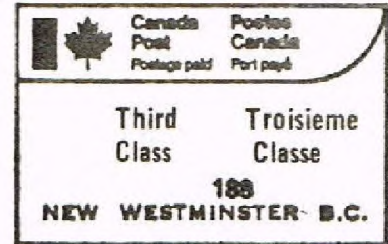


THE ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 854, New Westminster, B.C. V3L 4Z8



J. H. GANGUR,
2015 HYANNIS DR.,
NORTH VANCOUVER, B. C.
V7H 2S5

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. 2

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

MAR. — APR. 1979

W. NELSON SCOTT "SCOTTY" - PRESIDENT - 335 Churchill Avenue, New Westminster, Phone: 521-3294
ED SHANNON - EDITOR - 9400 Dixon Avenue, Richmond, B.C. - Phone: 277-6525
NORM McASKILL - SECRETARY - 7828 Canada Way, Burnaby, B.C. - Phone: 521-4280



* THE MELFA DINNER *

SATURDAY, MAY 19th. 1979

PLACE: The Armoury, New Westminster.

PARADE: Fall in 17:30 hrs., proceed to Cenotaph 17:45 hrs.

Please wear medals, and red beret (if you have one)

BAR OPEN: 18:00 hrs. Tickets only, 3 for \$2.00

DINNER: 19:30 hrs. Buffet type, \$8.00 per person.

Beer and wine on the tables. Excellent menu guaranteed.

LADIES' DINNER: To be held at the residence of Colonel and Mrs. Eakins, 125 - 1st. St. New Westminster, Saturday night. Must know names of ladies from out-of-town who are accompanying their husbands.

MELFA GOLF TOURNEY: 09:00 hrs., Saturday, May 19th. /79

Tsawassen Golf Course

Complete information in last issue of Groundsheet, or phone Ian Douglas, 522-3415, or write to him at 824 Ladner St., New Westmr. Green fee \$7.00, plus probably a buck for prizes and engraving of cups. Gossip and exercise free.

PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION & TEA: Sunday, May 20th., at 14:30 hrs., in the Officers' Mess, Armoury. All members of the Association and their ladies invited.

MAIL BAG

The annual general meeting has come and gone, and you will find the reports on it elsewhere in this periodical. A point of interest, perhaps, is that at the Mar. 5th. Exec. meeting we held a sort of sweepstake to estimate the probable attendance, with forecasts from a low of 26 to a high of 50. 21 people attended. Granted, some who didn't appear had very legitimate reasons for not being there, but there must be many others within easy reach of the Armoury who could have made it.

One night out of 365 doesn't seem like a very demanding schedule, and the more who show up, the more ideas, suggestions, criticisms, etc. are brought up, all of which are a big help to the Executive. So mark that third Thursday in March, annually, and let's see if we can't break the attendance record next time.

Quite a few of the boys have written in since the last issue, and, as always, the Exec. enjoy hearing the letters and commenting on them. Alf White, Sect'y. of the Toronto branch of the Assn., wrote in to say that their Melfa Dinner and Dance is early this year, Apr. 27, and will be held at the CANADIANA RESTAURANT & TAVERN, Six Points Plaza, Kipling Ave. and Dundas St., Toronto. Sounds good, eh? The British Isles letter you forwarded was discussed, Alf, and it is most probable that something positive will be done about their request. Glad to hear you're still hanging in down there (even if you are blown away and snowed under!) and we hope you have a most successful Dinner.

A welcome screed from that old cribbage champion, Jack (Ducky) Drake, Box 1145, Merritt, B.C. V0 K 2B0, and what has happened to him you wouldn't believe. Bucked off a horse in December, broke three ribs, then fell down a flight of cement steps in January and broke his shoulder and arm. You sure you weren't trying to drive horse-shoe nails into the saddle and alarmed the beast, Ducky? Seriously, though, old son, our deepest sympathies for all your injuries, and a sincere hope that you're

fit again and out to grass by now. And we'll be looking for you at the Melfa. One from W. (Bill) Rogers, 20208 Wharf St., Maple Ridge, B.C., V2X 1A3. Hearty thanks for the dues, Bill, and real glad to hear your health is improving. May it continue to do so, and all our best wishes to you, also.

Joe Strawson, Box 157, Pitt Meadows, B.C. V0M 1P0 wrote in, enclosing dues and a donation to the Sick and Visiting Fund, for which we thank you, indeed, Joe. Sorry you couldn't make the Annual meeting, but we'll see you at the 'Melfa', right? ... A nice letter from Art (A.E.) Hebb, 939 Central Park Blvd. N., Oshawa, Ont. L1G 6V9. Many thanks for the dues, donation, and the pictures, Art. Those old snaps are always interesting, especially when you recognize people in them. Norm (our Sect'y.) will see that they are returned to you, as requested. You're retired now, eh? Doing all the things you'd like to have done for the last thirty years? Nothing like it, except that age makes a slight difference. ... L. McLean, 1723 Manaimo St., New Westmr., B3M 2G7 sent in a brief note with his dues, for which many thanks and we hope you can make it to the 'Melfa'.

This year we have put out a news release cordially inviting all ex-members of the 2nd. Batt.(R) of the Westmr. Regt.(M) during WW2 to attend our 'Melfa Dinner'. (Don't ask me why it wasn't done years ago!) Perhaps the fact that Tom Harris (ex-Capt.) who was with them for six years, has written a most interesting book on their activities during that time might have something to do with it. Over 800 men, trained by the 2nd. Batt., volunteered for active service in the Armed Forces (how come our platoons were always under strength?) and all of them were proud of their connections with the 1st. Batt. We will be very happy indeed to see them well represented at the Dinner.

Editor.

A London Schoolmaster reports that when he asked his class to compile a brief essay of not more than 50 words on experience, one 15 year old boy wrote: "Experience is what you've got left after you've forgotten her name."

REGIMENTAL CHRISTENING _ _

It should be appreciated that the date for this event has been put ahead by the C.O. in order that our membership could be informed. It will now be held in the Armoury Sunday, April 29th., at 2:00 pm.

Complimentary Bibles, provided by the Association, will be presented to those christened at this affair. The least that can be done in response is to attend.

President

* * * * *

ANNUAL REGIMENTAL INSPECTION AND PARADE

The Royal Westminster Regiment will parade for Inspection on Saturday, April 21st., '79 at 2:00 pm. The event will be held on the parking lot between the Armoury and the City Hall.

We are often in a quandry as to how the Assn. may support the Regiment. This is a real opportunity; attend to lend your moral support. Mingle with crowd and wear your red beret if you have one.

* * * * *

Maurice Chevalier said it: "The French are true romantics. They feel the only difference between a man of 40 and one of 70 is 30 years of experience".

A sign in an Army workshop provides advice for many of to-day's problems: "If it works - don't fix it".

PRESIDENT'S FUND

The President has decided to establish a fund, separate entirely from the normal Assn. budget, for the installation and completion of the Diorama, which is to be placed in the Museum.

This is a very worthwhile project, now nearing completion, and the thought is that there are members who would like to feel that they have contributed to something concrete and lasting that will depict the war-time Regiment in all its motorized glory.

Nelson is looking for 200 members at 10.00 each who would like to subscribe to this project. Their names will be entered on a Founding Roll, which will be kept in the Museum, and a receipt for the sum donated will be forwarded to the donor. Donations to be made payable to the Royal Westminster Regt. Museum, and sent in care of Nelson Scott, Pres., 335 Churchill Ave., New Westminster, B.C.

So give it a thought, lads, and we hope each and every one of you have the opportunity to see the project when it is completed and installed.



LEST WE FORGET

Cecil E. Harrison
22 Ann St.,
Tillsonberg, Ont.
April 18/78

Stewart Reid
315 Weir St., N.
Hamilton, Ont.
February 28/79

THE DIORAMA * WHAT IT IS

There must be many of you who recall the number and variety of vehicles which made the Regiment "motorized" during the last Big Shoot-Out. Motorcycles, jeeps, 15 and 30 cwt. trucks, White scout cars, carriers, to name some of them. Remember how useful they were in Italy, in the winter? Or in the summer, on convoy, with the dust six inches deep, and the DRs and carrier drivers with bandanas over their faces to screen out the terra firma? And those convoys. Lead vehicle doing 18 mph. and "Tail-end Charlie" doing 40. I never could figure out why!

The idea of reproducing all this mobile equipment in miniature and presenting it in a proper setting was conceived and worked on by Vern Ardagh, who has spent much time and effort toward bringing it to completion. When finished, it will represent the Westminster Regt. (M) by Companies in review order, each Company with its allotted vehicles, in a setting designed to complement the display.

It will occupy all one side and part of another in the Museum, and should be a very impressive piece of work when installed. And I know all you ex-riders of the olive groves, high passes and sparkling rivers will enjoy seeing it.

Editor.

The difference between learning to drive a car and learning to play golf is that when you learn to play golf you don't hit anything.

Monsoon is French for Mister.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

How does a President make a report when all the workings of this Association are done by either the Executive or by Committees therefrom. As I have always said this Association is not a one man show. I have been favoured by having a dedicated Executive who respond to their tasks and while, as President, I bask in the success that may be achieved, it is these other people that are deserving of the credit.

The Association builds a web of personal and social interest; these have been intrinsic to my life and hopefully I shall be around to serve in some capacity for the years ahead.

By those reports given or to be given, tonight, you will have been informed of our financial position, the status of the Groundsheet, the hopes and aspirations of the Museum, the trials and tribulations of the Secretary, the Cadets and the Royal Westminster Regiment. The activities of our youth and then the older veterans have each had their place; our entertainment and fellowship programs, while not elaborate are of the very roots from which we have our reason for existence.

My one question is, Are you a part of all this. I'm not just patting you on the back for being here but are you taking an active interest in what is being done then taking pride in what is accomplished in the name of this Association. Thank you to those who are present; the big riddle is where have we fallen down as we do not attract and retain all of those who could be associated with us. We have a lot to be proud of!! Thankful also, as we are still around to enjoy that fellowship and comradeship so necessary to us once, and now, in this day and age, an attribute that seems to be missing in a modern society.

So we had a fair run - where do we go from here? So far as I'm concerned

1. The Groundsheet is a must - this publication must be kept alive and interesting - it should reach our membership as often as possible, costs are rising but these should not discourage - how better to keep us all together. Continued publication requires contributions from everyone. A wise man once said that the greatest contribution to any publication is names and personal anecdotes - where does that put it - right - right on your shoulders.
2. The Youth Awards and Scholarships - its like paying rent for the privilege of being around - putting something back for what we have had - some of us have had it better than others.
3. The riddle of the future - where will our continuance emerge. Initially I subscribed to the idea that the existing Regiment would be our source. There are a few in the Regiment dedicated to this ideal but the Association is not, unfortunately generally accepted, for the ideals we seek to perpetuate. As a source of financial aid, yes, but not a something to really belong to. I could be persuaded that the fault is ours; what was literally taken for granted should have been sold, if that is the proper word, so that all ranks would have had a wish to belong. As it now stands, they belong, generally, as a matter of record. This area is a very fertile field for activity. Many of our best thinkers are directing their attention in this direction.
4. Our financial situation requires constant vigilance; we have, in the past, been both frugal and excessive; I would think a middle of the road approach is best. We are fortunate to have very competent advisors in this field, however their advise is not always heeded at the time of an emotional crisis. Of course the Annual Christmas Draw will continue to be our main activity for the raising of funds - please be realistic in believing that our Dues structure is a token only, under the present method of operation.

As I write this I'm off on a 14 day Cruise; an event that offered itself at the last minute and Nora and I took advantage of the situation. I am confident that I leave everything in capable hands, Basil Morgan will be equal to any situation; I feel like an absolute stinker leaving particularly after I have pressured every other person involved for reports etc; I do however trust you will forgive me, this once.

I have been with the Association since 1947 - what does that qualify one for, I enjoy the opportunity to participate and work with a fine bunch of fellows; that hard core group is still around and still doing a good job, in my book. It has been an extreme pleasure to be your President since the passing of Ron Mannering, I have done my best and will continue to do so, so long as you wish.

KING'S REGULATIONS: A young Lieutenant, promoted Captain, noticed the date of his promotion, as it appeared in the London Gazette, was April 1, 1041 instead of 1941.

Egged on by his friends in the Mess, he applied to the Paymaster for allowances dating back to 1041. Weeks later he received this reply:

"Your application.....has been found to be in order under King's Regulations, and your account accordingly has been credited with the sum of 39,999 Pounds.

Your letter proves conclusively that you are the sole surviving officer from the Battle of Hastings, where 20,000 horses, of an estimated value of 2 Pounds each, were lost by negligence.

Under King's Regulations the responsibility for payment of 40,000 Pounds therefor falls on you. I have accordingly adjusted your account to the extent of a net debit of 1 Pound."

A War Office official who told this story says there is a moral in it for every soldier-"You can't beat the book."

SECRETARY'S REPORT

I have no way of comparing our recent drive for dues for 1979 with previous efforts but I would have to say that it has been one of the best.

At the moment we have 305 paid up members, with more coming in each day. In addition we have received donations from members totalling over \$760.00.

One of the problems facing us at the moment is that we must now make up a new alphabetical nominal roll to include the postal code numbers. It is necessary to do this in order to maintain the lower postage rate for mailing the Groundsheet each issue.

Quite a number of copies of the Groundsheet are returned each issue so that in addition we have quite a few incorrect addresses. The drawing up of the new nominal roll entails not only correcting most of the plates but also making up one for the addressograph people and one for a permanent record in a dues Index book. This job is now well in hand and we are hoping it will be ready in time for the next mailing.

If you know of any members who are not receiving any mail from the Association please have them drop us a line at P.O. Box 854, New Westminster, B.C.

Norm McAskill
Secretary

Editors' note:

Give us the name, address and postal code number. Why not consider yourself as a membership committee of "one".

GROUND SHEET REPORT

Due to personal and health reasons, Alan Coe resigned as Editor in March 1978, and his resignation was regretfully accepted by the Executive, since he was a natural for the job because of ability and experience. The vacant editorial position was filled by Ed Shannon (whose only claim to editorial ability is a Grade 10 'A' in English and having written many letters home from overseas). However, thanks to valued advice and assistance from former editors and secretaries, the lifeline of the Association seems to be pursuing its normal course.

In '78 the Groundsheet was published four times. There was a considerable delay in time between the third and fourth issues, due to the normal July-August holiday and much serious discussion by the Executive concerning cost of production and various ways of reducing same without sacrificing the number of issues.

It was finally decided to retain Meek's Printing as printer using a form of photo-reproduction which was much less expensive, but which involved a bit more work on our part. For those who might be interested, this amounted to typing a master copy of the assembled material, having it processed by Meek's, then assembling 4200 sheets into 700 copies, folding them into a complete issue, addressing them, and folding once again for mailing. It sounds like a formidable task, and it would be for one person, but for four or five convivial people (who are readily available in this Association) it makes a pleasant three or four hour get-together. To those people who have given their time and assistance to the above task I would like to offer my heartiest thanks and commendations.

The new format has been accepted favorably by the members, in fact some have remarked quite positively that they prefer it as being more "Personal" than the former style. One subscriber objected to the black line borders of the pages, remarking that it resembled an obituary column. For the information of all, these lines are required as a guide during the photo-reproduction process, and are therefore necessary.

Changing to the new format has proven to be sound economically, with a production cost of \$242.00 for 700 copies, as compared to a cost of \$458.00 for the same number of copies of the old format. That is roughly a 50% reduction in production costs, which no doubt will be appreciated by the Budget Committee.

Ed Shannon
Editor

HOSPITAL REPORT FOR 1978
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Number of visits - 40

Total Expenses - \$99.83

Included in expenses were; gas, cigarettes, cookies, and Christmas gifts.

Also included are expenses for Executive Meetings; coffee, milk, sugar and cups.

W. G. Robson

THE MUSEUM'S ANNUAL REPORT

1978 was a most successful year for the museum. A total of 566 visitors signed the Visitors Book which represents only a fraction of the people who took the opportunity of seeing what we have on display. During the year a total of 1,697 artifacts were received, catalogued and annotated. We are still most anxious to receive articles, documents or photographs which depict in any way or which are significant to the history of the Regiment and the service of its members.

During the summer of 1978 we had the good fortune of receiving a grant from the Province of British Columbia under the Student Summer Employment Program which permitted us to hire a student to assist in the administration of the Museum. A serving member of the unit, Karen Addison, was employed for the second year in succession in this capacity and did a most admirable job in assisting our Curator, Doreen Cull, in the cataloguing and annotating of artifacts. Karen has now joined the Regular Force and we wish her all success in her new career.

Amongst the artifacts acquired during the year is a Lewis Gun and a Ross Rifle M-10, 280 cal which were obtained from the Canadian War Museum. In addition, we have obtained a WWI uniform which we hope to have on display soon. We would be most interested in obtaining the webbing for this uniform and should anyone be able to assist us in this regard we would be most grateful.

Dick Shannon has been instrumental in re-arranging our display cases and has done much to make them more interesting and attractive. We are very pleased that Dick was able to represent the Museum at the 1st Joint Conference of Canadian/U.S. Army Museums which was held at West Point, New York in August, 1978.

Tom Harris has completed his history of the 2nd Bn during the period of WWII in which he served as a platoon commander of the Recce Squadron. The story of the 2nd Bn was little known and we are most grateful to Tom for filling this gap in the History of the Regiment.

The diorama of a Motor Battalion in Review Order which will be installed in the Museum is fast approaching completion. This project has been the brain child of Vern Ardagh who has spent much time and effort on it. It will be a most interesting display and could become the focal point of the Museum.

Frieda Hogg has been most active in keeping the Museum before the eye of the public. As Publicity Chairman Frieda has implemented many new innovations which have done much in increasing public awareness in our existence. Frieda has designed a pamphlet which is in the process of being produced and which will be suitable for placement in tourist bureaus and other places of tourist interest.

Funding of the Museum is obtained from two primary sources; grants from the Association and from the Dept. of National Defence. Most of these funds are spent in the paying of the Curator's wages. Our total income for 1978 was not in excess of \$4,000.00. 1979 proposes to be a lean year as our DND grant has been cut as the result of the restraints being placed on Federal Government spending.

In closing, I wish to thank all members of the Museum for their unstinting service without which our Museum would not be the success it is. Members are reminded that the Museum is open Monday Wednesday and Friday of each week.

Open hours are:

Monday	9:00 - 12:00 a.m.	1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Wednesday		1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Friday		1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

M.H.H. Steede
Chairman

THE AWARDS COMMITTEE FOR 1978

I have the privilege of presenting the Annual Report of the Awards Committee for the year 1978.

The Awards Committee's function is to accept and adjudicate upon application for the Association Scholarships and judge the worthiness of nominations for the Association Achievement Awards. For the year 1978, the Awards Committee had funds available sufficient for two scholarships of \$250.00 each and two achievement awards of \$100.00 each.

The Scholarships are open to descendants of members of the Association or to serving members of the militia battalion. The applicants must be enrolled in or accepted for enrolment in an institution of post-secondary education. The achievement awards are intended to recognize individual young people or groups of young people who do some act of service or heroism which displays those qualities desirable in a good citizen.

The membership of the Awards Committee for 1978 was Walter Lyle (Chairman), Vernon Ardagh, D'Arcy Baldwin, Allan Coe, Les Deane, John Ford, Bert Hoskin, John Hou, Bas Morgan, Nelson Scott and Walt Tyler.

The Awards Committee met on September 24th at the home of Bert and Grace Hoskin to consider the awards. The Chairman reported that for 1978, only two applications for the Scholarships had been received and no nominations for achievement awards had been forthcoming.

In spite of the lack of applications, the committee set about to examine carefully the acceptability of the two applications. After due deliberation and having agreed that the two applicants met all requirements and were worthy, both of the applicants were awarded scholarships of \$250.00. The recipients were Miss Christine Lynne Rickards, a grand-daughter of Walter Jackson who served in the Westminster Regiment and Cpl. Patrick J. Spittel, a presently serving member of the Regiment.

Considerable time was spent discussing why there were so few applicants for the Association Scholarships. It was noted that the numbers of applicants had been growing fewer each year over the past five years. It was felt that perhaps in this time of inflation, a Scholarship of \$250.00 was too small to attract applicants. Consequently a motion was unanimously passed by the Awards Committee that for 1979 and subsequent years the Association award only one Scholarship of \$500.00 in place of the previous two of \$250.00 each.

The Chairman, Walter Lyle, who has carried the burden of this office for a number of years gave notice that he wished to retire from the Chairmanship of the Awards Committee. Walter's resignation was reluctantly accepted. I would like at this time, Mr. President, to commend to you and the members of the Association the fine job done by Walter Lyle over the years, both as Secretary and Chairman of the Awards Committee.

It has become only too painfully apparent, Mr. President, that the Scholarships we offer do not have an appeal to too many applicants. Whatever the reasons for this lack of applicants, perhaps the time has come to take a look at the worth of continuing these Scholarships.

At a time when the Association is considering how to best achieve its own continuation, perhaps thought could be given to applying this money to other areas of Association activity. The Groundsheet and the Museum are tangible evidences of the presence of the Association. The Groundsheet is the voice of the Association and the Museum the repository of its history.

In closing this report, I would ask that the Association Executive consider whether or not in light of my remarks above that they might not feel that these hard-earned dollars could be better spent on assisting the Museum or Groundsheet than in Scholarships and that instead of giving achievement awards for which we have had 'to beat the bushes' to find nominees, it might be more in line with the aims of this Association to give that money to support the Regiment's Cadet Corps.

L.K. Deane
Awards Chairman

COMMANDING OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT 1979

To present a concise picture of all facets of Regimental activities over the last twelve months would be a most difficult if not impossible undertaking. Instead I will only cover the most pertinent details and hope that by doing so I don't disappoint anyone.

Unlike our regular force counterparts, militia commanders are continually forced to devote much of their time, energy and resources toward the recruiting and retention of personnel. The concern with unit strength is not new to the Regiment and the problems confronting us today are probably not unlike those with which you were forced to deal.

In an attempt to appeal to a greater cross-section of the public it was decided last September to train every second Saturday and every Tuesday evening. This was a change as prior to September the unit trained every Saturday with the Tuesday evening set aside for administration. Comparing the strength returns for these two days we have noticed a significantly higher parade attendance on Tuesday evenings.

Our strength at present is as outlined below. As you peruse these figures keep in mind that these are personnel who sign pay sheets every month. This is the effective strength of the unit:

	<u>ON STRENGTH</u>	<u>(PENDING TOS)</u>
Officers	11	(6)
CWO	1	
MWO	2	
Sgts	6	
Rank & File	61	(16)
Band	21	(10)

Our training year was divided into two separate periods. From September to the end of January all ranks were either on course or instructing courses. In effect we were a training school for this time period. The period February to June was set aside for fieldcraft, weapon familiarization and tactical weekend exercises. This latter activity was geared largely to preparing for our annual summer concentration held each year at the end of June.

Eastercon and Milcon were the highlights of our training year and were well attended by all ranks. A significant amount of our field training stressed the fundamentals of a unit in defence. This was all in preparation for the Milcon 78, when Milarea Pacific adopted a defensive posture at Ft. Lewis and successfully resisted an onslaught by the dreaded "Fantasians". This coming year roles will be reversed as Milarea Pacific will regroup and launch a major offensive.

Upcoming activities for the unit include the following:

13 - 16 April	Eastercon
21 April	Annual Inspection
29 April	Regimental Christening
12 May	Military Ball
19 May	Regimental Assn Melfa Dinner
25 May	Annual Dinner - Officers' Mess
26 May	Hyack Parade
2 - 3 June	Blair Trophy Shooting Competition
16 June	Fund Raising Dance - Band Uniforms

If you have the time, come see us at any event that may interest you.

Where have we served? In addition to conducting LHQ trg, members of your Regiment served as follows:

<u>Loc/Trg</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATES</u>
WAINCON (Regular Force Concentration)	Pte Franks R. Cpl Garcia R.J. Cpl Goltz R.F. Cpl Hatton M. Cpl Lee M.E. Pte Milne R.T.	1 May - 24 May
Parachute Course	Cpl McCracken M.	16 Jun - 16 Jul
Alert (Ex Trelar)	Cpl McBride M. Pte Pattie R. Cpl Reimer G.J. Cpl Shaw W.A. Cpl Bates D.A.	31 May - 24 Aug
Flyover (Baden, Germany)	Cpl Goltz R.F. Cpl Lee M.E.	26 Jun - 15 Oct
Cyprus	Cpl Lee M.E.	1 Mar - Present

Not shown are members of the unit who qualified on trades courses nor those who were selected for OJT.

In the Fall of '78, five officers from our allied Regiment, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, were kind enough to pay us a visit. The members of the JRC did a magnificent job of entertaining these officers.

Cadets - In the last twelve months we have seen two new Cadet Corps CO's. Assuming command of 2316 Cadet Corps was Capt. R. Spier, and 1838 Cadet Corps command was assumed by Capt. F. Allcott.

In conclusion, may I say that the Regiment is doing well and it will continue to thrive with your help and encouragement.

LCol J.N. Gangur
Commanding Officer

December 5th, 1978

The Groundsheet:

I just received my November/December Groundsheet and felt I should let you know I like the new format. Although presently not active with the Regiment because of my Headquarters appointment, my strongest interests are with the "Westies" and I look forward to returning to the fold in an Associate stance soon. The Groundsheet helps me to keep in touch during this period.

Perhaps our members would be interested in a report on the Militia today. Our Regiment, as well as many other fine British Columbia Regiments, have had very distinguished war records. This outstanding service is an inspiration to those of us who are serving today. While we were not old enough to serve during the times of conflict, the Regimental Wartime traditions encourage the peacetime soldier to learn his skills well and be prepared to perform in a manner expected by our Regimental family in the event of a call.

Briefly the organization of the Militia in Canada is divided into five Areas. Ours is Militia Area Pacific which encompasses all the units in British Columbia. MAP HQ is at North Jericho in Vancouver. There are two District HQ, one looking after Vancouver Island units and the other the mainland units. The Area HQ reports directly to the Regular Army Headquarters which is at St. Hubert, Quebec.

The training cycle really hasn't changed much over the years. From September to June, the local Regimental HQ's conduct individual training progressing to unit collective training by Easter. Summer Camp for the entire Area, held at Fort Lewis for the past four summers, starts off with unit training and ends with a Brigade exercise. The camp is conducted by Area HQ.

The two summer months are again devoted to improving individual skills with the Area Rank and Trade Schools, the Student Summer program which covers GMT (the old basic training) and national promotional courses. Also there is a great deal of opportunity for employment for those who are capable of instructing or gaining experience at bases or units with on-job training.

In addition to this, the militia are able to serve overseas for periods from three to nine months with regular force units. We have sent complete infantry platoons and armour and engineer troops to Europe under command of their own officer and NCO's and individuals to Europe, Cypress and the Middle East. Approximately 10% of our Area Strength has taken part in this program.

Briefing teams from Regular Force units still visit local Armouries to update unit personnel on the most recent weapons and tactics and unit members take part in Regular Force exercises. All good training and its designed to prepare a militiaman to be a competent soldier. Their performance reports have been most gratifying.

Funding, equipment and clothing are in a much better supply than I can remember in the past 25 years and while we'll never have enough, it shows the growing reliance of the regulars on the reserves. Also it proves that the policy to reinforce the success of militia with funding and equipment is a valid one.

Our strength is also very high, in fact we are over our establishment in British Columbia. I believe this is because our training programs are good and interesting. You'll forgive my pride in our units if I point out to you that they have won almost every major trophy for efficiency in Canada the past two years.

Also, in the past two years the value of the Regimental system has been recognized again. Where we were all called members of the Canadian Armed Forces, we are now able to call ourselves, soldiers, sailors and airmen again. Regimental shoulder titles, buttons and collar badges are seen on our uniforms again. In my mind, one of the greatest steps forward was the announcement by the Minister of National Defence last January, that once again - instead of only individual augmentation by Militia units to the Regular Force - Militia Regiments will be raised again to go as complete units in the event of a mobilization.

I'm sure you can tell by now that I am enthusiastic about the militia, its roles and its personnel. If you could see the young men and women in the forces today as I have the opportunity to do, you would share my pride in them.... know they won't let you down....not worry as much about the youth of today. They are fine dedicated people who take their soldiering and their commitment to Canada seriously.

Keep up your good work and publication and I encourage every one to visit our Regiment and give them your moral support.

Yours Regimentally,

Herbert E. Hamm
Brigadier General
Commander
Militia Area Pacific

BOOTS – BOOTS – BOOTS –

What was the cause of the loud laughter that echoed through the Q. M. Stores one day this month?

Could this merriment been at the expense of a certain A Coy Officer who tried on a pair of size 13 boots which the Q.M. had given the unsuspecting officer as his staff tried to surpress their laughter. It is reported, unofficially, that the officer made the statement, after trying them on, that they were a little tight, but would probably loosen with wear.

“Not having a larger in stock, and Canada’s leather supply being definitely limited the Q.M. suggested that if they were too tight, the officer could wear the boxes they came in.”

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES

YEAR ENDING - 31st DECEMBER 1978

Receipts	\$ 7,118.48
From Trust	2,428.93
Expenditures	5,240.03
Previous Deficit	<u>2,188.07</u>
Reserve to 1979	\$ <u>2,119.31</u>

SURPLUS/RESERVE RECONCILLIATION

YEAR ENDING - 31s DECEMBER 1978

Deficit Forward 1 January 1978		(\$ 2,188.07)
Italian Diary - additional sales	\$ 17.50	
1977 Draw - carry over	237.00	
Inventory - profit	10.35	
Budget - savings	1,613.60	
From Trust	<u>2,428.93</u>	<u>4,307.38</u>
Reserve Established		\$ 2,119.31

1979 BUDGET COMMITTEE

John Rosso

Vern Ardaugh

Nelson Scott

Mike Steede

Jack Ford

Gerry Churley

Norm McAskill

Due to extra ordinary donations and under expenditures in 1978, we have a surplus of approximately \$1,373.00.

Owing to various other draws our own draw is down and our expenses are up. Less \$1,085.00 for 1979.

We have trimmed our 1979 Budget accordingly with your executives approval.

<u>1978 Budget</u>	<u>Actually Spent</u>	
Cadets	941	941
Poppy Fund	100	100
Awards	500	510
Museum	800	800
Melfa	200	359
Executive	150	-50 (profit)
Ann.Gen.Meeting	50	33
Smoker	150	5
Groundsheet	2100	1704
Administration	1650	927
Surplus Account	(-301)	---
	<hr/>	
	6340	5329
Under Budget	<hr/>	1011
	6340	6340

BUDGET COMMITTEE CON'T

<u>Estimated Income 1978</u>		<u>Actual Income</u>	
Draw	3915	3915	
Dues	1800	1267	
Coupons	675	626	
Donation	110	1054	
	<u>6500</u>	<u>6862</u>	
Over Estimate	362		362
	<u>6862</u>	<u>6862</u>	
1978 Surplus			<u>1373</u>

1979 Budget

Cadets	647
Poppy Fund	100
Awards	500
Museum	800
Melfa	300
Executive	94
Ann.Gen.Meet.	35
Smoker	100
Groundsheet	1280
Administration	1100
Add to Surplus	300
	<u>5256</u>
Total	5256

Estimated Income 1979

Draw	2830
Dues	1200
Coupons	626
Donations	600
	<u>5256</u>
Total	5256

BALANCE SHEET - 31st December 1978

ASSETS

Bank \$ 1,026.07

Petty Cash 100.00

Inventory 1,229.30

\$ 2,355.37

LIABILITIES

Hospital Trust \$ 90.00

Golf Trophy Trust 55.00

Hospital Sick & Visiting 86.06

Museum 5.00

Reserve 2,119.31

\$ 2,355.37

BANK RECONCILIATION - 31st December 1978

Current Account - as per statement \$ 459.06

Savings Account 867.01 \$ 1,326.07

Outstanding Cheques #08 \$ 40.00

#18 250.00

#24 10.00

300.00

Bank as per Ledger \$ 1,026.07

INVENTORY - 31st December 1978

Tables & Chairs at Cost \$ 1,168.00

War Diaries (5 @ \$5.00) 25.00

Lapel Badge Gold (1 @ \$6.30) 6.30

Crests (6 @\$5.00) 30.00

Total Inventory \$ 1,229.30

AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

A Committee formed of the following was appointed to audit the books of (1) The Royal Westminster Regiment Association and (2) The Draw Committee of The Royal Westminster Regiment.

B. Morgan

V. Ardagh

K. Greenizan

Both accounts were found to be true and accurate records of business transacted through 1978.

B.V. Morgan
Chairman

BAND UNIFORMS * FUND RAISING

PROBLEM * BACKGROUND:

Recently the strength of our Regimental Band has increased by fifty percent. We do not have uniforms to outfit these new members and the existing band uniforms are in extremely poor condition. As the Regiment is totally without the financial resources to resolve this problem I have decided to acquaint all members of the Association with my dilemma.

As most of you are aware, the dress uniform of the Regimental Band is scarlet tunic, dress blue trousers and pith helmet. While a small allowance is provided for the maintenance of existing Band uniforms, it is wholly inadequate to meet the ever increasing cost of repairs. With the present level of funds received from the Government the purchase of new uniforms for the Band is simply beyond our reach.

Given the circumstances outlined above the unit must decide whether to upgrade the existing uniforms and purchase new ones, or incorporate the issued CF green uniform as the official dress uniform of the Band. It is my belief that members of the Regiment(that's you!) would prefer to retain the scarlet uniform as the official dress uniform for the Regimental Band.

The Director of Music informs me that a bandman's uniform complete would cost \$300.00 approximately. We need ten to twelve such uniforms, and repairs must be made to numerous others.

PROPOSED SOLUTION:

On the 16th. of June, /79, at 8:00 pm., it is proposed to hold a fund raising dance at the Armoury. Admission charge will be \$10.00 per couple and a light buffet will be served. I therefor request your support in this endeavor either by attending this social evening or making a small donation to the Regiment.

Lieut.Col. J.N. Gangur
Commanding Officer

MEMORABILIA * REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

FROM THE PAST:

Gracie Fields "Sweetheart of the Fighting Forces"

It was recently announced that a royal honor was bestowed on singer Gracie Fields, 81 years of age, and now Dame Commander of the British Empire. She was invested by Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, at a ceremony in Buckingham Palace in February of this year.

In my 1939 scrapbook of war memories, I have the announcement of the Lancashire Lass' singing tour to Vancouver and Saskatoon in August, 1940. She will be remembered by many for her concert at Dundurn Camp on Aug. 15, 1940, where she entertained the troops with her marvelous repertoire of songs. That same evening she thrilled a packed arena in Saskatoon, moving the crowds to laughter and tears by such songs as "There'll Always Be An England", "We'll 'ang old 'Itler from the 'ighest Branch of the Biggest Aspidestra in the World", "Wish Me Luck As You Wave Me Goodbye", and "Land of Hope and Glory".

A great honor to be paid to a great lady who did so much for the morale of the Empire in time of war.

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY to the Sergeant's Mess (later, Women's Auxiliary to the Westminster Regiment (M) A.F. 1940 - 45)

I was once more reading through the minute book of the Women's Auxiliary, noting all the activities in which we were involved, and selected more names at random. Do you remember Mrs. H. Excel, Mrs. E. Delamont, Mrs. H. Cook, Mrs. E.B. Welsford, Mrs. R.J. Douglas, Mrs. F. Cummins, Mrs. Rennie, Mrs. Hawkes, Mrs. Pearce, Mrs. Nora Burrows, Mrs. Gracey, Mrs. Keats, Mrs. Stobbart, Mrs. Houston, Mrs. Hambly, Mrs. Grinstead, Mrs. O.S. Grey, Mrs. M. Hume, Mrs. Kirby, Mrs. Noble, Mrs. A. Wray, Mrs. N. Theobald. I will be searching for additional names for next issue.

AND THE PRESENT:

Donation of artifacts

Of considerable interest:

- The mounted Melfa rock, with Regimental crest, from the 1968 pilgrimage to Italy.
- Grapeshot canister projectile, used by the 64 pounder muzzle-loading cannon located outside the Armoury on Queen's Avenue.
- The British Columbian newspaper headlined "War in Europe Ends - Nazis Quit".
- War diary of Pte. G.A. Neve. Mr. Neve, born in 1874 in Woodgreen, England, outlines his war experiences and impressions of war commencing with his enlistment in the B.C. Horse at Enderby in August, 1914. He was also with the 47th. Battalion at Vernon, and saw service in the South African war. He was partially buried by a shell on November 5, 1916. He mentions his brother, Basil H. Neve, and his father, Julius Robert Neve. This is an astounding diary to be written during war service.

Queen Elizabeth II Army Memorial Museum, Waiouru, N.Z.

Memorandum received from N.A. Buckingham, Director of Ceremonial, Chairman Canadian Forces Museum Committee, for the Chief of the Defence Staff, advising of the recent visit by Br. Gen. R.G. Therriault, of CDLS Washington, to the Queen Elizabeth II Army Memorial Museum in New Zealand. BGen. Therriault noted the occasions when Canadian and New Zealand army personnel either fought or served together (both PPCLI and Westminster Regiment were involved with units of 2nd. New Zealand Division in Italy Sept, Oct 1944).

He goes on to indicate that as some 200,000 visitors will visit this museum annually, a "modest Canadian presence would serve to familiarize a large number of New Zealanders with Canada's imposing contributions over the years to the cause of peace....."

Museum chairman Mike Steede will be taking the appropriate action to renew these former historical ties.

Silver Trophies

The trophy Cup, inscribed "23rd. Inf. Brigade Musketry Cup; 6 Best Tyros. Each Unit. Presented by B.H.W. Cornwall": has been recently re-silvered, courtesy of

Nelson Scott, Association president. Many of these fine trophies are in need of repair, and we wonder if the men who worked with such diligence to earn these mementos would contact Dick Shannon at the Museum, and offer some help - either "manual" or financial, so that the trophies may be restored as nearly as possible to their original condition.

The next trophy to be reconditioned is engraved:
Birk's Trophy
Presented by Henry Birks and Sons Ltd.
Grand Aggregate
Inter Company Sports
47th. Batt., C.E.F. 1915

The Museum would appreciate your interest with this re-silvering program.

LCol. M.M. Steede CD

In addition to doing an excellent job as Chairman of the Museum committee, Mike is Area Musketry Officer and Senior Cadet Liaison Officer on the Headquarters Militia Area Pacific. Also, as an aide to His Honor Lieut. Governor Henry Bell-Irving, Mike and his wife, Camille, attended the annual State Ball in the drawing-room of Govt. House, Victoria, on March 23rd.

In "private life" Mike is Property Manager for Teachers' Investment and Property Co-operative.

A REMINDER of the Regular Open Hours of the Museum:

Mondays	9 am. to 12 Noon and	1 pm. to 3 pm.
Wednesdays		1 pm. to 3 pm.
Fridays		1 pm. to 3 pm.

Immediately following the "Melfa week-end", the Hyack Festival will be celebrated in New Westminster. The Royal City Society will be giving the Museum favorable publicity in their brochure indicating our Museum regular open hours, and in addition, open hours on Sat. May 26th from 9 am. to 5 pm.

until next issue,

Freda Hogg
P.R., Museum Committee

A certain sportsman was playing over a golf course in Scotland, and playing very badly. "Dear, dear!" he remarked at last, "there canna be worse players than myself!" "Weel, weel, maybe there are worse players," commented the caddy consolingly, "but they dinna play."

Golfer: "Notice any improvement since last year?"
Caddy: "Had your clubs shined up, haven't you, sir?"

And then there was the condemned golfer who asked the hangman, "Mind if I take a couple of practise swings?"

CONTINUED (excerpt from war Diary)

April 15: Didn't leave Casalvecchio until yesterday morning. We finally got away in a "B" Company 60 cwt. that had been into the workshop for repairs. Travelled all day, with a brief stop at noon for 'bully' and bread, and finally located our "B" echelon about 1930 hrs. The regiment is in the lines a few miles from Cassino, in pretty mountainous country. Same old stand-to, patrol and artillery type of warfare. Poor old 'One' platoon took a beating again on the 13th, when four men in an outpost got a direct hit from either mortar or artillery. All dead, good old Freddy Hansen and Brisbin among them. Freddy was one of the three survivors of the patrol that Alec was killed on, but apparently his luck didn't hold. Good lad he was, and a first-class signal man who'll be hard to replace. Seems like every time I leave the Company for a spell some of the boys get it. Coincidence, I suppose..... The L.O.B. are in a pretty decent spot this time, in a big grove not far from the banks of the Volturno. The ground is dry and the weather remains nice, so life isn't too bad..... Country around here quite reminiscent of B.C. A mountain about a mile to our N.W. bears a close resemblance to the old Sumas Mt. May go for a ramble up it tomorrow, for some of the boys were up there today and they say there's been quite a little battle on its summit with a lot of weapons etc. left lying around. The exercise wouldn't hurt me any either.

TO BE CONTINUED

DEFINITIONS: By B.C. Neville

A SGT. MAJOR consists of a crown, a frown, and loads of Authority.

A QUARTERMASTER SGT. is in charge of everything and generous with nothing except under duress.

A SERGEANT is a vertebrae in the backbone of the Army.

A CORPORAL is an accident which has happened in the Regt.

A LANCE CORPORAL is an accident hoping to be allowed to happen in any Regt.

A COLONEL is a rarity about whom the privates are publicly discrete.

C.B. The natural consequence of staring across a desk at the company commander, from the midst of an escort and a Sgt/Maj.

DEFAULTERS a tune with much the same implication as the dead march from Saul, but to be responded to with much greater Rapidity.

RUMOUR The exaggerated enlargement of ephemeral and indefinite misinformation.

Mr. O'Connor, G.E. ex 47th is compiling a History of the Famous 47th.

NEW EXECUTIVE (1979)

of

THE ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENTAL ASSN.

Elected by Acclamation at Annual General Meeting.

President : Nelson Scott

Vice-Pres.: Basil Morgan

Secretary : Norm McAskill

Treasurer : Gerry Churley

Members : W. Lyle

S. Moorhouse

C. Morrison

W. Robson

E. Shannon

D. Glenn

W. Jackson

S. Pickell