



The GROUND SHEET

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF
THE ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

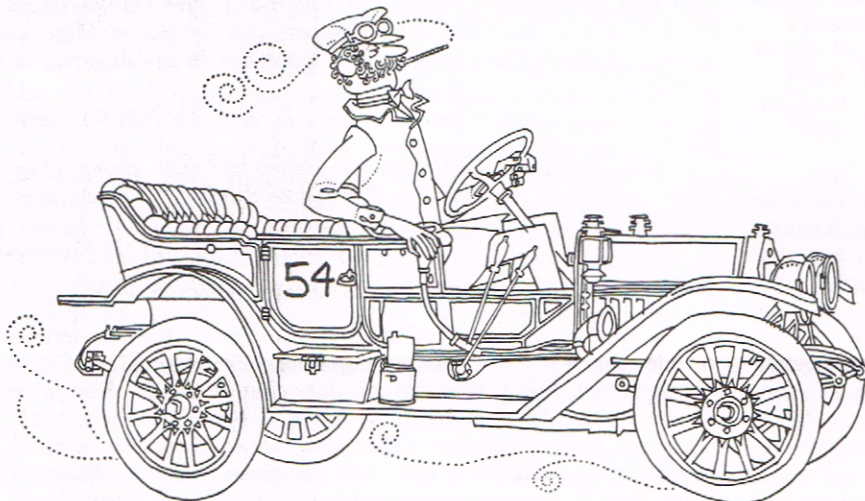
104th — 47th — 131st — The Royal Westminster Regt.

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

Vol. 27, No. 2

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

MARCH - APRIL 1978



I'm headed for the
ANNUAL
General Meeting!
What about YOU?

Thursday March 16, 1978 - 8:00 p.m.
ARMOURY NEW WESTMINSTER

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Greetings to all members of the Royal Westminster Regiment Association.

Once again it is time to look forward to our Annual General Meeting which will be held at the Armoury, Queens Ave., New Westminster, on the third Thursday of March, that is Thursday, March 16th at 8:00 p.m.

I am hereby calling on all of our members to attend. Don't forget this important date as the main purpose of the Meeting is the Election of Officers for your Association for 1978. Mark the date down where you will notice it and plan to attend, after all, it is YOUR ASSOCIATION.

Dues have been coming in nicely in the past few months, many thanks to those of you who show this tangible support. If you cannot afford the dues, be assured you will not be struck off the mailing list. Our continued reminders are only to those who can afford to pay but just never get around to sending in their dues.

As you will have noticed for the last few issues of *The Groundsheet*, we have been printing a form called "Operation

Update." This is designed for you to fill in to make sure we have your name, address, service record, etc., complete for our files. This is the only way your Secretary can compile an accurate list of our membership. If you haven't returned yours yet, won't you please do it now!

Some of the High Lights of 1977:

ANNUAL CHRISTENING PARADE — October 16th. Six of our members had children baptised, three girls and three boys, each of whom received a Bible presented on your behalf.

THE 114th BIRTHDAY PARTY of our Regiment was held on the 20th of November. The Association turned out 21 strong for the march to Holy Trinity Cathedral, where a beautiful service was held. Following the service, we marched past on Royal Avenue, where the salute was taken by the C.O. LtCol Gangur and the Hon. LtCol W. C. (Bill) McKinney.

The Association had the honor of leading the parade and I might add that the 6th Street hill is just as steep as it ever was . . . but we made it. I had invited all of the former R.S.M.'s of

THE GOUNDSHEET

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Continued from First Page)

the Unit that I could contact, but due to many circumstances, we only managed to have four on parade: D. Parr Pearson, W. (Bill) Smith, Gerry Pickell and myself. One of our former R.S.M.'s, Scotty Clifford, I managed to locate in Calgary, where he is a security officer for a trust company. It was nice to talk with him on the phone. Sorry you couldn't make it, Scotty.

A final reminder to all members: I hope to see all of you at the Annual General Meeting.

— STAN MOORHOUSE, *President*

MAIL BAG

Ted Burnby of Vernon writes to catch up on his dues and kindly sends a donation to keep things running. Thanks, Ted, it's only through the support of fellows such as you that we can keep *The Groundsheet* coming along regularly. John Somers of Toronto sends in a note with his dues to say how much he and the McCartheys enjoyed the social side of their visit West last Melfa. John says that he and Pat were meeting to organize their local dinner this year. H. G. Searle of Vancouver, George McDonald of Hope, A. Robinson of POCO, Norm Parker of Surrey and Gene Palmer all wrote nice notes to accompany their dues or ticket sales.

Thanks to A. Guette for a very generous donation to *The Groundsheet* from Winnipeg. Win Baughn dropped a line from Stevensville, Ontario to tell how an item in *The Groundsheet* brought back warm memories of a moment one Christmas in Italy when he heard some voices singing carols in the dark of night. It is brief flashes such as that which we all cherish; pleasant memories in an otherwise grim experience. C. L. Wilkins advises us that he is not lost but alive and kicking in Edson, Alberta and has enjoyed reading the War Diary, also enjoys our serial, the "Personal Diary," but can't figure out who the author is. Fred Evers of Kelowna kindly sends a donation with his dues and mentions seeing Fred Day, Curley Cartright, Sniper Brown, Roy Richards and Fred Kearns, who are all well and send their regards. Fred also mentions that he attended Bill Woods' funeral, an ex-47th Vet. Lawrence Carpick of Winnipeg, advises that he has decided to take early retirement because of seeing so many WW2 names appearing in the "Lest We Forget" column. Lawrence has been with the Winnipeg police force for over 32 years, and threatens, now that he has time, to come out to one of the Melfa's. Lawrence is an old buddy of Rod Keary so if both of them show up at the next Melfa, it should be a great reunion.

J. J. Claxton of Burnaby sends a photograph of the grave of Lieut Ed McKenzie, first officer casualty of the Westminster Regt. in WW2. This will be forwarded to the Museum for their records. A belated "Happy Birthday" to J. O. Mackie of Coquitlam, who celebrated his 89th birthday just before Christ-

mas. The only regrets, he says, are that his health prevents him from taking a more active part in the Association activities. Thanks for your donation to the Association, Mr. Mackie. Bill Jeffery of Edmonton promises to attend the next Melfa, we'll look forward to seeing you, Bill.

From Saskatchewan, A. E. Wright sends his dues and a note saying how much he enjoyed being at the last Melfa, and how he hopes to get out to see us again. Mel Glover made all of us feel real bad when he asked for his membership card to be sent to him at Yuma, Arizona. We all felt how unfortunate it was that Mel was missing our nice damp winter, at any rate, he did invite anyone going that way to drop in and see him at 1002 Magnolia Avenue, Yuma.

Lieut D. A. Nicks advises that his new address is with the C.F.B., Chatham Curtis Park, New Brunswick. Herb Timpe of Biggar, Sask., writes to tell us how much he enjoys receiving *The Groundsheet*, and advises that he read that Hank Zuiderveld had passed away recently in Victoria. It was Hank's dad's place where C Coy had their Officers and Sergeants Mess in Roden, Holland. Herb tells us that Hank's wife is still living in Victoria.

19 January, 1978

Hi —

Sorry I am late with dues but better late than never. How come *my* letters are never in *The Groundsheet*? Put these dues to work and best regards to all.

— GORDON E. SMITH K47005

OK, Gordie, how's that for a prompt reaction! *Editor*

J. W. Straiton, a 47th Vet, brings up the perennial question of dues for WW1 Vets. As we explained in the last issue of *The Groundsheet*, WW1 Vets pay no dues, but if any of them wish to donate for the continuation of the Association, their donations are always welcome. That goes for any member who is in financial difficulties, too. To paraphrase Charles Dicken's Tiny Tim: ". . . Please put a penny in the old man's hat, if you haven't got a penny, a ha'penny will do, if you haven't got a ha'penny, God bless you."

Ernest Winding of Surrey tells us that he is enjoying retirement and is doing his best to improve his golf game. Ernie sends in his dues and a note to tell of the passing of Helgar Olesen, A Coy, 1 Platoon, suddenly in hospital in Chilliwack, last summer.

Glen Holling passes on a request for assistance from a gentleman who is trying to reconstruct the movements of his father from the time he joined up to the time he was killed in France during the First World War. The wife of the soldier was advised of the husband's death in a letter from a Major Charleston of the 47th in 1917. Mr. Gordon L. Bond, Bethany, Ontario, would like information from any WW1 Vet who may have information to fill out the following: Bond, Herbert Lewis, Kamloops, B.C., enlisted in the 172nd Rocky Mountain Rangers, May 16th, 1916. Sailed from port of Halifax on S.S. Mauritania October 25, 1916. There is no information as to where Pte. Bond and his brother were stationed until notification was received of his death near Passchendale October 26-28, 1917. His brother, Pte. L. A. Bond was killed near Vimy on March 30, 1917. The son would like anyone who may have any remembrance of this unit to contact him, for as he writes: ". . . I have a lifelong ambition of visiting some of the places and treading on some of the ground that my father and his brother trod on during their war service."

Any of you who may recollect the movements of the 172nd Rocky Mountain Rangers in England and France in those early days, please contact Mr. Bond, or Glen Holling at the Armoury.

Reg Le Brun sends an interesting copy of a letter written by the Kaiser to all of the German Army and Navy near the end of WWI to encourage them to greater sacrifice in order to bring success to Germany. Reg found the original at Ypres in 1918.

T. Wray also sent us a reprint of a poem written by a Canadian officer while in hospital in Italy. It was originally printed in one of the army papers and is most descriptive of the Italian scene as we who were there remember it.

We are glad to hear that Ted Hammersley is coming along after a long session in hospital following intensive heart surgery. Hope you are back in the saddle for this year's Melfa Golf Tournament, Ted. Walter Lyle suffered a bad shock when he was involved in a car accident recently. Walter's son David was also slightly injured at the time. You must have thought you were driving a carrier, Walter.

Thanks to Doug McLaughton for dues and a donation, also for the kind words congratulating the Executive for their hard work. Doug mentions that the Personal History section in the last *Groundsheet* brought back vivid memories, for he was with the covering party that morning. Gord Cameron writes to send dues and a donation and to mention that his wife and her sister visited the coast last summer and thought it beautiful. Don't tell too many people, Gord, or they will all move out here.

Tom Davidson kindly sends in dues and tells us that he is still going strong. Since you are in Vancouver, Tom, why not try to get over to see us at the Annual General Meeting, and visit the Museum at the same time?

A. B. Ward writes to say that he has donated a picture of C Coy and a photo album to the Museum.

Wilfred Tyo, 232-8th St. West, Cornwall, Ontario, drops a line to request anyone who has a spare Westminster cap badge and one of the original shoulder patches to contact him at the above address to help complete a display he is building.

Ernie Hull of Smith Falls, Ontario, sends dues and a nice letter to advise that he and Phillip Hayes got together over Christmas and had the first drink together since Matera, Italy.

Thank you all for your support while I was editor and please give the new editor your help in continuing *The Groundsheet*. Remember unless you write, the editor is at a disadvantage to print the kind of material you want to see. Good luck to all of you and *arrivederci*. — ALLAN COE

REPORT

RWRA Draw and Smoker Event December 10th, 1977

Due to most efficient assistance from the Executive, other Members of the Association and the Regiment, the task of getting the Smoker organized and off to a running start was relatively easy this year.

The catering was very ably handled under the supervision of Mrs. Brenda Mannering, the food was hot and appetizing, and there was lots for everybody (some left over, in fact).

Stan Ofnachuk was his usual efficient self as custodian of the Bar, and I would like to thank him, on behalf of the Association, for a job well done. The consumption at the Bar was down a bit from last year, which could probably indicate that the Members are a little older?

The supplies for the Bar was provided by the Mobile Bar Service this year (you pay only for the amount you use). It was my first experience with this system, and I found it much simpler than outright purchase of supplies by the Association.

The sound system was under new management this year (Dick Shannon), and while it was his first venture into this sort of thing, the results were most effective, according to various reports I received. Again, for the Association, I would like to thank him for the time and effort put into assembling the system. (Incidentally, at a considerable monetary saving to the Association.)

Attendance was down a bit this year, estimated at 130 (definite figure not available). We had 141 attend in '76.

Total bar sales were \$367.35, which deducted from total expenditures of \$715.21 left us with a cost of \$347.86 for the evening.
E. SHANNON, *Chairman*

The Museum of The Royal Westminster Regiment and The Royal Westminster Regiment Assn.

The Museum is pleased to report that it has received a 1978/79 grant of \$3500 from the Canadian Forces Museum Committee in Ottawa.

The Committee welcomed Tom Harris, a new member, now living in Vancouver. His particular job is to gather information about the *Second Battalion*, and he would be pleased to meet anyone who was with the Battalion, especially those at Headquarters in New Westminster. He is also anxious to gather newspaper clippings, written records, or information about members who were in the Langley and Cloverdale Battalions, D Company at Chilliwack during the time it was a reconnaissance squadron, and platoons at Mission and Abbotsford.

At present, Tom is hoping to locate Capt. Locke Johnston, who commanded D Squadron in Chilliwack.

Some of you may remember Major J. P. G. McLeod, DSO, now 82 years of age, who was the first Adjutant under Lieut. Col. Bill Williams. Tom visited him recently, and he recalled that on the Battalion's second camp at Nanaimo in June, 1941, his young son, Bud McLeod, then 11 years old, was made Regimental mascot. In 1954 Bud went to the P.P.C.L.I., eventually being promoted to Captain.

Would anyone with Second Battalion information please phone Tom Harris at 683-4661, preferably in the evening.

Other Museum items — Dick Shannon reported on revamping Case No. 10 and his work on Cases 5 and 6, also that he is attending the meetings of the Military Collectors Club of Canada.

Several very useful books have been received from Sgt. D. Reibin, now stationed in London. These are *Cap Badges of the C.E.F. — 1914-1919*, and *'Overseas' the Lineages and Insignia of the C.E.F. — 1914-1919*, and he is presently looking for other pertinent publications.

It was reported that the Diorama is almost completed, and the Committee is looking forward with considerable anticipation to receiving and installing it in the Museum.

Walter Hogg has recently obtained a World War I uniform (less trousers), and other artifacts from Mr. and Mrs. A. Ledgerwood, 20451-54th Ave., Langley. If any Association member could locate a pair of trousers of a World War I uniform, it

would be greatly appreciated — please contact the Museum, or Walter at 522-6793.

Artifacts are still needed by the Museum. Now that so many of "our age group" are moving into apartments or condominiums, we wonder if many military items that would be of great value to the Museum are being "lost in the shuffle." Would members make inquiries, whenever possible, so that these memorabilia, etc., will not be lost to us forever.

The Committee hopes that Association members and the public will continue to visit the Museum. A reminder of the *Open Hours*:

Monday: 9 a.m. to 12 Noon and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Wednesday: 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Friday: 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Other times by appointment: Telephone 526-5116.

Perhaps when you drop in you might be of help in identifying some of the men in pictures that Dick Shannon is currently working on for display. Such information, as well as your visits, would be appreciated.

FREDA HOGG, *Publicity*

MUSEUM GETS UNIQUE DONATION

The gift of a rather unique book was made to the Museum by Dr. M. O. Calverley, a former serving M.O. of the Regiment. Captain Calverley served as M.O. with the Regiment in the post war years. The book, *Der Kampf im Westen* was acquired by Dr. Calverley during WW2 and depicts the history of the German army up to and including Dunkirk. The unusual nature of the book is that it is a series of stereo photographs showing the progress of a unit from early training, right through France, Belgium and even pictures of the English Channel. It is a fascinating collection and a fine addition to the Museum.



LEST WE FORGET

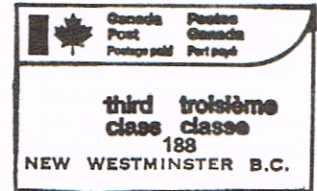
A. J. BILLY Sparwood, B.C. Westminster Regt. WW2	WILSON HALL Wawota, Sask. Westminster Regt. WW2
T. H. CLEIG (1976) Langley, B.C. Westminster Regt. WW2	HELGAR OLESEN Chilliwack, B.C. Westminster Regt. WW2

WHAT BECAME OF KELLY?

J. S. McCOMBER 308-720 Queens Ave. New Westminster, B.C.	J. WARD 305 Cadillac Ave. Victoria, B.C.
C. O. JONES 308 Burns New Westminster, B.C.	R. DASHWOOD c/o Mt. Shadow Inn Fernie, B.C.
R. FIELDING 8383-117 B Street Delta, B.C.	TOM ANDERSON 5950 Prince Albert Vancouver, B.C.
W. C. HENDERSON 1860 Regan Ave. Coquitlam, B.C.	P. M. CLARK 103-1424 Nelson St. Vancouver, B.C.

RETURN
REQUESTED

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



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