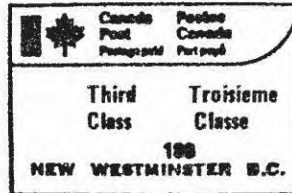


THE ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 854, New Westminster, B.C. V3L 4Z8



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. 30, NO. 4

BOX 854, NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C. V3L 4Z8 SEPT. - OCT. 1981

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

ARMISTICE PARADE

ASSEMBLY: 9:45 a.m.

SERVICE: The Armoury, 10:00 a.m.

PARADE TO CENOTAPH: 10:45 a.m.

SERVICE AT CENOTAPH - MARCH PAST - DISMISSAL

Remembrance and Fellowship ...Medals and Berets

COMING EVENTS

The ANNUAL SMOKER and Xmas Draw will be held in the Armouries, New Westminster, on December 19/81, starting at 7:30 p.m. Tickets may be turned in anytime after 5 p.m.

Lets see a big turn-out, and who knows? Maybe this is your year to get lucky.

.....

Just a reminder well in advance, the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and Election of Officers will be held in the Armouries on Thursday, March 18th/82, proceedings to commence at 7:30 p.m. Keep that date open, and lets have the Association well represented. If you have any complaints, bouquets or particular choice for Executive, this is the time and place to make them known.

.....

ARMISTICE DAY, or as some choose to call it 'Rememberance Day', will be held on November 11th, of course, time and place as noted on the front page. This is one day to forget present worries, to turn the mind back to what has gone before, and to contemplate what the future may have in store for us. And let us show, by our presence, that the pride in the old Regiment is still a living thing.

THE REGIMENTAL SPIRIT

In 1909 Winston Churchill said: "Regiments are not like houses. They cannot be pulled down or altered structurally to suit the convenience of the occupier or the caprice of the owner. They are more like trees; they grow slowly if they are to grow strong. If they are blighted or transplanted they are apt to wither." He may not have been a very good soldier, but he knew a thing or two about the Army, and about people.

Regiments have survived for three principle reasons; first, because each is a family or team of people, with its own sense of membership and its own spirit, which animate officer and soldier equally; secondly, because they are composed of fairly sensible people and usually with sensible leaders who recognize the need to develop and evolve in step with social changes; and thirdly because, in their different ways, each aims at being the best at everything it does.

Quoted from: The Journal of
The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.

There's a way of transferring funds that is even faster than electronic banking - it's called marriage.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Well done - we made it through the summer, you and I; unfortunately some of our members didn't make it. So pause a moment and be thankful.

This issue contains extracts from reports by those from the Museum committee who attended conferences in Victoria and Quebec. These people are to be highly commended for their efforts on our behalf (the Museum being the pride of this Association) and their diligence and discipline in reporting what took place. Please take the time to read them.

Rendezvous 1983. Something that has been talked about for many years - an event that will include members and their wives. A gala event to be staged at the usual Melfa Dinner date in 1983. The Executive had planned for 1984, but some wag suggested that some of us wouldn't make it until then. The subject was also well discussed at the 'D'Coy annual event, so here we go. Doug Glenn has volunteered to be the general Chairman. He is going to start off with a small select group to plan the goal and tone and then fill in those important people to do the work. This gathering (call it a reunion or whatever) is to embrace our total membership, so put a mark on the wall and set up your plans now. Now is not too early.

The mailing of this issue of Groundsheet should see all addresses of members in tip-top shape - no more duplicates I hope. Doug Glenn and I have gone over the address plates, Norm McAskill has brought all files up to date, so what else can be done? Let me know if there is any problem with yours. What is regretful is that we are losing members - some do not take the trouble to let us know that they have moved. You are no different than the rest of us; the time has come to sell the family home, move to an apartment or mobile - maybe even to sunnier climes. But it would only take a minute to let your Association know. Look at the 'Kelly' report and fill us in if you have any information.

In passing I would like to commend some books that I have just finished - books that have had to wait many years to be published. It was agreed after the last war that certain periods of time were to elapse before files and records were to be opened for general observation; you should read 'The Man called Intrepid' and 'The Bodyguard of Lies'. Rommel's Diary also makes good reading and gives an insight into the problems and jealousies that permeated the famed or infamous Africa Corps.

Your Association has been made the beneficiary of a very generous and considerate former Commanding Officer of our unit, and latterly the Honourary Colonel. Ted Eakins left

us the magnificent sum of ten thousand dollars. A special advisory committee has been set up to give substance to the terms specified in his will, and this committee will be reporting to your executive at the November meeting. The Museum has been favored with all of Ted's uniforms for display and under another provision of the will we are to receive all of his medals and miniatures.

It had been hoped that we could announce that your Association, now that we were a registered Society under the

B.C. Societies Act, would also be granted a Tax concession, under Federal law, for donations. This was not to be; our application for a tax-exempt number was refused. It was considered that we were more fraternal than charitable. An appeal against the ruling was given the same treatment. This does not preclude donations being made to the Museum, for which you may receive a tax exempt receipt. Has anyone got some political clout?

The Xmas draw is late this year, but it is coming. There was some discussion as to the advisability of a postponement of the date of the draw to the Annual meeting. Traditionally we have always been a Xmas activity, and it was so ordered. You, who have the privilege to sell tickets, will only have seven weeks to do your thing. This is one year when the excuse of forgetting will not be valid. Time is of the essence. Unfortunately, by law,

we are restricted to B.C. sales only, and open selling in a very small area.

Over the years there has been unceasing talk about how the volunteer aspect has kept this Association going and the Museum alive and well. This is all very commendable and hopefully will increase in the days to come. The old adage of 'many hands' was never more true than at this point as some of us tend to slow down, consequently that extra helping hand is cheerfully accepted.

The area from which help may be drawn is limited; of our total membership less than 40% is west of Chilliwack to Vancouver and up the Sunshine Coast. We are spread all over B.C. and Canada. There are seven of us in the U.S.A. and an additional thirteen in other countries.

How do we then get that 60% involved? You can't serve on a committee or work in the Museum, tend bar, or clean up after a Melfa or Smoker, where you would be a contribution of one kind or another. Ah! That's it, the word is 'contributor'. Not as a performance or labor, but make a contribution so as to receive individual recognition. We have had many joint efforts calling for contributions; the Diorama wiring, the President's fund, all commendably received and filled. Now we have something different.

I have talked to Walt Hogg Dick Shannon, and others at the Museum, who have come up

with a way for you to get involved. In simple terms, you can adopt a simple museum project or a trophy or some artifact that needs refurbishing or repair. You would bear the financial burden for the specific item, and those in the Museum will see that it is done in your name. Trophies, of which there are many, need repair; the costs vary. There is also the continuing discussion as to whether re-silvering detracts from the historical value, but there are trophies that the lettering is gone on. This is just a small area. If you are interested get in touch. This is specifically for you people who can not keep in touch.

Don't forget Armistice Day. Attend the service of your own choice, but do pause to Remember in your own way.

At the start of my term I promised that a decision would be made in respect to berets. We currently have (some of us) the red one, which was adopted because it was a free issue. Jerry Gangur, when he was C.O., approved our use of the beret that the Regiment would be getting. New issues are still in the planning stage. Hope more news soon.

To close, I just noticed a good notation on blundering, which I do so well: You know what a blunder is? That's a man who starts a meat-market during Lent. Cheers to all.

Nelson Scott
President

ANNUAL BRANCH#3 (D Coy)

PICNIC REPORT

The eighth Annual Picnic meeting of Branch #3 took place at the Circle Six Ranch, on Columbia Rd., Chilliwack, on Sunday, Aug. 2nd, 1981, with 65 members, relatives and guests in attendance, festivities commencing at 1:00 p.m.

Weather for the picnic was perfect and the well-known hospitality of D'Arcy and Elsie Baldwin, Sam and Marion Soutar and the entire Soutar family much in evidence.

An enjoyable period of socializing, looking over the archival material, picnicking and imbibing preceded the annual meeting of the Branch at 3:30 p.m. Highlights of this saw the election of John McConnell, who succeeded Hugh Shannon as president, the re-election of Lyn Edmonds as secretary, and reports by Lt.-Col. Fred Wilks, C.O. for the Regiment, and Doug Glenn and Norm McAskill for the Association. The Flask of Remembrance was circulated -- fortunately with no additions during the past year -- and Stan Moorhouse proposed a golf tournament for the morning of next year's picnic and was promptly appointed chairman. Walt Hogg was reported as not receiving his Groundsheet, along with a total of six members or relatives, and this matter was referred to the Association executive.

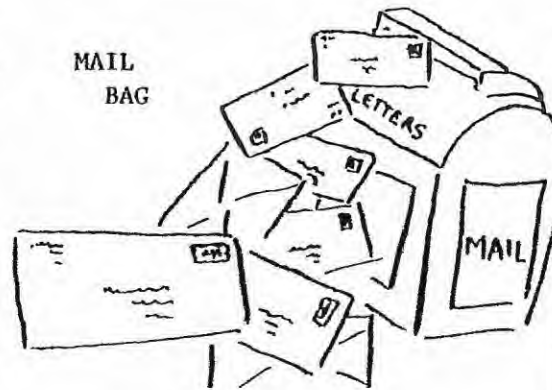
Bill Murray reported that a photo album containing many

of late president Leo Wright's pictures had been presented to the Branch and was warmly thanked on behalf of Carol and himself for this thoughtful and appropriate gift.

Parade followed at 5:00 p.m., with Lt.-Col. Wilks as Parade C.O., Peter Pirie commanding "D" Coy., D'Arcy Baldwin as O.C. Color party, and Mike Steede in charge of the ladies' contingent. Following the Honour Roll call and appropriate selections by organist Jane Clark, Retreat and the Last Post were sounded by trumpeter Frank Leighton and the Colours were lowered and folded by the colour party, Dick and Ed Shannon, and faced to the parade. The parade was then marched off and dismissed "until next year" (in the phrase of a previous anonymous contributor).

The day ended with an enjoyable sing-along led by Ian Douglas, who had contributed a number of selections to this year's song-book, and accompanied by Jane Clark and Frank Leighton. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded Sam and Marion Soutar for having again made their beautiful ranch home available for the gathering. Next year's (1982) picnic will be held on Sunday, August 1st, 1982. Hugh Shannon

An Art museum in Japan has a portrait of a geisha girl with an enigmatic smile. She's called the Kimona Lisa.



As you commence to read your copy of the Groundsheet, I can just hear you sighing, "At least here is something to read that doesn't run on at great length about the economic situation, the constitution the plight of the Third World the rioting of the 'People for Peace', the asininity of the metric system, etc.", so we'll keep it that way, tho' the temptation is great.

We had a good party at the Branch #3 Annual Picnic at the 'Circle 6' in August, and of course are looking forward to another one next year. The list of names on the old silver flask gets inexorably longer, reminding us that Time waits for no man; so we can only close ranks and carry on.

We'll fall in (or down:) again at the Smoker in December, and be delighted as ever to see the old faces and swap yarns over a dish of suds. The migratory types, Bill Robson and others (the ones who can't stand these harsh B.C.

winters), headed South the middle of October to the land of pine and chaparral, and who says we don't envy them? Have fun, fellers.

The correspondence has been light, as you will probably have assumed by now, except for letters from Pat McCarthy and Ted Burnby, which are included in this issue. You will find in the 'President's Comments' that there is a big party cooking for May '81; so start your planning early. It'll be different.

From all of us, I'm sure our best wishes for improved health to D'Arcy Baldwin and the ever-charming Elsie. People like them should live forever!

And let's hear from y'all, y'hear? Adios, compadres

Editor



In Memoriam

John Harrington, WW I
California, U.S.A.
June 26, 1981

Kenneth Neale, WW 2
Mission, B.C.
August 29, 1981

Paul Ostafew, WW 2
Vernon, B.C.
October 4, 1981

Box I022
Vernon, B.C.
VIT 6N2
Oct. 7/81

Dear Norm, Ed, and Scotty:

Yesterday, Oct. 6th, was a sad day for me when I attended the funeral service for Paul Ostafew. I didn't know him when I was with the Regiment, but I knew him quite well since I have been living in Vernon. Also attending the funeral was Iky Jackson, whose brother Mel was killed while serving with the Regiment. (On the Melfa crossing. I helped to lay him away. Ed) Irish Connelly also was at the Legion Ceremony.

Regards to all,
Ted Burnby.

N.B:

Ted forwarded to us Paul's obituary notice from the paper, which was most thoughtful of him.

Mr. W.H. Scott,
The Royal Westminster Regiment Assoc.,

October 5th, 1981

Dear Nelson:

Re: Your letter dated 28th May, 1981
in reference to Trustee.

I trust that this short letter finds you, and yours in very best of health.

Sorry to be so tardy in my reply, but as you know I accept the extended term as Trustee of the Royal WestMinster Regiment Association. Please give my best regards to everyone in Sunny B.C. A special Hello to Allan Coe who was my Platoon Commander when he got wounded along with CPL. Webb, and SGT. B. Peel on "Melfa Day".

If all goes true to form I hope to be out to the re-union dinner of May 1982 this coming year.

Yours thankfully,

Pat M. McCarthy
A.P. McCarthy.

Recently presented with the President's Award for outstanding service to the public while maintaining the highest standard of business practice and knowledge, along with continuous and distinguished sales leadership in Robert Case Realty Limited.

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Res. 281-8433

A. P. (Pat) McCARTHY

MUSEUM DOIN'S

A three-day seminar on Provincial museums was held Sept. 10th, 11th, and 12th; on the 10th at Bear Creek Park, Surrey, and continuing at Bay Street Armouries, Victoria, on the 11th and 12th. Walter Hogg and his good wife Freda attended these as representatives of our Museum.

The Surrey meeting was chaired by Kathy Vinton, Information Officer, Information Services, Ministry of Provincial Secretary and Government Services. (Wow!). Purpose of the meeting was to provide general information on Public Relations and Advertising re museums. She stressed that objectives must be defined before publicity could be used to advantage.

Jack Feca, Ministry Publications Manager, also spoke on how to attract and increase numbers of visitors, and Archie Miller, Curator, Royal City Museum, described 'slide programming' as a great way to 'take the Museum to the public'.

The afternoon was spent in further discussions on PR preparations. Some procedures applied only to large organizations with big budgets, but Freda remarks that much could be useful to our Museum, especially one-to-one 'advertising' by word of mouth, and a pleasant and welcoming atmosphere for Museum visitors.

The seminar continued in Victoria for the next two days, introduced by Greg Evans, Training Officer, Cultural Services Branch, and concentrating on military museums, their history, organization, and role in the community. Bob Watt, BCMA President and Curator of Centennial Museum, spoke on the desirability of all Provincial museums joining the BCMA for their mutual benefit.

Other speakers dispensed much useful information on the why and how of acquiring artifacts, their selection and disposition. The meeting ended with a workshop discussion to exchange ideas.

Our Museum was asked to host the next seminar on March 5th and 6th, and Walter and Freda are warmly commended for the time spent and interest shown in aid of furthering this very worthwhile project.

The full report, plus the one on Walt Tyler and Dick Shannon's sojourn in Quebec on museum business, may be seen by contacting the President, Nelson Scott, or the Museum committee.

Editor

OUR CRUSADER

The same spirit that led forth the knights of old with lance and charger to correct the wrongs of the world shines brightly in Vic Wilson, who needs no introduction to our Association.

The knights in black armor with whom he tilts vigorously are Tom Waterland, B.C. Forests Minister, and lumber Companies in Merritt, Princeton and the Fraser Valley. The prize is the preservation of a ten-mile square area in the Cascade Wilderness.

This area is still in its virgin state, is easily accessible from Hope or Princeton, and contains seven historical trails, also many lesser known pack trails cut by either white men or Indians. It is a hiker's paradise, being the home of several endangered types of flora, wildlife, and birds. To quote Vic: "It is the most incredible treasure house of creatures".

Vic, acting in behalf of the Okanagan Historical Society, with the aid of other naturalist and historical groups, says logging this area would leave "a hideous mess. The logging companies can do without it. They don't need it." It is protected at present by a two-year moratorium on resource exploitation, which expires next May, and Vic urges everyone to write their MLAs, the premier, and Waterland, calling for a Wilderness Area to be established here.

All power to you, Vic. The trend to destroy the Province's natural beauty and historical sites just so someone can make a fast buck is a repulsive one, and should have a lid clamped on it. There are many things in life more valuable than money, and preserving this area for future generations is one of them.

Editor

There has been a request made, by the party who has accepted the responsibility for summarizing the Regiment's history '39 to '45, for any of you chaps who can recall incidents that are interesting, funny, or otherwise (be careful!) to put them on paper and send them in; also any old war-time copies of the Maple Leaf you might wish to donate to the Museum. Send to Dick Shannon, c/o the Museum. They will be much appreciated.

Editor

Proportionate Pensions

In the June issue of the Corps-Vet I reported that the widow or widower of a disability pensioner whose disability was assessed between 5% to 47% at the time of death may be eligible to receive a widow's/widower's proportionate pension. This scheme was to take a period extending from July 1, 1980 to April 1, 1986. Parliament has now accepted the recommendation of the Honourable J. Gillies Lamontagne, Acting Minister of Veterans Affairs that the six and one-half year phasing out plan be removed.

This means that above-mentioned widows or widowers of deceased veterans will now qualify for a proportionate pension. This change is effective July 1, 1981.

The benefits will not be awarded automatically but will require an application, a replica of which is shown elsewhere in this issue.

It is recommended that those eligible should fill out an application, obtainable in our Branch office, and in the case of applicants in our district, mailed to The District Office of Pension Commission —

4500 Oak Street
Vancouver, B.C.
V6H 3N1

Widow(er)s' Pensions

A recent amendment to the Pension Act approved the immediate payment of proportionate pension to spouses of deceased pen-

sioners. The pension commission does not plan to review the files of those pensioners who died before July 1, 1980. The widow(er) must make an application for this benefit. If you know of anyone who may be eligible please have the form below completed and returned.

Date

Regimental No..... Pension No.....

Veteran's Name

Applicant's Name

Address

..... Postal Code.....

Date of Pensioner's Death

Date of Disability Pension
in Payment at Death

State Nature of Other Assistance
or Information Required

.....

.....

The Royal Canadian Legion has My authority to process any claim on my behalf and, if necessary, to inspect DVA file and service records.

.....
Signature

.....
Signature

submitted by Norman McAskill

The Major, having tasted a sample of the new chief cook's work, called him over. "Soldier" he said, "Did you say you had cooked before?" "Yes, sir," replied the sergeant, "I was an officers' cook for two years. Wounded twice." "You're a lucky man," exclaimed the Major, "It's a wonder they didn't kill you."

I'm consistent, all right!
*The minute that my drives go straight
 And whistle out with power,
 My irons (can they be filled with hate?)
 Go absolutely sour.*

*Or if, on some sweet afternoon,
 My irons are full and rich,
 Guess what will happen just as soon
 As I attempt a pitch!*

*And on that rare, delicious day,
 When all's well in between,
 It will not even help to pray—
 I'll three-putt every green!*
 —Dick Emmons

MUSEUM INFORMATION

"Tapes of the Melfa Address have been misplaced in that they were removed for safe-keeping when the museum was being organized. It would be appreciated if you would look around for these tapes, and if you hold them please return to the museum.

Films have also been taken by members over the years and the museum does not hold any copies. If you have any movies of the Regiment we would be delighted to have them or else have copies made.

The Museum also has for sale registered Armoury Prints by Gerry Rivard. Make sure you get yours now for when they are gone there are no more.

Size: 12" x 16" Framed \$12.50 Unframed \$7.50
Postage for framed \$3.00 and unframed \$ 2.00 extra."

Doreen Cull (Mrs)
Curator

SICK AND VISITING REPORT

Though it may sound sort of odd, we don't have one at present. Bill Robson looks after this for us, but his going South for the winter left a vacancy to be filled, which hasn't happened yet. But our thoughts and best wishes go to any of you who are 'under the weather' or confined to hospital, and it will be arranged shortly to have someone drop in to see you. Meanwhile, chins up! and be glad your not in McEachern's shoes.

Editor