



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. 26, No. 3

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

JUNE - JULY, 1977

MELFA WEEKEND ONE OF BEST EVER

The whole of the Melfa Weekend was without a doubt one of the finest gatherings we have had since the end of the war, such were the comments expressed by those who attended the social gatherings, the Melfa Dinner, the Ladies' Dinner and the Sunday Afternoon Tea.

Many of the out of town guests appreciated the opportunity of having their wives participate in some of the functions, thus making it a truly family re-union.

Some of those from out of town spent a few days visiting with old friends prior to the Melfa activities while some who had decided at the last minute to get on a plane arrived just in time for the Dinner. In all it is estimated that there were over 40 members who had travelled from out of province locations to be at this year's Melfa. They were made most welcome and had a wonderful time re-meeting a lot of their old buddies. Walking around the drill hall before the dinner it was just like the old days to hear snatches of conversations: "Remember old so and so at Dundurn and what he did to that dog? Say, don't you remember when we came in over the wall in Alder-shot," and so on far into the night.

The meal served was one of the best dinners we have ever had. The speakers were brief and interesting, the toasts served as a reminder why we were there and in all the spirit of comradeship was renewed amongst those who had made the effort to attend.

Pat McCarthy, President of the Toronto Chapter, in his brief address to the Dinner, made mention of how although the visitors from out of town had and were enjoying renewing old acquaintances, it was somewhat disappointing to those who had travelled so far to have missed seeing their old buddies who live right in the area.

Two representatives from the American Legion Post No. 7 in Vancouver were in attendance. Roger Arndt, the Western District Commander, expressed the following: "On behalf of the American Legion Post 7, I would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation for being invited to your Melfa Dinner. We were very honoured to attend. Our association with the Regimental Association has been short in duration, but I sincerely hope that it may continue and will grow over the years."

Clarence Huff, the oldest member at the dinner, was introduced by another 47th, our old friend Ivan Ackery. Clarence admitted to 83 years while Ivan insisted, like his old friend Jack Benny, to being at least 39.

The member who had travelled the greatest distance was Jim Delaney, who had come all the way from Verdun, Quebec, to meet all of his old friends who live in this area. As you will note in my Mail Bag column, Jim was a little disappointed to miss many of you who didn't show up at the Dinner.

Our guest speaker this year was Allan McKinnon, M.P. who is the Conservative Defense Critic in Ottawa. Mr. McKinnon served with the P.P.C.L.I. for many years both in the militia and during the Second World War, won the M.C. in Italy so he was talking with first hand knowledge of the problems of the military and its veterans. He pointed out the importance of the militia to Canada both during war and while at peace.

A most interesting highlight on the tables was the souvenir menu designed by our good Yorkshire friend, Joe Tattersall. Joe's artwork depicted the crossing of the Melfa by using cartoons, which he does so well, of Jack Mahoney, Gordon Corbould and the ever remembered Pte Burp. There were a few of the menus left over, so if any of you want a copy for your scrapbook or rec-room, send in a couple of 12 cent stamps to cover mailing and I'll be glad to send one along.

At the close of the formal part of the dinner, President Stan Moorhouse presented his Annual President's Report.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - 1977 MELFA Groundsheet

This is still our main source of communication with our Membership and thanks to the splendid and untiring efforts of our Editor, Allan Coe, *The Groundsheet* is well received by the Members. I may say that the Editor is always after material, so, if any of you of the Membership have any worthwhile items, please send them in. Judging by the comments received, the booklet *Retorno in Italia* was well received and a big thanks go to Ian Douglas and Ron Hurley for their wonderful efforts. Regiment

On 1 March of this year we had to say adieu to the Unit CO, Col M. M. Steede CD, who has done a yeoman job during his tenure with the unit. I would at this time say on behalf of the Association, many thanks to Col Steede for a job done in such a manner that he would have been given one of "Little Joe's 100%," which, as you all know, were very rare.

The unit is now in the capable hands of Col Jerry Gangur, the new CO and he and his officers have a long and worthy tradition to uphold, but, I am sure they will do as tremendous a job as their predecessors.

THE GROUND SHEET

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Museum

Our Museum is doing a wonderful job considering the lack of space that is allotted to them to work in. The Museum is fortunate in receiving a grant from the Federal government which does enable them to have an assistant curator in Sgt Doreen Cull (Reserve) for summer months. To those of you who have not as yet visited the Museum, I urge you to do so over this weekend. As recently as 27 March a Founding Members Tea was held and was attended by about 125 people, many of whom regarded the Museum as a wonderful job of work by your Museum Committee.

Executive

Your Executive Members for the Year 1977 are:

President — Stan Moorhouse
Vice President — B. V. Bas Mogan
Treasurer — Our friendly banker, Vern Ardagh
Editor — Our prolific pen pusher, Allan Coe
Secretary — Doug Glenn has taken over from Ron Mannering, who has had to give up his position as Secretary due to pressure of business in the private sector. Our thanks to Ron for a job well done.

Members Elected at Annual General Meeting

Ted Usher — Continuing the tradition of the Usher family to the Association and the Regiment.
Johnny Ford — One of our mainstays.
Gerry Churley — A new member of the Executive and an officer in the Unit.
Ed Shannon — 2nd term for a hard worker.
Bill Robson — Once again serving and the <i>whole</i> Sick and Visiting Committee.
John Rosso — Long time member and diligent worker.
Walter Lyle — Also long time member who continues to hold the position as Chairman of the Awards Committee.

Appointments

Norm McAskill — Our contact with Canadian Legion.
Fred Bass — Who is our 47th Battalion Representative.
Red Williams — A faithful Executive Member (we keep Red around for repairs and breakdowns).
Ron Mannering — Another hard worker who enjoys doing any jobs allocated to him.
Kim Greenizan — New to the Executive this year and is a Representative from the Jr. Ranks of the Unit and this will ensure the Association of harmonious relations between Ranks.

CO's Representative

Capt Glen Hollings has been appointed by the CO as his Representative due to the resignation of Nelson Scott from the Executive and Draw Committee. Glen has agreed to take

over the Draw this year with assistance of the Executive Committee. We are endeavoring to have a great Draw this year and when you receive your tickets — do your part.

Finances

As we have a mailing list of 705 members for *The Groundsheet* I have made a small study of the financial aspects of the Association and to my utter amazement I find that as of 25th May 1977 we have a paid up membership of only 214 and an unpaid total of 249. A big question would be — what is happening to the balance? It is my hope that these figures will substantially change after tonight's Dinner, because after all, this Association, like everything else, is faced with the inflated costs of today and unless we have all dues paid, we will have to take a serious look at our worthwhile objectives as to their affordability.

IT'S UP TO YOU!

MELFA DINNER FINANCIAL REPORT

Bas Morgan and his Committee were commended by the Executive for a fine job of organizing and promoting the 33rd Anniversary Melfa activities. This year's affair was considered to have been one of the best ever and although the Committee was a little disappointed in the numbers attending, they were more than compensated by the enthusiasm and support gained from those from out of town. This year's Dinner was held a week later than usual to satisfy some of our members who had said they didn't like the holiday weekend. It was interesting to note that none of those who promoted the change in dates attended this one either . . . and as a matter of fact we felt that the change of dates lost us attendance that we have always had, for example we really missed the usual group from the Okanagan.

MELFA DINNER MAY 1977:

Cost of advertising, supplies, catering	\$1488.80
Cost of Sunday Afternoon Tea	\$ 142.65
Donation to Ladies' Dinner (Gratuities)	\$ 63.75
Total Cost	\$1695.20
Receipts from door and bar net	\$ 699.50
Net Cost to Association	\$ 995.70

MAIL BAG

Most of the mail recently has been to do with the Melfa, so we'll cover the high points to let you know of the doings of our members.

Ernie Hull from Smith Falls, Ontario, writes that he is suffering from a broken foot and the ensuing cast made it impossible for him to attend this year. Ernie invites all who get down that way to give him a call. A sad note from Mrs. Paul of Mississauga, Ontario, to inform us of the passing of her husband, Dean. She mentions that they had always hoped to get out to one of our affairs, but that it was not to be. H. H. Steinbeck of Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta, Vic Wilson of Naramata, sent their regrets that they couldn't make it this year. Frank Smith writes that time and circumstances have finally caught up with him and he has retired to a quiet town in Eastern Ontario. Frank says: "I think often of you fellows who have kept the old flag flying over the years and wish you all good luck." J. A. Breitenbach wrote after attending the Melfa: "Just a few lines to show my appreciation to all concerned re. the grand Melfa gathering . . . to say the least the food, drinks and attending clientele were excellent. To see the old members

of the Regiment is always a pleasure. But to run into a man I hadn't seen in 33 years was the nicest happening in a long time. I refer, of course, to Bill Kyle, an old worthy of 13 Platoon whose pleasant attitude and personality has prevailed all these years. What a pleasure it was to hob nob with Bill, Caesar Schultz, Jack Hogarth, Drummond and many others. In addition it was a real pleasure to see Len Bailey again, and find him looking so well after his illness."

Jim Delaney penned a note on his return home to Verdun after the Melfa to make mention: "It seems to me that Pat McCarthy of the Toronto Chapter hit the nail on the head when he mentioned that some of us come from as far away as 3000 miles to attend reunions and yet are disappointed to look around and not see fellows we came to see who only live a few miles away . . . it must be discouraging to those who work so hard to make an enjoyable get-together to not have the support of the local members. Thanks for the nice time at the Melfa Dinner. It was well worth the trip." Thanks, Jim, it's the support we get from people like you that makes it all worth the effort.

Received a nice phone call and letter from Mrs. Van Horn whose late husband was well known and respected. Van was wounded in Italy and passed away a few years ago. Mrs. Van Horn kindly sent in a donation and the money for the Italian booklet. A copy of a letter to Van from his boys after he was wounded may bring back memories to those who read it.

Letter sent to Sgt Jack Van Horn when he was in hospital in Italy after being wounded, April, 1943. The letter was received from the boys overseas with him.

"The boys are all dropping you a line so I figured I had better say hello and best wishes to you, Van." —Mike Boychuk
"Good Luck, Sarge, and hope to see you in Canada."

—G. Pongar

"Here's hoping you're soon O.K. Will meet you in Castle Beer Parlour soon. Best of Luck." —Wingding Grager L.L.

"Hello, Van. Was disappointed not seeing you when I got back. Well, Van, best of luck and a speedy recovery. Hope I see you in Canada soon. Well, adios, Sarge." —Gordie Stewart

"You lose the watch, Van, so that's one up for me. Good Luck." —Cpl K. Clarkson

"Here's wishing you the best of luck. I wish you were with us. (How's the mustache, Van?) Be seeing you." —Doug Furlot

"Hello, Van, you lucky guy. I guess we will see you in Vancouver some day. Hope so. Until then good luck old boy." —Norm

"Hi, Van. The powers that be did not see fit to let us visit you, so will see you in good old Vancouver in the nearest "pub." Lot's of luck, you've had it, chum." —Bill Johnson

"Hello, Van. May all the luck be with you and a speedy recovery. As ever." —G. Kalenchuck

"Did you get that small pack with all your personal stuff, what I could find?" —WH

"Speedy recovery and lots of luck, Joe." —"Yank"

"Good Luck, Van." —D. Campbell

"Good Luck, Van." —A. D. McLellan

"That seat on that bloody tool box. How about keeping your word and fill it?" —W. Hall

Lots of luck, Sarge and I hope I see you in Vancouver."
L/Cpl L. S. Durr

"We hear that everything is going to turn out O.K. for you." —Cpl Acaster

"How are you doing, Van? Fine I hope." —Johns

"Lots of luck, wish you were back." —Bill Bales

"I wish you a speedy recovery, Sarge, and lots of luck." —Stanley McLean

"Here's wishing you a speedy recovery and good luck." —Jack Carter

"Well, Van, all the best, a speedy recovery and a nice trip, see you or pick you up on the way to Japan." —Lamb

"Querido Sargenta, Expectar visto usted in Canada y bevenuos una grande cantidad de cerveza. Vastro Amigo." —Jose Tomas Sander y Reyer

"P.S. Otherwise, speedy recovery and good luck." —E. J. Rehy

"Lots of luck, Van." —E. J. Rehy

"Good luck, old man, hope to see you soon." —S. H. Oxford

"Wishing you the best of luck and happiness." —D. Onyschuk

"May your recovery be fast and time heal your wounds. You have been much missed by the boys." —C. J. Johnston

"I see you selling pencils on the street corner. Be good, Joe, see you in Vancouver." —Tommy

That just about winds up the final edition of Mail Bag at least from me as Editor. This is the last issue of *The Groundsheet* I will be editing. I have decided that two years is enough. I have asked to be relieved of the responsibility in order to let some other budding journalist have the opportunity of creating some living prose for you.

Thanks to all of you who took the trouble to write, it makes the job of editor much easier when he gets feedback from the readers. Please give your support to the new Editor. Thanks again. —ALLAN COE

ANNUAL DRAW COMMITTEE TO HAVE NEW CHAIRMAN

After many years of diligent and time consuming work of running our Annual Draw, Nelson Scott and Bert Stephens have stepped down to take more time for their personal affairs. It is impossible to express the gratitude that those of us in the Association owe to these two hard working fellows. Their efforts over the years have alone made continuation of the Association activities a possibility. Nelson and Bert, you will be sorely missed!

The change-over took place early in May and we are indeed fortunate to have Glen Holling accept chairmanship of the Draw Committee. Glen reports that planning is well in hand for this year's Draw and he expects tickets to be in the hands of the membership by early September. He and Nelson have discussed ways and means of expanding the Draw and agree that the sale of extra tickets seems to be the logical way of increasing our much needed revenue.

Sale of tickets in shopping malls, extra effort from members and a concentrated effort by the members of the Regiment are all ways of increasing our income.

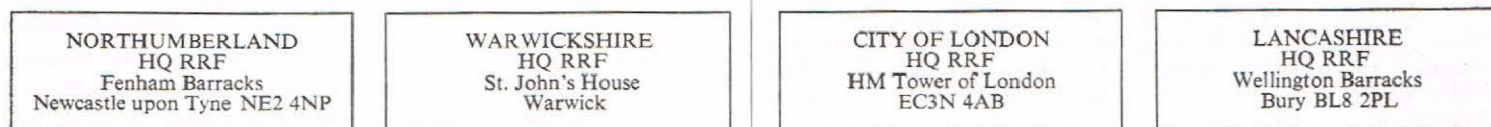
Glen needs your help to make this year's Draw a success, so why not give him a call at 588-5887 and offer some help, even if it's only to try to sell one extra book of tickets.

THE ROYAL REGIMENT of FUSILIERS Last Fall, while visiting England I made a special trip to the Tower of London to visit Regimental Headquarters of our Allied Regimental affiliation. I thought you would be interested in seeing the company we are in and so I am taking the liberty of reprinting a chart from *The Fusilier*, the journal of The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers. This chart shows the various formations and ships which are allied to the R.R.O.F.

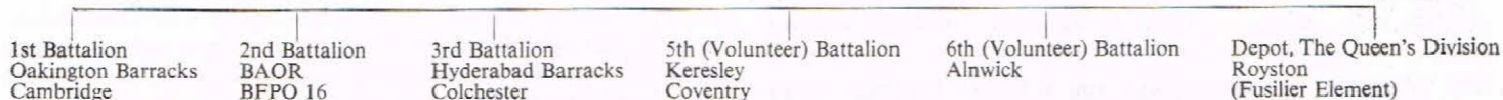
THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF FUSILIERS, JUNE 1976 – CADET FORCES, ALLIED REGIMENTS, HM SHIPS

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

REGIMENTAL HQ RRF
HM Tower of London, EC3N 4AB



BATTALIONS AND DEPOT



ARMY CADET FORCE

NORTHUMBERLAND —Northumberland County ACF, 1st Cadet Battalion, RRF
 TYNE AND WEAR —Jesmond, North Shields, Monkseaton Cadet Detachments, RRF
 WARWICKSHIRE —7th and 11th Cadet Areas (Warwickshire) ACF, RRF
 WEST MIDLANDS —4th, 5th, 6th, 10th Cadet Areas (Warwickshire) ACF, RRF
 GREATER LONDON —54, 74, 135/136, 221, 222 Companies ACF, RRF
 GREATER MANCHESTER—Bury, Radcliffe, Salford, Broughton, Rochdale, Middleton, Heywood, Crumpsall Cadet Detachments, RRF

COMBINED CADET FORCES

Rugby School Solihull School Warwick School King Edward's School, Birmingham
 Harrow School Emanuel School, London Bury Grammar School Royal Grammar School, Newcastle

ALLIED REGIMENTS

ALLIED REGIMENTS OF THE CANADIAN ARMY
 THE ROYAL CANADIAN REGIMENT THE LORNE SCOTS THE ELGIN REGIMENT
 London, Ontario Brampton, Ontario St. Thomas, Ontario
 THE ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT FUSILIERS DU ST. LAURENT
 New Westminster, British Columbia Rimouski, Quebec
 ALLIED REGIMENT OF THE AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES
 THE ROYAL VICTORIA REGIMENT
 Melbourne
 ALLIED REGIMENT OF THE NEW ZEALAND ARMY
 6th BATTALION (HAURAKI) ROYAL NEW ZEALAND INFANTRY REGIMENT
 Tauranga

ALLIED HM SHIPS

HMS LONDON
HMS BIRMINGHAM

HMS EURYALUS
HMS ANTELOPE

MANNERING RETIRES – GLENN TAKES OVER AS SECRETARY

It was with regrets that the Executive accepted Ron Mannering's resignation as Association Secretary. Ron had worked very hard during his two years in the office, but due to ill health and pressures of business has had to take a reduced work load in Association activities. Fortunately for us Doug Glenn agreed to take over the duties of Secretary. Doug has had lots of experience in the Association and is a welcome addition to the Executive.

Doug says that he is a devil of a Secretary and its about time you slow payers gave the devil his dues . . . so how about you 249 who still owe for your 1977 dues . . . give the Devil his dues!!!

2316 ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT CADET CORPS

The training year has drawn to an end with many cadets, both male and female, on their way to summer camps.

These cadets will be sent to various camps at Vernon Army Camp, Banff National Cadet Camp, Vernon Rifle Course and Driver Communication Course.

The Annual Ceremonial Inspection held on May 26, 1977, was one of the best parades seen on the Drill Square in years. Many guests from the Regiment, the Regimental Association and the city, along with parents and others, attended the Parade.

At this time I would like to thank The Royal Westminster Regiment, The Royal Westminster Regiment Association and Museum for their support and help in the past year.

Our first Parade will be the second Tuesday in September.

Thank you,

CAPT DEA (TED) USHER
Commanding Officer

2316 Royal Westminster Regiment
Cadet Corps

MUSEUM REPORT

Good things are happening at the Museum this summer. We are participating in the B.C. Department of Labour's summer youth program. The result is that we, come September, will have all of our archival material read, accessed, catalogued, tagged and stored in systematic fashion, all of which is of great satisfaction to your curator. This means that we will have removed all of the backlog which has been hanging over our heads for months.

The person selected to do the job is indeed a fortunate choice. She is Karen Addison, a private in the Unit with several years service, who knows the army pretty well and is surprisingly keen about Regimental history. Karen has already gone a long way into the dusty job of sorting the boxes and piles of papers, photos, clippings, etc., into chronological order first and then into subject groups.

What we will have available to researchers, will be the archives of the RWR, the RWR Association, the 2nd Bn., and the Depot, all except items on display, stored in uniform boxes in Room 209.

Some problems of storage have yet to be solved. Whole pages of newspapers, etc., will have to be bound before we can put them on display. There are at least a dozen scrap books that are not well enough bound to be handled. These are of various sizes from 20" to 32" high so that stock scrap books

will not fit.

The best idea to date is to have light plywood covers made up and insert the existing scrap books into these covers. However, if anyone has a better idea it will be most welcome.

We would like to label the finished books with appropriate titles as well as the identity of the original compilers, but the originals do not bear any names. If any of our readers were compilers of scrap books donated to the Museum, please contact Ian Douglas or drop into the Museum and identify your works. These books are considered very valuable and it is important to us to have them properly credited.

The new Chairman of the Museum Committee is Mike Steede, who recently retired as Commanding Officer of the Regiment. LtCol Steede replaces Bert Hoskins, who resigned due to pressure of business.

AWARDS COMMITTEE REPORT

This report of Walter Lyles Awards Committee was unavoidably left out of our last issue.

There were 9 applications for scholarships recieved for consideration in 1976, four girls and five boys, one of whom, a serving member of the Regiment.

From a numbers point of view, this was a great improvement over 1975, when I may remind you, we had two applications only.

Also, and most importantly, the standard of the applicants was exceptionally high this year.

The winners were:

Peter FRANCIS, grandson of Capt C. Corbould, 47th Bn., who intends to become a lawyer, with a great interest in politics; and:

Joseph ROLANDI, son of Pte Raymond Rolandi, Westminster Regiment, who will seek his career in medicine.

In regard to achievement awards, of which the Association's aim is to make two of \$100 each per year, we have made none, because of lack of funds.

—WALTER LYLE, *Chairman*

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DRAW 1977

Costs being what they are today make the Draw increasingly important in maintaining our contributions to the Museum (which is now often referred to as excellent), our Cadet Corps, the Youth Awards, the Rifle Association, benefits to Veterans through the Canadian Legion Poppy Fund and our scholarship awards. We can only hope to expand ticket sales as needs increase.

Ticket format has not changed, nor the sellers' prizes, and sellers continue to receive four free tickets.

Your efforts last year were highly appreciated by the recipients of the awards and donations that result from the Draw, and we hope everyone will, once again, be able to give an all out effort to ensure maximum sales.

Unfortunately, both Scotty and Steve had to step down from the Draw Committee this year and with them go our most sincere thanks for the outstanding effort they, along with their wives, Nora and Blanche, have given over the past 17 years. Scotty and Steve have made themselves available to assist our new Draw Committee which is now chaired by Glen Holling, who is presently serving in the rank of Captain with the Regiment. Glen has handled the Regimental ticket sales in the past, so is fortunate in having had some experience in this area.

A PERSONAL HISTORY OF THE WAR

The following consists of excerpts from a personal diary written by one of our members during his war service 1939-1945.

We won't identify him at this point, but as the series continues you may be able to identify the author.

(Continued)

DECEMBER 15th — Ten more days until our fifth Xmas in the army! Every year we hope that the next one will see us home, but the prospect still isn't too bright, Xmas away from home just isn't Xmas, somehow. We've been promised a fair feed if we're still here on the 25th, but even that isn't enticing to me. The old homesickness gets pretty strong this time of year.

Yesterday we had a battalion parade (which I missed by having an infected toe) for the purpose of reading to the regiment the results of three F.G.C.M.s. The three accused got three, six and twelve months detentions for various charges. The one that amused me was 6 months for insubordination, the lad having called an officer a few uncomplimentary names. Lord knows there is plenty of provocation for that sometimes. The curfew has been lifted to 2100 hrs., and we can go out without a pass between 1630 and 2100 hrs. A remarkable condescension on the part of the powers that be.

DECEMBER 17th — Got out of an 18 mile march this morning by having the front wheel off my Scout car. As usual, the boys haven't done any prolonged marching for months, then they throw a long march in battle order at them, the only apparent benefit from it being a lot of sore feet and stiffened legs. Of course the officers only carry a web belt and pistol. I've often thought if they had to carry a full web and a rifle or a Bren they wouldn't be quite so keen on these long marches.

After lifting the curfew a bit so the lads could have a little relaxation, they've decided the ordinary soldier is having too much enjoyment out of this war, so all cafés and wine-shops are "out of bounds." Since the entertainment outside has been cut down, we tried to amuse ourselves with a mouth-organ and piano in the upper hall. Still an hour before "lights out," but the "noise" seemed to disturb the sgts.' and W.O.s' slumber, so that was quickly squashed, too. I wonder what in the blue blazes a man can do in this country before he, in all likelihood, gets shot or crippled, besides sit in a half-lit, dusty room, crowded with men and equipment, and curse everything connected with this so-called army. They talk about morale. If the people at home knew what our morale was like they'd get a decided shock. What they read about the troops and what actually goes on are two very, very different things. Commissioned ranks are treated like human beings, but the poor sap who was so un-enlightened as to enlist as a private soldier is only a clothes' horse for a uniform, and is treated about the same. Either this unit is remarkably well disciplined or else we have no guts, I can't figure out which. Its really marvellous the extent to which grown men will carry out such absolutely silly behavior. We can only hope that a little action against the enemy will knock a lot of these goofy ideas out of their heads.

DECEMBER 19th — The Coy moved out of town yesterday, for a week's living in tents and getting toughened up a bit, galloping over these hills. The weather is very nice and the change very acceptable, on the whole, for the billets in town

were getting pretty dusty, and the plumbing was never designed for the number of men who were using it. We are spread out on a hillside, with a grand view spread out before us. Its most picturesque to stand and look at, but I'm thinking its pretty rugged going to travel over. Well compulsory church parade today, so we must be off.

DECEMBER 31st — Back to town again on the 29th after ten days in the country. On the whole it wasn't too bad, though it was pretty damp and muddy from Christmas on. Christmas Eve was celebrated by the Coy at a petrol bonfire down on the hill, with two bottles of beer (one Canadian and one Italian) per man. I copped the 2000 to 2200 hr. guard shift, so missed the show. It was a pretty corny do anyway, according to later reports. Christmas Day we convoyed into town, where we had dinner in the Regimental barracks. Turkey, pork, peas, spuds with pudding or pie for dessert. Also a paper bag of nuts, an orange and an apple per man, donated by the S.A.

As per custom in the Army, the officers and sgts. are supposed to serve the men their Christmas dinner, but they weren't very busy this year, for we lined up in the usual custom for our grub. The Brig. made a flying visit to us, and a few of us were lucky enough to get a gander at his red flashes in the distance. Old "Chick" Ross, Signal Cpl. of 'B' Coy, got him cornered for a few minutes though. Chick was pretty tight and proceeded to tell the big shot a few meaty truths concerning our living quarters, equipment, etc. I didn't hear it, but by all accounts it was a good show. (Chick is a veteran of the old "47th" of the last war, and the sole unwounded survivor of 13 Pltn. to come out of Regina Trench.)

After dinner we were paraded to a show, Deanna Durbin in "Spring Parade." Then we piled on trucks and returned to our camp in the sticks. Another bonfire and some "vino" in the evening, but most of our tent didn't bother going down to it. Some of the lads got pretty well squiffed and had a hell of time climbing the hill, for it rained a bit and the clay gets mighty slippery. A very merry Xmas, indeed.

We were raided at night a few times by the sniper school from our battalion, and we pulled one night raid on Support Coy's camp, which was a ruddy joke, for they knew we were coming, and had triple guards out. All our Coy except Coy H.Q. went out for a two day march on the 28th, so on the 29th about half of H.Q. went down in the valley and shot off the Coy allotment of training ammo. I put more rounds through my rifle than I did all the time we were in England and some of the Brens got red-hot.

On the 30th we packed up and came back to town, and since the whole battalion is in for New Year's, we're pretty crowded. Roy, Sgt. Beltz and I got a pass for the afternoon, and pushed off to get stinky, but this town is so well policed that you can't get anything. We combed the dump all afternoon and didn't get a drop of anything, except one small glass of vino in an ice cream joint. We had a show after supper, "The Moon and Sixpence," a good show, but completely spoiled by being stopped about twenty times throughout the showing of it. I came back to billets after it, pretty well cheesed off with everything. Quite a bit of mail in, and I got three letters and a Christmas card: Don Crane, Jim and Hugh and the card from Daphne and her husband. And nothing from my dear wife. That was all I needed to make the whole day a complete bust. I get more news from home indirectly than I do direct

and it seems the wife is running a rooming house for her Dad on Davie Street. It must keep her so damn busy that she just hasn't got time to write her gone and forgotten husband any more. With two wee kiddies to look after, I can't see it, especially with Larry not himself yet. I'm afraid there'll be a few arguments over this, if I survive this brawl. Perhaps it would be as well if I didn't. But that's pretty foolish, too, for my one ambition is to see those kiddies again, and to see Maureen become the beautiful lass she gives promise of becoming. I'm all eaten up with curiosity to know how she is getting on at school, but Velma only says she can read fairly well now. Poor kid! I know her mother pretty well, and I wonder, and wonder . . . That's all I can do. God, what an absolute ass I was to toss away the chance to see my family develop, just to come to this filthy, rain-ridden neck of dirt and do fatigues and guards and ceremonial parades! Guard our country and fight to preserve freedom and democracy, for sooth! There is no organization as ridden with autocracy and class-distinction as our dear Army, and no place where a man has less freedom. All so unnecessary, too, for its been proven, on a small scale, many times, that treat a man like a man, and not a puling infant, and he is ready to obey cheerfully. But tie him down with petty restrictions and take away any possibility he may have for enjoying himself a bit, and he automatically becomes the poorer soldier, one thing those in authority cannot seem to realize, is that we are human beings the same as they are, with the same likes and dislikes, from just as good homes, and with the normal wish to be treated fairly. May gentle Providence watch over our fair Canadian land in years to come, if our future political leaders should be chosen from the commissioned ranks of the present Army.

JANUARY 16th — Nothing much of interest during the last two weeks. After our taste of rural life we returned to town, and took over the battalion duties for a week. We were due to go camping again when the week was over, but apparently they decided to get us inoculated to battle so the whole regiment returned to town and preparations for our departure commenced. We were stripped of a lot of vehicles to supply the 11th Bde. with transport, which didn't break many hearts among the drivers, for some of our crates were pretty well shook up, especially the carriers. My Scout car went, too, but on the 12th we were re-equipped, with nearly all new vehicles. I got another S.C., in a bit better shape than my first one. Most of the boys seem quite unconcerned about the imminence of battle, and to tell the truth, I can't get excited either. Been waiting too long for it, I guess.

C.S.M. Abbot left us on the 10th to become production manager of *The Spur*, our Div. newspaper. Another of the old originals gone. Roy fractured a wrist on the 14th and has gone to hospital, which will mean that it will be a long time before he sees the unit again, if ever. Tomorrow we leave town, to start our trip to the front. Where we're going or what we'll do when we get there is still to be discovered. With snow-drifts and blizzards in the mountains, though, it won't be a picnic by any means. We're hoping spring shows up soon.

JANUARY 20th — On the 17th we blew Matera, with its vino, casino, picture shows and schoolhouse barracks. Pulled out of town about eleven miles and camped for the night, on a rather damp and windy flat. Up next morning at 0430 hrs. and on the road by 0530. We left the convoy immediately and pro-

ceeded on ahead, to harbouring spots, petrol supplies, etc. The coast road was mostly in very good condition and we cruised between 30 and 40 m.p.h. By 1600 hrs. we'd gone 178 miles and were back at the area where the convoy was due to halt for the night. They showed up about half an hour or so later. Put up a pup-tent that night, but they aren't much good, for a heavy dew comes through them. On the road again at 0730 next morning, out ahead again. Through Termoli, and on the main road to Pescara, which the Germans are still holding. Plenty signs of battle, with knocked-out tanks here and there, blown up and burnt-out truck chassis, troop-carriers and Bren carriers wrecked, mostly Heinie, but a few of ours. Quite a few roadside graves, and one town had quite a large cemetery of Allied soldiers. Some of the spots were rather dismal in which to spend the next million years or so, but I guess the lads in them wouldn't mind a hell of a lot.

On through Vasta and Sangro, and finally into the Sangro Valley, the taking of which cost quite a few Canadians. Here was a concentration area, and the end of our journey. We camped in the flat and the convoy eventually all arrived. Its about seven miles to the front from here, and the artillery can be heard very plainly, rather a new sound to us, for all our four years of war. (To be continued)

OPERATION UPDATE

One of the biggest problems facing your Executive is the task of trying to keep track of our members. So that we may start with as up to date a record as possible we hope you will take a couple of minutes to complete the following update of your record with the Association. We would like to know the unit and company in which you served as well as your current address. Please take the time to assist us.

Put the form in an envelope and mail to:

THE SECRETARY
ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION
BOX 854
NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C. V3L 4Z8

NAME

ADDRESS

UNIT

COMPANY

W.W.1 W.W.2 OTHER PERIOD

Lest We Forget

S. FRASER 47th Btn W.W.1 New Westminster, B.C.	D. LABORD 47th Btn W.W.1 Ontario
K. I. D. GINGELL Westminster Reg't, W.W.2 Oyama, B.C.	D. M. PAUL Westminster Reg't, W.W.2 Mississauga, Ontario

**D COY REUNION SUNDAY, JULY 31st
AT CIRCLE 6 RANCH**

D'Arcy Baldwin and his wife Elsie once again extend a cordial invitation to all members of the Association and their wives to attend the Annual Reunion of D Company. As usual, this year's affair is to be held at Circle 6 Ranch, Lindell Beach, Cultis Lake. The date is Sunday, July, 31 from 1:30 on. Guests usually bring their own picnic lunch and whatever refreshments they desire, ice and bar-b-que facilities are available.

A brief Memorial Service is held at 5 p.m.
All are welcome.

WHAT BECAME OF KELLY?

Note: Our Kelly list is derived from returned mail. Some recent Kellys are quite annoyed that they are still at the same address. Don't blame us, we simply have to take the Post Office advice that they cannot deliver the mail. If you are reported as a Kelly and have not changed your address, simply advise the Secretary and we will try again.

M. D. Stewart
905-711 7th Ave.
New Westminster, B.C.
Leo Wright
252B 8635-120th St.
Delta, B.C.
E. R. Davies
737-2nd Street
New Westminster, B.C.
Hector Roberge
301-520 10th St.
New Westminster, B.C.
Tom Anderson
5950 Prince Albert St.
Vancouver, B.C.
T. G. Gallant
242 No. 8 Road
Richmond, B.C.

A. R. P. Walters
301-1956 Curlew Rd.
Valleyview, Kamloops, B.C.

J. A. Pare
431 Nelson St.
Coquitlam, B.C.

Gordon Casey
The Brunswick
Brighton, Hove
England

B. F. Vaughan
Gibsons P. O., B.C.

John Clifford
101-525 13th Ave. S.W.
Calgary, Alberta T2R 0J9

**RETURN
REQUESTED**

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



ALLAN COE,
908 TSAWWASSEN,
DELTA, B. C.