

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

Canada Post / Postes Canada
Postage paid / Payé
Third Class / Troisième Classe
188
NEW WESTMINSTER B.C.

D. W. GLENN,
6666 WALKER AVE.,
BURNABY, B. C. V5E 3B9

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

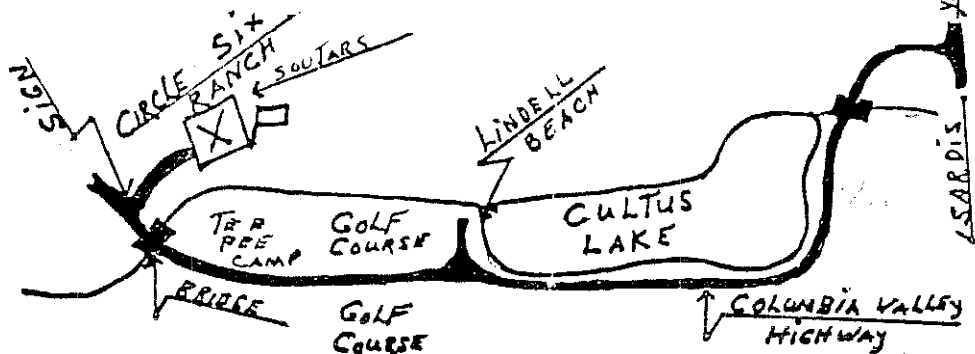
Vol. 28, No. 3

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

JUNE - JULY 1979

NELSON SCOTT, PRESIDENT - 335 Churchill Ave, New Westminster, B.C. V3L 4P5
ED SHANNON, EDITOR - 20250 - 43 A Ave., Langley, B.C. V3A 5L8
NORM McASKILL, SECRETARY - 7828 Canada Way, Burnaby, B.C. V2L 3K9

Location of Branch No. 3 Picnic
("D" Coy) August 5, 1979



2
BRANCH #3 - ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION ANNUAL PICNIC

DATE: Sunday, August 5th, 1979
TIME: Beginning at 13:00 hours (1:00 p.m.)
PLACE: To Be held at the home of Sam & Marion Soutar
1715 Columbia Valley Highway,
Lindell Beach, B.C.

Bring your own picknic lunch - coffee, tea, cream and sugar will be provided.

Flag ceremony at 5:00 p.m.

See map (page 1) showing location of the Soutar home.

Forty years ago, the boys of "D" coy. responded to the call of duty, dug trenches in the Chilliwack fair grounds, shined w.w.1 brass, and under Major Pirrie's watchful eye, progressed towards becoming efficient soldiers.

Lets make this 40th year reunion one to be enjoyed and remembered. See you there

Leo Wright
President Branch #3

18

WHAT THE OLD - TIMERS SURVIVED

I have just completed reading "In Flanders Fields" by the distinguished military historian Leon Wolff, and it really makes one wonder how any of the combat troops managed to survive at all. We thought we had an idea what "mud" was in Italy in the last war, but there is simply no comparison with the conditions soldiers had to endure in Flanders during WW I. It is almost impossible to imagine how they even existed, let alone transported the ammunition and supplies needed by such huge numbers of men. Imagine 60,000 men (the Canadian Corps, Oct. 22, 1917, preparing to attack Passchendaele) grouped on a mile front. They gained 500 yds., at a cost of roughly one-third casualties. Between July and December (the Flanders campaign and Cambrai) the British Army casualties were 448,614. That's a lot of men, for a total gain of about 1 1/2 miles in five months. When you think of it, it's amazing how many lived through it and returned to the hum-drum of making a living during peace-time. And some of them are still going strong (1979). A hardy lot.

Editor.

6

Bertrand Russell is reported to have said "The most savage controversies are about matters as to which there is no good evidence either way".

For two months your Executive has struggled with a proposal put forward by Walter Lyle that certain economies should be practiced and heading the list was the thought that there are many people on our mailing list who have no interest in (a) The Groundsheet or (b) The Association. Why, therefore, do we continue to send them the paper which costs in the area of 40 cents to produce and mail. A motion is in the minutes that action is to be taken; somebody has to look at the nominal roll and decide who is to be deleted - the motion carried by a slim 4 to 3 vote with two members abstaining.

How does one determine who wants the Groundsheet? If you don't want it you won't even be reading this issue as it will have been consigned to the "GARBAGE" on receipt and those of you who do write us, from time to time, always indicate that the paper is read and enjoyed.

In other words there is 'no good evidence either way'.

7

The Terms Of The Motion:

"IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED THAT OUR CURRENT LIST OF NAMES
WOULD BE PERUSED TO DETERMINE WHO STILL WISHED TO RECEIVE
IT. AN ITEM WILL BE PLACED IN THE GROUNDSHEET ASKING THE
MEMBERS TO INFORM US IF THEY WISH TO CONTINUE"

The rolls have been reviewed, revised and renewed.

So now you know who's court the ball is in; YOURS!! Take up
your pen or other form of writing stick to simply indicate
YES or NO.

Nelson Scott

LEST WE FORGET

Gene Palmer, W.W. 2
Mission, B.C.

Jim Wilson, W.W. 2
Vancouver, B.C.

8

be one with the kiwi, anyway, should we add entertainment to the Smoker, make it a 'Klondike Night', or something similar? Let's have your ideas on the matter.

The flow of correspondence has been very light the last two months, which is not unusual considering the time of the year. Scotty (our President) got a nice card from Ethel Johnstone in early May enclosing a cheque for the "Diarama", for which our collective hearty thanks, Ethel, and we hope you'll get to see it when completed. She also remarked how she enjoyed the Groundsheet and all the articles in it (how about that!!) A note from Mrs. J. Duhig advising us of a change of address, complete with code. We appreciate this bit of thoughtfulness, for it simplifies keeping our mailing list up to date.

..... A long letter from Doug Morgan, 4314 196th St., Langley B.C. V3A 1A2, the kind we like to get. He remarks about how much he enjoyed the Melfa Dinner and meeting old friends, but was disappointed that more of the members didn't show up. To quote him "it would be a terrible thing if these annual gatherings became a thing of the past", through lack of interest in the members. Very true. His wife Eileen thoroughly enjoyed the ladies' dinner at Col. and

9
ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DRAW

A WARNING ORDER - STAND BY

As the man said, it's an annual event; all of the formalities of application have been approved, the Licence is in our hands so all signals are "G O".

Tickets will be in your hands around mid September, so make your plan to get them to your friends immediately and before you know it, your personal participation will be a thing of the past.

We not only look forward to but we must have, a banner year in 1979.

Life's Like That

I questioned a 91 year old friend as to why he had chosen to retire to our small town of 5000 instead of to the city, where there would be more to do and see. His reply:

"If I were to drop dead one day on a city street, everybody would just step over me and go about their business. If I were to drop dead here, everyone would step over me and go about their business - but they'd say, "There's old Tom Clark."

Knowing her husband's habit of sampling everything she baked, a woman left a note on a dozen tarts reading; COUNTED - ONE DOZEN. When she returned, two tarts had disappeared and the note altered to read "THINK METRIC".

CONTINUED: (WAR DIARY)

May 20th: Sure getting behind with this thing. It seems to be on a par with the rest of my correspondence. Climbed the mountain above Venafro and it was a pretty stiff go. Been a battle on its summit and the paraphernalia of war was still in evidence. There were eight or ten dead jerries further along the crest, but we didn't get that far..... Had a few trips in a 15 cwt. up to mulehead with rations, which were interesting, in their own way. The last nine miles of twisting mountain trail had to be driven after dark, with a complete blackout. Some thrill, wondering if your wheels were on the road or about to take off over a five hundred foot drop. Part of the road was under enemy shell-fire, though he never happened to be shooting while I was passing. From this stretch, at night, you could see our own shells bursting near Cassino and on the heights around it..... The unit came out of the line on the 3rd and the next day we broke camp and moved above Capua to the neighbourhood of Pignano. Here we were issued summer kit and started the anti-malarial rignerole. Nets, sprays, bottles of anti-mosquito liquid and the good old mipacrine once a day. We stayed there until the 17th and it was quite a pleasant interlude. Soft ball, picture shows, sunbaths, a few route-marches, on the whole not bad. Had a trip one night down to Caserta, to the 19th General Hospital to see some of our boys. A nice layout, and some lovely Canadian nurses flitting about. They made these Wop damsels look pretty scruffy by comparison. There were some pretty sad looking cases in there too. Young lads, maimed and

Continued

Continued

crippled with hopeless expressions. Made a fellow appreciate the fact that he was still all in one piece. On the 11th the Italian front came to life, and the assault on the Gustav line commenced with a tremendous artillery barrage. The sky to the N.W. of us was one constant flicker of gun-flashes and a steady rumble. On the 17th we stripped for action and prepared to move. At midnight we rolled out and left at daybreak. We proceeded to an advance concentration area, stayed there for the 18th, and at 0100 hrs. on the 19th moved on again, in complete darkness. Very tricky driving in spots. This time we are moving in as a motor battalion, for the first time. We stopped on a ridge from which Jerry had only been gone a week or so, and there was plenty of evidence of his hurried departure. Much discarded equipment and ammo. Alas a network of very elaborate dug-outs. The boys had a field day picking up odd pieces of German equipment and during the process three dead Jerries and a Hindu were found. My first sight of dead men, and it wasn't exactly appealing. We are still on this ridge, on two hours' notice to move. Once the No.6 highway to Rome has been cut by our troops, then the famous 5th A.B. goes in and the next stop, Rome! Or so we hope.

Doc and Jack were great friends, but they argued over every step of a golf course. One day they decided to avoid argument by not speaking. All went smoothly until the 15th green. Doc, a little ahead, walked up to the ball on the edge of the green and stood there. Jack waded into the sand trap to play out. He took a swing, then another and another. At last, he topped the ball out of the trap and across the green into another trap. Then he hit the ball back into the first trap. Grimly, he got into the trap and prepared to play.

Doc broke the silence. "Do you mind if I say a word?" he asked.

"Well," snarled Jack, "what is it?"

"You're playing my ball."

OUR COUNTRY

Breathes there a man, with soul so dead
 Who never to himself hath said:
 "This is my own, my native land!"
 Whose heart hath ne'er within him burned
 As home his footsteps he has turned
 From wandering on a foreign strand?
 If such there be - go, mark him well;
 For him no minstrel raptures swell.
 High though his titles, proud his name,
 Boundless his wealth as wish could claim;
 Despite his titles, power, and pelf
 The wretch, concentr'd all in self,
 He doubly dying shall go down
 To the vile earth from whence he sprung.
 Unwept, unhonored, and unsung.

This Canada of ours is a wide , beautiful and productive country, favored among nations, and if one were to ask all the ordinary citizens individually a large majority of them would be in favor of keepi g it that way. Not as a federation of ten little kingdoms, but one country, whole and indivisable, with the resources to be shared among all the people. A overent by any group to seperate and make independent any portion of the country has only one name; treason, and should be treated as such. Though one doesn't hear the expressions "loyalty" and "patriotism" much any more, what they stand for runs strongly beneath the surface. Lets have one country: Canada. One nationality: Canadian.

"NOTHING WOULD BE DONE AT ALL IF MAN WAITED TILL HE COULD DO IT SO WELL THAT NO ONE COULD FIND FAULT WITH IT. "

Your Association has been in existence for 33 years. INCREDIBLE! Why it seems only yesterday that planning was being done - some successes were being applauded and the future was a challenge. There was a grandiose portrait? It may be that the Association has not measured up as everyone thinks we should have but we have come a long way and the machinery is here and in motion for its continuance and growth. The task of the Executive will be easier our goals more achievable if we all work together in a few purposeful ways. If the foregoing is to have any significance each of us must become more active.

LITTLE YOKE:

The Good News: a university survey indicates that college girls find middle-aged men most attractive. The Bad News: they regard middle age as 32.

PRESIDENTS' FUND

174

Webster will have to rewrite his dictionary as there are insufficient adjectives to describe the first response to the Presidents' Fund to offset the added expense involved in the construction of the Diarama. The funds received are well in excess of Five Hundred Dollars with every mail bringing more contributions. Thanks sincerely.

An interesting aspect of the donations is not just the amounts received but the reasons for giving. The ladies who attended Mr. Eakins dinner on Melfa Night are amongst our donors; a family that attended the Regimental Christening and tea said a special thank you with a very sizeable cheque. Members and friends from all over are involved. Receipts for funds received have gone out or are in the process; the receipt comes from the Museum in order to take advantage of the tax deduction thereby provided and as the turn over of funds is on a periodic basis, receipts, together with my personal letter of thanks may take a little time.

You have my personal assurance that all monies received will be directed solely to the Diarama project.

While on this subject, Vern Ardagh has run into some difficulty

in respect to construction. As the project is in the Armouries, military approval of all plans, lighting etc. must be approved by the Engineers. There is some problem with the lighting which is in the process of being revised to official requirements, something that could be expected but the "GO" sign should flash again very shortly.

HONOR GUARD

When our daughter moved into her first apartment, my husband was quite worried about her living alone. As a result, my husband and I took her out to dinner three times a week to make sure that she was all right. Each time, as we dropped her at her apartment, my husband would say, "Now be good."

Finally one evening, our daughter lost her patience. "You're here practically every night," she said. "When do I have a chance to be bad?"

Tongue Twists

The Japanese are usually surprised to find a foreigner who speaks their language well. The story is told of an American, married to a Japanese girl, who had lived in Kyoto for 20 years and spoke Japanese fluently. In Tokyo, he asked a policeman for directions. "I am so sorry, but I do not speak English," said the officer.

"I know that you do not speak English," the American replied, "but if you listen carefully, you will hear that I am speaking Japanese."

The policeman, startled, said, "Oh, so you are!" and proceeded to give him the directions.

16

Attention First World War Veterans i.e. 47th Bn; 104th Bn.
and or 131st Bn. Something that should have been done many years
ago - it was started but was never finished. We would like to know
what units you served in during the 1914 - 1918 show.

Please contact Fred Bass, #2 - 6609 Fraser St., Vancouver, B.C.
V5X 3T8 or write to the Editor - Groundsheet, P.O. Box 854, New
Westminster, B.C. V3L 4Z8.

Fred Bass is a member of the Executive of this Association;
he specifically represents the 47th Bn.; he would like to contact
all First War members. He has continuously asked for a nominal
roll of all of you which we cannot supply - please act now!!

Norm McAskill
Secretary

STIFF UPPER LIP

There comes a time in every boy's life when the conflict between
childish and manly characteristics unexpectedly surfaces. The other
day, while I was in the kitchen, I heard a loud pop from the next room,
followed by an exasperated bellow from my son, Keith. After a moment
of silence, his new baritone voice called out, "MOM, How do you get
bubble gum out of a mustache?"

IS THIS WHY THEY SAY AN ARMY

TRAVELS ON ITS STOMACH?

Tea contains tannic acid; milk contains albumen. As these substances are the chief ingredients of leather, and as they actually unite and form leather when brought into contact with each other, a regular tea-drinker imbibes during a year enough leather to make a pair of boots.

RORO: Nice burro you have here.

JEGO: That's "burrow"- don't you know an ass from a hole in the ground?

Boner: When several buisnesses merge it is called a concubine.

To be objective about sex requires a mature and experienced viewpoint. Unfortunately, by the time you achieve this, you generally don't give a damn.

18

Those who participate in the annual "Melfa Divotions" will have a new trophy to reward certain skills demonstrated on the day set aside for the special event, commencing in 1980.

Thanks to the Band, The Royal Westminster Regiment a special trophy has been made available; a trophy which is to the memory of Edgar Hamm, a man who, for many years was synonymous to the music of the Regiment. It is fitting that the token to his memory is to be awarded within the friendly spirit and good fellowship that permeates this annual gathering on a golf course. He was always amongst friends with his music, so will his memory be amongst friends.

The thanks of all members of this Association goes to the Band. It has been left to Cpl. Hughes of the Band and Ian "Mr. Golf" Douglas to work out the suitable placement of this trophy in the growing list that are available for Melfa Golf.

A sincere thanks to the Band from all of us.

When Walt Tyler presented it to the Museum meeting he said someone had found it in their basement; it was broken, out of shape and one could hardly read the inscription thereon. It was truly only

a relic of its former greatness, but close scrutiny revealed that it was the W.W. Foster Cup. Immediately it was fondled by loving hands and memories of its historical past flowed. The cup bears no date, but there were those present who fired the Vickers in competition in or around 1932 and won the Cup in the name of the Regiment. Pictures of that era have been promised. Names from the past; Fred Shawcross, Frankie Birchfield, Hillier, Cookie, Walt Hogg, Lindsay Walsh, Nelson Scott, oh so many have been forgotten, but in time all will be recorded as facts and dates are given by everyone who has any recollection of this historical cup.

As for the Cup itself, it will be restored to its former grandeur or as close as possible, repairs and reshaping are under way with resilvering next. What will complete the total restoration is its history; the costs of the physical restoration are taken care of but the trophy cannot talk, so if you do have any memories or knowledge of this trophy, please put them on paper and mail them in. Another link to the past has been forged.

.....

The life of men seems to consist of leaving the country in order to earn enough in the city to recover their health in the country.

20

THE HISTORY OF THE REGIMENT

Vernon Ardagh reports that all financial incumberances attached to the "HISTORY" have been met, therefore it was with considerable pleasure that he turned the remaining inventory over to the Association.

If you want a History now is the time to get one; the price remains at Five Dollars plus postage, if you are out of town; they can be picked up at the Museum during visiting hours. The coupon below is for your convenience - don't wish you had your copy a year from now as there may not be any available.

O R D E R F O R M - REGIMENTAL HISTORY

Please mail a copy of the History of The Westminster Regiment to;

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

ZIP CODE: _____

Enclosed herewith is Five Dollars (\$5.00) plus One Dollar (\$1.00) for mailing.

Signature _____

Money, money, money....

- A budget is a financial schedule adopted to prevent part of the month being left at the end of your money.
 - Saving money is still a pretty good idea. Who knows – it may be valuable again some day.
 - Living on a budget is the same as living beyond your means except that you have a record of it.
 - The mint makes it first, and it's up to us to make it last.
 - When your outgo exceeds your income, your upkeep is your downfall.
- (from Royal Bank "Money Matters")

The human brain is a wondrous organ that starts working the moment you're born and never stops until you stand up to speak in public.

Voice of experience

"Dad," the young drama student bragged, "I've got my first part in a play. I'm a man who's been married 20 years."

"That's fine," replied his dad. "Maybe next time you'll get a speaking part."

—Westlanders
SOUTH DUBBO, N.S.W., AUSTRALIA

Sheep vs. sleep

Restless mortals seeking slumber
Think of sheep, in countless number,
Slowly jumping over stiles
In long, unbroken, endless files.

I wonder whether wakeful sheep,
Who fear to lose their beauty sleep,
Think of files of human harriers
Leaping over endless barriers.

—H. C. Hardwick
OAKVILLE, ONT., CANADA

Quotations from Will Rogers:

Rumour travels faster, but it don't stay put as long as truth.

It's not what you pay a man but what he costs you that counts.

People's minds are changed through observation and not through argument.

Hot and cold

A teacher was explaining how heat makes things expand and cold makes them contract.

"Give me an example, Nancy," he said.

"Sir, in summer the days are long, and in winter they are short."

—V. Anand
MADRAS, INDIA

.
Tomorrow: one of the greatest labour-saving inventions of all time.
.

~~21~~ 22

MELFA DIVOTIONS REPORT

Courtesy Ian Douglas - Chairman

30 entries shared the most handsome prize list we ever had.

Special thanks due prize donors:

Walter Hogg Jr. - Production Manager & Brew Master, Molson's Van.

Stan Moorhouse - Friends at Labatt's, New West. some special items.

From Roberge through Ted Hammersley another beautiful supply of prizes.

The Melfa Trophy was won by Ross Douglas - A Coy. with a low net score of 67.

The Marshall Trophy was won again by George McGregor with a low gross of 68.

In memory of Ron Mannering who did so much for this tournament - The Presidents Award - a Golf Cap - was won by Gerry Treen - the entrant who travelled farthest to join the tournament.

MELFA DINNER 1979

How does one measure success? It was a successful night if 130 people attending is the criteria. The meal, which was catered was of good quality and quantity, except for the apple pie, which as one critic remarked "god awful". The atmosphere was friendly - a good mix of the young and the old, the young fellows of the Regiment deported themselves very well sans the whooping and frivolity of the boisterous kind that marked some of our last gathering.

Your Chairman was having fits as the starting time approached - where was everybody - only 10 or 12 present as the hour of starting approached. The parade to the Cenotaph delayed 15 minutes, then 30 and finally 45 minutes late the show got underway. A nice service concise and to the point. Ian Douglas laid a wreath - Basil Morgan was on the review stand as we marched past in column of route. Nobody accepted the challenge that Sixth Street presented and we broke off to make our own way up the hill.

Fellowship was the key word during the Social hours preceeding dinner; the Regimental Band played in the background; sometimes their enthusiasm for music defeated the conversation and some remarked that the difficulties of playing softly on band instruments

have yet to be overcome .

The plan was to mix up the seating arrangements - at the last minute the microphone went dead so this did not come about, but at least the pattern was.

Speeches were short - the address by Herb Hamm in response to the Toast to the Melfa was well received - in fact his every word was heard not only because of his manner of speaking but his subject had been well researched and prepared.

Recognition was given to old friends and names like L.S.H. Irish Seaforth became common place.

Financially the evening did not do too well, the numbers attending did not come up to expectations; some comment on this appears elsewhere in this issue as more effort is extended in trying to deduce why old comrades do not turn out. You may have some idea on this matter!! Another factor - for future consideration, the profit from the bar was below estimate as care is exercised in the amount of bubbly consumed.

The ladies 'floated in' about 10:30 from their special dinner at Mrs. Eakins, to round out the evening. What started slowly proved to

MAIL BAG - con't from page

27

..... Maurice Klinkhamer - having spent 17¢ on a letter and a full sheet of paper you might have at least put down something beside the code reference i.e. the weather - your health or go kiss the cat. I would call yours terse criticism.

..... Correspondence from J.R. Hammond; he now resides at P.O. Box 428, Tahsis, B.C. V0P 1X0; yes we like to get letters but not his kind. He has been trying since December to get somebody off their duff to get a Coat of Arms Plaque. It was for Christmas (1978). The Association passed the matter to the Regiment as they are responsible for distribution - Nuff sed - even after four letters, each of which has followed the same route.

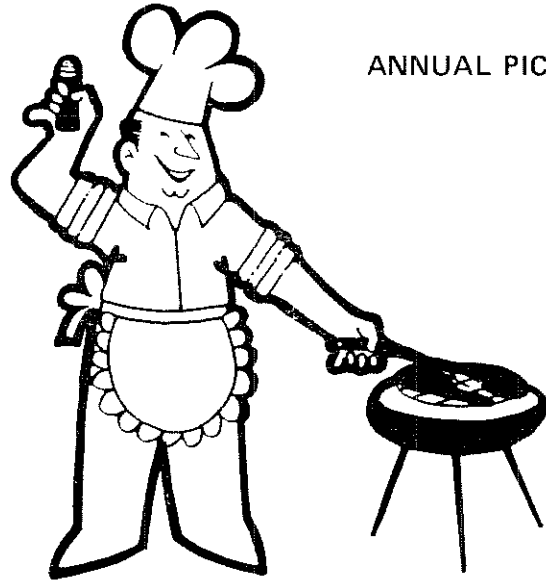
As you will have noticed on Page 2, the next get-together is the Branch #3 picnic at Sam Soutar's lovely ranch at Cultus Lake. Believe me, it's worth the effort of attending just to see that place. Besides that, it's a most relaxed, enjoyable afternoon and you'll probably see people you haven't seen for years and Sam and Marion are the most marvellous hosts.

Until the next time, then, have a most enjoyable summer and remember the Energy Crisis! Coast on all the hills. Arrividerci!

Editor

28

BRANCH No. 3 - ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION



ANNUAL PICNIC

DATE: Sunday, August 5th, 1979

TIME: Beginning at 13:00 hours (1:00 p.m.)

PLACE: To be held at the home of Sam & Marion Soutar
1715 Columbia Valley Highway
Lindell Beach, B.C.