

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



E.G. Shannon  
2025 - 43A Avenue  
Langley, B.C. V3A 5L8

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*

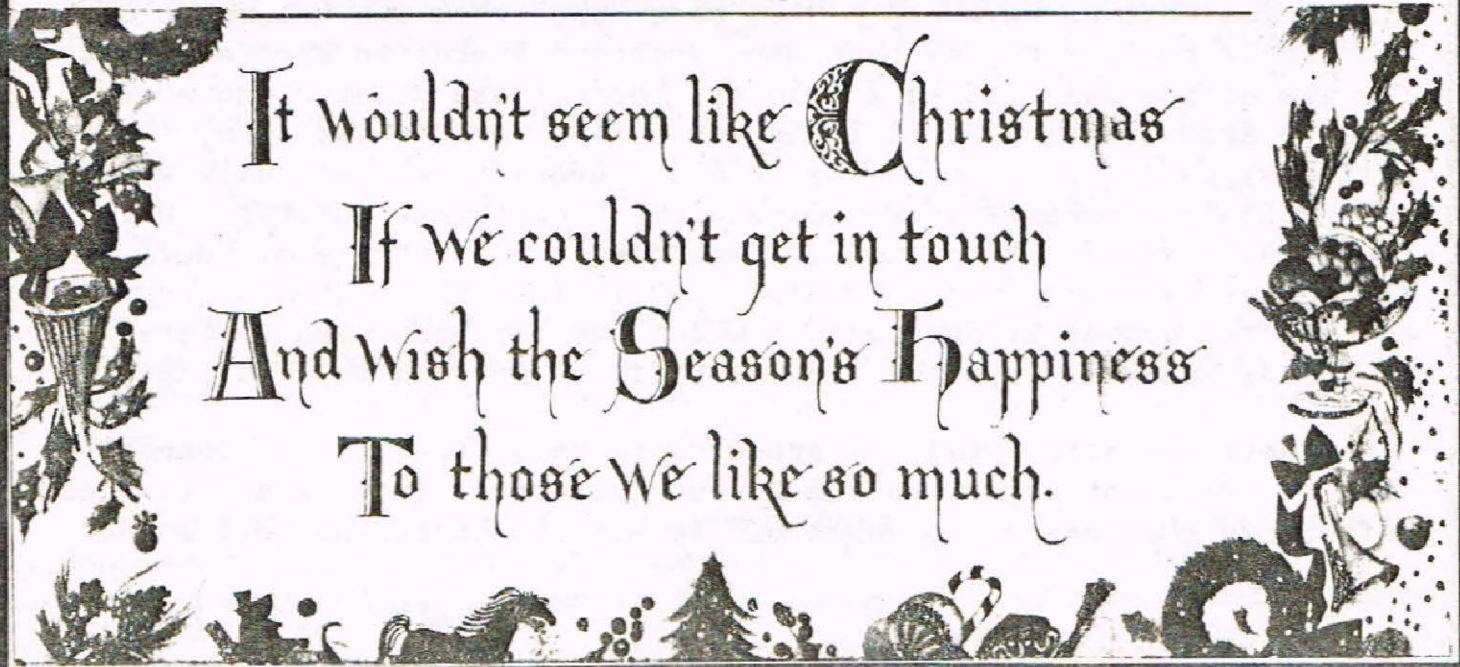
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NOV.-DEC. 1979

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It wouldn't seem like Christmas  
If we couldn't get in touch  
And wish the Season's Happiness  
To those we like so much.



P R E S I D E N T S      C O M M E N T S

Once again I get from under my hat to all Association members, particularly those of you in B.C. and who did such a grand job in disposing of the Draw Tickets sent to you. It was not my intention to start this series of comments on this subject, but I'm nigh to bursting with satisfaction and pride with the effort put forth, not only did you excell in the sales but with the extra Two Dollars per book, we have a real nest-egg to cover some special contingency.

With the return of tickets came dues for 1980 as well as donations towards the Diarama, all of which are most acceptable. It was however the little notes, letters and comments which so many added that will have the lasting encouragement to continue with the good work of this Association; you may rest assured that the words of encouragement and congratulations will be passed on to all concerned.

Not everyone likes the task of selling tickets; two of our members have even asked to have their names removed from the nominal roll; but until someone comes up with a better way to earn \$2,500.00 plus, the Draw is here to stay. Unfortunately our sales are restricted to members resident in British Columbia, however this does not preclude members in other locations from making contributions to the cause.

Early this year the C.O. of the Regiment allocated space for an Association office within the Armoury complex; incidently this is the first time that we have had a firm base other than the basements of the six or so Secretaries that have accepted Executive appointments. The new office was cold so an electric heater was donated, however, true to Army custom i.e. if it is not nailed down or sat upon, it will disappear, you guessed it, it did. Everyone was mentally accused; no particular emphasis in any direction, except that questions were continually asked. Even the C.O. was coerced to intervene. Nuff Sed!! The heater has turned up. Somebody put it into the bottom drawer of our new two drawer filing cabinet which has not been used to date. Of course McAskill says the President did it and who am I to argue??

There are some excellent articles in this issue; Dick Shannon made an excellent report on the Museum Conference in Ottawa, "Brother" Editor may condense it somewhat but it has its humour as well as its

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educational value. If a "Second" is required to his report on the Armistice turn out, then I second the suggestion; hopefully some comments will be forth coming to guide a policy for 1980. Let me say that those of us who did march drew the best hand from the crowd; our steps may not have been spritely nor our shapes what they used to be, but brother there was pride under those Red Berets. Ron Hurley - you were missed; only illness could keep you and Ruth away - a fact of which all were aware.

Speaking of Ron - the Association Officers are hoping to see the day when "Flash" and "Ironman" Bortolussi may make the Military Hall of Fame.

The Museum report herein reflects the good work of a hard working group, the word dedication was particularly coined to describe the efforts of Mike Steede and his group. Freda and Walt Hogg require and deserve special mention thereby forcing me to break a self imposed rule not to single out anyone as every accomplishment is the result of team spirit and effort.

I suppose my next comment follows the team-work concept. Lets go back a couple of months to the day that the "Engineers" made an inspection of the Armouries - amongst other things they condemned the electrical wiring that had been done on the display cases. That hurt!!! It was known that the wiring may have been a bit short of perfection, but condemnation, never. Another set back but out of adversity comes good. The good this time was initiated by Norm McAskill who presented the problem to the Ladies Auxiliary to Pacific #2 Cdn. Legion. Their response was a cheque for \$500.00, YES thats right 5 X \$100.00; Norm, Mac McKinney (no disrespect to his Army Rank) and yours truly immediately made it \$650.00 in total. So a samll balance remains for someone to pick up. Did I tell you the cost of moderization - a mere (now that is) \$800.00, what was almost insurmountable originally is down to a small figure. Did I hear somebody say count me in? THANKS.

Ye Gods, I started this preamble on a "Dollar" theme and here am I at the end on the same note. Be of good cheer during the festive season that is upon us all - Rejoice in your well being today

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compared to Christmas past 1914 - 1918, 1939 - 1945, and may 1980  
bring you everything that you would wish yourself plus my hopes that  
you have the health to enjoy it.

SINCERE GREETINGS TO YOU ALL.

To those of you whose letters I have not acknowledge be secure  
in your own belief that they have done what you intended - there  
are more Groundsheets in our future by which we will all share in  
your good wishes.

Scotty

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THE SEARCH IS ON

The Regimental Museum would like to hear  
from anyone having information or knowing  
the whereabouts of the following;

Revolver Colt semi-automatic

Serial No. C11624 7 shots 5" Barrel

Originally belonged to Col. H.S. Tobin

"Tobins Tigers" 29th Bn.

Yours truly,  
D. Cull (Mrs.) Curator

## THE REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

### ASSOCIATION MEMBERS AND WIVES INVITED TO MUSEUM MEETING FEBRUARY 11th

Association members and their wives who are interested in learning the operation and function of the Museum, or are interested in being an active partner in the working of the Museum, are invited to attend a meeting on the above date at 8:00 p.m. in the Officers' Mess, the Armoury.

At that time a general discussion will be held regarding ways and means of assisting the Museum. This idea was proposed by Bas Morgan, as he feels that there are many Association members and their wives who would be pleased to be involved in some capacity during the normal working hours of the Museum.

Do keep the evening of February 11th open - we will look forward to meeting you on that date!

### CANNON INSTALLED ON PERMANENT BASE

At last, through the persistent efforts of Dick Shannon, the cannon which is located near the main door of the Armoury, Queen's Avenue, has been placed in its permanent position on a cement pad.

After many months of planning, Dick, with the able assistance of brother Ed and our Museum chairman, Mike Steede, did the "spade work" literally, obtaining cement, steel reinforcements, etc. and made the base, and a sincere vote of thanks is extended to them for their dedication and hard work.

To finalize the job, Tom Harris' nephew, Terry Simpson (whose grandfather Ed Irwin was in the 47th Bn.) contacted Al Brandt of Commercial Truck and Crane. This firm very generously saw to the placing of the cannon on to the permanent base, and their assistance is also greatly appreciated.

This is the third move of the cannon in recent years. It was placed in the Museum on display at a time when we had fewer artifacts and when we no longer had space, it was removed from the Museum by Commercial Truck and placed outside the building.

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The Museum Committee is proud that the cannon is now installed in a manner worthy of its heritage, and to have members such as Dick Shannon who have demonstrated the necessary perseverance to see to its proper disposition.

#### MUSEUM PUBLICITY

The Museum has on-going publicity in various areas - two newspapers, Community Arts Council of Vancouver "News" etc. We were pleased this year to have the Museum listed in the provincial government summer "Calendar of Events", which of course receives wide distribution throughout B.C.

Also very gratifying to have our write up featured in the "Museum Round-Up" Summer /79 (quarterly publication of the B.C. Museums Association), which included a picture of the Armouries on its front page. The "Museum Round-Up" is available in our Museum for your perusal next time you visit.

Freda Hogg,  
Public Relations

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#### YOU CAN TELL YOU ARE GOING TO HAVE A BAD DAY WHEN:

Your birthday cake collapses from the weight of the candles.  
Your son tells you he wishes Anita Bryant would mind her own business.  
You wake up to discover that your waterbed has sprung a leak and then realize you do not have a waterbed.  
Your horn goes off accidentally and remains stuck as you follow a group of Hell's Angels along the freeway.

#### AUTO GRAPHICS

Personalized plates seen on a brand-new car driven by an elderly couple - "LAST 1".

MUSEUM REPRESENTED

During the period of time Sept. 11 - 16/79, the Organization of Military Museums of Canada held a conference in Ottawa, at which our Museum was represented by Ian Douglas and Dick Shannon, both members of the Museum Committee.

They attended various lectures and toured several sites which provided interesting and useful information on Historical Park renovation, the repair and conservation of old Colors and artifacts, the problems of lighting and arrangement in small Museums, and the acquisition, cataloguing and storing of small war art. They also had the opportunity to visit the National Museum of Science and Technology and the National Aeronautical Collection at old Rockcliffe Airport.

On the evening of Sept. 13th, they attended a formal banquet and reception where the guest speaker was Air Marshall Claire Annis, OBE, CD., CAF(R), who spoke on "Early Air Force Memories".

The trip was entertaining and educational and no doubt produced pertinent information pertaining to the operation of the Museum. The full report may be seen at the Museum on request.

Editor

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D R A W     A N D     S M O K E R     '79

The annual Draw and Smoker was held at the Armoury on Saturday December 8th., and was ably presided over by our President, Nelson Scott. The fact that the Regt. and Cadets were on a week-end scheme diminished the more youthful portion of the attendance, so it was mostly the old sweats that turned up for a total of thirty-five. The efficient speaker system and music was provided by Dick Shannon which was most appreciated. Our irreplaceable Fred Bass rolled out the 'oldies' on the piano with his usual effortless skill and old comrades met again and renewed the memories of forty years ago.

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DRAW & SMOKER ..... con't

After munching away on cheese, crackers and pickles, we were served with a bowl of hot chili con carne, which really warmed the inner man, believe me. Then Scotty took over the 'mike' and opened the main event of the evening, the Draw. Johnny Hou, who was unable to attend due to illness, won the first prize, which was roundly applauded. The rest of the winners will be shown elsewhere in the Groundsheet.

The party broke up about 23:30 hrs. and shades of the past! I wound up at a poker session and didn't get home until 04:00 hrs. Nothing like marking the day properly.

Editor.

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A R M I S T I C E    D A Y    N O V    11

Once again the Day of Remembrance came around and we gathered at the Armoury to remember and pay our respects to those who gave up their most valuable thing, their lives for their country. At 09:45 the Armoury started to fill and by 10:00 there wasn't many seats left. The music for the Service was provided by the Regtl. Band and the Hon. Grace McCarthy was guest speaker for the occasion.

At 10:45 we fell in to parade to the Cenotaph, along with the Regt. Cadets, Legion, Imperial vets and other groups. And lo! how the mighty have faded away! 14 members of the Royal Westminster Regiment Association showed on parade and away we marched to the Cenotaph.

After the Service at the Cenotaph and the laying of many wreathes, we swung out onto Royal Ave. for a "March Past" the C.O. of the Regt. Col. Gangur, taking the salute. The applause from the many viewers was warm as each unit passed at 'eyes right', but suddenly it increased noticeably when the red berets of the Assn. went by. A proud moment.

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We got together in the Officers' and Sgts' Messes in the Armoury after the parade, to chin-wag and have a few drinks, but on the whole it was quiet and most went home early; a concession to the ravages of Time, no doubt. But it was apparent from the number of people who attended that not all citizens consider November 11th just another Holiday.

Editor

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LEST    WE    FORGET

L.S. Donkersley, W.W. 2  
Powell River, B.C.  
April 2/79

Paul Ludwig, WW 2  
Gibsons, B.C.  
June 26/79

John Percy Copp, WW 1 & 2  
Lajolla, Cal. U.S.A.  
October 23/79

Johnny Hewlitt,  
Dec. 14/79

Ernie Hull

Mid 1979

P O E M

by Anon

" DO NOT STAND AT MY GRAVE AND WEEP, I AM NOT THERE,  
I DO NOT SLEEP.

" I AM A THOUSAND WINDS THAT BLOW, I AM THE DIAMOND  
GLINTS ON SNOW.

" I AM THE SUNLIGHT ON RIPENED GRAIN, I AM THE GENTLE  
AUTUMN RAIN.

" WHEN YOU AWAKEN IN THE MORNING'S HUSH, I AM THE  
SWIFT UPLIFTING RUSH.

" OF QUIET BIRDS IN CIRCLED FLIGHT.

" I AM THE SOFT STAR THAT SHINES AT NIGHT.

" DO NOT STAND AT MY GRAVE AND CRY.

" I AM NOT THERE, I DID NOT DIE."