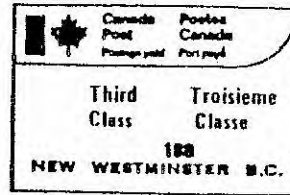


THE ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 854, New Westminster, B.C. V3L 4Z8



B. V. MURRAY,
1547 - 54TH STREET,
TSANWASSEN, B. C. V4Z 3H6

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. 31, NO. 4

BOX 854, NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C. V3L 4Z8 SEPT. - OCT. 1982

W. N. SCOTT, Pres. 335 Churchill Ave. New Westmr. Ph. 521-3294
J. GANGUR, Sect'y. 2015 Hyannis Dr. North Van. Ph. 929-5785
E. SHANNON, Editor. 20250-43A Ave. Langley, B.C. Ph. 534-0108

\$

\$

XMAS DRAW AND SMOKER

AT

THE ARMORY - 19:30 HRS. - DEC. 11TH/82

THE MUSEUM OF THE ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT AND THE ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

Military Museums' Special Interest Group of the B. C. Museums Association - Seminar October 30, 31.

Four members of our Museum participated in the above seminar held in the Officers' Mess, Work Point Barracks, Victoria. Association President Nelson Scott, Museum Chairman Walt Hogg, Basil Morgan, and I attended and we agreed that this session provided the ultimate in information on "The Care of Collections".

Such knowledgeable persons as Greg Evans, Training Officer, Maggie Graham-Bell, Assistant Chief Conservator, and Coleen Wilson, Textile Conservator, all from the B. C. Provincial Museum, gave very pertinent talks on preservation, the act of acquiring artifacts and providing a safe home; conservation, providing total care; and restoration, an attempt to return the article to its original state, and most gratifying was the capable manner in which these people "fed" us this valuable information.

For example, for years our Museum personnel have been polishing artifacts when it would have been better, in some cases, to wash them and leave them to age naturally. We learned that continuous polishing will, in time, wear away all identifying marks. They cited the case of a magnificent brass cannon, carefully polished every day for years until it shone like gold. Unfortunately, all the identification marks were thus worn away, making the cannon without value as a Museum piece.

Although we enjoyed an hour touring the fine barracks, also our sessions in the beautiful Mess of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, we spent little time "socializing", other than a brief visit to the 5th B.C. Regiment (R.C.A.) Museum and Archives, as we were all tired concentrating on the lectures we had come to hear. Even our supper hour at the motel was spent with Robert Espley, son of Warren (Bud) Espley, Armourer Sergeant RCOC attached, whom many of you will remember. Robert and his wife brought us numerous photos of his father, which we spread on the table while we ate. We enjoyed Mr. and Mrs. Espley's visit, and they graciously extended an invitation to call on them at a later date.

We considered the weekend well spent on behalf of the Museum, and our only regret was that more of our Committee members could not attend. The next seminar is tentatively scheduled for March, 1983, at Beatty Street Armouries, hosted by the B. C. R.

THE MUSEUM (Cont'd)

Military Collectors Club of Canada

On Sunday, October 17, the Museum was host to members of the Military Collectors Club, who were holding their monthly meeting in the Armoury.

Many compliments were received on our collection, and Manfred Bentzin, who had previously been very helpful in identifying our German artifacts, again commented at length on these.

All in all, an excellent exchange of information!

Board of Directors Dinner

Museum members thoroughly enjoyed the comradeship at the Board of Directors change-over dinner which was held in the combined Messes of the Armoury on October 20. It was good to renew acquaintances with so many of our old friends, also L/Col FTH Wilks and some of the Regimental staff who have been so helpful to our Museum.

We appreciated not only the invitation to attend, but we appreciate even more the continuous and unfailing support that Association President Nelson Scott has given to the Museum Committee.

Open Hours

Please note that the new OPEN HOURS of the Museum are Tuesdays from 1:00 to 3:00 P.M. and 7:00 to 9:00 P.M. and Thursdays from 1:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M. and other times by appointment. We do ask your support in making these times known to your friends and any organizations that you attend. Museum telephone 526 - 5116.

My continued good wishes to you all, and keep well!

Freda Hogg,
Public Relations, Museum Committee.

MUSEUM MUSINGS

Trying to fill the shoes of George Hughes as temporary Registrar while that worthy relaxes with many a cool beer, under the summer sun of New Zealand, is no easy task; especially when one finds a mystery such as is chronicled here.

It is in connection with a group of papers which were received in the early days of the Museum. They are written in pencil on pieces of scrap paper. Beautifully written and interesting reading, as you may judge for yourself, by the reproduction elsewhere in this issue of the tribute to the men of Canada, in the battle of VIMY RIDGE. The other papers are obviously descriptions of photographs pertaining to the 47th Battalion's part in World War I, from the Fall of 1916 till the end of hostilities and are obviously by the same writer. There are ten of these, so not reproduced; The mystery is, that when acquired, some basic facts were not recorded, nor is there any record of receipt of the photographs. This is the reason for this exercise in the GROUND SHEET, to enlist the help of the unknown donor (if alive), or anyone who knows any or all the answers to the following;

1. Who was the author?
2. When were they written?
3. Who gave them to us?
4. Where are the photographs?

It is obvious that the answers to these questions would determine whether these papers would form a worthy item for our regimental history or not.

If you know something about it, please tell us.

WALTER LYLE Acting Registrar.

(See reproductions, pages 10-11)

FROM ONE WHO LIKES US

The following letter is from D'Arcy Jane, daughter of Sam and Marion Soutar, and granddaughter of our late departed D'Arcy Baldwin and his good wife Elsie. She needs no introduction to those of you who have met her at the 'Circle 6 Picnics (Branch#3 Annual) for she is a warm, friendly girl who runs true to family form. We need more like her.

She was married to Brad Henderson shortly after the '82 Picnic, and Branch#3 (D Coy.) agreed unanimously that we present them with a wedding present. Her 'thank you' letter follows:

Mrs. Bradley Henderson

Box 249

Cultus Lake, British Columbia

VOX 1HO

Dear D Coy.:

This letter has been the hardest thank-you letter for me to write - only because I have so much to say thank-you for.

I was so honored at the summer's regimental picnic by the beautiful crystal mantle clock we were given. I can say that it is one of the most special memories of our wedding - the day was perfect and the clock will be a treasure to me until I die.

I want everyone to know that it means more to me than I can explain to be honored by a group of people who I hold in such high esteem. Your friendship is one of the most valuable gifts that I have. And the one thing that keeps going through my head is how proud my grandfather would be - but then, that's nothing compared to how proud I am.

Brad joins me in a huge thank-you, and it is our honor and privilege to say we look forward to July 31st 1983 at 'Circle 6'.

With love

D'Arcy Jane
XO

M E L F A

Rv 83

May 21/22 1983

Your Executive has approved the Tentative Plan as follows:-

SATURDAY, May 21, 1983 --

0800 Golf - per p. \$12.00
1400 Fellowship - Museum
1800 Drumhead Service
1830 Dinner & Dance - \$15.00

SUNDAY, May 22, 1983

Reception & Champagne Brunch - \$10.00

We have not planned Bus Tour \$.....
plus lunch. If you would like
advise now.

* * * * *

We have to sign contracts in January/February for catering
-- Golf -- Bus -- Hall -- Band -- Messes -- etc.

Our estimated attendance figure is 350+. We will have to
pay on that basis so can we please have your commitments
now!!

Please fill in and mail the Form.

So far, those listed below have signified their intention to attend Rendezvous '83. How about you?

Mr. & Mrs. D. Furlot
 C. W. Hannah
 N. Scott
 J. Ford
 J. Rosso
 D. Glenn
 D. Morgan
 W. Johnson
 Al Wilson
 H. Roberge
 G. Pickle
 Ted Churchill
 Bill Robson
 Tom Smith
 J. V. H. Wilson
 J. Gangur
 Scotty Low
 Bert Hoskin
 T. Whitehead
 B. Morgan
 N. McAskill

Mr. F. Bass
 G. Churley
 E. Shannon
 Mrs. J. Ginter
 J. Hartley



LATE FLASH: We have just been informed that nine members from Ontario (7 couples and 2 singles) have notified Doug they will attend.

MAIL!!!!

Dear Doug:

We are planning to be with you for this week-end of 'LIBERATION'. Use these figures for your head count.

DINNER.....YES/NO	PERSONS (1 or 2)
GOLFYES/NO	PERSONS (1 or 2)
SUN. BRUNCH....YES/NO	PERSONS (1 or 2)

SIGNATURE _____

A BOOK REVIEW

A new look at your Regiment's WW2 experiences is about to be published. It should be ready for Xmas. We have been fortunate enough to view the manuscript and would like to offer the following comments.

In the contemporary history of the Royal Westminster Regiment the name "Bert Hoskins" is synonymous with soldiering excellence - efficiency - energy. A more thoughtful and sympathetic personality emerges in his first book.

"Sometimes With Laughter" is a nostalgic series of vignettes of our wartime experiences as well as thoughts and recollections gathered through thirty-five years of service. Each chapter triggers memories

as poignant and personal as soldiering itself. This book will appeal especially to those who served with us. To others who are younger, and those from the "Civvy" side of life, the stories may be too personal to be fully appreciated.

If there are shortcomings to be mentioned, it is that, like all our histories, the book stops short of reaching all the people and events that touched us. This is a great look-back that just whets the appetite. One hopes the author might take pen in hand for a more complete story.

This is another side of your Regimental family. When it is published - it belongs in your library.

A Contributor.

A MODEST BEGINNING

THE IRISH REGIMENT of CANADA

(THE VANCOUVER REGIMENT)

Part II Orders: June 15/39

Strength Increase:

The following are TOS W/E as noted:

#373 Boy Churley, G.H.

15/6/39

(Courtesy the 'Shillelagh)

A list of unnatural laws

Johnson's Law

In any organization there will always be one person who knows what is going on. That person must be fired.

Lieberman's Law

Everybody lies, but it doesn't matter, since nobody listens.

Green's Law of Debate

Anything is possible if you don't know what you're talking about.

— HOMER AYUSO

Corozal Town, Belize



In Memoriam

J.A.Napier, WW 2
North Vancouver, B.C.
January 28, 1982

Elias (Red) Fulton, WW 2
Mission, B.C.
May 29, 1982

A.F.Davenport, WW 2
Port McNeill, B.C.
June 15, 1982

WO W.Birnie,
Royal Westminster Regt.
Surrey, B.C.
July 1, 1982

Fred Wiggin, WW 2
Surrey, B.C.
July 14, 1982

P.K.MacQillan, WW 2
Chilliwack, B.C.
July 22, 1982

Gus Seidler, WW 2
Enderby, B.C.
September 13, 1982

REMEMBRANCE DAY

A beautiful sunny day was awarded us for our Nov. II ceremonies, and there was a very large turn-out, with more people in the Armoury than I can recall ever having seen.

We were privileged to have The Honorable Henry Bell Irving, DSO, OBE, ED, CD., Lieut.-Governor of B.C., with us to give the Memorial Address, which was well done and interesting.

Around thirty of the war-time Regt. ex-members, resplendent in red berets and medals,

turned out for the parade to the Cenotaph and the 'March Past' afterwards, where they received a warm ripple of applause as they did an 'eyes right' for the Lieut.-Governor and Lieut.-Col. Wilk at the reviewing stand.

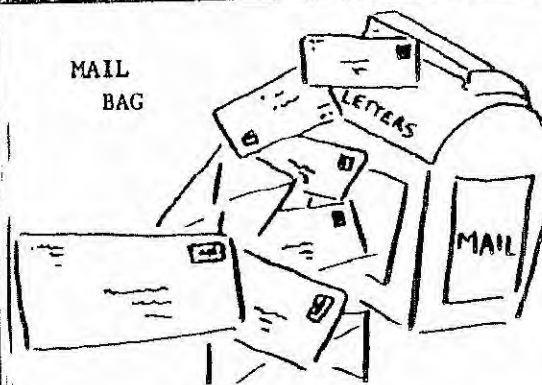
We returned to the Armoury after the parade, and spent a couple of hours socializing. The Museum was open and attracted many sightseers. On the whole, a most satisfactory 'Remembrance Day'.

Editor

Nimy Ridge

Pulverized & pounded into a mass of upturned
clack and dirt, pitted with shell holes & crater
and undermined with tunnels and galleries, little
is left of Nimy Ridge that would, to day, make
an outstanding feature in a map picture. The Ridge
itself stands today as a memorial of one of the
greatest and most prolonged struggles of the war.
a memorial to thousands of gallant French heroes
given in vain but nevertheless efforts to recapture it from
the Germans. It is also a permanent tribute to the
endurance & bravery of the men of Canada, still
the 4th fought its longest and most bitterly contested
battle for it was one continuous fight and arduous
struggle against both the elements & the Reich from
the first days of December 1916 when the 4th took up its position

on the ridge, till the middle of April 1917 when occupying
 the farther slopes, just captured from the Germans, it afforded the persons
 retreating from the Germans as they endeavored to cross the saddle retirement
 of the former German position. Trinity Ridge is a steep
 dotted with Canadian cemeteries and monuments
 To the brewery of Canadian units. Upon its slopes
 and in its close proximity are to be found the
 last resting places of many original members of
 the 4th & of the 13th Battalion from New Westminster
 all beautiful that spot shall be
 All the old boys at heart,
 Blessed are they that gave their lives,
 that the world may ever looking peace
 In God will reward his beloved ones
 When the boom of the guns shall cease.



Either the recession, old age, or the price of postage must be affecting our members, for correspondence has become an endangered specie - in other words, almost extinct. Of course, if we don't discuss politics, the environment, economics, taxes, the labor situation, the plight of the caribou, and whether or not the Indians should have the country back, there really isn't much to stir the corpuscles any more. Disarmament has been argued pro and con for sixty-two years (discounting six when everybody used what they had) with no noticeable progress, so it doesn't count. But do drop us a line, anyway, for we like to hear from you, and know you're still with us. And it sure helps to keep the mailing list up to date!

We have a letter to hand from J.A. Breitenbach, 1347 E. 63rd. Ave., Vancouver, B.C., sent to Trev Whitehead (Draw Committee chairman) enclosing his tickets which he sold early as they may go to the U.S. of A. for the winter, and

a donation to the general fund, for which our best thanks, J.A., and all good wishes to y'all on your trip South.

The Xmas Draw tickets have been sent out, and the selling job gets tougher every year, with so many lotteries, draws, Bingo games, etc, competing for the elusive dollar. But our first prize has been doubled, and the ticket price remains the same so all we have to do is work at it. Besides, it's Trev's first crack at organizing the Draw, and he'd like to make it a 'good show'. Let's see what we can do.

Based on the theory that the squeaking wheel gets the grease, a reminder again to let Doug know as soon as possible if you are going to attend 'Rendezvous '83'. It will be different, and should be a good bash if we get enough people.

See you at the Smoker.

Editor

Abigail Van Buren, on intelligence:

Wisdom doesn't automatically come with old age. Nothing does - except wrinkles. It's true, some wines improve with age. But only if the grapes were good in the first place.

- Chicago Tribune-New York News Syndicate