

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. 32, No. 5 BOX 854, NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C. V3L 4Z8 NOV. - DEC. 1983

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In these trying days of international strife, replete with numerous undeclared wars, skirmishes, racial banishments and general political chaos, it perhaps seems trite to utter words of good-will. Never before have the words, "Peace On Earth, Goodwill Towards Men" been needed more.

Therefore, it behooves us all to make sincere efforts to put these thoughts into practise. With this in mind, on behalf of the Officers and members of the Executive of The Royal Westminster Regiment Association, I extend sincere Season's Greetings to all our members and their families.

Coupled with these Greetings go our sincere wishes for the fulfillment of your hopes, dreams and aspirations for the days of the coming year.

'Never a Christmas morning, never the old year in,
But someone thinks of someone; old days, old times,
old friends.'

DOUG GLENN, Pres.

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INVITATION

IT WOULD BE NICE IF WE COULD COMMUNICATE WITH EACH MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATION BY PERSONAL LETTER OR PHONE CALL, BUT AND UNFORTUNATELY, VOLUNTEERS ARE NOT EASILY COME BY THESE DAYS. THE GROUND SHEET IS THE ONLY REALISTIC WAY OF REACHING YOU ALL. SO IT IS WITH OUR INVITATION TO ATTEND THE SPECIAL PARADE OF THE REGIMENT AND ASSOCIATION ON JANUARY 10, 1984, IN THE NEW WESTMINSTER ARMOURY AT 1945 HOURS (7:45 P.M.)

AT THAT TIME AND DATE THE ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT AND THE ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION WILL PARADE TO RECEIVE AN ILLUMINATED SCROLL FROM MR. S. STEPHENSON, THE BRITISH CONSUL GENERAL, VANCOUVER, REPRESENTING THE LORD MAYOR, CITY OF WESTMINSTER, LONDON, ENGLAND.

THE SCROLL WILL COMMEMORATE THE GUARD OF HONOUR MOUNTED BY THE THEN WESTMINSTER REGIMENT (MOTOR) FOR INSPECTION BY THE LORD MAYOR, SQN. LDR. E. H. KEELING, M.C., J.P., M.P. THE UNIT WAS ALSO GIVEN THE PRIVILEGE OF MARCHING THROUGH THE STREETS OF THE CITY WITH BAYONETS FIXED FOR DISMISSAL AT THE HORSE GUARDS PARADE GROUND.

AS THIS WAS A VERY GREAT HONOUR INDEED, PERHAPS UNIQUE IN THE CANADIAN ARMY, WE URGE AS MANY MEMBERS AS POSSIBLE TO ATTEND. WIVES, FAMILIES AND GIRL FRIENDS ARE MOST WELCOME TO ATTEND. A RECEPTION WILL FOLLOW THE PARADE

DRESS

- BLAZERS OR JACKETS

BERETS (IF POSSIBLE)

SLACKS

MEDALS

LUCK OF THE DRAW

THE ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT
ASSOCIATION

1983 Annual Xmas Draw
- December 10, 1983

PRIZE LIST

First Prize: \$ 500.00

Tony Allbury, 1809 King Geo.
Highway, Surrey, B. C.
Sold by: Pte. Allbury,
R. W. Reg't.

Second Prize: \$ 256.00
(case of Scotch)

C. E. McQuillan,
R.R.#3, Ste. 11, Box 9
Westbank, B. C., VOH 2A0

Sold by: same

Third Prize: \$ 225.00
(case of Rye)

Diane Arnold, 10455- 155A St.
Surrey, B. C.

Sold by: Bob Kelly
2175 - 156th. St., Surrey.

Fourth Prize: \$ 191.00
(case of Rum)

Marge Bartlett,
64 W. 44th. Ave.,
Vancouver, B.C. V5Y 2V1

Sold by: Bob Kelly
2175 - 156th. St., Surrey.

Fifth Prize: \$ 166.00
(case of Gin)

Florence Green,
Box 2290, Parksville, B.C.
VOR 2S0

Sold by: B. H. Lane,
Box 631, Parksville, B.C.
VOR 2S0

Sixth Prize: \$143.00
(case of Vodka)

B. Distan, 663 Harrison,
Coquitlam, B.C. V3J 3Z6

Sold by: Hyack Festival
Society, New Westminster,
204 - 6th. Street,
V3L 3A1

Seventh Prize: \$ 96.00
(10 Doz. Beer)

Mike Kelnhafer,
6439 Sophia Street,
Vancouver, B.C.,

Sold by: Fred Bass,
#2-6609 Fraser Street,
Vancouver, B.C., V5X 3T6

CONSOLATION AWARDS

- A. Eaton, Delta, B. C.
- June Ruel, Oliver, B. C.
- D. Buss, Maple Ridge, B.C.
- A. White, New Westminster, B.C.
- P. D. McCartney, Coquitlam, B.C.

PRESIDENT RESIGNS

For many issues of The Groundsheet it has been my privilege and pleasure to have a column under some form or other, as your President. I used the column to chide members to action, to outline whatever proposal I might have had in mind at the time or to say thanks for the participation of the Association, as a whole, or to a particular committee or an individual. All of this is now behind me, as I resigned, as your President, at the November Executive Meeting.

One might think that my actions were preordained as I have subsequently become very restricted due to a let down in my health; it's hard to say which is the worst, a health problem or the resulting constricting and imposed inactivity. It's been a long time since 1947 when the Association was reorganized; (the earth's crust was still cooling) there are still a few of the original Executive around. I never had any great aspirations or design on leadership being content, completely satisfied and fulfilled under the original purpose of comradeship or fellowship to be part of a committee or at the working level.

My greatest contribution was,

in my opinion, in the role of your Secretary under such Presidents as Lyle, Forman, Rennie, Dayton, Miller, Stephens, for starters. My greatest involvement being the Annual Xmas Draw which has been our source of funds for how many years I don't know. Twice my Company mail was stopped and suspect before we even became legal. Ask Bert Stephens, he will relate a case that was before a Court in Vancouver, a bookmaking case, the culprit had our tickets when searched. However, little could be said as the Magistrate and all Lawyers involved had been previously induced to buy.

I look back with a certain elation in what has been accomplished over the years and my part in it. I make no excuse for my action of resignation. Somewhere, some how a different purpose has evolved, controlled by Rules of Order, Bylaws & Constitution, personal ideas and ambitions, subjugating Executive or Committee decision which is an atmosphere that is not conducive to a happy ship. Gone is the fun and fellowship - yes and even the trust in one another.

On December 3rd. your Association was invited to join the

Royal Westminster Regiment as they celebrated their 120th Birthday. To commemorate the occasion they used the privilege of the Freedom of New Westminster; a good turnout -- Band - Colours -- fixed bayonets - the works. Mayor Tom Baker, complete with the Chain of Office, took the salute, flanked by the Hon. Col. "Bill" McKinney and the Hon. Lt. Col. "Herb" Hamm. This time I took the Association parade, a first for me, as I have always felt that others had greater service with The Westies than I, consequently, more worthy. Unfortunately, our turnout was not good despite a special mailing of an invitation. I had been hopeful of no less than 50 because it will be a long time before such an event will be repeated. My thanks to those who came; we marched the whole route. I had the privilege of providing the "Rum Ration" for the other ranks. P.S. I didn't put all that water in it. Even the man upstairs co-operated, for the weather was perfect. Lots of fellowship in the Mess, followed Lt. Col. "Fred" Wilks instructing me to "Dismiss to your Messes".

The last issue of The Groundsheet was to have an article on the Museum; it was replaced by the Armistice piece. I trust it is to appear in this issue; it is more significant now as both Walter & Freda Hogg have resigned from the Museum Committee. Let's just go back a little. When I took over from

5.

Ron Mannering, there was one objective I was determined to reach, regardless of what was initially required. It was my stated and restated aim that the Museum would attain a professional status. I made no friends, for sure, when those in charge were removed and replaced by two people who not only accepted the challenge but became totally involved without consideration of time, energy or personal life. Some day, soon, I hope I may put into words sincere thanks and appropriate appreciation on behalf of those who cared enough to realize what has been accomplished.

The final figures for the Xmas Draw are not in yet; others came forward the last few days to help Doug. Glenn on the Saturday night. The Prize List is published herein, it is the first time that one person has sold two winners. Did I hear someone say "Shake 'em up". Reports say that the stew was good -- we miss Al Pradine and Art Miller, those Chili makers of years past.

'Tis the season to be jolly; the best to all of you, your family and friends. Good health and good fortune during the year to come. Every year is another "startline" and we should be thankful we made it.

Be seeing you. Cheers.

"SCOTTY"

SOME COMMENT RE THE MUSEUM

A Personal Opinion

The Museum of The Royal Westminster Regiment and The Royal Westminster Regiment Association is not a military museum in the true sense, but a collection of military memorabilia to the memory and honour of "The Regiment".

The Museum was conceived and born of the idea of enhancing the bonds that hold the Association together - to give us a purpose other than those intangible qualities of comradeship and fraternity, yet at the same time serve as a media to publicize the Regiment that was still in existence and to honour those who had served before, with, or subsequent to the present core personnel.

The Westies, and those who served with us were never satisfied with anything except those of the highest standard. So it is with the Museum - with the current leadership of the Museum Committee, perfection is the hallmark and nothing short thereof will suffice. As President, I not only endorse such an approach, but condone and support wholeheartedly, without reservation.

There will always be military collections in many areas by many units - these will be well publicized, but to be the best, or as close to perfection as possible, is what is to be striven for. So it is with our Museum.

To gain professional status in every way has been the goal. Walter and Freda, Chairman and Secretary, accepted my challenge to them to do just that. Without conscious thought to their time, trouble, or expense, they first set out to find what was necessary for their goal; having done so they wish to put their findings into practise, without fear or favour, nor to be swayed from their set course by any group, individual, or outside influence.

Their road has not been easy. In fact, discouragement has faced them at many crossroads; less determined persons would have fled the scene. Indifference, lethargy, personalities - yes, maybe even a little jealousy towards their initiative, determination, and gained knowledge has come to the fore.

Change must come - no matter what the cost - and change will come, because the standard is high, not too high, but a professional collection we will have with our present leadership - that's it.

7.

I, you, all of us, owe them a debt of appreciation and gratitude, and hope that they will not allow current diversities to deter them from their appointed task.

A subsequent issue will comment on the 'Archies', the pride and joy of Ian Douglas. Not the least, by any means, are those great people who comprise the Museum Committee. All I7 of them.

N.Scott

(Ed.:above delayed from previous issue)

DRAW AND SMOKER REPORT

The logistics for the Xmas Draw and Smoker commenced about 1400 hrs., on the 10th, and though it is a relatively simple affair, the work and details that go into preparing for it absorb a lot of time and effort. Ask anyone who has helped set it up.

Members started arriving about 1900 hrs, and by 'chow-time' there were about 70 present, including members from the Regiment, among which were some eye-catching Ms. types. (Were you aware the 'mini' is coming back?) The 'chow' was excellent, and full justice was done to it.

Dick Shannon provided the sound equipment once again, and Stan Osnachuk was his usual efficient self tending the bar. Stan Moorhouse handled the Draw, Scotty being a sick man (our sympathy and best wishes, Scotty) and Doug tied up throwing rocks (not breaking them!) Curling, for those who might wonder. He arrived about 2200hrs. One man, Bob Kelly, established a 'first' by selling two winners, as you will notice in the prize list. Awesome!

Those who attended seemed to enjoy themselves, and the firm hand-shake and the pleasure at seeing old comrades again was obvious. A successful evening, on the whole. The results of the Draw, as affecting the economy of the Association, will be in the next issue.

Editor

MURPHY'S LAW

Anything good in life is either illegal, immoral or fattening.

Never play leapfrog with a unicorn.

A Smith and Wesson beats four aces.



In Memoriam

Tom Harris, WW I & 2
2nd. Batt., WR(M)
Vancouver, B.C.
December 18, 1983

SICK & VISITING REPORT

Due to our S&V committee being sort of seperated together, our reports from that area are rather meager, but we can tell you that Clarence Huff is out of Shaughnessy and back in George Derby, feeling better, we hope, Clarence, and a Merry Christmas and best wishes to you from us all.

Terry Williams is back home from hospital after having a pace-maker installed, and Ted Hammersly is also home again after a recent operation. Nelson Scott is also home resting after a thrombosis attack, with strict orders to take it real easy for a month. Knowing Scotty, that must be almost as tough as being sick.

The Season's Greetings to you all, and best wishes for good health in the New Year from all of us.

Ed.

REGIMENTAL CHRISTENING

This event took place on Sunday, Dec. 4th, being presided over by the Regimental Padre. The two children who were christened were Bill Robson's grandson and granddaughter. The bibles from the Association were presented to them on this occasion by Doug Glenn.

COMING EVENTS

Officers' Mess Dinner..Feb.25
/84
Annual General Meeting, RWRA
Thursday, March 15/84