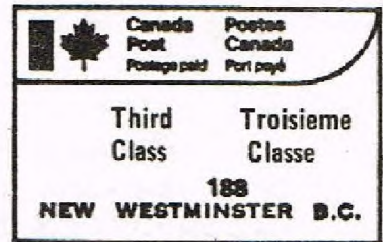


THE ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 854, New Westminster, B.C. V3L 4Z8



J. A. DUMONT,
1762 CHRISTMAS AVENUE,
VICTORIA, B. C.
V8P 2X8

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. 29, No. 1

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

JAN. - FEB. 1980

W. NELSON SCOTT "SCOTTY" - PRESIDENT - 335 Churchill Avenue, New Westminster, Phone: 521-3294
ED SHANNON - EDITOR - 20250 43A Avenue, Langley, B.C. - Phone: 534-0108
NORM McASKILL - SECRETARY - 7828 Canada Way, Burnaby, B.C. - Phone: 521-4280

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

AT THE ARMOURY

7:30 P.M., THURSDAY, MARCH 20/80

YOUR ATTENDANCE IS REQUESTED

BRANCH #3 ('D'Coy.) NEWS

Branch #3 was further decimated in January by the passing on of two of the old original 'D'Coy. members and good comrades, Ralph Ballam and Leo Wright. Both were widely known and liked, as evidenced by the large turnout at both funerals. Our deepest sympathy is extended to the families of both. The absence of Ralph and Leo from the 'D'Coy Picnic will leave a very noticeable gap in the ranks.

Wilf Nelson is out of hospital and recovering slowly, after an attack of heart-related troubles. It seems he had a difference of opinion with his physio-therapist, who wanted to keep him C.B. for a while yet. Sounds almost normal for Wilf! Hang in there, old son, and we'll be looking forward to seeing you at the next Picnic in August.

From 'Circle Six' quarters and our genial hosts, Marion and Sam Soutar, the news is good -- the streets are wintering nicely, Marion takes time off from range-riding to concoct those wonderful brandy coffees, and Sam hasn't had to buck snow-drifts yet on his daily jaunts to Vancouver, roughly eighty miles one-way. (That ought to rate some kind of medal, Sam).

We're happy to advise that the latest news of the Baldwins, Elsie and D'Arcy, is good. D'Arcy may not be in shape for the Commando Obstacle Course, but it's a fair bet he'll be gracing the parade ground at 'Circle 6' at our next gathering. They left for California around the 27th., and our best wishes go with them for good health and a happy holiday.

More news next time around
H.W.S.

MELFA DINNER

May 17, 1980

at the

ARMOURY,

6th St. & Queens Ave
New Westminster, B.C.

Will you be there ????

yes	no
-----	----

Mail this page to:

Doug Glenn, Chairman
6666 Walker Ave.
Burnaby, B.C.
V5E 3B0

" Remember what you just read on the other side?"

For you - a little time, an envelope, and a seventeen cent stamp.

For your Melfa Committee - something factual to work on. After nigh on 35 years our perception of your intentions has worn thin and our crystal ball is muddied.

At nine bucks a throw, and only a 5% margin to work with, some indication of your attendance is a MUST

It is your dinner -
A commemerative event (35th)
An evening of fellowship

*****Please let Doug know.

Editor

INFORMATION NOTE

The Colours hanging in the Chancel are the first stand of Colours received by the Regiment in 1919. These Colours were laid up in Holy Trinity Cathedral for safekeeping at the outset of World War II.

The association of the Regiment with the Cathedral goes back for over 100 years. Holy Trinity Cathedral is truly the parish church of the Regiment.

1980 DIVOTIONS

The popular MELFA GOLF TOURNAMENT will occur again this year at the TSAWASSEN GOLF COURSE (on the way to the Tsawassen Ferry)

at: 0900 hrs., Saturday, May 17

The '79 prize list was very handsome, and we expect 1980 will be just as good, including prizes for guests. If you want a start time, phone or write:

Jan Douglas, 522-3415
824 Ladner St.
New Westminster, B.C.

First in -- first off! Green fees - \$8.00

Entry fee - \$1.00

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT

Once again I welcome the opportunity to make a contribution to the "Groundsheet" and report on the activities of the unit.

Perhaps no other activity is receiving more attention this year than musketry. Every soldier is required to shoot a series of targets each quarter on the indoor range. Basic shooting skills are taught one Tuesday evening each month. Training aids such as shooting discs, aiming boxes and aiming rests, once forgotten, are now familiar items to each shooter. In addition a range shooting record book is now kept and the shooting activity of each member is recorded everytime he shoots.

Our efforts appear to be paying off. During our range exercise last November only two unit personnel qualified second class and a 6 inch grouping seem for many an impossible dream. Results in the January exercise were remarkably different. One officer qualified marksman (Lt R McBryan) and one officer and one Pte qualified first class. Eleven others qualified second class, the CO included. Of the fifty-two attending the exercise all but eight fired a six inch group. Our goal is to be better prepared for the Blair competition than we have been in many years. Incidentally, it would be very encouraging to see some members of the Regimental Association in the cheering section at the Blair. How about it?

BAND CONCERT

At this particular point in time the regimental band is perhaps the finest military band in Western Canada. The unit is anxious to demonstrate their high degree of professionalism to a general audience. To this end a band concert will be held at 8 p.m. on the 14th of March at the Vincent Massey Auditorium (8th St. & 8th Ave, New Westminster) Admission is \$3.00 per person and all proceeds will be applied to the purchase of new band uniforms. Tickets can be obtained

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through the Battalion Orderly Room or at the door. Ticket prices for seniors and students are reduced to \$2.00 per person.

To-date donations for band uniforms total \$140.00 In the next issue of the "Groundsheet" a list of all donors will be published.

CO'S PARADES

Families and friends are encouraged to attend the CO's parades. These parades will commence at 2100 hrs sharp and following the parade all messes will be open. We need to see you there.

UPCOMING UNIT ACTIVITIES

Feb 12	CO's Parade
15-17	Live Fire Sp Wpns Pl - Yakima
23-24	Range Ex
Mar 14	Band Concert
Apr 4-7	Easter Conc - Ft Lewis
19	Annual Mess Dinner
26	Annual Inspection
May 24	Hyack Parade
June 7-8	Blair Competition
15	Regimental Christening
24	CO's Parade
28	Canada Week Celebration

J. N. Gangur
Lieutenant Colonel
Commanding Officer

A NOTE FROM WILSON'S DAUGHTER
on ACROSS THE POND TO JOLLY OLD

My big spending spree for '79 was to take my mom across the pond to see Jolly Old England. We did a tour of England, Ireland & Scotland. (Ireland is unbelievably beautiful) We also stayed with friends in Birmingham. When dad was overseas in the war he used to stay with the Niles' in Smethick. It proved an ideal home away from home. (If that is possible when HOME is the top, constant thought in a soldiers mind) Several others from the district here at home went there on leave too. One of Mrs. Miles' sons came to Canada in the 1920's to work at my grandfather's. When war broke out, and the boys from home had to go, he told them to be sure to go to his mothers' to spend leave. He also wrote to his mom to tell her to expect them. She welcomed them with open arms and gave them a home. The person we visited was Mrs. Miles' granddaughter, Peggy. At the time, Peg was 16 (She and several of the guys stood on their doorstep and could see the smoke as Coventry Cathedral burned) This was truly loss to the people of England. Why they ever tried to build a new one to replace the old was a waste of time and money. It is a cold, emotionless, building. Your feelings race higher if you simply stand in the shell of the old one just gazing up at the clouds. Modern design is definitely not where it's at!

As we were passing through Wales (Northern edge) we came upon a marble church at a place called Bodolwydden. During the 1914-1918 war a training camp was located there. In 1918 a flu epidemic hit and many Canadians died. They are buried in the church yard and the graves are marked with the white maple leafed head stones. "Row on Row". Have you heard of this church before? Can you tell me more about it and the camp?

Well, must go. I hope that I haven't bored you with my writings. I am enclosing a cheque for dues and a little extra to be used where it is needed most. It is the least I can do for my dad WILSON HALL. He has so enjoyed receiving the ground sheet and renewing

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old acquaintances through it.

Yours truly,
Rhonda Hall
Box 440,
Wawota, Sask
S0G 5A0

P.S. How much do the Regiment history books cost & are they still obtainable? Also don't forget to sign the member card this year & give it that official look. Thanks much.

" A PRAYER FOR THE OLDER PILOT "

"Lord, Thou knowest better than I know myself that I am growing older and will someday be old. Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject and on every occasion. Release me from craving to try and straighten out everybody's affairs. Make me thoughtful but not moody: helpful but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom, it seems a pity not to use it at all, but Thou knowest, Lord, that I want a few friends at the end.

"Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details - give me wings to get to the point. Seal my lips on my aches and pains. They are increasing, and love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by - I dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales of other's pains but help me to endure them with patience.

"I dare not ask for improved memory, but for a growing humility and a lessening cocksureness when my memory seems to clash with the memories of others. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken.

"Keep me reasonable sweet; I do not want to be a sour old person - one of the crowning works of the devil. Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected people. Give me the grace to tell them so."

AMEN

MAIL BAG

If you give it a moment of sober thought, amicus, it's 40 (!) years ago this winter since we moved into those nice new barracks at 8th and 8th, and found out that soldiering wasn't an 8 hour, go-home-at-night sort of job any more. Doesn't seem that long, somehow, since we white-washed all those rocks, filled those coal-scuttles, and dug trenches among the venerable departed Chinese. Pursuing the thought a bit farther, I think you'll agree that there were times in Italy when those barracks would have looked like the absolute acme in comfort and relaxation.

Quite a few letters have come in since the last issue, and we have one here from H.M. Sands, S & S Ranch, R.R.I, Cache Creek, B.C. V0K 1H0, who was aroused into writing us regarding remarks made in the 1st issue about Nov. 11th parade attendance. We would hardly expect you to turn out from Cache Creek, old son. You attend the nearest Remembrance Day gathering, and that's all one could expect. Those remarks were more intended for those physically capable and within reasonable travelling distance of the Royal City. And if you think no one would remember you, try showing up down here at the Melba Dinner or the Smoker and find out. With a number like K47223 there would still be some who would know you. But hurry up! They're getting fewer every year.

To point out that the old Regimental 'esprit de corps' is still very much alive, you will find a letter from Fred Duthie, 110 Miner St., New Westminster, B.C., in full, elsewhere in this issue. It's a spark that, once lit, never expires.

One from W.F. (Wick) Stewart, Box 41, Kitimat, B.C. V8C 2G6, in which he mentions that Ocean Constr. Supplies retired him last March, but he wasn't ready to relax yet so he went into business for himself, "Wick's Repair Service" and apparently is doing very good at it. He also mentions that

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Doug Stevens dropped in last summer for a short but very pleasant visit. Many thanks for the 'mementos', Wick. I'm sure the Museum will appreciate getting them.

A bit of contrast here. A letter from Jack Smith, 237 Hart St. Coquitlam, B.C. V3K 4A3. (written before the Draw) returning two books of tickets, one sold, and apologizing for being the world's worst salesman. (It's a gift, Jack) And one from G.E. Smith (K47005) Port Alice, B.C. returning ten books, sold, altho' in hospita for 8 weeks. (Our best wishes and hope you're fit again, '005). You know I once tried selling Fuller brushes in the 'Dirty Thirties', and that convinced me that seling is a gift. (I didn't have it) Just remember that we appreciate any effort, large or small, by our old comrades, each according to his ability and situation.

Another welcome letter from Walt Kearsley, Lindsay Ont., enclosing '80 dues and a donation to cover' for some old buddy who has forgot or is unable to remit'. A most pleasant thought, Walt, and our hearty thanks for it and the spirit that prompted it. The clipping you enclosed regarding the old 47th. postcards was most interesting. The Exec. (which includes a Museum Rep) shall hear about them, and I'm sure you'll be hearing more concerning them. Walt has established a literary 'first' regarding Postal codes. He has put it into words! Regardez: K9V 3Z2. "Keep Nine Veterans, Three Zombies Too." Careful, Walt, you might start a trend.

And a very welcome screed from ol' "Cactus Bill" Robson. While we'd figured the outlaws had cut him off at the pass, he and Greta had dropped their reins at the Aztec Travel Trailer Resort, 4220 Main St., Mess Arizona. 85205, and are spending the winter enjoying the sunshine, eye-ballin' read - runners, card-pl yin' (cribbage) do-se-doin' and shootin' shuffle-board. Greta was breakin' a bicycle (in Arizona?) to the saddle and got throwed, breaking a bone in her arm; had it in a cast for awhile, but Bill says she's

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OK now. He says they'll be back sometime in March.

C.W. Moorwood, Box 663, Revelstoke, B.C. V0E 2S0 writes in enclosing dues and a donation, for which our best thanks, old son. Sure hope you can make it to the Mella. With all that spare time now it should be no problem, eh?best regards to Robert Shaw, 1540 Bergstrom St., White Rock, B.C. V4B 3G9 one of the WW 1 indestructables, who wrote in to Fred Bass describing his early career (6th DCOR, April 1908) as a Bugler, transferred to the 104th., then enlisted in the 47th. When it was formed in the Spring of 1915. An interesting letter, Robert, and we're always happy to hear from you.

Another long and interesting letter to Fred from Harry R. Barker, 43788 Pioneer Ave., Hemet, Calif. 92343. He joined the DCOR in '15 as a Bugler (at 14 years), was later discharged as too young. Re-enlisted in '16 in the 131st., (said he was 16). Transferred to the 211th American Legion, discharged again, physically unfit. Couldn't have been too serious (maybe a different doctor?) for that year he re-enlisted in the 11th. CMR, wound up in the 47th., served in England and France, finally discharged in New Westminster in April, 1918. What a history! (Quite a contrast to those of us who joined and served with the one Unit for six years!) Our appreciation for a good letter, Harry, and I understand both Fred and Scotty have answered it.

Flash! Just come to hand, another communique from our Arizona correspondent, down where men are men and catamounts haunt the purple ridges. He says in three months' cribbage playin' he has only won 2 games! Better see Ducky Drake for some lessons, Bill. And gas has gone to \$1.15 a gallon down there (small gallons, too) and he's beginning to wonder if he'll have the price to get home. You could always try a horse, Bill.

That about covers the correspondence to date, and we'll be looking for more. Don't forget to vote right (which way is that?) on the 18th, and remember the Annual General Meeting on March 20th, at the Armoury, for those of you who can make it. And best wishes for good health and happiness to all of you.

IN MEMORY OF "LITTLE JOE"

Dear Nelson,

Received the cheque this morning for my happy win of a case of Tequila; but, being an old Scotch drinker, I have other plans for the money, if it's O.K. with you. Thank you.

It was good to see in the paper recently that Regiments are to be given back their individuality. We were fortunate in having a majority of excellent officers who, with us all under "Little Joe" Sager, knew that Regimental pride started at the Platoon level. We were in the best damned Platoon in the best damned Company, in the best damned Regiment, in the Canadian Army. Without that Regimental individuality there just wouldn't be such a thing as a Regimental Museum.

So, in memory of "Little Joe" who made us the best damned Regiment, please find enclosed, my sellers' prize of \$20.00 for the Museum fund.

Thanks again and best wishes for the future

Fred Duthie
Ex. K47225

MILITARY NOTE

In an article written by Gerry Porter (author of *IN RETREAT*) he holds forth on the weakened and poorly-equipped condition of the Canadian Army, and goes on to say that if the Russians ever landed at Whitehorse, the Canadian soldiers sent to meet them would have to fight with the best weapons at hand: snowballs. Lets hope it doesn't happen this winter, for I understand we have a way-below-average snowfall.

PRESEDENTS COMMENTS

As I start this column I realize that my year as your Presedent is almost over, a realization that is brought into focus by the announcement, on the front page, of the Annual General Meeting. I wish I could dredge up some Churchillian quotation that would encourage attendance to this, the one business meeting of the year, and an active participation of those who attend.

During the last political campaign I was impressed by a large sign, on a lawn, in a street that was cluttered by signs of the multiple contestants. This sign simply said " VOTE - IF YOU DON'T - DON'T BITCH"

I think the same would be appropriate to the General Meeting - if you don't attend, don't complain about what takes place over the next year; dues structure - funding - fiscal spending - museum - social activities. With all those things in the pot, it boils down to only one important fact " YOU " .

There used to be some garbage peddled, that if you attended the Annual Meeting, you would get yourself a job; tough beans - but unless you have been approached by Stan Moorhouse and or his nominative committee, your chances of being elected (getting a job) are remoteSo ? !!!!

I look forward to welcoming a good representation from our membership; the location of the meeting

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is in Hut #3, with the entrance off the City Hall parking lot. There is a Band Inspection in the main Armouries with which we could not compete, if we met in the Joint Mess, as originally arranged.

Over the many years your Association has accumulated a certain amount of money which was invested from time to time in Canada Bonds. As this year opened last last March, there was a total of \$12,000.00 in what was termed the Trustee Account. The interest paid on the Bonds was an exorbitant 4%. At Executive request, our Treasurer and the newly appointed Trustees, took steps to bring this money into a more productive state, which has now been completed. Current interest rates are now being earned, with term deposits, that provide additional annual revenue for the Association. The plan in operation will also restore the face value of the Bonds (\$12,000.00) by 1983, as a loss was taken by making the prior sale this time.

The principle value of the Trustee Account is only available to your Executive by application to and with the approval of the Trustees. This is why this figure is not shown on your annual Financial Statement. The interest earned is, however, taken into consideration by your Budget Committee and spent annually. The Budget Committee this year is chaired by Basil Morgan; Vice-chairman is Doug Glenn.

The Trustees are appointed for five year periods, under normal circumstances, and those presently serving are as here under, with the date of retirement following:

Chairman	Allan Coe	1976 - 1981
Vice Chairman	Bert Stephens	1979 - 1984
Member	Pat McCarthy	1979 - 1983

The foregoing was not generally known to our membership at large and its disclosure at this time is done at the request of the Chairman. An action that I heartily approve.

In the last issue you were told of a problem that had been encountered by the Museum - the case wiring had been condemned. It is no longer a problem - cash donations of sufficient size, in addition to those listed in the last issue have been received from Basil Morgan; Ian Douglas; and John Hou. I am on thin ice

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...cont (Precedents comments)

as there may have been others who came to the need, of which I have no knowledge. If so, omission is not deliberate.

Norm McAskell, our worthy secretary, is trying to bring our mailing records and nominal rolls up to date. He has encountered many difficulties, it is even surprising how many members were listed as deceased, yet they are still with us. In this issue your attention is directed to a list of missing members; please make yourself a committee of one to fully investigate and report to Norm on anyone you know about. For our members in areas, other than New Westminster, it is easier for you to trace these people than us. A little help would be appreciated. Don't put it off, please do it now.

We get lots of correspondence telling us that someone had been met or seen at some event or at a local pub. That's very nice, but damn it, it is meaningless unless a full address is given, including postal code. It is sad enough to lose members through attrition, but we have lost a lot who have moved around and it's in this area that you can help.

Progress is being made for the registration of this Association under the Societies Act; the use of the word "Royal" was questioned by Victoria. With the kind assistance of Gerry Gangur, OC, of the Regt. and the use of records from the Museum, our solicitor, Gus Gates is of the opinion that it is only a matter of time before this formality is completed. We should have a full report for the General Meeting; you can get in on this first-hand; just attend.

In this issue there is a full report re the Xmas Draw 1979. Thanks to those who contributed such a fine report, that made the totals possible, especially those who participated in the \$906.75 donation.

The Mella Dinner & Golf "Do" are introduced to you in this issue, mark your calendar for May 17, 1980. Jan Douglas & Ted Hammersley are in charge of the

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....cont (Presedents comments)

golf. Doug Glenn heads up the Dinner commettee. Plans are all in place; this I know as I have a committee report in front of me at this moment. The principal speaker will intrigue you with his witty remarks .

At the last Executive meeting Fred Bass told of his attendance at the Eric Hamber School in Vancouver where he gave a talk on the Battle of Vimy Ridge. Subsequently, he received a written report made by two Chinese boys, James Lai and Howard Yam, complete with a magnificent visual presentation showing the minute details of the battle zone. A very gratifying experiance for Fred. All of these papers are now in the Museum.

More information will be coming soon in respect to a dinner and social evening scheduled for May 5th which is being put on the the Netherlands Assoc. of Canada. The sketchy information, is that 30 - 40 couples will be invited through the Regiment with the rider that those who are invited need not have served with our Regiment but must have been a party to the Liberation of the Netherlands.

Please note the schedule of events laid out in the O.C.s Report. Christening, Band , Concert.

My hopes for a speedy recovery to Les Oeane (former CO & Museum Committee) & Jack Hannah from their serious injuries & illness.

Many pleasant memories may be recalled by the picture of the old Vancouver Hotel - this was received from Wick Stewart, along with other memorbelia. The picture originated on an old Xmas card - 1940 vintage - the reproduction w s through the efforts of our p inter, Wm Meek Ltd. While not completely perfect in every detail, it will stir many of you to recal those days of P.T. on the roof and picnics in Stanley Park.

During the War years great effort w s directed to leadership training - be it at the Corporal level or up; your feelings may be the same as mine on reading an article by Gerry Porter in the Vancouver Sun.

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...cont (Presedents comments)

Re the present day Army "Officers are now classified as Man Managers". A far cry from the leaders we had and came to respect. The Army today appears to have an 9 - 5 syndrone.

Do we not all share the responsibility for the present conditions of the Armed ??? Forces. There are, according to the article, more policemen in the city of Montreal than in the service

How does that poem go??; about breaking faith with those who did not come back.

There are still a few of the Westminster War Diary available; the price is the same as always - \$5.00. The Executive has approved a move to have copies placed in several libraries; Clarke Morrison has this matter under review. The Diaries, so placed, would be available for reference or loan. Should members outside of the lower mainland like to have copies for libraries in their cities etc. - I would suggest you let Clarke know through Box 854, New West.

Space precludes any further comments. I'm going to gamble on your attendance at the Annual Meeting. I've given a number very close to 100 in the "meeting sweepstakes".

A QUOTE FROM MADAME CURJE

" Nothing in the world is to be feared,
only understood. "

COURTESY OF GAIL GORDON :

" My favourite speaker, forever unsurpassed, is one who remembers that nice guys finish last. "

THE OTTAWA NATIONALAPRIL 9TH....1917CANADIAN TROOPS TAKE THE VIMY RIDGE.

(NOTE: The facsimile of the Ottawa National newspaper is a replica of the April 9th 1967 issue. It was the work of two Chinese students, Grade 11, of the Eric Hamber School in Vancouver. Their names are: James Lai and Howard Yan. It was completely researched, entirely hand-printed, and illustrated with war pictures, which unfortunately, did not reproduce too well. However, the story is accurate, also the hand-drawn map.

The 10th. Brigade, consisted of four battalions; 44th., 46th., 47th., and 50th., and to them was given the task of taking the highest point of the Ridge, which had been given the name of "The Pimple". It was the highest point and overlooked the entire surrounding country, and was therefore very heavily protected, and the 47th. Battalion was held there for four days before they were able to capture it and secure it. The casualty list was heavy - 10,000 - one-third of the Canadian attacking forces.

This facsimile has been given to the Regimental Museum)

THE BATTLE OF VIMY:

by : James Lai
Howard Yan

This year being Canada's Centennial, it seems highly appropriate for we as Canadians, to celebrate Canada's greatest contribution to the First World War, the Battle of Vimy Ridge, which happened half-a-century ago to-day.

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Perhaps D. J. Goodspeed, Senior Historian in the Canadian Armed Forces Directorate of History, summed it up best when he wrote: "No matter what the constitutional historians may say, it was on Easter Monday April 9th., 1917, and not on any other date, that Canada became a nation."

Vimy Ridge itself, seems ordinary, not unlike the surrounding French countryside. It stretches four miles across French soil, from Lens, in the Northwest, to Arras in the southeast.

Commanding the valley to the Scarpe River and the Douai plain, even before the epic battle of 1917, Vimy Ridge had long been recognized as an important strategic centre. It is the key to the defense of Arras, a vital centre of communications, and the gateway to Paris, not more than 200 miles south.

Invading military commanders have always tried to take the Ridge as a stepping stone to Paris in 1711. England's greatest General, the Duke of Marlborough, soundly defeated French forces on his advance to Paris.

When German forces tried, and failed, in 1914, they retreated to Vimy Ridge in the hopes of reorganizing a second attack. Under the command of General von Falkenhausen, the German 6th Army built a formidable defense on the Ridge, the Hindenburg Line, which rendered the Ridge impregnable from attack.

Consequently, subsequent attempts by French and British forces to remove the enemy in 1915 and 1916 ended in failure. By the end of two years, a total of 200,000 Allied soldiers had died on the slopes of the Ridge, all in vain.

In December of 1916, France's General Robert Niville, announced to the Allied High Command, his hopes of scoring a major victory, and perhaps even winning the war, with a single, massive blow along the Aisne River. His plans called for Field-Marshal Douglas Haig to attack Arras to remove and draw off German reserves, and the Canadian Corps to capture

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Vimy Ridge in their absence.

For weeks prior to the battle, The Royal Flying Corps, reconnaissance planes carefully studied and photographed the Ridge. Unfortunately, many of these light planes were lost because of Richtofen's Flying Circus, which was stationed in the area.

Canadian troops also staged a number of guerilla-type trench raids, not intended to inflict serious harm, but to gather vital information, destroy barbed wire, and shatter German morale. The price of these raids were expensive; by the end of two weeks, 1,400 Canadian soldiers had been killed.

Artillery, under Brigadier-General E.W.B. Morrison, shelled enemy lines two weeks prior, so as to prepare for the planned attack. These shellings were slow and methodical, and increased in intensity with the final six days. By zero hour, 83% of the 212 enemy guns had been destroyed.

The Zivy Tunnel, more commonly known as the Goodman Tunnel, was a subterranean architectural work of art. Running from the 2nd, Division's sector to the front line at the foot of Vimy Ridge, the tunnel sloped down some 50 feet from a hidden road between Neuville St. Vaast to the Ridge, and ran a half-mile east and levelling off at 40 feet.

It's chalk walls only measured three feet wide, yet were large and spacious enough to hold 30,000, as was necessary for the attack.

Besides electricity, water mains, and communication cables, the Tunnel was equipped with a small gauge railway, and branched off into numerous small galleries and rooms, which contained several command head-quarters, ammunition dumps, signal offices, and medical emergency wards.

Unfortunately, much of the tunnel was destroyed in the Battle, so as to allow Canadian troops to gain direct access to the German frontlines.

Between the night of April 8th and the early morning of April 9th, Canadian troops filed into the Goodman Tunnel to the foot of Vimy Ridge. By 4:00 a.m. all 30,000 Canadians were in position.

...to be continued next issue.

PHOTOS MADE INTO POSTCARDS

(Here's an article taken from the Toronto Star, Jan 23, 1980., and offered for our pleasure by Walt Kearsley)

I have 78 unused postcards of the 47th Canadian Battalion in France and Belgium during WW 1. There are all kinds of different shots of battlefields, graveyards and troops. I would like to know if possible which regiments make up the 47th Battalion and where if possible the postcards came from, as I have talked to many WW 1 veterans from different battalions and they have never seen or heard of postcards like these.

G. Marchall, Durham.

The 47th Battalion was originally raised in 1915 in the New Westminster district of British Columbia. It went overseas in 1916 and served in France from August 11, 1916 to April 27, 1919. Like other Canadian combat battalions in 1914-18, it received drafts from many other units - 33 in all in the case of the 47th. However by far the largest contributions came from the Westminster Fusiliers of Canada, the Irish Fusiliers of Canada, and the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada. In the present militia system, the 47th Battalion is perpetuated by the Royal New Westminster Regiment.

With regard to your postcards, it is possible that these were photographs taken by one or more members of the 47th Battalion and then turned into postcards. This was quite easy to do 60 years ago, because many of the cameras of those days took quite large pictures, with about the same dimensions as a standard postcard. All you had to do was attach a postcard to the back of your photograph, to provide backing and place to write an address and attach a stamp.

SOME MISSING MEMBERS

Jim Palmer
10009 Dublin Ave.
Chilliwack, B.C.

Jack Sayer
11390 86th St.
Delta, B.C. V4C 2X1

V.H. Larsen
57 East 8th Ave.
New West. B.C.

D. Allen
3 - 5850 177B St.
Surrey, B.C. V3S 4J6

D.G. McGregor
2080 Anson Ave.
Sea Island, Richmond, B.C.
V7B 1H8

Stan C. McConkey
1206 Mitchell Road
Richmond, B.C.

J.A.E. P re
431 Nelson Road
Coquitlam, B.C.

M. J. Bond
Box 728,
New West. B.C.

R. Britton
103 - 6557 Burlington
Burraby, B.C.

H. Buckel
308 - 238 E. 13th
Van. B.C.

John F. Brown
R.R. #1
Mission City, B.C.

Anton Wetsch
32171 Dahlstrom Ave.
Clearbrook, B.C.

R. Barber
9546 McNaught Rd.
Chilliwack, B.C.

Dr. G.A. Waugh
625 Medical Arts Bldg.
404 Graham Ave
Winnipeg, Man.

W. J. Swanson
1416 - 6th Ave
New West. B.C.

P.M. Clark
103 - 1424 Nelson St.
Van. B.C.

W. Johnson
8 - 1362 Comox St.
Vancouver, B.C.

Rbt. K. Bradshaw
Box 891,
Mission City, B.C.

DRAW REPORT 1979

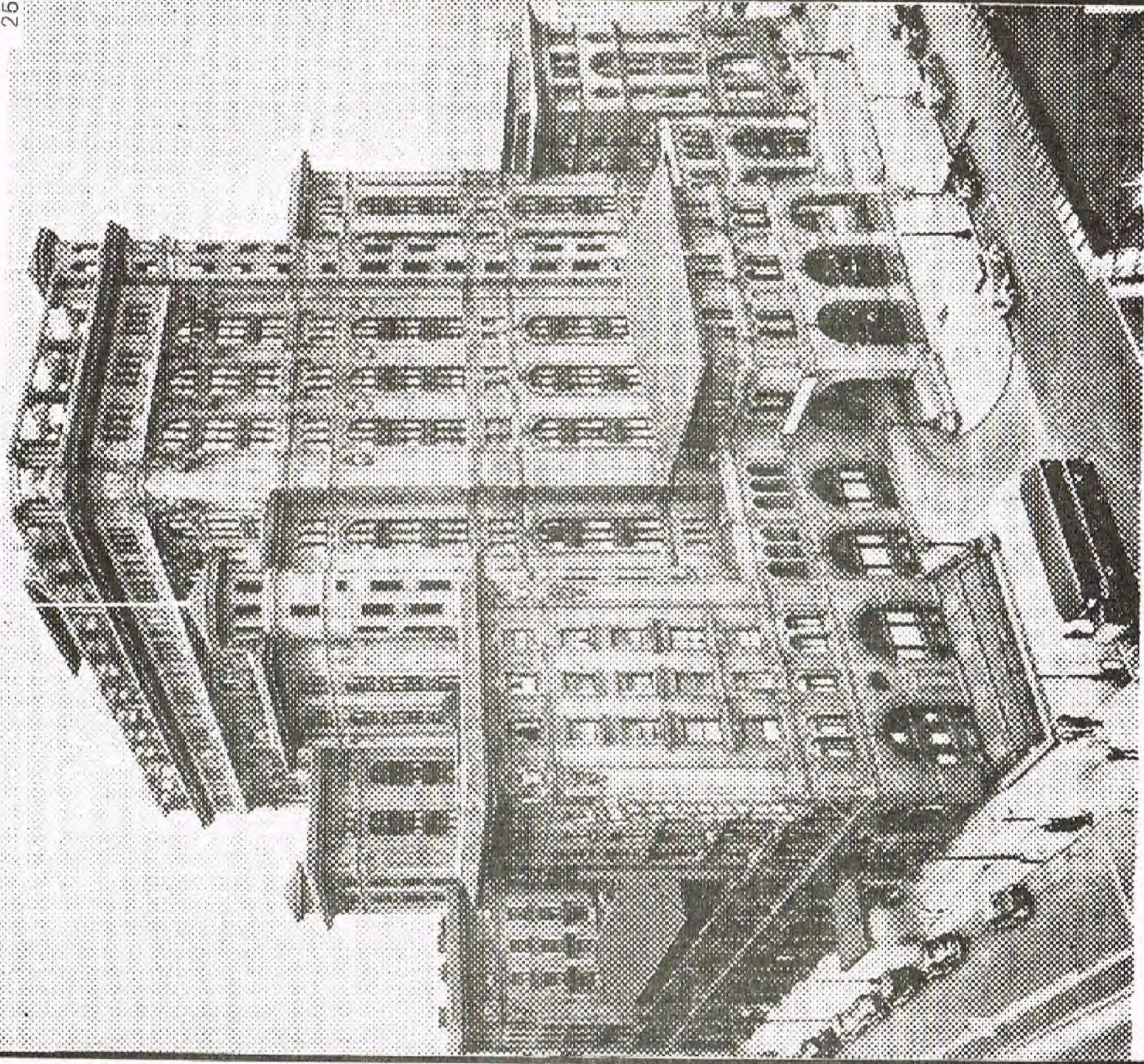
Ticket Sales		\$5172.00
Donations (\$2.00 per book)		906.75
		<u>\$6078.75</u>

EXPENDITURES

Licence	100.00	
Wm. Meek Books, printing, et al	690.73	
Postage and returned mail	199.59	
Advertising	40.00	
Prize lists & speed- print forms	18.58	
Secty Services	35.00	
P.A. System	30.00	
N.S.F. Cheque	14.00	
Prize list total	<u>1734.47</u>	
Total expenditures	2862.37	<u>2862.37</u>
Draw proceeds		\$3216.38

Draw proceeds reported to Victoria
 Less donations of \$906.75
 Mandatory 25% to be based on \$5172.00

* Draw return sheets certified - Walter Lyle
 Clarke Morrison



VANCOUVER BARRACKS

WESTMINSTER REGIMENT (M)

OCT. 1940 - MAY 1941

LEST WE FORGET

Ralph Ballam, WW 2
6006 Larch St.
Vancouver, B.C.
January 11/80

Wally Cosman, WW 2
Surrey, B.C.
January 1/80

Gordon Davies, WW 2
Prince George, B.C.
January 16/80

Leo Wright, WW 2
Cultus Lake, B.C.
January 25/80

Alexander MacFarlane, WW 2
Nova Scotia
October 5/79

John Henry Allan, WW 1&2
Hatzic, B.C.
January 21/80

OUR HERITAGE

They tell us the twilight is falling,
Falling on heads turning grey,
That soon there will be no remembrance
Of warriors long gone away.

They say we romanticize killing,
That War is a curse and a blight.
Dear Father in Heaven, they knew it!
They knew it, but still went to fight!

Why prate of ideals when the goose-step
Was heard from behind bolted doors?
They poured from this land in their thousands
To keep all that hell from our shores.

Perhaps it IS twilight for veterans.
It comes to us all with the years.
At least we have rich, hallowed memories,
And poppies, and crosses, and tears.

- Helen E. Middleton.

INDISPUTABLE FACT :

The soldier's girl friend, worried a little by newspaper stories about soldier marriages "down under", demanded of her hero, "What have those Australian girls got that we haven't got?"

"Nothing," he wrote in reply, "But they've got it here."

DISPUTABLE (?) FACT:

A soldier, a year overseas, received a letter saying his wife back home had just given birth to a son. Turning to his barrack mates, he shouted enthusiastically, "Congratulate me, fellas! The wife has just had a son!" The others looked at one another silently, and finally one ventured, "Don't you think that's a bit odd? You've been overseas a year." "Why should it?" said the happy one, "There are two years between my brother and me!"

TALLY - HO !

Guests in a Cairo hotel, hearing a scream in the corridor, discovered a damsel in negligee being pursued by a gentleman who was, to put it bluntly, nude. Later it developed that the impetuous Romeo was an English major who was promptly court-martialed. His lawyer won him an acquittal however, by virtue of the following paragraph in the Army manual; "It is not compulsory for an officer to wear a uniform at all times, as long as he is suitably garbed for the sport in which he is engaged.

TEN WAYS TO SINK YOUR ASSOCIATION

1. Don't attend meetings - but if you do, come late.
2. Always leave before adjournment.
3. Never speak up at any meeting. Wait until you get outside.
4. Sit in the back of the room where you can chat freely with other members.
5. Vote in favour of every action. Then go home and do nothing.
6. Find fault with the Officers and other leaders every chance you get. It keeps them on their toes and enables you to say "I told you so".
7. Take all you can get in the way of benefits and services. Give as little as possible in return.
8. Keep your ideas to yourself. But be a good listener and pick up all the tips you can from others.
9. Never ask anyone to join. Only fall guys serve on a committee.
10. Only serve on a committee if they make you chairperson. Do as little as possible and try not to call a meeting. You can always then report progress.