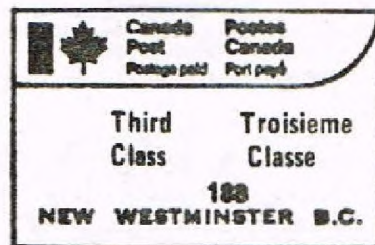


THE ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 854, New Westminster, B.C. V3L 4Z8



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. 2

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

MAR.—APRIL 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

MELFA DINNER AND GOLF TOURNAMENT Saturday, May 17th, 1980

(DETAILS INSIDE)

1939-45



36TH ANNIVERSARY

SOMME 1916
ARRAS 1917-1918
VIMY 1917
HILL 70 1917
YPRES
PASSCHENDAELE
GROCOURT QUEANT
CANAL-DU-NORD
AMIENS
VALENCIENNES.

ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGT. ASSOC.

ANNUAL MELFA DINNER 1944 - 1980



MENU

SMORGASBORD or
BARON OF BEEF

MELFA CROSSING
GOTHIC LINE
CORIANO
LAMONE CROSSING
MISANO RIDGE
NAVIGLIO RIDGE
ITALY 1944-1945
IJSSEL MEER.
DELFIJL POCKET.
NORTHWEST EUROPE 45

Place: THE ARMOURIES, New Westminster, B.C.

Date: Saturday, May 17th, 1980

Time: 5:30 P.M.

1914-18



1944

15TH ANNUAL MELFA GOLF TOURNAMENT

Tsawwassen Golf Course

Tee Off 8:30 a.m.

Saturday, May 17th, 1980

MELFA DINNER

Saturday, May 17th, 1980

The Armouries, New Westminster, B.C.

Doug Glenn, Chairman

PROGRAMME

HAPPY HOUR—FELLOWSHIP 6:00 p.m.

(Bar Opens 5:30 p.m.)

CENOTAPH SERVICE—7:00 p.m.

DINNER 7:45 p.m.

One Minute's Silence in Memory of Departed Comrades

Grace—Regimental Padre

Toast to Queen

Introduction of Head Table

Toast to City of New Westminster

Toast—The Regiment

Toast—Comrades in Arms

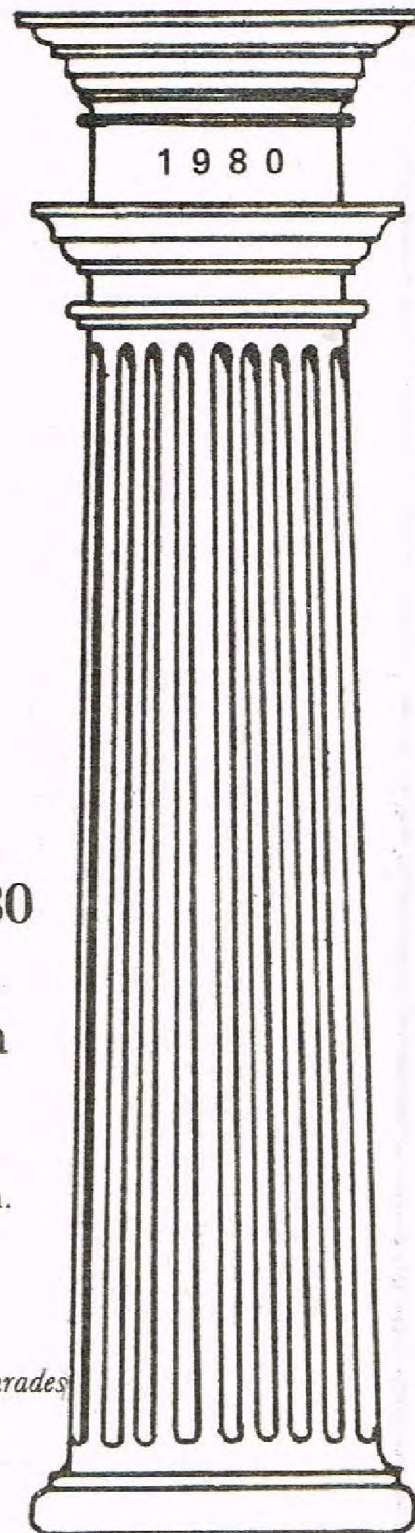
Introduction of Speaker

The Melfa

Chairman's Remarks

Bar Re-opens—Fellowship

1980



PRESIDENTS REPORT

ANNUAL MEETING

THE ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

Mar. 20, 1980

This is our 33rd Annual General Meeting, the one occasion, when those few people who serve on the Executive, and history will show that it is the same few year after year, are present to receive Guidance from the membership, some of which may not be in accordance with individual members opinion when viewed from an overall point of view or, in other words "Is it to the betterment of the Association".

Should some of you find fault with what has been done over this last year, and it is known that the actions of the executive can not nor do not please everyone, I feel on very safe ground when I say any and all actions that were taken were guided by "our purpose". as shown on the back of your membership card.

The Executive has met every month, the attendance at the meetings has been sufficient at all times to conduct formal business, but some of those whom you elected last year have a poor attendance record - a point which I hope you will consider when you elect anew tonight.

It is my contention that anyone who allows his name to stand for election must do so in the knowledge that he has a responsibility to perform,

which will keep this Association up to its high standard. Your nominations committee for this year has been charged with this responsibility under these specific terms.

There are several reports in circulation, these speak for themselves. I will refrain from naming names of those executive members who chaired the various committees. There is only one way to look at these reports. " A team effort "

There are those of you who will not be in harmony with the action taken in respect of "Scholarships", "Melfa" Dinner, and possibly even the format of the "Groundsheet"; are "Dollars" sufficient support for the Cadets? We have reached another plateau, a plateau that is dictated by age, in some respects, so from hereon we should all be thinking of the future and to whom do we throw the torch of responsibility. Not this year or next but somewhere down the road some changes are going to be forced upon us.

Our main source of revenue continues to be the Annual Xmas Draw; Dues for membership continue at a good level, however, the highlight of my year, in the "Dollar" department was the excellent response to the President's fund for the Diarama; the donations made in concert with the draw and the rapidity that a few members made in providing the funds for the museum rewiring project.

A special thank you to the ladies of the Legion

who started the wiring fund with a \$500.00 cheque. I hope taht the minutes of this meeting will record a formal vote of thanks.

We lost many of our members this last year; some before their three score and 10; it is saddening to lose these people, but we can take some satisfaction from the fact that we had the pleasure of knowing them and that this world is just a little bit better for their having been here.

This Association is proud of The Regiment; we have a line of communication direct to the C.O. which generally works. Likewise, I think the Regiment is proud of us. Todays' army is a lot different from the one we knew, and at times we have to curb our opinions as they do not coincide with the today thinking or attitudes. This Association enjoys many priveleges from the Regiment; in particular, the freedom of a meeting place; a small office area - however it is in the Museum effort that we cherish our Association. Some executive members do not agree with my attitude towards the Regiment, but we are 'beholding' in some areas - free light - phone, etc, as well as space, and most of those now serving were not even born when Col. Corbould called "Dismiss". What have you done to improve our affiliation with the Regiment?

Thanks to one member on the past Executive - again no name, but you will know of whom I speak - who has rekindled our connections and ignited a

spark with those whom we dearly refer to as "Old Sweats". The 47th Regiment, it is alive and doing as well as can be expected. I only hope that I will have their vitality and interest when I reach the tender age of 78 years plus, as are most of them.

Please take the time to read the reports herewith -- your constructive criticism will be appreciated.

Thanks for the privelege of being your President this past 12 months. It has been most gr tifying to work with a fine bunch of fellows and to have a closer association with all members through correspondence than previously attained. I have not done all I should have done - I have not always done what others thought I should, nor how they would have; but it has been an interesting year. Thanks. The future is in the hands of those who attend this meeting.

Scotty

ON RETURNING TO THE MELFA

by Russ Miller

(reprinted from Groundsheet May 1966)

The Liri valley lays,
 In Peaceful summer's grace.
The Melfa river winds,
 Its lazy way below.
And in the field beyond,
 The plodding oxen brace
Rolls up the fertile earth,
 Made sacred long ago.

The farmer's house still stands
 Where once it did.
Among the sounds of life,
 The carle bells and children play.
So different from another time,
 When then it hid
The sounds and scenes of death,
 Of comrades locked in fray.

Standing here, this placid scene,
 This time, begins to fade,
My mind sweeps back
 Through lusty years of May.
When young and lusty men,
 Were ageless heroes made.
Where each sought peace,
 And death the price he paid.

Down the dusty Benedictine road,
They swiftly made
"The Griffen Force," with gallant "Straths,"
Who rode upon the flanks,
Like "Those at Balaclava,"
And the daring "Light Brigade,"
They fought, and on they raced,
The infantry and tanks.

The river was in view,
The final dash begun,
The Schmeisser and the Spandau
Spit their seeds of hate.
Still, on they go! Extended line!
Up the bank they run,
To lie in Nebelwerfer blast,
And screaming Eight-eight.

"The Bridgehead," for endless hours,
Through hell they hold.
These dwindling few,
Who fought and died and fought.
Until the surge of battle,
Left them in its smoking fold,
To stumble, woulded, dying.
From this rocky hield they sought.

And here at my feet, he fell,
And bled and died.
I touch the earth,

So warm from new Italian suns.
Thankful, I remembered,
And turned away and cried.
I have not forgotten Comrades,
Who sleep from battles won.

MAIL BAG

I don't suppose it applies to all of you, considering the remote spots some of you live in, but the Season of Spring has got a good hold on the countryside here; fruit trees blooming, tulips tall and glowing, grass needs cutting (farewell to winter liesure!) and the garden must be planted, more from necessity than a green thumb' urge! Then try and keep all the cats and stray dogs off it so it'll have a chance to grow before it's all dug up. With all due sympathy to those who are trying to establish a home, making colossal payments are only a part of it: there is always something that needs doing or fixing or taken down or put up. Especially in the Spring.

It would seem that most of our members thoughts have lightly turned to Spring, for the correspondence has been very scarce in the last few weeks. Bill Robson is back home from Arizona now, so there's one less letter we'll get. (His cribbage never got any better, either). Doug Glenn received quite a few write-ins from members with a 'yes' or

(mail bag...cont.)

'no' for attendance at the Melfa Dinner, among them one from R.Dashwood, Nelson, B.C. who says he'll be here, and who enclosed a nice donation for the Museum Fund. Many thanks indeed, Bob, and we will see you at the Dinner... Another one from H.L.Jones, Maryfield, Sask., who has a pending trip to the hospital in Regina coming up so he isn't sure if he can make the Dinner. Best of luck to you, old son, and may your stay be brief, and we'll hope to see you at the Melfa. And our hearty thanks for your welcome donation.

Gordon Corbould (there's one that's easy to remember, fellas) sends a note from Stewart, B.C. saying he can't make it sown but that he remembers us, too, and encloses a donation for the Assn. Our best thanks to you, Bordy, (Sir!) and happy landingsAnd another nice screed from that lad with the facile pen, Walt Kearsley, Lindsay, Ont. who says he can't make it this year, for his wife Lilian has been ill in hospital and he won't travel without her. We're really sorry to hear that, Walt, and may we offer our sympathy and best wishes for Lilian's speedy recovery. I know that your mean about the house seeming empty. You should be a Family Councillor, Walt, you have some good old-fashioned ideas about marriage.

Nothing very exciting in the way of news to pass on. There has been millions of words put forth

by the media describing various brilliant ideas thought up VIP, but that's it. Words. No action. Should Canada boycott the Olympics? Talk about it. Should we have new fighter 'planes?' Discuss it endlessly, and then let the Yanks build them for us. Couldn't we build our own? Vote Liberal? Anyone who doesn't according to Axeworthy, is like sending a eunuch to a harem. Build a cloating bridge across the Gulf of Georgia? Can't you just imagine the marine traffic some dark night with a big sou'-wester booming u½ the Gulf? Ah, well. This country never got to where it is on words alone.

To all of you who can make it, we'll see you on the Golf course on the 17th., and at the Dinner later. Gung-ho !

Editor

GROUNDSHEET REPORT
(AGM, March 20th/80)

The Groundsheet was produced five times in 1979, once every two months, except the holiday months July and August, at a cost to the Association of \$1741.00, which is just under .50¢ per copy. Unless it were 'writ by hand' I don't think we could improve much on that.

Our mailing list was getting in sad dis-array from people moving and not letting us know, or becoming deceased, but hard work and effort on the part of our Secretary has got it back in order again, so

we hope to find you all with succeeding issues.

Under the new format adopted last year there's considerable more work that falls on the Assn. with regard to the assembling, folding, addressing and mailing of an issue. This is handled by a group of 'volunteers' who turn out on request and give about three hours to the task. As editor, I would like to offer them by most hearty thanks for this cooperation.

Barring the unexpected, the paper will be produced as usual in /80. Thank you.

E.Shannon
Editor

MELFA BATTING AVERAGE

Last issue of the Groundsheet we appealed to you for a 'yes' or 'no' regarding attendance at the 'Melfa' Dinner.

I'm batting .500 17yes - 17no

" I have miles and miles before I sleep. "
Please let us know, expecially if it is 'yes'.

Doug Glenn
Chairman

LEST WE FORGET

W.M. Webster, WW1, 131st & 47th Batts.
San Francisco, Cal.
U.S.A.

THE ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT
ASSOCIATION

Budget Committee

RECOMMENDED BUDGET FOR 1980

<u>BUDGETTED INCOME</u>	Actuals 1978-1979	Recommended <u>Budget</u>	Approved <u>Budget</u>
Draw	3915 2830	\$ 3216	\$ 3216
Dues	1267 2830	1400	....
Investment Int.	626 774	650	....
Donations	1054 1022	1100	....

BUDGETTED EXPENSES

Poppy Fund	100 100	100	....
Cadets	941 647	900 *	....
Museum	800 1295	1400 *	....
Melfa	359 465	600	....
Smoker	5 140	150	....
Ground Sheet	1704 1741	1700	....
Administration	927 1030	1000	....

* Note: Cadet and Museum budgetted amounts to be issued at two times:

	On or after Mar 31 1980	On or After Aug 31 1980
Cadets	400	500
Museum	300	600

Respectfully submitted:

LCol B.V.Morgan, Chairman Audit Commit.

Draw Return Sheets Certified : Walter Lyle
Charlie Morrison

DRAW REPORT 1979

In Summary - ledger sheets available for details

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

Expenditures

Licence	100.00
Wm.Meek.Books	
Printing Et Al.....	690.73
Postage.incl.	
Returned mail.....	199.59
Advertising	40.00
Prize lists & Speedi	
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>
	2862.37
Draw Proceeds.....	<u>3216.38</u>

Draw Proceeds Reported to Victoria
Less Donations of 906.75
Mandatory 25% to be based on \$5172.00

During the past year a stalwart effort has been made to get our nominal rolls up to date. Over the years many of our members have moved and have not taken the time to send in a change of address. You will note that in the last issue of the Groundsheet we listed a number of addresses that are not current. If you know any of the chaps noted please drop us a line so that we can correct our list.

It has been a pleasure being Secretary this year if only to receive letters and notes from old friends. I think we all realize that the Groundsheet is our "lifeline" so keep the letters coming even if it is

only a complaint.

The generosity of our members in sending in their dues with " a little bit more " has been a great boon to our limited finances .

Our Museum has made great strides in the last few years and the interest, both vocal and financial, of our members has been a great help to the Museum Committee.

For those who might be interested we still have a number "War Diary", in hard cover, available at a cost of \$5.00 along with the booklet "Retorno in Italia" at \$2.00 per.

We hope very shortly to have our Association registered under the Societies Act. This will give us legal status.

We now have a complete nominal roll of the Officers and members of the Unit along with addressograph plates which will enable us to put them on our mailing list.

NORMAN J. McASKILL Secr.

COMMANDING OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT 1980
THE ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

Once again it is a pleasure and an honour to present the Commanding Officer's annual report to the Regimental Association.

The last year has been a good year and a measurable improvement has been achieved in many areas. One such area has been in regards to our officers and senior NCO's.

Over the last two years considerable time and unit resources have been directed to upgrading both the quality and quantity of our officers and senior NCO's. It is with personal satisfaction that I can report that with the Officers presently pending enrolment we will have recruited the allowable officers in the establishment. Even though this is the case we are not restricted in the number of OCDT's that we can enroll. Our senior NCO strength has increased by three qualified sergeants and two acting sergeants. The acting rank is an appoint-

ment authorized by the CO. An individual appointed to acting sergeant has two years in which to qualify. In the last three years the unit has appointed eight acting sergeants. Six have qualified within the time frame mentioned and the remaining two were appointed at a CO's par de in February. It appears that once given the challenge our NCO's will rise to the occasion.

The turnover rate in the militia has always been very heavy and no unit in Canada seems to have found a solution to the problem. Despite our current status of the unit is outlined below.

	On strength	Band	Pending TOS
Officer	16	1	3
CWO	1	-	
MWO	2	2	
WO	1	2	
SGT	8	7	
A/Sgt	2	8	
Cpt/Pte	<u>48</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>6</u>
	<u>77</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>9</u>

Since the last report the following officers have been taken on strength:

Maj. Howie Lee
 Lt. Michail Cooper
 OCDT PJ Spittle

Maj Peter Maione
 Lt. Philip Leith
 OCDT RS Usher

MUSKETRY - Without a doubt the most visible area of self improvement for the individual soldier has been in the realm of musketry. Together with the assistance of members of the Regimental Association our unit since January has qualified theirty four soldiers to the level of second class. The unit objective is to qualify 60% of all personnel to the level of second class by 30 June.

REGIMENTAL BAND - Self improvement and the desire to strive collectively for a high level of musical perfection has been the goal of our regimental band. Under the direction of Capt GVE Crewe the band has accomplished a great deal during the past year. A highlight of the bands musical year without a doubt, was the b nd concert staged at Vincent Massey Auditorium on 14 March. The band performed before an

enthusiastic audience of approximately three hundred people. A sum in excess of \$600.00 was raised for the purchase of scarlet uniforms. To date contributions toward the purchase of band uniforms are as follows:

Major Peter Pirie	\$100.00
Lt.Col.Farnsworth	25.00
Lt.Col.M.Steede	50.00
J.A.Bruce,Sr.	25.00
H.J.Anderson	20.00

For these donations the regiment and in particular the members of the regimental band extend a hearty thanks. The amount raised so far will pay for the purchase of approximately two complete scarlet uniforms.

Upcoming events are noted below:

April 4-7	Easter Con	May 17	Melfa Dinner
19	Annual Mess Dinner		
26	Annual Inspection	29	Hyack Parade

June 7-8	Blair Trophy Competition
15	Regimental Christening
28	Canada Day

July 1	Sunset Ceremony
	Queens Park

Before closing, may I take this opportunity to thank the President of the Association for all the good work and wholesome attitude he has extended toward the Regiment. Nelson Scott had been forthright and has worked hard for the Association and for the Band. To him I extend a most deserving thanks.

Finally, I am pleased to report that I have never been more optimistic about the regiments future than at this point in time. A good team is in place and it will perform for you.

J.N. Gangur
Lieutenant Colonel
Commanding Officer

VIMY REPORT 2ND INSTALLMENT

The following is the second part of the Vimy Ridge Battle. The first is in last months 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 was pictures, which unfortunately, did not reproduce too well.

Vimy Ridge

It was cold. A sharp frost had hardened the mud, and puddles became mirrored with ice. The sky was heavily clouded, and cold winds blew in sleet from the northwest. The income of snow only added to the large number of miserable conditions.

At exactly 5:30 a.m. of Easter Monday, April 9th!, red, white, and green-tailed rockets roared across the sky, slamming the Hindenburg Line. Canadian guns barked, and large mines under the left portion of the line were blown away. Suddenly, thousands of Canadian soldiers poured out of the Tunnel, and advanced up the Ridge at 100 yards intervals.

The Canadian attack was planned using four divisions, numbered in order from the right to the left. Generally, each division was to attack

cont.

with two battalions, with one battalion backing for support.

Von Faulkenhauser's soldiers were caught "napping", and the line's first row of trenches were quickly taken and over-run.

Canadian artillery had done it's job well. Greeting volleys from German guns were few. German soldiers, who had not received rations, ammunitions, or relief for the three days prior to the attack, were slow to respond.

The second row of German trenches witnessed brutal hand-to-hand combat. Snipers and numerous machine gun batteries peppered Canadians with endless waves of lead. Nevertheless, by 6:15 the 1st and 2nd. Divisions reported success, securing the black line, the first of four planned phases. Ten minutes later, the same was reported by the 3rd. Division.

By 6:45, the 1st. Division had over-run German trenches. In the captured trenches numerous bottles of soda water, and hundreds of loaves of bread, black and sour, were found. The left half of the Division's objectives to the Red Line, the second phase, was fulfilled at 7:00 am and after a brief skirmish, the right half was taken also .

At 7:30, the 3rd, Division had reached the crest of Vimy Ridge. It was a strange sight to

..cont.

behold; to one side lay green, fertile fields, to the other, muddy battered expanses. German soldiers fleeing east, in the direction of the Farbus woods were quickly cut down hastily set up Canadian machine guns.

Meanwhile the 4th. Divisions objective still seemed in question. Attempts to capture Hill 145 and a feature known as the "Pimple", remained unsuccessful, as enemy machines guns continuously mowed approaching Canadians, and Germans unexpectedly popped out from hidden mine shafts and assembly trenches.

At 10:00 a.m. with the 1st and 2nd. Divisions reporting success in securing the Blue line, the third phase, Canadian forces quickly set up machine guns, evacuated the wounded, brought up supplies, and settled in the occupied trenches.

Finally, and after three repeated attacks and generous support of the 1st and 2nd, Divisions, three battalions, comprising the 4th. Division, captured Hill 145 in the late afternoon, after bitter fighting on the western face of the Hill. And, on April 12th, three full days after the initial assault, Canadians braved a raging snow storm to capture the "Pimple".

The Battle of Vimy Ridge was over. Sir Arthur Currie, Commander of the Canadian Corps, said, after the victory: "Truly magnificent, the

..cont.

greatest day the Corps has ever had."

The Canadian victory was a great success; 4,000 enemy prisoners were taken, 34 German guns, 104 trench mortars, and 124 machine guns were acquired, and a total penetration of three miles was achieved.

The psychological impact was great. Prior to the Battle of Vimy Ridge Allied forces had not achieved even a single major victory. The Canadian triumph lifted sagging morale, and devastated the Central Powers. Moreover, The Ridge itself was well-known, distinctive, and imposing. It's conquering by the Canadian troops presented a "torch" by which all could follow. All in all, Vimy Ridge seemed to be tailor-made for both the Allied and Canadian cause.

D.J. Goodspeed explains: "The Canadian cause was to win other outstanding victories in the war. Some of them inherently more important but none so caught the popular imagination or were so peculiarly identified with Canada as the taking of Vimy Ridge."

There is very little difference in people, says Clement Stone, but that difference is attitude. The big difference is whether said attitude is positive or negative.

ANNUAL REPORT 1980

The Museum has had a busy year. The diorama which has been a long time in planning and construction is now approaching completion. This has been possible through the kind contribution made by our anonymous donor and Vern Ardagh's efforts.

Ian Douglas and Dick Sharnon represented the Museum at the Annual Conference of the Organization of Military Museums of Canada the venue for which had to be changed at the last minute from Edmonton to Ottawa as the result of the "boat people" having first claim on the DND resources.

We have increased our PR coverage over the past year through the efforts of Freda Hogg. Notices of the open hours of the Museum are now appearing in many publications at no cost to us. This has helped greatly in bringing us into the public eye. The Museum was the feature article in an issue of the B.C. Museums Association newsletter.

The Museum Committee undertook and completed a project this past year which was long overdue. Our cannon has graced the exterior of the Armoury for many years but had never been properly mounted. It was decided that this should be remedied and the cannon now stands permanently mounted on a concrete slab beside the front door of the Armoury.

There are several other projects that we hope to undertake this year. Amongst these is the protecting and mounting of the many thousands of photographs held in the archives and the restoring of the Colours of the 47th Bn CEF which hang in Holy Trinity Cathedral. You can appreciate that these projects will be very expensive. While the Museum Committee does not have the resources to cover the cost of these, there are several foundations that will be approached to determine if they can assist financially. Photographs will yellow, fade and deteriorate in time if they are not properly

mounted in acid-free envelopes and kept from direct sunlight. To protect those we have will cost several thousands of dollars. It is for this reason we are exploring the availability of grants.

Once again our Federal grant has been reduced. In the 1980/81 fiscal year we will receive \$1,000. These funds, together with those received from the Association, finance our day to day operations. This amount is less than 50% of last year's grant. While we are looking into the possibility of obtaining grants from foundations we must have specific projects in mind in order to become eligible.

I wish to thank all members of the Museum Committee for their loyalty, hard work and unflagging interest. Without this kind of support the Museum could not exist.

I also wish to thank the Association for their continued assistance. The financial assistance we receive from the Association contributes greatly to our operating income.

Lastly, I wish to thank all those who have made contributions to the Museum both by way of cash donations and by way of artifacts during the past year. If the Museum is to continue growing we will require more artifacts for display purposes. If any members have items they wish to deposit with us we would be delighted to have them.

M.H.H. STEEDE
CHAIRMAN,
MUSEUM COMMITTEE

SPECIAL NOTE

As this issue goes to press, information has been received from Gus Gates, our solicitor, confirming the approval of our application for registry under the Societies Act of British Columbia. The Certificate of Incorporation has been issued under the name "Royal Westminster Regiment Association" The effective date is March 26, 1980; Certificate# S15462.

This registration has many vertues - all of which will be detailed in an article in the next issue of Groundsheet

Editor

(Thanks to Rev. Tom Allen - retired, the following was obtained fro the archives of Holly Trinity Cathedral, New Westminster. The Cathedral is the Garrison Church.)

REGIMENTAL COLOURS

The Military Colours, handing in the Choir aria of Holy Trinity Cathedral, are those received by The (now) Royal Westminster Regiment in the year 1919. They were deposited in their present place of honour, for safekeeping, by the Commanding Officer, Lt. Col. G.B.Corbould, at a special

..cont.

Church Parade on Saturday, October 26th. A.D. 1929
Theatres of action which marked "Service with
Distinction" in World War 1 are recorded thereon.

..... taken from the Province, Feb. 25/80

MILITARY AMBIVALENCE

I was raised in the United States. In 1966,
along with thousands of other young men, I became
part of the U.S. military machine to beef up the
armed forces to escalate the Vietnam crisis.

Our training was reduced from eleven to eight
weeks and the number of recruits was raised to
the point that we were living out of tents in order
to process enough young men into war machines to do
the killing and dying for the honor of Uncle Sam.
During those eight weeks we were subjected to
psychological and physical degradation second to
none.

I now have two sons, and although they are
too young to be involved in the current crisis, I
can only pray that if such a situation occurs when
they are of age that there is a sympathetic nation
(such as Canada) where they can seek refuge and
hopefully fulfill their right to a long and happy
life just the same as all the safe and smug Canad-
ians who would rather have others do the world's
fighting as we watch from the security of our
homes.
