiously to organize this gathering and had gone to great lengths to provide our creature comforts. The dinner itself was a resounding success and genial President Pat McCarthy hosted a warm and charming evening.

It was a delight to meet old friends like Jack Shorter, Bill Majury, Cliff Newbigging, Ed Guthrie and others. Jack Shorter and his lovely lady entertained us at their home and Pat McCarthy took time off from a busy work schedule to give us a guided tour of Toronto. It is refreshing to see the dedication of this group and although they are far removed from general association activities their participation is much more proportionately than many of our own people situated locally. It was the influx of people like these to our ranks that made the unit the great Regiment it was and is.

— Ron Hurley

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SICK AND VISITING: Chairman Bill Robson reported on visiting 16 patients at the 5 hospitals, Royal Columbian, Richmond General, Centennial Pavillion, George Derby and Shaughnessy. He distributed cigarettes candy, cookies, books and papers. Bill welcomes information of any member being admitted, and if they or their relatives give him a call at

254-2876, he will visit them on his next tour. Bill was given a hearty vote of thanks for his work.

SMOKER: Walter Hogg, Chairman, and Bas Morgan reported on the 1974 Smoker. A few new innovations were tried to keep the interest of all. Some of these worked out fine, others not so well. One of these, that we entertain ourselves did not work out, as the noise and the acoustics of the old Armoury does not lend toward good listening. The questionable behaviour of a few noisy ones spoiled an otherwise fine evening. The refreshments and the eats were plentiful. Bas having done a good job in that area. There will have to be more control exercised at future Smokers.

AWARDS: Walter Lyle announced with regret the resignation of Les Deane as Secretary of the Committee. A valued member he will continue on the Committee work. Basil Morgan and Vern Ardagh joined the Committee so the group is up to strength. The Committee considered scholarship applications from 12 candidates. The winners were:

1. Janice Rowell, Victoria, granddaughter of Capt. Keith Macgowan of the 131st and 57th Bns.
2. Robert Reynolds, Vancouver, son of Lieut. Bob Reynolds, The Royal Westminster Regt.

In regard to Achievement Awards, we selected two \$100 awards and one to be given an "honourable mention." This was a group of small girls, a Brownie Pack, who devote much time and effort to provide treats and T.L.C. to some aged people and our emissary actually ended up giving them \$20.00 for their fund, along with our "honourable mention."

This was the only award we did give for achievement in 1974. In one case, the young man has moved away, and we are unable to reach him, and the other proved unworthy having been over-glamourized by the press and agreement was reached that this award be cancelled.

We need the help of every member to find names for future consideration. So keep your eyes and ears open, pass on the names, the circumstances of why you think they are worthy of our recognition, of any young people who do something worthwhile.

Chairman Bert thanked Walter and his Committee for their efforts in this work of our Association. Next the President asked for a "Break", after which he called for "Election of Officers for 1975."

Elected were:

President — Bert Hoskin

Vice-President — Stan Moorhouse elected, Bill Robson declined.

Directors — John Hau, Red Williams, John Ford, Bill Robson, Bas Morgan, Walter Lyle, Clarence Huff and Allan Coe.

President Elect Bert Hoskin requested Vern Ardaugh to continue as Treasurer for 1975. Vern accepted.

President had asked Ron Mannering to take on the role of Secretary. Ron accepted.

President asked for volunteers to take on the post of Editor of The Ground Sheet. Allan Coe accepted the challenge and the meeting was happy to have Allan back in an active role once more.

President stated he will be appointing additional Executive and/or Committee Chairmen as required.

The Ballots were destroyed on motion of Hogg/Shannon.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS — A review of the Association By-Laws as printed in The Groundsheet were put to the meeting. It was moved we accept the By-Laws as printed by John Ford/Doug Glenn. Carried.

NEW BUSINESS — Much discussion re placing our Museum within the "Canora" Plan. A move to develop part of the waterfront just west of the King Neptune Restaurant by purchasing, re-furbishing and making the vessel into a Tourist attraction.

It was moved by Doug Glenn, seconded by Bill Robson that we accept the City's offer to go into the Canora, subject to the suitable safeguards being negotiated. Carried.

GOOD AND WELFARE — R. C. Shannon led a discussion re more berets (red) on parades, and also more pictures in The Groundsheet.

After requests by the President if there were any further business, the meeting adjourned, and refreshments were served.

THE MUSEUM of The Royal Westminster Regiment

Annual Report of The Museum Committee, Mar. 20

Last year The Museum Committee was comprised of these members: Bert Hoskin (Chairman), LCol Steede, LCol Deane, Maj Rigby-Jones, Malcolm Stewart, Glenn Gates, Walter Hogg, Walter Tyler, George Hughes, John Rosso, Vernon Ardagh, Ian Douglas.

By some measures The Museum made progress in 1974. Last summer, as in 1973, we received a grant from the Imperial Oil Co. for the employment of a student during his holidays. Lt Gibbs of The Regiment worked with the Committee for ten weeks; for most of that time Lt McComber shared the work and the grant. In August, BGen Eakins, Col McKinney and LCol Hall provided a month's wages for another student, MsGattrell. This summer work was most productive. In that three-month period 519 artifacts and other acquisitions were registered, catalogued, tagged, and put away, a great number of documents were sorted and the usual maintenance work done. Having these students permitted the Museum to be open to the public five days a week for three months.

In addition to six formal occasions when The Museum was "on parade" there were 61 days on which visitors signed the book (they totalled 291 signatures) but those figures are minimal, for many tour The Museum without signing the Visitors' Book.

Because of the pressure for more display space The Committee contracted with The B.C. Penitentiary for the making of two new cases of the same dimensions as those now in use. There will then be six cases on the floor, on edge, as are the six cases on the walls. We have applied through LCol Steede's office to The Engineers for making the new power connections that will be necessary, and we hope that our CF Museum status will warrant a free job.

The Committee has looked for a long time at the old cannon and wished we had the space it occupies. It is true that visitors are impressed by it, but while it is indeed one of the treasures of our Regimental family its place is not really

in the old gun room. When an offer came along to move the gun from its present location to a more suitable place in The Armoury grounds, The Committee voted unanimously to accept the offer. The space thus made available would make possible the placing of another display case and also the new map case. The map case is placed temporarily under Cases No. 1 and No. 10; this case is a five-drawer steel cabinet 38" x 54" — a very handsome addition which permits the proper storage of our maps. We are ready now to accept any maps of our family travels that you care to part with.

The City of New Westminster has been trying to get the old Kenora car ferry and place it on the shoreline just below the Neptune Cafe for use as a convention centre. The City is anxious that our museum be lodged there, where ample space and custodial care would be available and where there would be many visitors. If the City's hope is realized a bid will likely come, sooner or later, to move The Museum. At the present time the consensus of our Committee is favorable.

Last fall a proposal was made in Committee to change The Committee format. The idea was to divide The Committee into two parts — A Directorate, comprised of representatives from The Regiment and The Association, and a Staff, comprised of a curator and other person necessary to implementing the policy of The Directorate and to performing the special and general tasks in The Museum. The proposal was shot down at the February meeting chiefly because of the general feeling that all of the so-called "staff" should be members of The Committee as a whole and take their part in the policy making. An amendment to be voted on 31 March, will emphasize the policy-making function of The Museum Committee and propose the formation of a sub-committee that will perform the function of the a/m staff.

At the moment we have no curator, and we need one. We also need and will be advertising in the next Groundsheet for an Assistant Curator who, for a suitable honorarium, would attend The Museum for a specified number of hours (preferably exceeding 400 hours) and require a substantial honorarium. Such an attendant would make possible the opening of The Museum on an adequate and scheduled basis and would accomplish some of the work that now awaits too long. We are looking for the cash and the man.

We hope, also, to receive grants that will permit employment of students again this summer. We have applied to The Secretary of State under what is called Students' Employment Project, 1975, to engage two students for fourteen weeks' work. We have also registered with the B.C. Department of Education our desire to participate in The Imperial Oil Summer Employment Scheme, if it is on this year. We can see work for three persons (under supervision of one or more Committeemen) 35 hours per week, May to August inclusive. With such a summer program we could approach the goal of having catalogued every item so far acquired; then we could deal immediately and properly with each new acquisition as it arrives and concentrate on upgrading existing displays.

Last October 24 we had a tea to honor the people who had made special donations for the employment of students. No representative of either The Imperial Oil Co. or The Department of Education was able to attend, but Gen Eakins, Col McKinney, LCol Hall and their ladies did attend, and so did Mr. Ron Walley, President of The Westminster Gyro Club;

it is quite possible that the Gyros will support the Museum.

As you know, we enjoy status as a Canadian Forces Museum. Last July we submitted to the CF Museum Committee, a statement in terms of cash and equipment of our needs for the coming year. After the Federal DND budget is analyzed we should hear what help we get from that source; rumor has it that at least some cash will be granted.

It is possible that there could be a museum here if The Association had not, from the beginning, provided effort and money, but it could not approach the museum that now exists. The artifacts themselves have come largely from or through Association members — and they are still coming in, for this year we have had some very interesting gifts. To keep The Museum alive and well, however promising "outside" support may appear to be, we must rely chiefly on this organization right here. We are therefore grateful for the continuing interest of the Association.

A hearty vote of thanks to the Museum Committee was extended for their sincere endeavour towards this very valuable work.

GROUND SHEET AND SECRETARY

Ron Mannering reported the resignation of Ron Hurley as Secretary-Editor with effect 28th February 1975 and Les Deane as Vice-President. Ron Mannering offered to try the Secretarial work if we could find an Editor, hopefully at this meeting.

Both Ron Hurley and Les Deane will be sorely missed in the offices they held and the meeting gave both a hearty vote of thanks and trust, neither will be very far away if we need help.

MELFAR AND GOLF

Stan Moorhouse reported the start of the Melfa celebrations the 18th and 19th of May, 1974, started out with 34 members teeing off at the Tsawwassen Golf and Country Club under the guidance of Barney Jones and Ron Mannering.

Barney Jones won the Melfa Trophy for Low Net 66. George McGregor won the Chuch Marshall Shield with a Low Gross of 68. Twelve others won prizes.

Led by our President Bert Hoskin a contingent left the Armoury and paraded to the Cenotaph where a wreath was laid to the memory of our departed comrades.

A very enjoyable meal was served and the head table guests were introduced as follows.

Bert Stephens — seller of most draw tickets.

Norm McAskill — representing The Royal Canadian Legion No. 2.

Major Rigby Jones — representing Seaforths Association.

LCol L. Deane — Vice President of our Association.

Deputy Chief Rod Keary — City of New Westminster.

Bert Hoskin — President of The Royal Westminster Regiment Association.

Stan Moorhouse — Chairman and M.C. Melfa.

Ian Douglas — Guest Speaker.

LCol M. M. Steede — C.O. The Regiment.

Doug Glenn — Immediate Past President The Association.

Nelson Scott — Draw Chairman.

Major Ian Douglas, Guest Speaker, came up with what has to

be one of our more enjoyable speeches and was given a rousing thanks from those in attendance. The program then went to Good and Welfare and the caterer had seconds of cold cuts for those who wished. On the Sunday, Ladies' Day, an enjoyable afternoon was spent over tea, coffee, sandwiches and cake. LCol and Mrs. Deane, Major and Mrs. Walter Hogg were gracious hosts and hostesses for over 75 guests.

Chairman Stan Moorhouse was thanked for his fine Melfa efforts.

Treasure's Report given by Vern Ardagh, a very comprehensive picture of our financial standings, showing a deficit of \$545.00 arising from the 1974 operations of our Association. It is anticipated that expenses are bound to increase, and that, unless we are prepared to look to the encashment of some of our bonds under the control of our Trustees, we must largely depend on our Draw as the main revenue and get a larger percentage of our people to support it.

The purchase of tables and chairs in 1974 eroded our cash position and the result will be a greater dependence on bank borrowings to see us through each year until we are in receipt of draw proceeds. This concept is basically undesirable and should be avoided if possible.

Vernon presented the Budget for 1975 which had been prepared by the Budget Committee and on motion of Ardagh, seconded by Moorhouse, it was approved.

REGIMENTS AND CADETS — by LCol M.M. Steede.

1974 was a successful year but we expect 1975 to be even more so. In the first 3 months of this year we had recruited 40 young men. This renewed interest is largely the result of an energetic recruiting campaign, together with an imaginative training program. Parachute training is now available for militia. In addition, militiamen are being encouraged in increasing numbers to apply for overseas attachment to the Regular Force. In 1974, seven "Westies" served in Germany and two have served in the Middle East.

An application has been submitted to re-establish a sub-unit in the Fraser Valley, which we lost 5 years ago when the Regiment had its establishment cut from 3 rifle companies to 2. At that time we lost the Armoury at Abbotsford which was turned over to the Municipality of Matsqui. We are presently looking at two possible locations; the Abbotsford Armoury and the Chilliwack Armoury.

Summer Camp this year will be held in Fort Lewis, and all ranks are looking forward to the opportunity of taking advantage of the excellent training facilities there.

THE CADET CORPS

No. 2316 The Royal Westminster Regiment Cadet Corps is the local Corps, Captain Al Johnson retired in late 1974 and is now commanded by Capt. Pat Moore, a Vietnam veteran. The numbers are increasing and the Corps look to the Regiment and Association for financial aid.

No. 1922 Corps is located in the Abbotsford Armoury at the Airport. C.O. is Capt Dennis L'Amis, a dedicated and hard-working officer. The gravest problem the Corps has is one of finances. They are assessed \$100.00 per month rental by Matsqui for the armoury. This is a sponsored corps and they look toward the Regiment and the Association for help.

No. 1838 Corps is in Maple Ridge, an affiliated corps, is sponsored by the Legion. C.O. is Capt. Tom Pinch, they are

very active and produced a number of very good recruits for the Regiment. In 1974 they produced the cadet judged to be the best qualified in British Columbia.

No. 2822 Surrey Delta Corps is our youngest becoming affiliated in 1973. They are sponsored by the Legion and the C.O. is Capt Tom Buchenauer. They work closely with Washington State Marine Corps and have had a number of exchange exercises with them.

Over the past year I have become concerned as to the standard of dress, drill and deportment of the senior cadets so will be conducting a Senior NCO Drill and Duties Course for the cadets of the four corps which should improve the standard.

M. H. H. Steede,
LCol, Commanding Officer.

DRAW

Nelson Scott, adding to his earlier report to the Executive, gave a short verbal report. The results of 1974 were better than the previous year, but it took a lot of urging. You asked us to do a job, and we did it. If you will give us a project, a target to aim for, we will reach it. But we do need more local support, that is, the membership in and around New Westminster and Vancouver. Some of the old timers, who were big sellers, need replacing, some one to step in and sell tickets. Also, many members are still complacent and we never hear from them, if they could just sell a book or two we would improve the draw results enormously. Scotty said he and his committee of Bert Stephens and Scotty Lowe are available for Draw 1975. Give us a Target!!

Nelson was given a hearty vote of thanks and promised the New Executive would look into his request.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT Annual Meeting — 1975

I don't feel, with the concise and very thorough reports of the various committees, that I need to make a lengthy report. However, there are some items that are of importance to us as an association.

First, as your president I do truly appreciate the dedication and hard work of the Executive and other committees, and of the members of the association who have contributed in any way to our organization. Second, I want to express on your behalf our regret at the retirement of Ron Hurley as Secretary and Editor of the Groundsheet, but also our grateful appreciation for the many years of outstanding service by Ron and Ruth. It seems fitting that Ron will be one of our official representatives at the D.V.A. war graves ceremonies to be held in Italy in April this year. The other hard working member Ian Douglas is our second representative.

You know we have been working quietly with a civic committee on the possibility of the City of New Westminster providing space in a proposed convention centre for our military museum. We have made no firm commitment of course, but I would ask, when we come to New Business that you consider a motion approving such action in principle, subject to an acceptable agreement being worked out. Perhaps I can speak of this further when the motion is debated.

We all share, I know you share, the Executive's concern for the future. The Executive has reached the conclusion that we carry on and accept that eventually the Association will

run down as we cannot anticipate enough strength from the serving regiment to perpetuate the association. We need your thoughts on this item too.

This leads me to my next point, where do we go from here? I suggest, with the Achievement Awards slowly catching on and the museum in good hands, that we divert a greater effort to the two events that in a small way repay the membership for their loyalty, the smoker and annual dinner. If we can increase the draw receipts we should direct a greater effort here, again we need your ideas.

My last point concerns our need for greater membership participation. We have almost 200 members within reach of the Armoury yet we fail to gain their participation. Each year it becomes harder and harder for the Smoker and Dinner Chairmen to get help in setting up and organizing their programmes. We also need to know what the membership feels and wants so the Executive can plot a course for the next year or two. We admit that we have had our successes and failures, but if you don't participate then we must as your elected representatives make the decisions for you. If you don't like what we do let us know, I cannot speak for others but I'll quietly withdraw from the Executive.

— H. F. Hoskins, President

ASSOCIATION CRESTS PLEASE

Please send me Crest (s) at \$5.00 Each.

NAME

Address

Mail orders to "ASSOCIATION CRESTS",
Box 854, New Westminster, B.C.

No return postage.

WHAT BECAME OF KELLY?

- Mr. P. Anderson, 6115 Portland St., South Burnaby 1.
 Maj. M. C. Beckett, 6409 Cambie St., Vancouver 15, B.C.
 Robert K. Bradshaw, Box 891, Mission City, B.C.
 John F. Brown, R.R. No. 1, Mission City, B.C.
 H. H. R. Campbell, 7079 Waverley Ave., South Burnaby, B.C.
 Ted Churchill, R.R. No. 1, Chase, B.C.
 J. Cox, 2117 Edinburgh St., New Westminster, B.C.
 Arnold Donald, Ste. 402 - 9080 6th Ave., New Westminster, B.C.
 Tommy Fawkes, Gen. Del., Sechelt, B.C.
 J. H. Fellingham, 2341 Dewdney Trk. Rd., Maple Ridge, B.C. V2X 3L3.
 V. H. Larsen, 2257 Lobb Ave., Port Coquitlam, B.C.
 Capt. D. B. Lee, Box 338, Mission, B.C.
 W. E. Markle, 620 Sperling Ave., Burnaby, B.C.
 Lt. J. S. McComber, 742 Horne Ave., Box 636, Mission City, B.C.
 John A. Neill, Ste. 304 - 666 Wilson St., Quesnel, B.C. V2J 2W4.
 W. J. Swanson, 1416 - 6th Ave., New Westminster, B.C.
 G. A. Waugh, 625 Medical Arts Bldg., 404 Graham Avenue, Winnipeg 1, Man.
 L. Williams, 4616 Parker St., North Burnaby, B.C.

RETURN
REQUESTED

THE ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 854, New Westminster, B.C. V3L 4Z8

