



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

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

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 1975

ANNUAL DRAW COMMITTEE ASKS FOR EVERY MEMBERS HELP IN '75

THE FOLLOWING TWO MESSAGES TELL THE STORY!

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Member:

We all understand I am sure, together with our Annual dues, that the proceeds of the Draw are vital to the existence of the Association and to the goals we have set over the years.

A long time ago now we all decided that we were determined that the contribution of those who served in our family of Regiments from 1863 on would be preserved and recorded for future generations. Thanks to the Draw and the support of the Association members we have the beginning of one of the most historical and exciting military museums in Canada.

I have just returned from a four day national conference of military museums, greatly encouraged that we, without the backing of Government or wealthy patrons, have nevertheless brought into being a museum which is the first non-government or non-Regular Force museum to gain official accreditation. Already others now facing the same problems as we did are seeking information from us.

Thanks to the foresight of the members, our Scholarship and Achievement Awards are secure and contributions of which we can be proud.

The other area of concern to me is the 'Groundsheet' which is the Association's lifeline and the link which binds us all together; it too depends on the success of the Annual Draw.

The Draw Committee and the Executive are doing their best, please help us by selling as many books as you can, the prizes are first class and the causes we support justify our best efforts.

Sincerely,
Bert Hoskin, *President*

FROM THE DRAW COMMITTEE To All Association Members

GREETINGS

Your new executive, with Bert Hoskins as President, has set itself some high ideals for the next few years and have consequently requested you, through the Draw Committee, to fix an objective of double the amount we usually realize each year.

ARE YOU EQUAL TO THIS?

Your Draw Committee accepted this challenge being secure in our belief that everyone would respond, therefore we know each and everyone will out-do other years in their sales activity.

The whole picture has changed in British Columbia pertaining to draws; you know we are conducting a legal venture having been registered by the Provincial Government for this purpose. This, it is hoped, will allay fears or reluctance to sell; it's LEGAL Old Boy.

Won't you join the crowd by getting into the act by selling the Books herewith.

Two books at least are being sent to every member in B.C. — we are already counting the returns as we know we have your support.

After all, this effort on your part is a small price to pay for membership in the most active Regimental Association in CANADA. You may not be the world's best salesman, you don't have to be, just show these tickets to your friends and once produced in any gathering the tickets sell themselves.

Thank you for your cooperation.

DRAW COMMITTEE
Bert Stephens
Nelson Scott

THE GROUND SHEET

President BERT HOSKIN
 4376 62nd St., Delta, B.C. — 946-2277
 Editor ALLAN COE
 908 Tsawwassen Beach, Delta, B.C. V4M 2J3 — 943-3895
 Secretary RON MANNERING
 7290 11th Ave., Burnaby, B.C. V3N 2M8 — 521-8325

EDITOR'S NOTE

As you may have read in the last issue of the *Groundsheet*, I have taken over from Ron Hurley as editor of your paper. This is no mean challenge after the many years of hard work Ron has put into the writing and publishing of the *Groundsheet*. One of the first things I did was to look out my old files of the original Association paper. For those of you who may have long memories the predecessor was called *News and Views* and Volume 1 No. 1 was dated July 1950. As I remember Nelson Scott and I were joint editors with the typing and printing being done by my secretary after work. Reading over that first issue proves that very little has changed in the twenty five years since our beginning. A few words from the first editorial which are as true today as they were then . . . "It's good for us occasionally to pause and reflect over those days . . . for then we were dependent on each other for our very existence. We meant much to each other in those days and if this news letter serves as a means of helping keep us united, then it will have more than fulfilled its purpose." Without any question I feel that we have achieved that goal, for our Association has survived where many similar groups have long since disappeared. In fact, it is given me on good authority, that our Association is one of the largest and most active in Canada. However, no association is any stronger than its membership, so really it is still up to you. Be active, participate, support the draw committee, come to meetings and above all drop me a note to let me know that all this is being read. Tell me what you want in the *Groundsheet*!

— Allan Coe

"D" Company Reunion Big Success

Some 80 ex Westies and their wives attended the second renewal of "D" company's reunions, on Sunday August 3 at Circle Six Ranch, Columbia Valley, home of D'Arcy and Elsie Baldwin.

Even the threatening weather failed to deter those attending from enjoying the outdoor picnic.

Coming the furthest distance were Doug MacNabb and his wife from Thunder Bay, Ontario, to join his brother Jim and his wife Madleine. From Vavenby came Bob Franks to join ex Westies from Vancouver Island, coastal points and all areas of the lower mainland. The annual event has a standing invitation to all ex regiment members and is usually announced in the *Groundsheet*. Association President Bert Hoskin commanded the Memorial and Retreat ceremony parade. Former D Company CO Peter Pirie led the men's unit and Lynn Edmonds headed the ladies for the brief but touching ceremony. Doug MacNabb called the Roll of Honour while organist Jane Clarke played "*O Valiant Heart*".

Ex R.C.E. Staff Sergeant Frank Langton sounded Retreat as Dick and Ed Shannon lowered the colours. John McConnell and Helen Ardagh were markers.

Mike Steede, current CO of the regiment, gave a short resume of the current training status of the unit.

Leo Wright was unanimously returned as reunion president at a brief business session during which voluntary donations made possible the continuation of the annual event.

Joe Moran, president of the Chilliwack branch of the Royal Canadian Legion was welcomed as a special guest.

The attendance again revealed the strong family ties within the regiment. Tom and Jack Hall, Ed Dick, Hugh Shannon, Doug and Jim McNabb were among those present.

The Committee responsible for this year's success were Leo Wright, Gordon "Copper" and Mrs. Newitt, Lynn Edmonds, and, of course, hosts D'Arcy and Elsie Baldwin.

**Regimental Cadet wins top award**

Army Cadet WO R.S. Usher, of the Royal Westminster Regiment Cadet Corps was recently awarded the prize as all round "Best Cadet" of the course at Stanford, England.

Usher was one of ten outstanding Canadian Army Cadets flown to England earlier this year. The Cadets were to take part in the United Kingdom Land Force Leadership course. The operation was sponsored by the Army Cadet League of Canada, the Canadian Armed Forces and the United Kingdom Army Cadet Force Association. Cadet Usher is the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Usher, 830 - 5th Street, New Westminster. He was chosen for being best on his Cadet Leader Course at the Vernon Army Cadet summer camp in 1974. His selection was based on his qualities of leadership, physical fitness, maturity, dress and deportment, participation in off duty programs and the effort and accomplishment shown in his course.

The UKLF leadership course is the senior course for British cadets under instruction by British regular army personnel. The intensive and rigorous ten day course includes physical training and assault courses, weapon training with live firing, orienteering and patrolling, escape and evasion exercises up to 36 hours, and training on a variety of subjects such as watermanship, motor cycle riding, radio communication, etc. In commending Usher for the award, his platoon commander made the following comments; "From the very first day of the course, Usher was able to impress everyone with his very forceful personality and leadership abilities. A natural leader on whom his section relied, he commanded the platoon and was able to exercise this same authority. He was awarded the prize as all round "Best Cadet" of the course. An excellent result".

I am sure that all the readers of the *Groundsheet* will join with me in congratulating Cadet Usher on his achievement. With young people of this caliber coming into the regiment we know we can continue to be justly proud of The Westies.

ARTIFACTS NEEDED

An urgent appeal is made by the Museum Committee to all readers for the donation of any military or historical material which pertains to the history of the Regiment. Items from World War 1 are of particular interest, although any military souvenirs are welcome. So don't let the moths or garbage men claim those irreplaceable mementos of past glory. All donors will be gratefully acknowledged in future issues of the *Groundsheet*.

MUSEUM REPORT

The hardworking Museum Committee has had a very busy summer improving and developing the appearance of the museum. I will take editorial license to summarize the reports and minutes of their meetings to give you a comprehensive idea of the progress made to date. Special thanks must go to Ian Douglas for his complete and detailed information.

Advice was received from the B.C. Department of Education that the Imperial Oil Co. was not making grants for employment of students this summer. The Secretary of State's office also advised that our request for summer student employment was not granted. The Canadian Forces Museums, however, assured us of a grant of \$900.00 for our 75-76 budget, providing that it was used fully for "approved expenditures".

Vern Ardagh described good progress with his project of developing a "diorama", a scenic display with scale models depicting a Motor Battalion with its vehicles in review order. Vern is liaising with the Vancouver Branch of the International Model Making Society to determine the specifics required to produce this exciting project.

Two new cases, much needed for our displays, were provided by the staff and instructors of the B.C. Pen. A special vote of thanks is extended to Messrs. Gibbs, Peterson, Pruner and all of the others who so willingly donated their time and effort in not only having the cases built but also in assisting in putting them in place in the Museum.

As she does annually, Miss Evelyn Simpson sent the Museum a cash donation on the anniversary of her brother's death, L. Col. F.J. Simpson.

Our immediate concern is to obtain the services of an Assistant Curator. An advertisement appears on the back page of the *Groundsheet* detailing the position. It is hoped that a suitable applicant will be chosen as soon as possible to proceed with the ambitious program scheduled for the winter months.

Bert Hoskin attended the Annual Conference of the Organization of Military Museums of Canada held earlier this summer in Calgary. A seminar on small museums proved most interesting and many of the people we have to deal with from Ottawa were present. Transportation and accommodation was provided by the Military.

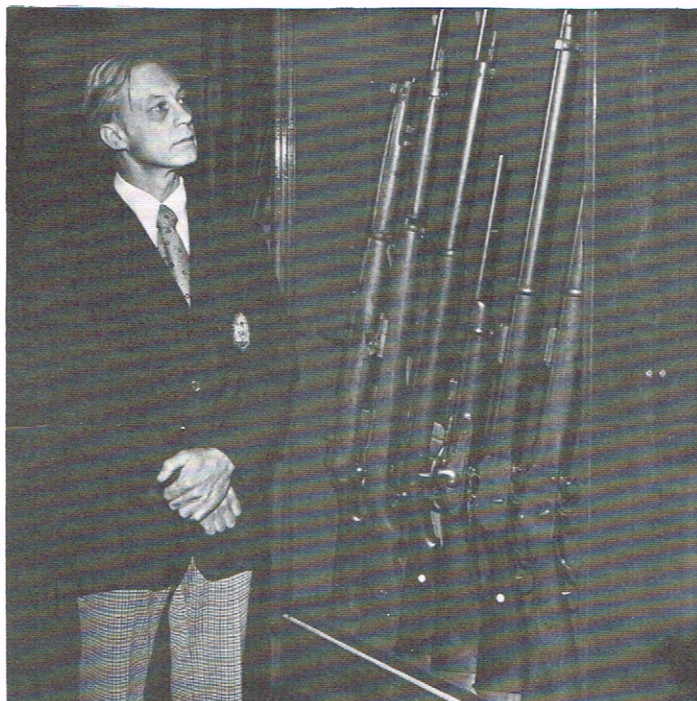
Ex-Westminster appointed Judge

Mr. Justice Lloyd McKenzie was appointed to the Bench earlier this year and a write-up in the *"Advocate"*, published by the Vancouver Bar Association, has this to say about Judge McKenzie.

"Mr. Justice McKenzie, following army service overseas with such gallant bands as the Westminster Regiment, arrived home in time to enroll at the newly established U.B.C. Law School in 1945. He was the first class president and has kept that office in perpetuity. After graduation, he articulated with J. Howard Harman, of the firm of Harman & Sloan in Victoria. On completing his articles, he joined the firm which later became known as Harman, Sloan & McKenzie.

Shortly after his call, he was appointed the prosecutor for the Municipality of Saanich and in reference to its then 18 man force, he coined the phrase "Royal Saanich Light Horse" and in turn became a big brother to most of the members of the force.

Lloyd McKenzie and his wife, Betty, are devoted gardeners and it is reported that their Victoria home was a show place. . . The McKenzies are, of course, now due to move to Vancouver, where they will undoubtedly set out to develop their new residence with the same enthusiasm that they expended in Victoria".



VICTORIA MEMBER AND FRIENDS build gun case for Museum

When Peter Adlem toured the Museum after the last Melfa Dinner, he expressed regret that living in Victoria prevented his helping with the work of the Museum Committee, but he said he had facilities to build things and would like to take on a job — if we could think of one. We could. The rifle rack containing the rifles, amongst others, of the legendary Joseph Burr came first to mind.

Early morning, August 18, brought the reply. Peter and his brother Dave (also a stout supporter of The Association) arrived with a rifle case, a large bag of tools, and a case of beer. By noon the case was securely installed and Peter was headed back to Victoria where he teaches Technical subjects in the High School.

A color photo would do more justice to the job than the black and white shown here. The case is lined with red felt, well lit overhead, and finished in a rich walnut. Visitors will be impressed when they see it.

Peter mentioned that two friends in Victoria helped in the Making: Ron Edmonds, a gunner in WW2 (later a Seaforth), and Bill West, a Strathcona who was with the Westminsters in 1950. What can only be imagined is the time, thought, and effort that went into the planning and completion of this fine job.

Finally — Peter said that the making of the case was a labor of love. It was his donation (not the first) to The Museum and The Association. All the materials — wood, lighting fixtures, glass doors and lock, hardware and transportation from Victoria — were a gift from him and his friends.

Peter Adlem was an original Westie, although somehow he arrived in Italy as a reinforcement for the BCD's. He rejoined us briefly in Holland. After '45 he had twenty years service in The Militia — 65 LAA Bty, 120 HAA Bty, 4 Intel Trg Coy, and latterly as CO of 40 Tech Sqn RCEME, with crowns up.

The Museum Committee is grateful that Peter retains his affection for The Westminsters, and not only because he has added an elegant and appropriate display case for historic rifles.

APPLICATIONS SOUGHT
FOR JOB OF ASSISTANT CURATOR

Applications for the position of Assistant Curator of the Museum of the Royal Westminster Regiment and the Royal Westminster Regimental Association will be accepted immediately.

- The appointee would work under the direction of the Museum Committee.
- No previous museum experience is necessary, but some military experience is essential.
- Preference will be given to Association members with an interest in furthering this Association project.
- Duties will include accessing and cataloguing artifacts, maintaining displays, guiding visitors, and liaising closely with the Museum Committee.
- Attendance at the Museum: During the day and possibly one evening per week — would amount to 25 hours a month for at least ten months a year.
- A stipend would be paid on the basis of \$3.00 per hour.

Written applications should be mailed to

The Secretary
The Museum Committee
The Armoury
Queens Avenue at Sixth Street
New Westminster, B.C.

OLD FRIEND PASSES

Brigadier Tom Rutherford, wartime commander of the 1 Canadian Armoured Brigade (U.K.), a contributor to our museum and long time friend of the Regiment passed away at his home in Toronto earlier this summer. The Association sent our sympathy to the family.

**200 VISIT Armouries and
Museum Open House**

Culmination of "Reserve Week" was an open house on Saturday, September 27, during which members of the regiment and the Museum Committee played host to more than 200 visitors of all age groups. The armouries was open from 9 A.M. to Midnight and reports indicate that, without exception, all of the visitors were highly impressed with what they saw. The main purpose of the exercise was to arouse interest of the general public in the work being done by the regiment and to encourage the recruiting of potential new members. Although no final figures are yet available, it appears that about 25 possible new recruits have indicated enough interest to submit application forms.

COMING EVENTS

- Remembrance Day Services November 11
- Annual Smoker December 6
- Annual Draw December 6
- Annual Dues Payable January 1

1975 REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICES

All Association Members should be at the Armoury in New Westminster at 9:30 A.M. Tuesday, November 11th. Service at 10.00 hours; followed by a parade to the Cenotaph for the wreath laying ceremony.

Let's have a good turnout to march as an Association this year! Medals should be worn. Berets will be provided at the Armouries.

**RETURN
REQUESTED**

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

