



# The GROUND SHEET

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF  
THE ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

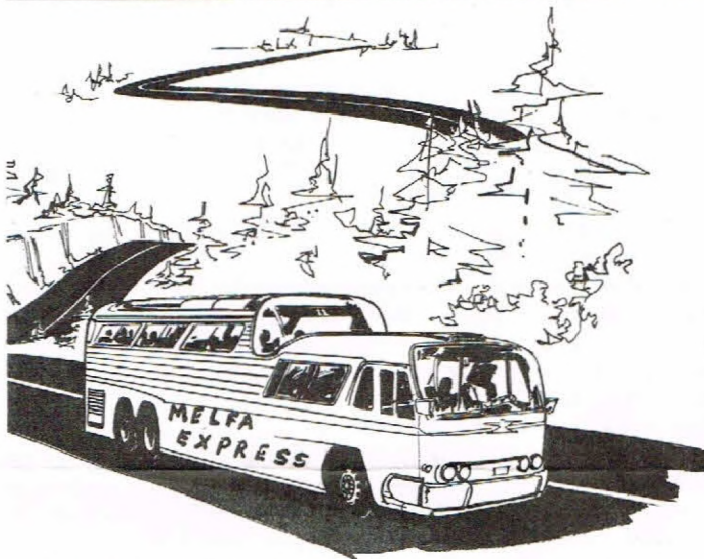
104th — 47th — 131st — The Royal Westminster Regt.

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

Vol. 27, No. 3

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

MAY-JUNE 1978



## Melfa - 1978

### 34th ANNIVERSARY

**Saturday, May 20 and Sunday, May 21**

#### **MELFA '78! LOOKS GREAT! LET'S BE THERE, MATES!**

That great annual get-together is just around the corner, men, and we hope that all of you who can possibly make it will be there. This event is one of the prime reasons the Association was brought into being, and it is worth one day a year to renew those unique friendships that were forged doing K.P., digging slit trenches and dodging H.E. and 9 mm., and to remember, with reverence and regret, those who won't be with us. The price of admission is up a bit this year, but only through sheer necessity, I assure you. (Would someone please explain why we have to have inflation?) However, it doesn't mean much if you really want to be there, and anyway M'sieu Chretien has told us to spend it, not save it! And then, of course, there is the Golf Tournament, held this year at the "Geriatric Course" (it's nice and flat!) — pardon me, the Tsawwassen Golf Course. Always good for a lot of fun and laughs and trophies. Anyone can win, regardless of how you punish that little white ball. For the ladies who accompany you, there is the Dutch Treat Dinner laid on in the Royal Suite at the Towers Hotel, where they can entertain themselves while you are absorbing ex-war lore and other things. The Reception and Tea in the Officers' Mess the next day (Sunday) is for both members and ladies and is usually very well attended and makes for a good social afternoon. We hope you turn out in large numbers. See you there.

—EDITOR

#### **SATURDAY:**

09:00 — Melfa Golf Tournament — Tsawwassen Golf Course.

Call your entries to:

S. Moorhouse — 522-3507     Ian Douglas — 522-3415

Come early to make up your foursomes.

14:30 onwards — Registration, Armoury. Museum open.

17:20 — Fall in for Cenotaph Service.

18:30 — Cocktails, Armoury.

19:15 — Annual Melfa Dinner. Tickets at the door — \$6.50.

19:30 — Ladies' No-Host Dinner, Royal Suite, Towers Hotel.

#### **SUNDAY:**

14:30 — Reception and Tea for all members and ladies in the Officers' Mess, Armoury. Museum will be open for the afternoon.



## THE GROUND SHEET

President ..... RON MANNERING  
7290 11th Avenue, Burnaby, B.C. — 521-8325

Editor ..... ED SHANNON  
9400 Dixon Avenue, Richmond, B.C. — 277-6525

Acting Secretary ..... NORM McASKILL  
7828 Canada Way, Burnaby, B.C. — 521-4280

## MAIL BAG

Since we have lost the professional know-how of Allan Coe as editor for a while, due to an urge to travel (lucky fellow!), the challenge of taking his place has fallen to me. The lads who have assembled and produced this paper in the past have set a trend of excellence that will be tough to follow, so I can only say "my grandsire drew a good long-bow at Hastings, etc." and hope you will bear with me.

A nice bunch of letters from you fellas out there in far and near places, which are always very welcome and are read and discussed at the Executive Meetings. Keep 'em coming, men, we're always happy to receive them and pass on the news and comments that they contain.

One from Slim (C. S.) Watson in Cambridge, Ont., with his dues and a nice donation. I hope we can fill your request for crests, Slim. Perhaps the Secretary has already attended to it, but we'll bring it up, anyway. Glad to hear you really enjoyed the War Diary and Ritorno in Italia. They are good reading anytime, especially for one who was there. And imagine having the assault on Coriano Ridge postponed for three days for you to celebrate your twentieth birthday! A truly remarkable indication of how those in command appreciated us. A note of thanks to F. G. Scott of Chase, B.C. for his '78 dues. Ed. Guthrie, Toronto, drops a line to say how he enjoys *The Groundsheet* and reading about the boys he spent four wonderful years with. "They were a great bunch," he says. And you were one of them, Ed. We sincerely share your hope that you can make it soon for the Dinner and Reunion.

A note from N. V. Van Horn, Richmond, B.C. with dues and a donation. Many thanks, and believe me they will be put to good use. Lloyd Stuart, Hardisty, Alta. writes that he is a little in doubt whether or not he had paid his dues, so he sent them anyway, with a nice donation. Good thinking, Lloyd, and our hearty thanks to you. Dues for '78 and '79 received from Gordon Armstrong, 7510 Jasper Crescent, Vancouver. Thanks indeed, Gordy, and you can coast for a spell now, eh? A note from Tom Hall mentions that he and his wife wintered in California, and attended Armistice Day Services with the Canadian Legion Branch in Palm Springs. Hope you missed the mudslides and big winds, Tom. We heard that it got a bit draughty down there. Our thanks and best regards to Robert Hardy, 2108 Dolphin Crescent, Clearbrook, B.C., for dues and best wishes to all members for '78. Sorry to hear that you are disabled, and we wish you a most speedy return to the best health possible. Unfortunately, Time is taking a toll on a lot of us.

A nice letter from C. W. Moorwood, Revelstoke, B.C., with

dues, and he remarks, "I look forward to getting *The Groundsheet*, as it is a very interesting paper. Some of the names and places bring back some memories. Keep up the good work." We thank you for them kind words, sir, and we hope to keep going for a while yet, in spite of inflation and climbing postal rates. He mentions that, as President of the Revelstoke Legion, he was on a seminar to Kelowna, and got together with Fred Evans, ex-C Coy, who was Legion President there. We understand your problem with those pictures. We have all five Coys' pictures in the Museum and while the faces seem familiar, putting names to them is a problem!

Bob Hansen writes from Williams Lake, B.C. to say how he enjoys reading *The Groundsheet*, "especially hearing about old C Coy Joes." He admits to a weakness for golf, so polish up those clubs, Bob, and come down for the Melfa Tournament sometime. If you think you are a duffer, you sure wouldn't feel out of place, and we'd be most happy to see you there. Thanks to Hughie Wray for '78 dues. If you have a receipt from Ron Mannerling for '77 dues, you are in the clear, son, for Ron is infallible. A note from Frank Grace, Revelstoke, B.C. with dues and a nice donation. Hearty thanks, Frank, for the extra addition to our resources.

From Shawnigan Lake, Vancouver Island, B.C., Betty Head writes and encloses Len's dues, he being one of those busy working chaps who is fortunate enough to have a secretary. She mentions their interest in the Diary, especially the reference to Sgt. Winding. Apparently the Sergeant and "Ole" Olesen (who passed on last summer) were the people who introduced her to Sgt. Head in England and the "gopher ranch" was that convincing that she became Mrs. Head! Ah, England; "small isle in the silv'ry sea." Dues received with thanks from Ernie Dayton in Winnipeg, who retires in July and will be moving to Crawford Bay on Kootenay Lake, in beautiful B.C. Says he would like to make the Melfa Dinner, but had a knee operation coming up (March 9). Hope it went well, Ernie, and that your well on the road to being fit again. Perhaps we'll see you at the "Melfa" next year, eh?

A welcome screed from Bob (Sniper) Brown at 170 Muggford Road, Kelowna, with an enclosure for dues, if unpaid, otherwise to cover someone else's "who is not as fortunate as I." A warming thought, that, and many thanks, Bob. Doug Glenn has likely already told you that we received the photos of Lieut. Ketchison and they were good ones. Truly he was well-known in "A" Coy, a soldier's soldier and a good officer. His scout car was hit about three hundred yards from where I was, at "A" Coy H.Q., trying to dodge "Screaming Meemies," with Capt. "Jakie" Hughes standing there, unconcerned, saying "What's the matter, Shannon, they bother you?" Sure hope you make it to the "Melfa," Bob. If you like breeze-shooting with the old boys, there's lots of it there. We're very sorry to hear about Bill Haines at Vernon, and, whatever it is, we all certainly wish him a quick recovery. The time his carrier was blown upside-down on top of him he was in a tough spot, too, but he dug out of that one OK, and we sincerely hope he can do it again. Our thanks to Larry Durr, 710 Roderick Ave., Coquitlam, for dues sent in, also a hearty "thank you" to LCol. Gangur and his eleven officers (names on file) for '78 dues.

Well, that's the Mail Bag for this time, fellas, but keep on writing, for that way we know we're getting through to you, and we hope to see as many as possible of you at the "Melfa." Adios, hombres!

ED. SHANNON, Editor



# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**The Royal Westminster Regiment Assoc.**

**MARCH 16th, 1978**

The Meeting was called to order by President Stan Moorhouse at 8:05 p.m. with the following members in attendance: Ron Mannering, Walter Hogg, Gerry Churley, Sandy Rollo, Red Williams, Fred West, Ed Shannon, Dick Shannon, Mike Steede, Allan Coe, Walter Lyle, Norm McAskill, Stan Moorhouse, Ian Douglas, Bill Robson, Clark Morrison, Gordon Craigen and Walter Jackson.

In his Annual Report the President mentioned two of the highlights of 1977, the Annual Christening Parade and the 114th Birthday Party of the Regiment. His full report appeared in the March-April issue of *The Groundsheet*.

1977 REGIMENTAL DRAW — This report was presented by the President in the absence of the Chairman, Glen Holling. It pointed out that more books had been distributed than in the previous year. This year we were left with 300 excess books compared to 700 in the previous year. It was the opinion of the Committee that only by increasing the distribution of books can we hope to raise the necessary funds to operate some facets of the work of the Association. It was suggested that the format be changed to: (1) Fifteen tickets per book; (2) Sell at 50c each or 3 for a dollar and; (3) To reduce seller's commission to 3 tickets or \$1.00 per book. It was moved by Ron Mannering and seconded by Walter Jackson that this report be accepted. Carried.

SECRETARY'S REPORT — Given by the President. The following is a list of the members receiving *The Groundsheet*: Those paying dues, 456; non-paying, 197; Executive, 20; Sundry Legion, Irish Regt., Seaforth and Associate Members of Foreign Countries, 15. Dues collected for the year, \$2300; Donations, \$192.00; Retorno in Italia, \$65.00; Diary, \$42 and Crests, \$30. Moved, seconded and carried, Walter Lyle and Ed Shannon, that this report be accepted.

GROUND SHEET REPORT — By Allan Coe. Four issues of *The Groundsheet* were published during 1977, each with 8 pages. We were faced with increases in costs during the year for printing, postage, etc., but William Meek Printing was most cooperative in assisting with the production. Our printing bill is \$445.00 per issue, postage up to \$70.00 per issue. It now costs us \$3.21 to print and mail 4 issues to a member each year. As Allan is retiring this year from the position of Editor, he thanked all the members who had taken the trouble to write letters and the Executive for their cooperation. Moved, seconded and carried, Gerry Churley, Red Williams that this report be accepted.

AWARDS COMMITTEE REPORT — By Walter Lyle. Two

scholarships for \$250 each had been awarded in 1977, one to Debra Rolandi, daughter of Raymond Rolandi and one to Lindsay Robson, son of Bill Robson. The full report will appear in a later issue of *The Groundsheet*. It was moved, seconded and carried, Walter Lyle and George Hughes, that the Awards Committee be authorized to decide, as a matter of its own judgment whether available funds should go to Scholarships or Achievement Awards or both.

MUSEUM COMMITTEE REPORT — By LtCol. Mike Steede. A complete report of this Committee appeared in the March-April issue of *The Groundsheet* but Mike has added an addendum. Freda Hogg has assumed the duties of Public Relations and has done an excellent job. A curator, to replace Ian Douglas, whose shoes are going to be hard to fill has not been found as yet. In the meantime, Doreen Cull is working well as assistant curator. An application has been submitted for a B.C. Provincial grant for summer employment for an assistant.

MELFA GOLF TOURNAMENT 1977 — Ted Hammersley gave a short report. The Melfa Trophy was won by Pte. Don Taylor and the Chuck Marshall Trophy by George McGregor. A good time was had by all at the Maple Ridge Club and the course was much easier on the "old boys." Many other prizes were presented, but it is the Committee's suggestion that in future the Prizes and Trophies should be presented at the conclusion of the tournament and not at the Banquet. Stan Moorhouse and Ian Douglas are to be in charge of the 1978 Tournament. Moved, seconded and carried, Ron Mannering and Walter Jackson that this report be accepted.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS — There was considerable discussion as to what approach should be taken to reduce the deficit shown in the Financial Statement. It was moved, seconded and carried, Mike Steede and Clark Morrison, that the Treasurer and President, in cooperation with the Trustees, be authorized to cash, if and when required during 1978, up to the amount of \$3000 in bonds and that this value be transferred to the General Account.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS — The election of Officers and Executive were then carried out by Walter Lyle, Chairman of the Nomination Committee. Ron Mannering was elected President by acclamation and Nelson Scott as Vice-President also by acclamation. Although only 8 members are required to be elected to the Executive it was moved, seconded and carried, Walter Jackson and Ron Mannering, that all those nominated and shown on the blackboard be declared elected. The following names had been placed in nomination: Norm McAskill, Bill Robson, John Rosso, Ed Shannon, Ted Usher, Vern Ardagh, Mike Steede, Walter Lyle, Walter Jackson, Doug Glenn and Clark Morrison.

Ron Mannering then took over the Chair and thanked the members for having placed their confidence in him.

As he is retiring from active participation in the work of the Association for a short time a sincere vote of thanks was extended to Allan Coe for the fine job he had done as Editor of *The Groundsheet*. In addition Stan Moorhouse was thanked for his dedication and fine work during his term of office as President.

Ian Douglas proposed that the members present donate to the cost of a Loto Canada ticket, any winnings of which were to go to the Association Funds. The meeting adjourned on this happy note.



## FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION - 1977

Presented by Gerry Churley in the absence of Vern Ardagh.

### STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES

Receipts .....	\$7,505.97
Expenditures .....	7,981.18
Deficit .....	475.21
Previous Deficit ..	1,712.86
Total Deficit ....	2,188.07

### BALANCE SHEET

Assets:		Liabilities:	
Bank .....	\$ 682.22	Hospital Trust ..	\$ 120.00
Petty Cash .....	125.92	Awards .....	9.64
Inventory .....	1,263.00	Hospital S&V ..	150.06
		Golf Trophy ...	64.00
		Draw Proceeds ..	3,915.51
		Deficit .....	(2,188.07)
	<u>\$2,071.14</u>		<u>\$2,071.14</u>

### BANK RECONCILIATION

Current Account — as per statement	\$1,316.64	
Savings Account .....	1.21	\$1,317.85
Outstanding Cheques — #56 .....	6.52	
#57 .....	16.18	
Draw Prizes ..	612.93	635.63
		<u>\$ 682.22</u>

### INVENTORY

Tables and Chairs at Cost .....	\$1,168.00
War Diaries (5 at \$5.00) .....	25.00
Crests (14 at \$5.00) .....	70.00
	<u>\$1,263.00</u>

### SURPLUS ACCOUNT RECONCILIATION

FORWARD 1st January 1977 .....		(\$1,712.86)
Italian Diary — Additional Sales ....	\$ 208.50	
1976 Draw — carry over .....	192.44	
Inventory — Profit .....	26.50	
Budget — under-runs .....	673.99	1,101.43
		<u>(611.43)</u>
Budgeted increase in deficit .....		1,576.64
		<u>(\$2,188.07)</u>

## LIST OF NEW EXECUTIVE

- President:** RON MANNERING, 7290 11th Ave., Burnaby, B.C. Telephone: 521-8325.
- Vice-President:** NELSON SCOTT, 335 Churchill St., New Westminster, B.C. Telephone: 521-3294.
- Treasurer:** GERRY CHURLEY, 221-220 7th St., New Westminster, B.C. Telephone: 524-1088.
- Editor:** ED SHANNON, 9400 Dixon Ave., Richmond, B.C. Telephone: 277-6525.
- Secretary:** NORM McASKILL (Acting), 7828 Canada Way, Burnaby, B.C. Telephone: 521-4280.
- Executive:** By Motion, seconded and carried, to accept Nominations as posted.
- STAN MOORHOUSE, 704-700 Hamilton St., New Westminster, B.C. Telephone: 522-3507.
- BILL ROBSON, 2335 Wall St., Vancouver, B.C. Telephone: 254-2876.
- JOHN ROSSO, 627 Cumberland St., New Westminster, B.C. Telephone: 525-2910.
- TED USHER, 303-610 Hamilton St., New Westminster, B.C. Telephone: 526-6175.
- VERN ARDAGH, c/o Bank of Montreal, 6th Ave. at 6th St., New Westminster, B.C. Telephone 525-1621.
- WALTER LYLE, 614-4th Ave., New Westminster, B.C. Telephone: 521-3265.
- WALTER JACKSON, 7604 Elewell St., South Burnaby, B.C. Telephone: 526-8152.
- DOUG GLENN, 6666 Walker Ave., Burnaby, B.C. Telephone: 522-0890.
- CLARK MORRISON, 817 Smith Ave., Coquitlam, B.C.
- RED WILLIAMS, 9132-120th St., Surrey, B.C. Telephone: 594-4621.
- Museum Representative:** MIKE STEEDE, 1279 Silverwood Cres., North Vancouver, B.C.
- 47th Representative:** FRED BASS, 2-6609 Fraser St., Vancouver, B.C. Telephone: 325-0456.
- CO's Representative:** DWIGHT ROUSE (Capt.), 1277 Coleman Ave., North Vancouver, B.C. Telephone: 988-4795.
- Jr. Ranks Rep.:** KIM GREENIZAN, 7557-129 A St., Surrey, B.C. Telephone: 294-4144.

## REGIMENTAL NEWS

We have now entered the busiest and most interesting quarter of our training year. The lessons we have been taught will be practised and re practised and finally put to the test once again at Fort Lewis, Wash., where the Militia Concentration will be held. Our most immediate concern, however, is the Annual Inspection which will be held on the 22nd of April at Mercer Stadium. By the time you read this report the date will have passed. Optimistically, therefore, I am predicting a good parade. Our four Cadet Corps, incidentally, will join the Regiment on parade.

The Regiment has recalled CWO G. P. Pickel from the Supp. list to serve once again as the RSM. We welcome him back and know he will be an asset to the unit. Also recalled off the Supp. list is Capt. W. D. (Bill) Needham. Capt. Needham, an ex-Navy man, has been appointed Adjutant and expect for having to learn a new vocabulary, appears to be accepting the hazards of his new environment rather well.

Four members of our unit have been awarded the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal. They are: the Honorable Colonel Brig-



Gen. E. G. Eakins, the Commanding Officer LCol. J. W. Gangur, Major B. A. Hardy and Cpl. D. R. Delisle.

At long last I am happy to report that the unit effective strength for the first time in sixteen months has now exceeded one hundred. The effective strength, for those who may not know, is a direct reflection of the number of personnel drawing pay during any given month. Any soldier not parading during a thirty-day period is considered non-effective and is not counted in the effective strength figure. With a computer continually monitoring our returns, we are under constant pressure to maintain the accuracy of our reporting. The effective strength thus closely parallels the "paper" strength. In any case the unit strength is slowly but surely climbing and hopefully the momentum will continue in the months to come.

I look forward to filing another report this Fall. Until then, good health and good hunting.

Sincerely,

J. N. GANGUR, LtCol, Officer Commanding

## The Museum of The Royal Westminster Regiment and The Royal Westminster Regiment Association –

### "MEMORABILIA"

Committee Members suggested that we delve into Museum files and old records for items that would prove interesting to *Groundsheet* readers. However, the real growth of the Museum is attributable not only to the regimental associates and collections of artifacts of the past, but also to regimental people and affairs of the present. We plan to include relevant notes in this column from the past, present and future – that are meaningful to the Museum.

### TEA FOR MAJOR DOUGLAS

The "No Host" Tea held in the Officers' Mess, the Armoury, on Sunday, April 9, to honor retired curator Major Ian Douglas and Mrs. Douglas, was such an affair of the "past and present."

Committee members of the Museum, the Executive Members of the Association and guests, were welcomed by the chairman, LCol. M. Steede CD and Mrs. Steede, and the president of the Association, Ron Mannering and Mrs. Mannering. Mary Douglas was presented with a beautiful orchid in honor of the occasion.

Chairman Mike Steede proposed a toast to Ian, thanking him for his considerable contribution to the work of the Museum. Due in great part to his untiring efforts and enthusiasm, the Museum has progressed to the status of a Canadian Forces Museum, the first militia unit to be so designated.

The afternoon was a happy reunion of old friends, some friendships that went back to pre-W.W.II. It was good to see Tom and Kay Hall from Chilliwack, Gen. Eakins, Mrs. Mona (Sager) Thomas, Mrs. Cookie Cummings, Mrs. P. Grossman, Past Chairman Bert Hoskin and Grace, former C.O. Les Deane,

D'Arcy and Elsie Baldwin and all the other guests whom I would like to name (if space permitted) and whose connections with the regiment would total many, many years of service.

The Mess radiated hospitality, with the beautifully appointed tea table set in the midst of familiar and beloved surroundings.

LCol. J. Gangur CD, and his wife, Angie, were gracious hosts, and genial P.M.C. Glen Holling and his wife, Fay, made everyone feel most welcome.

Our special thanks to Camille Steede, who master-minded arrangements, in spite of being a very busy person and actively engaged in publicity work for the presentation of the debutantes at the up-coming military ball.

We couldn't persuade Committee Member George Hughes (Capt. G.F.A.) to attend the tea, though we are sure he would have enjoyed it. We saw him on April 10th prior to his flying to Trinidad to pick up an oil tanker there. On his return later in April he expects to depart for Japan on another "relief" run.

Fred Bass also added to the enjoyment of the afternoon with his nostalgic piano playing, rendering the "good old tunes" so expertly. We thank him for this gesture.

Several of our friends who were present have been, or are, quite ill. We say "God care for you" until another wonderful Museum get-together can be planned for the future.

### THE DIAL SIGHT

– *Westm'r Reg't (M.G.) C.A.S.F. Drill Hall, New Westm'r. Vol. 1, No. 5 Jan. 15, 1940*

Remember this publication from the early days of the war? An excerpt is headed "The D.O.C.'s Inspection. In a whirling blizzard on snow covered Moody Square the Regiment had its first inspection since mobilization by the District Officer Commanding, Brig. C. V. Stockwell, D.S.O., on Jan. 12 . . . 'a fine bunch of men' was a portion of the D.O.C.'s complimentary remarks on the smartness and efficiency of the men. Excellent coverage of the inspection by word and picture was given by the press."

### HYACK FESTIVAL WEEK MAY 22-27

Looking forward to May and the Hyack Week of Festivities, the Museum Committee plans to hold special open hours during this week. We would welcome visits from everyone, including organizations or groups. *Extended open hours for this week are:*

Tuesday, May 23 – 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 24 – 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Thursday, May 25 – 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Friday, May 26 – 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 27 – 12 noon to 3 p.m.

(A reminder that the regular open hours throughout the year are):

Mondays 9 a.m. to 12 noon and 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Wednesdays 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Fridays 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Closed holidays. Other times by appointment – Museum telephone: 526-5116 or W. Hogg, 522-6793.

Until next issue, FREDA HOGG, *Publicity*



## PANORAMA OF ITALY

*If I were an artist with nothing to do  
I'd paint a picture — a composite view  
Of historic Italy — in which I'd show  
Visions of contrast, the high and the low.*

*There'd be towering mountains, a deep blue sea,  
Filthy brats yelling "Caramela" at me;  
High-plumed horses, and colorful carts,  
Two-toned dresses on hustling tarts.*

*I'd show Neapolitan cops — the Carabinieri;  
Defected old women with too much to carry;  
A dignified gentleman with Balboa beard;  
Bare-bottomed Bambinos, both ends smeared.*

*Castle and palace, opera house too;  
Hotel on the mountain — marvellous view;  
Homes made of wood, of bricks and of mud;  
People covered with scabs, scurvy and scrub.*

*Chapels and churches, great to behold,  
Each a king's ransom in glittering gold;  
Poverty and want; men crawling for food,  
Picking through garbage, practically nude.*

*Stately cathedrals with high-toned bells;  
Ricovery shelters — with horrible smells;  
Mouldering catacombs — a place for the dead;  
Noisy civilians clamoring for bread.*

*Palatial villages, with palm trees tall;  
A stinking hovel — mere hole in the wall;  
Tree-fringed lawns, swept by the breeze;  
Goats wading in filth up to their knees.*

*Revealing statues, all details complete;  
A sensual lass, with sores on her feet;  
Big-breasted damsels — but never a bra —  
Bumping against you — there should be a law.*

*Creeping boulevards; a spangled team;  
Alleys that wind like a dope fiend's dream;  
Flowers blooming on the side of a hill;  
Sidewalk latrines — with privacy nil.*

*Two-by-four shops, with shelving all bare;  
Gesturing merchants, arms flailing the air;  
Narrow gauge sidewalks, more like a shelf;  
A puffing youngster scratching himself.*

*Lumbering carts, hogging the road;  
Nondescript trucks, frequently towed;  
Diminutive donkeys, loaded for bear;  
Horse-drawn taxis seeking a fare.*

*Determined pedestrians, courting disaster,  
Walking in gutters where movement is faster;  
Italian drivers all accident bound,  
Weaving and twisting to cover the ground.*

*Home-made brooms — weeds tied to a stick,  
Used on the streets to clean off the brick;  
Bicycles and push-carts blocking your path;  
Street-corner politicians needing a bath.*

*Arrogant wretches, picking up snipes;  
Miniature Fiats, of various types;  
Young street-singer — hand organ tune;  
Shoe-shining boy; a sidewalk saloon.*

*Barbers galore with manners quite mild;  
Prolific women, heavy with child;  
Il Duce's "secret weapon" — kids by the score,  
Caused by his bonus — which is no more.*

*A beautiful maiden, a smile on her face —  
With a breath of garlic fouling the place;  
Listless housewives, no shoes on their feet,  
Washing and cooking out on the street.*

*The family wash — of "tattle tale grey"  
Hung from the balcony, blocking the way;  
Native coffee — God! What a mixture! —  
Tiled bathrooms, with one extra fixture.*

*Families dining from one common bowl;  
Next to the fish store, a hell of a hole;  
Italian zoot-suiters, flashily dressed;  
Bare-footed beggars looking depressed.*

*Mud-smeared children, clustering about,  
Filling their jugs from the community spout;  
A dutiful mother, with a look of despair,  
Picking the lice from her small daughter's hair.*

*Capable craftsmen, skilled in the art;  
Decrepit old shacks, falling apart;  
Intricate needle-work, out on display,  
Surrounded by filthiness, rot and decay.*

*Elegant caskets, carved out by hand;  
Odorous factories where leather is tanned;  
A shoe-maker's shop; a "black market" store,  
Crawling with vermin — no screen on the door.*

*I've tried to describe things that I've seen —  
Panorama of Italy — the brown and the green.  
I've neglected the war-scars, visible yet —  
For those are the things we want to forget.*

*I'm glad that I came; but I'm anxious to go.  
Give it back to the natives — I'm ready to blow!*

## TO THE GERMAN ARMY AND THE GERMAN NAVY

Four years have passed during which time you have been engaged in determined warfare. The German people inspired by the righteousness of their cause and relying on their sharp sword has withstood together with their faithful Allies a world of enemies with the help of God. Our furious and spirited attacks carried the war in the first year thereof into the enemy's country and thus spared our home land the frightfulness and devastation of war. In the second and third years you have in furious battles broken the power of the enemy in the East. During that time your comrades on the West Front have exposed themselves heroically to the onset of superior forces. As fruit of this victory the fourth year brought peace in the East. On the West Front the enemy was stunned by the weight of your attacks. You are now in the midst of the heaviest fighting. Desperate efforts on



the part of the enemy will come to nought because of your bravery. Of that I am confident and that confidence is shared by the whole fatherland. The American army does not frighten us, neither does superiority in numbers. It is the spirit that brings the decision. That Prussian and German history teaches us; that is proven by the course of previous campaigns.

In loyal comradeship with my army stands my navy in unshaken desire for victory against the quadruple power of the foe. In spite of the united efforts of the world-powers my "U" boats are tenaciously and with sure results leading the attack against the munition and food supplies streaming over the sea to the enemy. Ever ready for battle, with tireless energy the high seas command clear the way for the "U" boats into the open sea and in conjunction with our coast defences renders safe the source of their power. Far from the home soil, a small heroic band of our colonial forces withstand bravely the overwhelming forces of the enemy. With reverence we all think of those who have given their lives to the fatherland. Filled with anxiety for our brothers on the field of battle our people at home stand ready to sacrifice their all in the furtherances of a great cause.

We must, we will resist until the desire for our extermination on the part of the enemy is broken. To accomplish that end we would make every sacrifice and apply all our powers. In this spirit stand united the army and the home. Your united courage, your unbending will, will bring victory with guarantee of justice and freedom for the German people. This may God grant.

WILHELM, J. R.

## LONG TIME WORKERS RETIRE FROM EXECUTIVE

Two retirements were regretfully accepted by the Executive at a recent meeting. Long time Treasurer Vern Ardagh, who can't remember when he accepted the duties of Treasurer, tendered his resignation. Vern stated: "Doing work for the Association has always given me a great deal of satisfaction, and in addition, a great deal of pleasure in working with the Executive as a whole, in particular the various Secretaries. The membership at large are fortunate to have the affairs and business of their Association looked after by such a dedicated group."

Doug Glenn, who has been Secretary since April 1977, has also indicated his desire to be relieved of his duties as of the Annual General Meeting. Doug says: "I find that with the many other jobs I have become involved in over the past year or so, that I just do not have enough time to spare to do justice to the job of Association Secretary." We regret the loss of these two hard working members of the Executive and on your behalf offer them our sincere thanks for the excellent job they have done for the Association over the past years.

## 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)

MARCH 9th — Left 'B' echelon on the 6th, and came up here to Ortona, as driver of a Dodge 15 cwt. for a "battle

school" which is in progress. The change was quite acceptable, for tempers were getting rubbed a bit raw among the L.O.B. personnel. Kidd, the new fitter in the Coy, taking Roy's place, is a bit hard to get along with, and seems to have the Tspt. Sgt. pretty well under his thumb, which doesn't make life any easier for the drivers. So I was quite glad to get up here. Nothing to do but drive hither and yon on various errands, a job I always liked, anyway. This town is really knocked apart. Most of the buildings are mere shells or piles of rubble. I can quite believe that it was a tough go taking it. Jerry still throws the odd air-burst and shell into it, so one isn't allowed to forget there's a war on. There's a couple of shows going, and a YMCA, catering most to the 1st Div., who predominate around here. The weather is still wet and lousy, and we had about four inches of snow on Monday. Strong rumors of our moving somewhere in the near future. I wonder where to this time? We're all hoping to go back for a go at the 2nd front when it opens, but we may go anywhere. Wherever we go, it won't be much worse than this stinking, wet, inhospitable excuse for a country.

APRIL 1st — By the way I keep this thing up to date one would think there was nothing exciting happening. Which is quite true. The moving rumor materialized and we pulled out of the front-line area on the 14th, moving down the coast road to San Paolo, then west to a village called Castelvecchio. The whole Div. moved out, and some of the Corps troops. Settled down to a fairly quiet existence for a couple of weeks. Quite reminiscent of old times, with a drivers' school, and NCOs school and lectures on this and that to keep the boys amused. Pete Fraser, Supt. Coy, snagged a two-row accordion somewhere, practically new, so I spent several evenings in their tepee ripping off the odd tune. A balm to my music-hungry soul to have a go at making a few discordant sounds again. Took a trip to Avellino to break the monotony, about 105 miles one way, over the mountains to the Naples side of the country. C.B.R.D. over there and a hell of a pile of Canucks in it. A lot of our old boys, who left us in England, are there. Saw McCaig who left us eight months ago, and is in the S.L.I. now. Looks as though we were staying here for a spell when they've sent so many refs. down. A bit of amphibious training seemed to be in order, so we pulled out and came up here, Potocannone, where the lads could play around with boats and things, on a fairly good-sized and fast-running river nearby. Odd little town we're billeted in, perched on the top of a high hill. Quite intact, though, with few signs of the war having passed through it, except for British and Jerry graves here and there.

Weather was perfect last couple of days, but today its away again, strong wind and the rain driving down. Everything was getting lovely and dry, too. Hope it doesn't keep it up.

My correspondence has sure gone to blazes lately. Getting very few missives, and can't seem to get in the mood to write any. Probably nothing but a name and a faint memory at home by now.

Latest rumor, "War to end April 9th." A little fantastic, but 'twould be very nice, indeed. The Russians are within a few miles of the Czech border, and still pushing on. Once they get within shooting distance of German soil, it wouldn't surprise me to see Jerry quit. Wishful thinking, though. It looks as if we are stuck with the Italians for the duration, not a very pleasant prospect. May the duration be brief.



## AWARDS COMMITTEE NEED YOUR INPUT

As already reported in the January-February issue of *The Groundsheet* there were two Scholarships for \$250 each for 1977. They were won by Debra Rolandi, daughter of Raymond Rolandi and Lindsay Robson, son of Bill Robson.

As Chairman of the Awards Committee it has occurred to me that we have to do some "soul searching" about the whole question of awards, both scholarships and others.

...Several years ago it was decided that besides the two \$250 scholarships we would make another kind of award. These were for young people who make some worthwhile contribution to their community and would be possibly two awards of \$100 each. We called them "Achievement Awards."

However recently the Association has not had enough money to fulfill all it's expected good works. The result of that was a cut in our available funds. We were able to give out \$500 and not \$700 and as noted we spent the amount on the two scholarships.

The question that troubles me is, were we right to use the money only for scholarships and give no consideration to possible "Achievement Awards?"

It is a question for all the Members of the Association to consider. Since this report will go in *The Groundsheet* I'd like some correspondence on this matter. — WALTER LYLE



## LEST WE FORGET

IVAN HURNDALL, Chilliwack, B.C.  
47th Btn., W.W.I

F. A. DEMSTER, Maple Ridge, B.C.  
47th Btn., W.W.I

WILLIAM LINN, M.M., North Burnaby, B.C.  
47th Btn., W.W.I

## WHAT BECAME OF KELLY?

C. E. COLLENS, 1727 Thomas Ave., Coquitlam, B.C.

M. J. BOND, Box 728, New Westminster, B.C.

GORDON HIGGINSON, 508 Young Rd. N., Chilliwack, B.C.

M. D. STEWART, #905, 711-7th Ave., New Westminster, B.C.

P. M. CLARK, 103-1424 Nelson St., Vancouver, B.C.

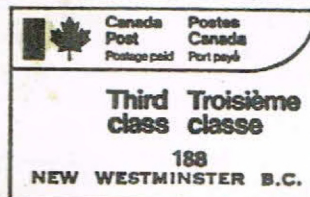
HOWARD ROY, 5426 Plainview, Las Vegas, Nevada, U.S.A.

## REMINDER

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES FOR 1978 YET?  
IF NOT . . . SEND THEM IN TODAY!

RETURN  
REQUESTED

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



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