

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



B. V. MORGAN,  
1547 - 54TH STREET,  
TSAWWASSEN, B. C. V4W 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. 32, NO. 3      BOX 854, NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C. V3L 4Z8      JUNE-JULY, 1983

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## BRANCH #3 (D Co Y) ANNUAL PICNIC SUNDAY, JULY 31, 1983

Once again we look forward with pleasure to the annual gathering of members and guests at the 'Circle 6'. For those who haven't been there before, take the Cultus Lake turn-off the Freeway, keep left at the Lake and follow the highway around the south side until you see a '54' sign on your right, and your there. Bring your lunches and refreshments, picnic style, and folding chairs and tables if you have them, and be prepared to enjoy yourselves in one of the loveliest settings in the lower mainland.

Official starting time: 1:30 pm. Branch 3 meeting 3:30pm. Parade, 5:00 pm. See you there!

RENDEZVOUS '83

Well, its over! All the anxieties, second thoughts, even fears of a disaster have come to nought. Of course some of us, who just can't bring ourselves to contemplate the appearance of women at the Melfa Dinners, still feel strongly that this, hopefully, is a 'one only' event; a dinner perhaps in recognition of the patience and fortitude of those wives and companions who toughed out our absence overseas and at our 'do's' and meetings. No one could quarrel with their concern or philosophy.

But Melfa '83 was a success, a warm and enjoyable evening and week-end of association, where old comrades in many cases saw each other for the first time since demobilization in 1946, and our wives and girl friends found out that some of us weren't really modern day Ghengis Kahns or Attilas the Hun!

Over 250 attended the Dinner and IIO attended the Sunday Champagne Brunch. Most impressive was the strength and enthusiasm of the Ontario delegation, ably led by the stalwart Pat McCarthy, nineteen in total. So, too, were the actions of Ian Douglas and Ducky Drake who, finding they could not attend, turned their tickets over to other couples so that they could enjoy the evening, and Bill Armour and Jack Smith who took a soldier to dinner.

Great credit must be given to the Melfa 83 committee under Doug Glenn, backed by Nelson Scott, for a fast moving programme, a tastefully and efficiently laid out facility and a first class buffet (Army cooks take notice).

For the economist or bookkeeping type we are happy to report that the combined weekend of events ended up in the black, thanks to the enthusiastic attendance and donations of \$90 plus a generous gift of \$555 by Labatt's Brewery.

Perhaps in conclusion there is a message here for us all. We realize that time is taking its toll, and some on pensions find it necessary to budget with some caution. But with care the planners can organize our Melfa Dinners to reflect changing times, and all of us who served must appreciate that we have much to contribute by attending, even if it is no more than bringing pleasure to an old comrade by their presence.

OUT-OF-TOWN GUESTS who ATTENDED

From Alberta there was Mr. and Mrs. Tempe Leduc and Gerry Treen of Edmonton, Mr. and Mrs. Wilkens of Edson, George Dominic of Calgary. From Saskatchewan, Mr. and Mrs. George Kalenchuk of Sturgis and Al Wright of Prince Albert.

Ontario produced a lot of old-timers. Mr. and Mrs. Pat McCarthy of Scarborough, Alf White of Willowdale, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Guthrie, Ralph and Eva Church (Toronto Scottish) and Bill Majury of Toronto, Mr. and Mrs. L. Welch of Peterborough, John Somers of Downsville, Mr. and Mrs. Hussey of Ottawa, Mr. and Mrs. John MacLennan and Mr. and Mrs. Tyo of Cornwall, and Mr. and Mrs. Bill Dennis of Islington. A very outstanding representation considering the distance travelled. Special guests Elsie Baldwin and Sam and Marion Soutar were there, and it was a pleasure to be able to return a small portion of the tremendous hospitality they have shown the Association annually at the 'Circle 6'. And Elsie's speech was one of the highlights of the evening.

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ARE YOU LISTENING?

For years your Executive and others have been pushing the panic button asking members of the Association to tell us of any event or recollection which will help us in our endeavour to leave for posterity as complete a Regimental history as possible. Alas, one by one Time takes its toll, and another member and another part of our history is lost forever.

We know that many have asked themselves, 'What could I possibly contribute that would be of any historical significance?' Well, the history of a Regiment is evolved over many years through the actions of its members, sometimes heroic, serious, humorous, tragic, sad, but always significant. No one knows better than we do of the value of seemingly insignificant things, things which unlock the door to yet another page in our history.

Let us give an example of what time, procrastination and archival loss does to the attainment of our goal. How many remember that on January 5, 1946, the then Westminster Regiment (Motor) was granted the honour of mounting a Guard of Honour for the Lord Mayor of the City of Westminster (a city in its own right within the confines of

Greater London); to march through the streets of the City with fixed bayonets; and to be later dismissed on the Horse Guards Parade Ground? No other Canadian Regiment had or has to my knowledge ever been granted this great honour.

Can anyone find any document, plaque or scroll recording this historical moment in our history? The answer is No! Two tiny items in a London newspaper, a photograph or two and a one-line item in the minutes of the City of Westminster's January 1946 meeting. This in spite of a six month search of the City of Westminster archives, B.C. House records in London and the City of Vancouver archives. Now, thirty-six years later, we must find an alternative solution to a problem that should not have happened.

Personally I can say, having attempted to record my own recollections, how time erodes memory and so many important events are lost forever. Yet, in conversation with other members at our annual do's, I know there is so much that is not yet lost.

Perhaps, in a not too effective way, we are saying there is still time provided you sit down and think about how you might help your Executive put some flesh on the skeleton, the framework of our Regimental History so far constructed. Do it now, by letter, cassette recording, phone call, or if near enough a personal interview. Don't believe that what you have to contribute may be valueless, to the contrary it is another brick or stone in the monument to a great Regiment.

Sincerely,  
Bert Hoskin

HOW APT!

AFTER THE BALL WAS OVER...

FOUND: At the Curling Club, New Westminster, after the 'Melfa Dinner', one gold-mounted jade earring. Owner wishing return of same please contact Doug Glenn at 6666 Walker Ave, Burnaby, B.C. V5E 3B9, or phone 522-0890.

A banker, an electrician, and a politician were all taking an I.Q. test. One of the questions was: "What term would you use to describe the problem that results when outflow exceeds inflow?"

The banker wrote: "Overdraft." The electrician wrote "Overload." And the politician wrote: "WHAT problem?"

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT, MELFA RENDEZVOUS '83

Printers	142.11
Myloria Golf	100.00
Stamps	48.00
Refund Members	25.00
Dues To Secretary	26.00
Dividers	448.43
Moorehouse Golf	458.00
Catering	3789.00
Four Seasons Party Rental	1621.96
- glasses	
- music	
- wine	
- champagne	
- liquor	52.98
Busy Bee Rental	
- floor heater	639.00
Mobile Bar 70 Doz. Beer	200.00
Bar Float	63.60
Kitty's Florist	33.08
Food Armouries	34.87
Door Prizes	20.00
Royal Canadian Legion Wreath	470.00
Over Draft, D.W. Glenn	
	8192.03

Royal West. Regt. Assn.	1500.00	
Donations	95.00	
Labatts	555.50	
Refund Four Seasons Rental	85.50	
Refund Liquor & Wine	242.01	
Golf Refund	142.20	
Beer Returned	131.25	
Beer Sales May 24	174.50	
Champagne Sales	36.00	
Ticket Sales		
- dinner	3340.00	
- golf	480.00	
- brunch	614.00	
- bar	969.00	8829.96
D.W. Glenn To Cover Over Draft	470.00	8192.03
		<u>637.93</u>

Bank	637.93	8829.96
Less Service Charge	<u>10.16</u>	

627.77

*Doug Glenn*

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

Updating of Museum Continues - New Look of Display Cases

Latest in the efforts of the Museum Committee to improve the physical appearance of the Museum is the replacement of the glass fronts in the last five cases. This gives much more viewing space, allows the glass and contents to be more easily cleaned, and most important, this replacement is a safety factor. Previously, when opened, some of the glass fronts extended over the aisles, thus blocking the passageway. Our thanks to Chairman Walter Hogg for his persistence in arranging for this work to be completed!

Public Relations Excellent

On June 5 our Museum co-hosted a wine/cheese party with the B. C. Historical Society, whose annual meeting drew about 70 persons from all over British Columbia. They showed considerable interest in their tour of the Museum, in the Armoury structure itself, and in listening to the band. Many stated that we were fortunate to be housed in a building so compatible with our Museum content.

Other Visitors

A number of young militia personnel have been taking a course in the Armoury these last weeks. Daily these young men have dropped in to the Museum as their time permitted, and have enjoyed talking with us as they viewed the displays.

The Summer Youth Employment Program will soon commence, and if all goes as last year, these young people will also be our frequent visitors. As veterans operating this facility, we do feel we provide support and a "sense of history" as these young men and women contemplate their future careers (hopefully in the army!).

Department of National Defence Grant Approved

Our DND grant for 1983-84 has been approved, as notified by Col. N.A. Buckingham, Director of Ceremonial, Chairman, CF Museum Committee for Chief of the Defence Staff. We continue to receive this excellent support of all kinds (including that from LCol Wilks, the BOR and RSS staff), and this is but a part of the benefits of being named a "Canadian Forces Museum".

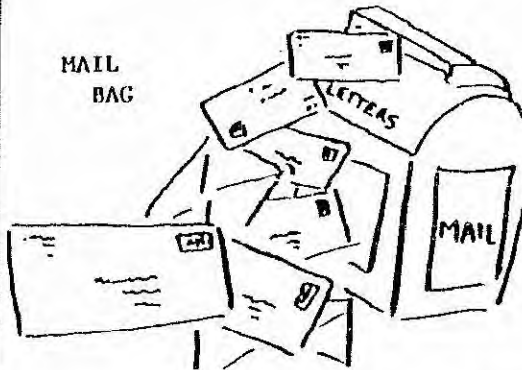
Kindest regards to all!

(Mrs.) Freda P. Hogg, Pub. Relations.



## In Memoriam

J. P. G. McLeod, DSO, ED. WW I&2  
North Vancouver, B.C.  
June 18, 1983



Outside of the fact that the weather and politics are in an unusual state of turmoil, the calm of summer has pretty well settled in, and there isn't much to report. We hope all you people who travelled far to attend the Melfa Dinner had a pleasant and safe journey home, and we would enjoy hearing what you thought of the event. The next get-together for the Association is the Draw and Smoker, the date being set for Dec. 10. The Regiment is on

'stand down' for the summer, but will be going to Fort Lewis, Wash. for manoeuvres on August 24 to 27th., and the Association has been invited to have up to six members attend to see how modern warfare is carried on. Could be interesting.

Received a letter from Dr. Frank Currie of New Westminster, who very thoughtfully forwarded to me the obituary notice of the passing on of J. P. G. McLeod. It was appreciated, Frank, for sometimes I don't hear of these things until long after they've happened.

As you'll have noticed on the front page, the Chilliwack Branch #3 Picnic is on July 31st, and it's always an enjoyable event; tho some of the pipes seem a little rusty in the sing-alongs. But there's lots of enthusiasm, which is the main thing. If you can make it I'm sure you will enjoy it.

Verges not swept.  
'54' UP!

Editor

We are being careless with history unless we assume that whoever has power, sooner or later will use it to the fullest.

-Ben H. Bagdikian



*"We all make mistakes, Snyder. Just forget it ever happened when you're out looking for another job tomorrow."*

The difference between intelligence and education is this: Intelligence will make you a good living.

-Charles F. Kettering