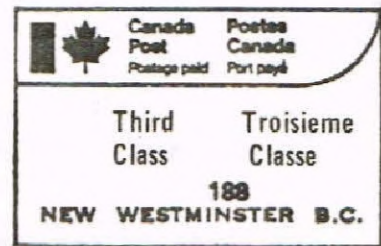


THE ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 854, New Westminster, B.C. V3L 4Z8



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

RETURN
REQUESTED



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. 28, No. 1

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

JAN.-FEB. 1979

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ED SHANNON - EDITOR - 9400 Dixon Avenue, Richmond, B.C. - Phone: 277-6525
NORM McASKILL - SECRETARY - 7828 Canada Way, Burnaby, B.C. - Phone: 521-4280

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THURSDAY MARCH 15th 1979
7:30 p.m.

JOINT MESSSES — THE ARMOURIES
NEW WESTMINSTER

What has taken place is history.
Please attend to help shape the future.

THIS IS YOUR ASSOCIATION.

M A I L - B A G , (Jan./Feb. Issues/79)

At this time (to quote an over-used modern phrase) we would like to renew greetings to all members, old and young and to wish you peace, plenty, and harmony in the New Year and also to say how pleased we were to note the number of you who took time to drop us a line and tell us how things were with you. Quite a few letters arrived just too late to make the last issue, but we'll try and get up to date in this one. So keep up the good work.

Fred Evans, of 1325 Highland Dr. S., Kelowna, B.C. V14 3V9 sends a nice letter enclosing ticket sales, dues and a donation. Many thanks, Fred. Was pleased to hear you could attend Freddie Day's funeral, I'd like to have been there myself, for Fred was one of the outstanding characters of "A" Company, well liked and a good soldier. We'll miss him. Interesting to hear that the R.M.R.'s have an active Association up there and that you attended a re-union and ran into Clarence Smith, ex "C" Company. Re-located another old R.M.R. at Christmas, Howard Roy who is now at 199 Shoshone, Henderson, Nevada. 89015. To pass on your information; Any ex-K42 people wishing to contact the R.M.R. Association write to Pete Wright, 83-771 Athabasca St. E., Kamloops, B.C. V2N 1C8. And Ron Hurley, take a bow! Col. Vickers of Kamloops remembers you leading a "sing-song" at the C.N.R. Station in '39, I can believe that, for Ron is in pretty good voice yet after forty years.... A note from John Reeve, at R.R.#1, Whitaker, Sechelt B.C. V0N 3A0, to say he has reached that acme of independence, retirement. Does as he pleases - fishing, strolling the beach, golf course handy, a workshop for hobbies. Only way to go, John, and may you enjoy every bit of it. He extends an invitation for any members up that way to call and see him (first house on the beach at Mission Point.)

Bill Rogers writes from 20208 Wharf St., Maple Ridge, B.C. V2X 1A3, to regret being unable to sell his tickets due to being in hospital. He was released November 28/78, but it will be a while before he is fit again. Our best regards and sympathies to you, Bill, and we fully realize that Time does

not treat us all the same. Many thanks to you for your kind Seasonal best wishes to all other members.

A really nice pat on the back from Sgt. W.A. Filgiano, 158 W. 63rd Ave., Vancouver, B.C. V5X 2H6, regarding the new format of the "Groundsheet". He says "It struck me as something personal for me - not just another news letter printed professionally on glossy stock", and that he read and enjoyed every word of it. He has put the object of the "Groundsheet" in a nutshell and we appreciate his remarks, indeed.

And our Association "Jack Nicklaus" in other words, Barney Jones, shook off the icicles and thawed out his writing hand long enough to write a very welcome letter from the wintry wastes of the Caribou country (17° below (F)! Ouch!) Being an old stubble-jumper, Barney, I have a pretty good idea how chilly that is. Hardly golfing weather, eh? Our thanks to you for the tickets and dues, and sorry you couldn't make the Smoker & Draw, but we sure hope you can make the next "Melfa". The delay in your receiving the "Groundsheet" was a combination of a nice summer, altering the format and a green editor. I hope you got the last copy O.K. And you're remembered, old son. You were a perennial at the "do's" and executive meetings for so long that your absence is quite noticeable!

A nice note from J.A. Dumont, 1762 Christmas St., Victoria B.C. V8P 2X8, enclosing his draw tickets (sold) and wishing all members the best for the New Year. He is now R.S.M. of the Cdn. Scottish Regiment, so I would presume "Little Joe's" earlier training has shown concrete results in this case, eh? Nice going, Jim, and we hope you have a real nice trip to Europe this summer with your Regiment Association.

Ted Law wrote in from Agassiz, B.C. with best wishes to all, and apologies for returning his Draw tickets unsold. As a custodian in the "pokey" up there, he says his possibility of making sales is very limited, which sounds reasonable.

Elsewhere you will see a letter in full from Brig. General Hamm, Area O.C., which I think you will find most interesting. Also remember the Association General Meeting on March 15th, 1979 at the Armoury, and be there if at all possible, for there the creative flashes are engendered that keep the flame of Association progress burning brightly (WOW!) See you there.

EDITOR

SO SORRY: You'll have to wait until the next issue for Herb Hamm's letter as space in this issue is not available. Please be assured that it is well worth waiting for.

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 1939-45. We won't identify him at this point, but as the series continues you may be able to identify the author.

(CONTINUED)

April 11th - The afore-going rumour can be definitely squashed right now. The war is definitely not over, nor has anything sensational occurred since the last entry

(con't on the second last page)

A 'Special' FOR OLDER ?? MEMBERS

I want to take this opportunity to thank the New Westminster Regiment for sending me to Ottawa to represent the 47th Battalion at the commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of the Armistice of the First World War.

It was one of the greatest memorial celebrations I have ever seen in my life. There were eighty-seven "Old Sweats" in attendance, veterans of the First World War; the eldest was one hundred and seven years of age, and I was the youngest at seventy nine.

I would like to say that we were looked after so well by the Department and Minister of Veterans' Affairs, as they took us to the many celebrations to commemorate the Anniversary.

During our stay in Ottawa, the schedule of events was absolutely fabulous. We were split into groups with two medical doctors assigned to each group. Public relations men of the Department of Veterans' Affairs looked after us everywhere we went and gave us an allowance of \$80.00 spending money for our stay which we really didn't need because we were so well taken care of.

On November 9th, the veterans arrived in Ottawa and were escorted to the Lower Eglinton Hotel where accomodation was arranged for four nights. This was a great laugh for me, a former Private and runner and bugler, good boy and bad boy, for I was put in a room with a Lieutenant-Colonel!! But he was a great guy and I called him 'Bill'. We had a great many talks about the First World War, although he and many others wouldn't believe I had been in that war because I looked too young, but I had the data and that proved everything.

On Friday, November 10th, we were all taken by bus to a special showing of the Historical Film Program of the First World War at the National Art Gallery and the reception and opening of a special World War 1 art exhibit at the Museum.

A Military Band was in attendance playing all the old songs from the First World War, and sir, and comrades, half of the old soldiers were crying.

It was a great time and a great celebration. Then, of course we all had lunch after which we all started to sing "Old Soldiers Never Die".

On Saturday, November 11th, it was Remembrance Day at the National War Memorial. The weather was beautiful and the parade to the Cenotaph outstanding. The young Military Bands which were stationed in Ottawa, from the Naval Units to special other Units and even kiddies, marched past us playing those wonderful old tunes.

I shall never forget that wonderful moment at the National War Memorial on Parliament Hill, when we sat surrounded by thousands of applauding Canadians. It was just like being on the stage.

Prime Minister Trudeau arrived, in frock coat with his two little children, then Governor General Jules Leger. It was a wonderful sight in the sunshine. Then came the silence and a gun salute. The Military Chaplain gave the service and Prime Minister and the Governor General placed wreaths on the Cenotaph. Sir, and Comrades it was a wonderful thing and all the old people in the Battalion who I have never forgotten, the members of the fighting 47th - they passed through my memory there.

That evening what a time! A state Dinner in the Parliament Buildings on Parliament Hill ... wonderful! All the Old Sweats dressed up in the medals - V.C.'s and military medals and crosses - every medal you could think of. At the head table were Governor General Jules Leger and Minister of Veterans' Affairs Daniel McDonald.

The menu and the dinner were really exquisite and again the band played all the old songs of World War 1. The speeches were absolutely outstanding and we all went home feeling very good.

There were so many more things; I can't explain them all in this letter. Perhaps one day when you are having a meeting, I could come and tell you all about it.

One great thing that occurred at the dinner was the reading of a special telegram from Her Majesty the Queen; it was outstanding and we each received a copy of it.

On Sunday the 12th, there was a Drumhead Service in the Drill Hall. We also went to the Canadian War Museum and right in front of me, Comrades, was a soldier from the First World War, dressed in the uniform of the 47th Battalion, with a green patch - which picture I have the honour to turn over to the Regiment and your archives.

On November 13th, we had luncheon at the Chateau Laurier, hosted by the Royal Canadian Legion.

Those were the days my friends, and I shall never forget them in all my life. I returned to Vancouver by train, because I wanted to reminisce upon my trip of 1916, when as

a drummer playing with the bugle band, I had travelled this way on the way to play on Parliament Hill before our departure for England and Bramshott.

I would like again to thank the Association for sending me to Ottawa to relive those grand old days again.

THANK YOU 47th BATTALION - THE FIGHTING 47th.

IVAN ACKERY

TAKE HEED:

Old Taxes never die; they just turn up under a different name.

* * * * *

Keeping a secret from some people is like trying to smuggle daylight past a rooster.

LEST WE FORGET

Sid (Tubby) Roberge WW 2
Duncan, B.C. July 1978

Derek (Dake) Liversidge WW 2
Courtenay, B.C. Sept. 1978

Mel (Ding) De Anna WW 2
Kinnaird, B.C. Nov. 1978

Gordon (Champ) Craigen WW 2
Surrey, B.C. Jan. 15, 1979

January 19/79

MEMORABILIA - REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

FROM THE PAST:

Original Meeting of the Association

The idea of forming a Regiment Association began shortly after July, 1945, recalls Walter Hogg, when LCol. Fred Simpson called a group together to meet in his office in the old Hotel Vancouver. The purpose was to form the nucleus of an Association which would be organized by the time the Regiment arrived home from overseas.

Those meeting with Col. Simpson were LCol. (Pete) Lewis, 2nd. Battation; Capt. Ben Lang, Adjutant 2nd Battalion; Willard Gibson, and Lt. Walter Hogg.

However, after the Regiment returned and the 2nd Battalion disbanded, everyone was settling into the business of assuming a civilian role and the Association, as such, was not established until a later date.

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY TO THE SERGEANTS' MESS (Later W.A. to the
(Westminster Regiment
(Motor) A.F.)

The minute Book of the above, Cat. 209 17T, in the Museum provided several hours of nostalgic reading. Noted that in the first recorded Minutes, January 24, 1940, the following officers were elected; President - Mrs. Bert Hoskin; Vice-President - Mrs. M. Fox; Secretary - Mrs. W. Hogg; Treasurer - Mrs. Wm. Redman; and Press - Miss Jean Robinson. This Minute Book is for the period 1940 - 45 and so many of our friends' names are listed and the Auxiliary's activities during those years.

Do you remember Mrs. Sutton, Mrs. Fred Shawcross, Mrs. J. Morgan, Mrs. M.W. Elgeti, Mrs. J. Shawcross, Mrs. L. Miller, Mrs. E.G. Roberts, Mrs. A.L. Dundas, Mrs. Ada Hughes, Mrs. A. Hogg, Mrs. Fred Hoskin, Mrs. T. Hulme, Mrs. J.W. Hoskin, Mrs. D. Pearson, Mrs. S. Moorehouse, (by the way, Evelyn do you remember you joined at the January 29, 1941 meeting?). Space does not permit listing all names at this time, but I shall carry on next issue and do some more research from this book of memories.

AND THE PRESENT:

Donations of Artifacts

A variety of artifacts continue to be received in the Museum. Among recent acquisitions are;

- a swagger stick from F.H. "Toby" Jackson, 158th Bn.
- documents and artifacts (39) belonging to RQMS W.A. Roddick, donated by his son, Vernon.
- excellent pictures of the early days of New Westminster, including Government House, the penitentiary etc. also pictures of the 5th B.C. Battalion of Garrison Artillery 1892 and the New Westminster Rifle team 1858 - 1898 and others.

Delta Museum and Archives

Walt and I attended this official opening January 17th, 1979 in Ladner. We were impressed with their professionally arranged artifacts, designated a "Portrait of Delta - a street scene reflecting Delta at the turn of the Century". Well worth a visit.

Among the officials present was Elwood Veitch, Minister of Tourism and Small Business Development to whom I had written the previous week requesting publicity for our Museum

in provincial tourism brochures. Walt and I were pleased to have the opportunity to discuss with him our Museum's needs in this regard.

Museum Open Melfa Weekend

During the Melfa activities on May 19th and 20th the Museum will be open and it is hoped that all Association members and their wives will take this opportunity to visit. The many new artifacts that have been received since last Melfa get-together will be of interest to even the 'regular' visitors and we look forward to seeing you all on these dates.

Regular Open Hours - A reminder

Mondays 9 a.m. to 12 noon & 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Wednesdays 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

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

Other times by appointment.

Museum telephone 526-5116 or W. Hogg at 522-6793

We would be pleased if visitors would sign the guest book inside the Museum entrance.

Until next issue -

Freda Hogg
Public Relations

MELFA GOLF 1979

The Melfa Golf Tournament will be held again at Tsawassen, Saturday, May 19th, 1979. It is not easy to find a course for a weekend tournament and we are lucky to get this course, especially because it is always in such good shape.

The Callahan System will be used to apply handicaps to the gross scores and we can be sure that some of them will be GROSS. However, the scratch player can get into the prizes, if he plays to his handicap and the rest of us will find our sins forgiven.... largely.

Top prizes are, of course, the Melfa Trophy and The Marshall Cup. Ron Mannering was always such a supporter of this tournament that we hope to present another special prize in his name.

The start time is 0900 hrs. It is a big help to the Tournament Committee as well as to the course to have a close estimate of the number playing. We have time at present for ten foursomes, but since this Melfa Weekend is likely to be bigger than ever the Committee would like to have advance information. If you will phone or write to Ian Douglas, 522-3415 - 824 Ladner St., New West) he will give you your tee off time..... first come, first off.

Visitors are welcome.

The green fee is \$7.00 to which we must add something -- probably a buck -- to provide prizes and engraving of cups.

Please register your entry soon for a great Melfa Morning.

Ian Douglas

26 Eastbourne Ave.,
Toronto M5P 2E9
January 15th, 1979

Dear Nelson:

I hope I have your first name right. If not, forgive me; its been a long time. It was good to hear from you but I was sorry to learn that there is some talk of terminating the Association.

You asked if I would write something on the subject for the next issue of the "Groundsheet". I am glad to do so, but since time is short I think it should take the form of this letter rather than an article.

I think I am fairly typical of members of the Association who live far away from New Westminster. The Association and the Groundsheet are our only means of contact with our old friends and the only tangible link we have with the now distant days in which the Regiment meant so much to us.

As you reminded me, the main objective of the Association is well-expressed on the back of the membership card; "to keep alive the spirit of comradeship and good fellowship known during service". What we came to know, especially during the time in action, was the spirit of the Regiment; this was a corporate spirit, a sense of community or corporate solidarity. I myself have never known anything like it. The closest thing to it is the spirit of a good football or hockey team or of an active parish church. It is something that inspires and unites all the members and makes them aware that they belong to a whole that is greater than the sum of its individual parts.

For many of us the Association is the only way of maintaining this spirit. PLEASE DON'T LET IT DIE.

Yours very sincerely
Derwyn Owen
Padre of the Regiment 1943 - 45

ARMISTICE DAY REPORT

Once again we have appeared at the Cenotaph. It has been many years now, standing there makes the memories come flooding back. During the marching did anyone think of sore feet, the blisters and the pack straps that kept digging in? It may be too far in the past. Our short march to the Cenotaph is comfortable and we know, shortly, there will be a breakoff. We will walk up the hill. The armoury is still there after these many years. This was Remembrance Day. We were there when it happened, we knew the sights and sounds of war, and some of the smells too. When the bugle sounds, faces from the past crowd your memories, there was always somebody who laughed funny, rolled a mean seven, or held the best hand, they knew their soldiering too. If there has to be a reason for being there on Armistice Day, I really don't know it.

It is a kind of compulsion that makes you want to stand in the company of men. You hear familiar names during the laying of the wreaths. Thoughts, they are your own, altogether it is a very private moment. The day was sunny and warm this time, for us that's a victory. You couldn't help but notice how well everything blended in for the ceremony with the City Hall as a background. The Mayor calling the donors names, the wreaths being placed, the crowd of onlookers standing silently throughout the service.

After the laying of the wreaths we marched off. First to Fourth Street, then Royal Avenue past the saluting base, breakoff was at the corner of Sixth and Royal Avenue. Some of us wondered whether we would have made it all the way up that hill to the Mess if we would have been marching. Anyway on our arrival at the Officers Mess already crowded and noisy, the Great Silver Bowl swimming with hot rum, friends all around we began to renew acquaintances with our many friends. One in particular Chief Morin, remember him? Headquarters Company, a first class sniper. Getting back for a minute to the Cenotaph the familiar faces there were Ron Hurley, John Ford, Red Williams, Scotty Nelson, Len Bailey, Jack Hogarth, Fred West,

Tom Harris, Stan Johnson, Ian Douglas, Allan Coe, Ed Shannon, Jack Usher, the grandson of the Jack Usher we knew, Mike Steed former CO of the present Regiment, he now heads the Museum Committee, I took a position in the blank file. We were under the command of Walter Hogg to the Cenotaph and back to breakoff.

Terry Williams was in the drill hall as we arrived, he was looking as dapper as ever. In the mess, bumped into Stan Moorehouse, Ted Hammersley and Ron and Ruth Hurley. Glancing around the room, Les Deane talking with some of his former officers, Glen Holling passed by looking for a sandwich. Col. Bill McKinney chatting with friends. The bar was open but I had promised myself something at home so, saying my goodbyes I left for home, I had some American beer in the refrigerator, the can I opened said sixteen fluid ounces on it so, I had a couple of pounds of beer and called it a day.

BILL ROBSON

Eating dulls your hearing, according to one physician. This may be nature's way of protecting us from after-dinner speakers.

Four young bulls were standing in a pasture discussing what they wanted to be when they grew up. The first said he wanted to go to Rome and be a papal bull. The second said he wanted to go to New York and be a bull on Wall Street. The third said he wanted to go to Philadelphia and be a bull in a china shop. But the fourth said he just wanted to stay in the pasture for HEIFER AND HEIFER AND HEIFER.

REPORT ON THE CONTINUANCE AND FUTURE OF
THE WESTMINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

To arrive at some conclusions to assist in the planning of our future it seems appropriate to examine, first of all why we are in being at all.

Simply stated it is a desire to preserve a bond of fellowship developed during a unique period of emotional stress. The Regiment was the core and from it emanated the confidence, trust and loyalty of those who forged it's being. All the weaknesses and strength of human endeavours were poured into the making of it's fibre, this became our fibre. The entity to which we clung in times of stress and need, our extra strength...the focal point of our existence...all else was secondary to this demanding union...THE REGIMENT.

This then is why we wish to retain some form of continuance. To preserve that which we built and of which we are a physical and emotional part.

Since 1945 we have picked up the legacies of our former titles added it to and carried it forward under our new titles of The Westminster Regiment and now, The Royal Westminster Regiment.

Our endeavours to communicate have been many, but the Groundsheet is by far our best media and seems to have provided this answer....in addition to this we have the Annual Dinner and Smoker which give us an opportunity for physical contact - a pat on the back.

The Hospital Committee maintains a sympathetic contact with those in need.

The Golf Tournament appears to have broadened the appeal of the "Melfa Day" and has promise.

Our Bursary reaches a new and different segment of our past with growing success (with a few reservations).

The Museum is rapidly gaining strength and will be a strong continuity.

It would seem that nearly all the ingredients have been supplied for those who wish to participate.

However, time has a way of changing things - all the things we do are dependent upon the generosity and energies of a few people. We must face the simple fact that as we grow older energies lessen and we have other priorities in our lives. This then is our problem - where do we go from here to ensure the continuing strength of our association.

We must ensure now that finances will be available to do the things that we now do for ourselves i.e. Groundsheet, Dinner Subsidies, Hospital visits, Bursaries, etc.

The question arises how can we encourage the new members of the Regiment to join and take an active part and so lessen the load.

The answer is we cannot. It would be impossible to pass to them the feelings and emotions that exist in the hearts of our members - the reason we exist.

We can offer them our support and encouragement to do the job they have to do and to extend our welcome to them at our functions etc.

To some it will be an understandable emotions and a desire to be involved. To most it will be just another organization to which only time and our concern for them will give meaning.

Can we incorporate with other Regiments and so combine our efforts? We can and should perhaps consider offering them a haven for dinners. However, any effort to make them an emotional or working part of the association can only fail because they are a part of other families.

It seems that as an Association we are on our own - The continuance is guaranteed as long as the Regiment exists either in its present form or in the nucleus which we are now providing.

The following suggestions are for consideration;

1. That we make every effort now to strengthen our financial base to ensure continuity of communications.
2. Give the Museum our full support to ensure that this nostalgia and sacrifices are remembered. Also to develop a living and pictorial history on which continuing Regiments can build.
3. Encourage the Regiment in all its endeavours to assure them of our concern that they maintain the high standards to which we aspired.
4. Encourage as many people as possible to work on committees or groups to give them the opportunity to be active participants.
5. Go after that high percentage of people who do not now support our functions. This should be a real challenge to someone or group.

6. We have a heritage that was built in our own days of adversity. We cannot give it away! We can only help our successors develop their own heritage through their aspirations and high ideals.

This then will be the continuance of our association - their desire to carry on in their way the heritage of the Royal Engineers - The Rifles - The 47th - The Westminster Regiment. The Royal Westminster Regiment as our predecessors have done and as we are endeavouring to do today.

BAS MORGAN

I used to burn, but now I smoulder, that's how I learn I'm growing older.

After discussing the revolutionary War battle of Saratoga, which England lost probably because General William Howe chose to stay at Philadelphia I asked my history class to explain this major British defeat.

"Lack of no Howe," came a voice from the back of the classroom.

When a woman who is a bit touchy about her age was asked how old she is, she replied " I am 15 - Celsius."

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Foremost in all our minds at this time is that mundane problem of financing for the coming year; one source of money supply being the Christmas Draw and I feel safe in saying it was successful. Successful in the fact that it produced slightly better than Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,047.00) for the listed Charitable Requirements (Museum, Regiment, Cadets, Vets in hospital, Scholarship or Awards) together with \$800.00 to run the Association and its activities for the year 1979. A comprehensive report will be given at the General Meeting as by that time an audit will have been completed and all figures finalized.

Fifty one percent of the gross return from the Draw goes to prizes, printing, mailing, licence and sundry; the sundry amounts to only \$144.00 with items of advertising, miscellaneous supplies and stenographic services.

The allocation of the Draw funds plus the other sources of funding becomes the responsibility of John Rosso and his Budget Committee and as this goes to press they have had several sessions.

Since starting to put this report together I have been searching for some appropriate words through which to express appreciation for the response received to the letter that went out with the Draw tickets, I tried to "hustle" the Two Dollars that represents the free tickets in each book sold. The response was, and I quote Allan Coe "FANTABULOUS" and to that I add, in all sincerity THANK YOU. The donations, so called, returned \$653.00.

For years there have been members who accounted for a lot of ticket sales; these we call our major sellers. Their number is decreasing as retirement removes them from the market place however there are still a few and to those of you who do this extra effort, a special THANKS. The members of the Executive do their share and more.

This Draw report would end on a happier note if the riddle could be solved that sees so many of our members within our restricted distribution area, make no effort to sell their allotment or ignore the books completely. Our success with their help would be greater; the words of Ben Sweetland come to mind - "Success is a journey, not a destination" so we shall try again next year.

The Association now has a permanent office; through the kind co-operation of the Commanding Officer, The Royal Westminster Regiment, Gerry Gangur to us, we now have an office in Hut 3 where we can keep our records intact, have access at our own convenience to the addressograph unit and supplies etc. Most of our records now are scattered throughout the Museum and their respective holding areas. Our removal will give them a little more space. After over thirty years the Association has even splurged on the purchase of one "CABINET - SLIDING - TWO DRAWER - LOCKED - DOCUMENTS FOR THE USE OF".

Our Secretary, Norm McAskill has made the news; I see his picture gracing the last issue of the Legion, the magazine of the Royal Canadian Legion, page 34. Still his same old smiling face. He keeps himself busy, but not in trim, by being involved in many activities of the Legion, the most recent being the New Westminster Branch housing development known as Legion Manor. It has always been said if you want anything done, involve a busy man. Norm is becoming more involved in the Association as he now has assumed the full responsibility of the role of Secretary.

My thanks to DERWYN OWEN, PADRE of the Regiment 1943-45 for his letter which appears in this issue, I have very fond memories of Derwyn even though I have not seen him since March 1944 however I do see the other member of team of that vintage Ed Wilder quite frequently. One looked after your spiritual needs and the other your physical and sometimes the services of both were required at the same time.

That character, Vic Wilson, Naramata, B.C. still tries to keep "you all down there" as he disrespectfully refers to the Executive, in good order. He was always known for his brevity and still is; his brief notes do not lack originality. Too bad he is not closer to the center of things as his wit, wisdom and vitality could be put to good use.

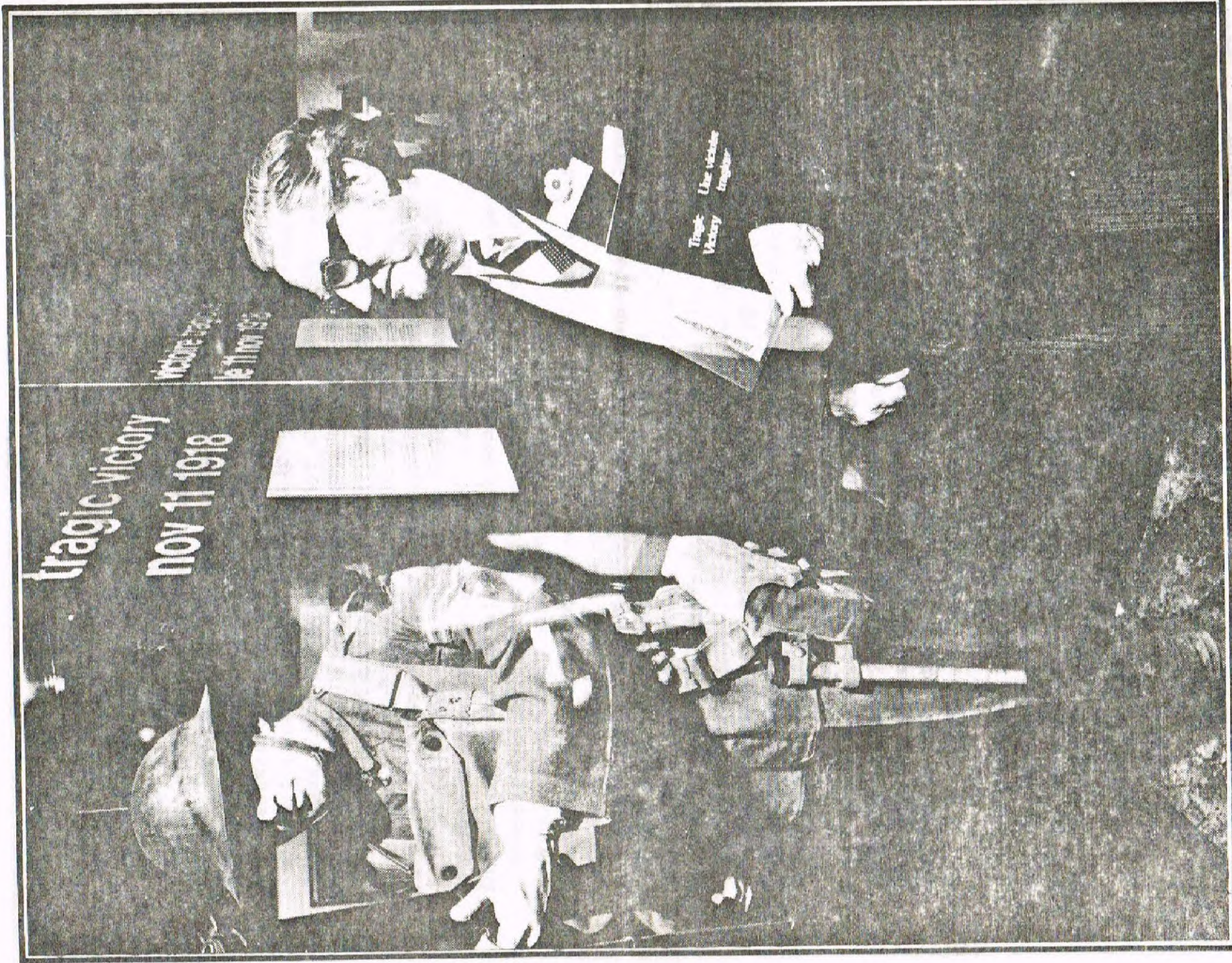
On behalf of the Association I attended the change over command of 2316 Army Cadets; Captain Ted Usher stepped down and Capt. R. Spier took over. The highlight of the evening to me, was an address by our Les Deane. It was too bad that there were not more on parade or in the audience to hear. This was the second occasion that I attended a Cadet parade only to find that the numbers in the ranks are very low as well as about 40% of the cadets are girls.

Please mark your calender with two important dates; March 15th - Annual General Meeting and May 19th the Melfa Dinner. A membership card will have to be shown to gain entry.

On closing, did you notice that there is no mention of dues anywhere in this issue. The response has been very good but hardly up to a standard that would be acceptable to "LITTLE JOE".

The opportunity to take a 7-day leave occurred on the 4th, so I took it, and proceeded to the 8th Army rest camp at Bari, along with Gordy, Angus, Brad and several more of the outfit. We were all billeted in the same hut and it was a pretty fair go while it lasted. No parading to meals, you just went in and sat down, and the grub was brought to you. No dishes to wash, either. Two shows in camp, which changed three times a week, though you had to do a lot of queuing to get a seat. Good library, a fair NAAFI, Sports if you were interested, boats on the Adriatic, and a steady truck service to Bari, about a fifteen minute ride. We were in three times, Gordy, Angus and I, but accomplished nothing but a walking tour of the town. Prices were utterly fantastic, anything worth buying being beyond our financial reach. A nice town, with quite a history, but at present just another Wop town, with the usual sights and smells. However, we enjoyed a week of relaxation and freedom from Army routine, which made the trip well worth while..... Back at Casavecchio now, and the unit has 'flitted' during our absence, so we're rather a bunch of lost sheep at present. Returning to our unit tomorrow though! Rumour says its in action at Cassino, which is the hot-spot of the Italian front at present, so we'll likely have a bit more excitement in the near future. Looks as though the Yanks couldn't take the place, so the Canadians are to have a try at it. The New Zealanders and the 4th Ind. Div. have taken quite a beating over there, so I can't see it being any push-over for us. One consolation, the weather is almost continuously nice now, in fact its quite hot at times, which is much nicer than the eternal rain..... No news from home yet, and darn few letters written. The life's getting me down, I guess. The future is pretty gloomy looking, with the prospect of getting home this year fading as time goes on. If we were like the Yanks, able to go home after 18 months overseas, life would have an objective. But this ruddy existence appears endless at present.

OLD YOKE: By the time you're 80 years old you've learned everything. You only have to remember it.



Above, WW1 veteran Ivan Ackery recalls his service as he views 47th Battalion uniform on mannequin.