

THE ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 854, NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C. V3L 4Z8

POSTAGE



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THE GROUND SHEET

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF
THE ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

VOL:

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Aug 84 198

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JERRY GANGUR

PRES.,
SECTY.,
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PRESERVING THE HISTORY OF:

ROYAL ENGINEERS

NEW WESTMINSTER

VOLUNTEER RIFLES

SEYMOUR BATTERY OF
GARRISON ARTILLERY

104th WESTMINSTER
FUSILIERS OF CANADA

131st BATTALION
CANADIAN EXPEDITIONARY
FORCE

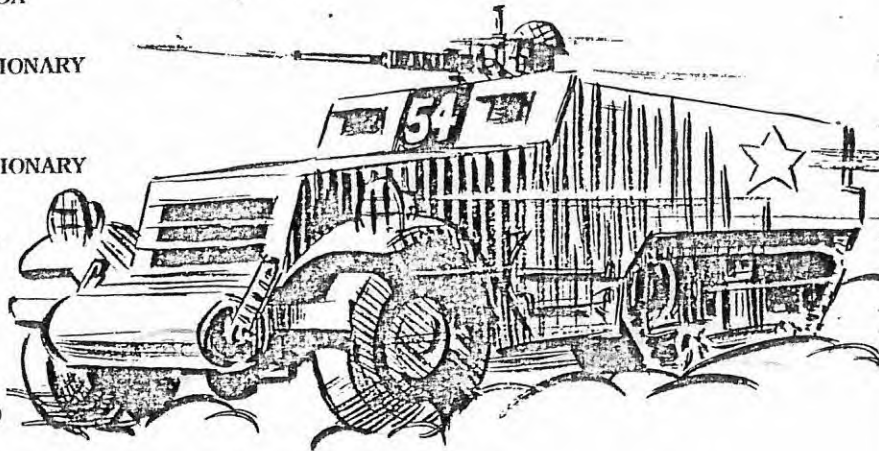
47th BATTALION
CANADIAN EXPEDITIONARY
FORCE

THE WESTMINSTER
REGIMENT (INF)

THE WESTMINSTER
REGIMENT (MG)

THE WESTMINSTER
REGIMENT (MOTOR)

THE ROYAL
WESTMINSTER REGIMENT



EXECUTIVE COMMENTS

A few words to bring everyone up-to-date before the summer dol-drums are upon us.

Our thanks to Norm McAskill and his hard working crew for another great Melfa Weekend. Thanks too, to those who attended. It takes old friends to make any occasion great and this year was no exception.

GOOD FELLOWSHIP-GOOD FOOD
THANK GOD!

Stan Osarchuck who has been with us since our inception has had to call it "Quits". Thanks Stan for your many years of friendly services and loyalty. Good Luck Stan from all of us. You will be sorely missed.

A special word of praise is in order for The Regiment. It was a treat to see the unit go through their paces at the Annual Inspection. They set a fine standard of discipline and parade excellence.

Plans are now underway for the Smoker in December and the Melfa 1985.

What a joy it was to have Tiny Robertson and that other wonderful character, Heber Smith with us once again.

Please remember the Chilliwack Picnic hosted by 'D' Coy., on August 5th.

HAVE A GOOD SUMMER!

B.M.

EDITORS CORNER

As the saying goes, "All good things come to an end." So it is that Ed Shannon, our editor for so many years had finally retired to 'B' Echelon for a well earned rest.

If there is one Association appointment members avoid like the plague it is as Editor of The Groundsheet, as all who filled the post in the past will attest.

Like editors everywhere, Ed in the months leading up to one of the four Annual Issues embarked in high hopes that the Mail Bag would be bulging with member's letters, concise and pithy reports from Committee Chairmen, and interesting articles.

Alas, it was usually a last minute struggle to fill the pages with something, once in desperation even an article I wrote. How's that for being desperate!!

So let me say on behalf of all members, "Thanks Ed for your dedication, and for persevering for so long to produce a vital link with our members. You will be sorely missed.

So here we are again appealing for someone to step in behind Ed as Editor. We must have a replacement as soon as possible after this issue. I agreed as Ed left before the end of May, to act as Editor for this one issue.

Please help even if it is only for one year.

H.F.H.

LEFT OUT OF BATTLE!

When you're out in Wopland
Knee-deep in the mud
And the Jerry shells are
Very seldom dud

Then think of me-
Be of good cheer-
For I'll have drawn
Your E.F.I. beer-
For I am LOB ...
For I am LOB.

When you're forming up to
Cross the next canal
I'm very glad that
I'm not with you old pal
When you go into
That attack
Just think of me
I'm ten miles back
For I am LOB ...
For I am LOB.

(Sung to the tune of Lille
Marlaine).

NOMINAL ROLL

It is the intention of the Executive to produce a nominal roll for publication in the Groundsheet later this year.

If you know of a member who is not on our mailing list for the Groundsheet, please drop the Secretary a short note and help us produce as accurate a list as possible.

SICK & VISITING

Ken Godwin reports:

- Walter Lyle is in Royal Columbian Hospital;
- Fred Bass is at home waiting for a bed in Shaughnessy Hospital.
- Sgt Bill Filgiano of the Active Unit is recovering from a heart attack.


GET WELL WE NEED YOU!

BUDGET 1984

The 1984 Association Budget, as submitted by the Budget Committee and approved by the Executive, is detailed below for the information of all members:

INCOME		DISBURSEMENTS	
Draw	\$1,737.76	Sick & Visiting	\$ 200.00
Trust Income	2,120.00	Poppy Fund	100.00
Dues	800.00	Museum	* 1,000.00
Donations	1,400.00	Cadets	400.00
Bank Interest	300.00	C.O.'s Contingency	750.00
		Groundsheet	2,600.00
		Melfa	700.00
		Ann. Gen. Meeting	111.31
		Administration	400.00
		Contingency Reserve	96.45
	<u>\$6,357.76</u>		<u>\$6,357.76</u>

*Subject to change to Scholarship


THE MUSEUM

The Museum has had a very busy and rewarding Spring with over 300 visitors.

We have hosted History #114 class from Douglas College. It was a challenge to give them an interesting yet factual story of the Second World War.

Hyack Week brought us 150 visitors or more. Most of these visitors were interested in the First World War. Fortunately George Hughes had just completed a new photo arrangement of the First World War Regiments along with a chronological description of the battles that made up the Battle Honors of the 47th Battalion. It made it much easier for us to present this part of our Regimental History.

We will be open to the Military Collectors Club on June 24th, always an interesting event.

Our present plan is to continue opening on Tuesday afternoons and evenings throughout the Summer months.

NOW HEAR THIS!

Volunteers are desperately needed for the Museum. The work to be done involves the Archives, Photograph Collection and Artifacts.

The learning to be done involves the Collection Policies and Techniques of - accessioning, storage, conservation, display, history, etc.

We are anxious and able to teach you if you in turn are willing to give a little of your own time.

THIS IS A FAMILY AFFAIR, OUR REGIMENTAL FAMILY

Walk - Run - Jog - Ride - Drive - Whatever you choose to do, but contact the Museum on any Tuesday or Thursday between the hours of 1 and 3 P.M.

If you are unable to drop in then write to:

Mr. Walter Tyler
Curator
The Museum
The Armouries
530 Queens Avenue
New Westminster, B.C.

IN SEARCH OF HISTORY

Once again (so soon?) we are asking for your help. The Museum is attempting to assemble a collection of cap and shoulder badges representing our various titles during 121 years of service.

We are concerned particularly with two time periods, 1863 to 1899 and 1899 to 1910. While we have no problem with unit and sub-unit titles, it is the badges which are lacking, and needed to complete the history of our 121 years of continuous service.

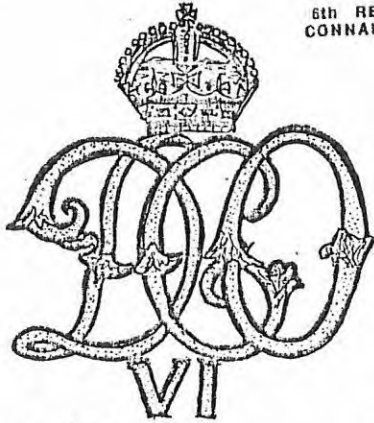
Historically, the time periods break down as follows:

- 1863 to 1874 - The New Westminster Volunteer Rifles;
- 1874 to 1883 - No. 1 Company of Rifles;
- 1883 to 1892 - B.C. Provisional Regiment of Garrison Artillery;
- 1892 to 1896 - B.C. Brigade of Garrison Artillery;
- 1896 to 1899 - 2nd Bn. 5 B.C. Regt. Garrison Artillery;
- 1899 to 1910 - A & B Coys, 6th B.C. Rifles, and later in the same time period, 6th Regt. D.C.O.R. Still later the 104th Cdn Infantry Regiment;
- 1910 to 1913 - The 104th Regiment;
- 1913 to 1920 - 104th Regt, Westminster Fusiliers of Canada;
- 1914 - Recruited for the 7th and 29th Bns, C.E.F.;
- 1915 - Recruited for the 47th Bn, C.E.F.;
- 1920 to 1924 - 1st B.C. Regt. 3rd Bn.
- 1924 to 1936 - The Westminster Regiment. 47 including Coys in Mission and Chilliwack;
- 1936 to 1939 - The Westminster Regiment (inf);
- 1939 to 1940 - The Westminster Regiment (MG);
- 1940 to 1945 - The Westminster Regiment (Motor);
- 1945 to 19 -
- 19 to 19 -
- 19 to 19 - The Royal Westminster Regiment

We have shown on the following page photostat copies of the badges for which we are searching. However, ANY badge, shoulder patch, divisional patch, uniform, equipment, artifact, letter or document relating to the time periods will be gratefully acknowledged. Bring or send the items to:

The Museum
530 Queens Avenue
New Westminster, B.C.
V3L 1K3

6th REG. (THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT'S OWN RIFLES)



D. G.O. 144/1905
col. id. smuller arg.



C. G.O. 137/1901
hze



h.

104th NEW WESTMINSTER REGIMENT

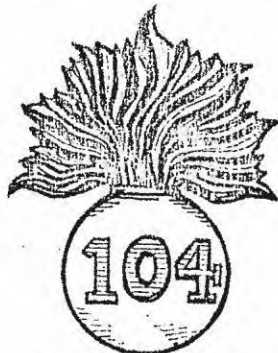


C. (old) G.O. 175/1912 doré



C. G.O. 175/1912
col. id. cu.

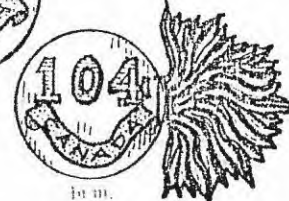
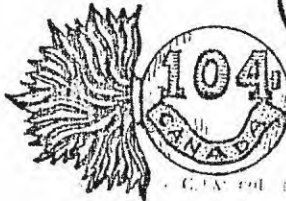
104th WESTMINSTER FUSILIERS OF CANADA



C. 1913 1929
cu.




C. 1913 1929



h. m.





THE ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT

Hon Col:	Col	W.E. McKinney	CD
Hon LCol:	BGen	F.E. Hamm	CD
CO:	LCol	F.T.H. Wilks	
RSM:	CWO	R.W. Thomson	CD

CO's REPORT

In the past training year the Regiment and its associates have conducted a number of very memorable events.

The highlight of our year was undoubtedly the mounting of a Guard of Honour with the Regimental Band for the occasion of Her Majesty The Queen's visit to New Westminster.

A considerable effort by All Ranks to achieve the required numbers for the Guard, and to reach a standard of excellence was amply rewarded by the praise of many of spectators who attended the ceremony.

A number of ex-Westies have returned to the unit - WO Knipstrom, Sgt. Morton, Sgt Brooks and Cpl's Setter and Cabey. Once again we have an Usher in our ranks (third generation) who is currently filling the demanding role of QM. Other arrivals over the past year include Major Bradford, WO MacMillan (Ex-Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada), MWO Saari (Ex-Algonquin Regiment), and WO Crawford (Ex-Canadian Scottish Regiment).

We have obtained many excellent results in Area and National training courses in which the NCO's performed exceedingly well. Sgt Stratton, Cpl Beckett, Cpl Killam (W), Pte Wishart (W), Pte Wiffen (W) are a few of the many who topped their courses and obtained an 'A' grade. In total 70 men and women have attended Area and National courses.

With the arrival of new members, the Unit now fields a Rifle Company, a Headquarters Company, including a Support Weapons Platoon, and a Regimental Band, thereby achieving our goal of self-sufficiency.

cont...

CO's REPORT (Continued)

The BCRA and Area Shoot (Blair Shoot) did not produce all the desired results, although our standards are improving each year. However, a number of practices were won by team members. In the Blair Shoot the Unit won the Pistol Competition, Pte Green won the Tyro Trophy and was selected as a standby to the Canadian Forces Bisley Team.

The Regiment hosted General Belzile, Commander Mobile Command, at the Annual Regimental Dinner in February 1983. In all over 90 guests attended including the majority of the Honourary Colonels and Commanding Officers of the British Columbia Militia Regiments.

In 1983 the following awards and appointments were made:


Second Clasp to CD:	Col McKinney Sgt Pirie
First Clasp to CD:	Sgt Hawes
CD:	RSM Thomson WO Griffiths Sgt Parkinson
Drum Major:	Sgt Cooke

As in previous years, the Unit travelled down to Fort Lewis, Washington, USA, for annual training. Again our strength was up, with over 110 members attending. On this occasion we were accompanied by six members of 6 RRF, who were totally absorbed into the Unit and who played an important and valuable part in our training.

A varied programme was put into force culminating in a 48 hour patrolling exercise over miles of difficult terrain, constantly harried by US Rangers, including trail bike patrols and helicopters (Cobra's).

The continued growth of The Regiment in both numbers and proficiency has been very encouraging, and though there are many goals still to be achieved, the past year was one of hard work and very satisfactory progress.

FTHW



"EVENTS OF INTEREST"

AUGUST 1984

August 20th - "MILCON"

Members of the Association are invited to visit the Regiment in camp at Fort Lewis, State of Washington, on August 23rd during their joint training with the U.S. Forces. We are sorry but you are on your own for transportation and accommodation. Interested members should phone the Unit Orderly Room, 522-4342 for details.

August 23rd - VISIT THE ROYAL ENGINEERS (ROYAL MONMOUTH REGT)

The Royal Engineers (Royal Monmouth Regiment) who are training in Canada on that date will be staging a re-enactment of the landing of the Royal Engineers on the bank of the Fraser River (Old penitentiary site) at 11:30 hours August 23rd. They will subsequently move to the New Westminster City Hall for a brief ceremony and then to an informal reception at the Armory at 12:30 and 13:00 hours respectively. Over 100 All Ranks plus Band will participate.

PLEASE ATTEND IF YOU CAN!

MAIL BAG

Had a short letter from Bill Rogers of Maple Ridge sending along his membership dues. Bill, in spite of a serious illness, wants us to know he is with us in spirit even if he is unable to attend any of our functions.

Keep fighting on Bill, there are many of us now who are unable to pass the 'Battle Fit' category these days.

Dan Nikiforuk of Peachland is back with us once again after losing contact in 1970. Yes Dan, we have one of the best Military Museums in Canada and welcome any memorabilia or artifacts. Thanks for the donation and welcome back.

Phil Radmore's son advises of his father and mother's 50th wedding anniversary. Congratulations for the July 17, 1984 reception.

MELFA GOLF TOURNAMENT 84

Another tournament over, with the walking wounded, tired and battered, safely home! Only one question remains, "Will the course ever recover from another Golf 54 Attack?"

THE WINNERS

Melfa Trophy		G. McGregor
Marshall Trophy		J. Laing
Longest Drive, Assoc		G. McGregor
	Visitors	R. Roberge
Low Gross, Assoc		S. Lowe
	Visitors	T. Smith
Low Net, Assoc		K. Godwin
	Visitors	G. Hall
Second Low Net		J. Hartley
Third Low Net		D. Glenn
Nearest Pin, Assoc		B. Stephens
	Visitors	I. Hartley (Mrs.)
Pres. Cap, Furthest Away		A. Pradine
Ladies Low Gross		I. Low (Mrs.)
	Net	I. Hartley (Mrs.)
Third Low Gross		S. Moorhouse/S. Johnson

OTHER WINNERS

W. Robson	C. Collison	T. Hammersley
Mrs. Hogarth	J. Hogarth	J. Bush
Mrs. Stephens	A. Wilson	D. Armstrong

SPECIAL THANKS

TO - Ray Roberge, Jack Hogarth, Cec Hartley, and to Labatt's and Molson's for their wonderful prizes!



DID YOU KNOW?

Since 1981, the Federal Government has increased its service to War Disability Pensioners by way of an Aging Veterans Programme. The Royal Canadian Legion will assist any veteran who qualifies, to obtain additional assistance.

If you require or know of a veteran with a war disability who needs additional help please take advantage of the Legion's offer of help. Fill out the application form shown below and mail it in to the Ottawa address.

AGING VETERANS PROGRAM

The Legion is concerned that many war disability pensioners are not aware of the Aging Veterans Program, which became effective April 1, 1981. Pensioners who have specific needs resulting from their war disability and age deterioration may be eligible for these services:

- (1) nursing home intermediate care;
- (2) adult residential care;
- (3) home modifications;
- (4) ambulatory health care;
- (5) home care.

If you know of someone who would qualify, please have the forms below completed and returned.

TO: DIRECTOR, SERVICE BUREAU, THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION, 359 KENT ST., OTTAWA, ONT. K2P 0R7
DATE: _____

REGIMENTAL NO. _____ PENSION NO. _____

VETERAN'S NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER _____

NATURE OF DISABILITY PENSION AND ASSESSMENT _____

STATE NATURE OF OTHER ASSISTANCE OR INFORMATION REQUIRED _____

The Royal Canadian Legion has my authority to process any claim and to be advised by Veterans Affairs as to the outcome of any application which may be considered under veterans legislation and, if necessary, to inspect the D.V.A. file and service records.

Signature

IN MEMORIAM

2208323 Pte. D.W. Dow
47Bn. C.E.F.
First World War

628516 1/cpl. J.A. Montgomery
47th Bn. C.E.F.
First World War

K47350 F. Ball
The Westminster Regiment (Motor)
Second World War

L106371 Pte. R.M. Gordon
The Westminster Regiment (Motor)
Second World War

B135246 Pte. B.P. Mellon
The Westminster Regiment (Motor)
Second World War

Pte. P. Groves
47th Bn. C.E.F.

K47118 O.R. Ballam
The Westminster Regiment (Motor)

TOMMY*

I went into a public-ouse to get a
pint of beer,

The publican e up an sez, "We serve
no red-coats here,"

The girls behind the bar they laugh
and giggle fit to die,

I outs into the street again, an to
myself sez I:

O it's Tommy this an Tommy that,
an Tommy, go away;"

But it's "Thank you, Mister Atkins"
when the band begins to play.

O it's "Thank you Mister Atkins,"
when the band begins to play.

For it's Tommy this an Tommy that,
an chuck him out the brute!"

But it's saviour of 'is country when
the guns begin to shoot;

An it's Tommy this an Tommy that an
anything you please;

An Tommy ain't a blooming fool - you
bet that Tommy sees!

*Extracts from Barrack Room Ballads by Rudyard Kipling.