

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



D. W. GLENN,
6666 WALKER AVE.,
BURNABY, B. C. V5E 3B9

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. 33, No. I

BOX 854, NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C. V3L 4Z8

JAN. - FEB. 1984

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ANNUAL General Meeting!

Thursday, March 15, 1984: 8pm

PLACE: Combined Officers' and Sergeants' Mess
in New Westminster Armoury

OPEN LETTER
TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Orwell's '1984' may be foreboding to some, but to many of us it marks the anniversary of 'Melfa '44'. It should be a memorable occasion and I know many of us would like to see a repeat of the 1983 mixed Melfa Dinner and Golf tournament.

It was an overwhelming success and former President Nelson Scott and the Dinner chairman Doug Glenn are further congratulated for a magnificent effort. Perhaps many of you think that 1983 was only a "one shot deal". Let us hope that it will be much more than - indeed ongoing. Certainly there have been some old chauvinistic curmudgeons in the Exec. in the past but - time mellows all; and we trust that the evidence of the smashing success of 1983 will prevail.

I had the opportunity of spending some six weeks last summer in the Cariboo and the Okanagan. During that time I managed to visit with some seven members who had attended Melfa 83. Conversation was reserved almost exclusively to the expressions of appreciation and enjoyment that they and their good ladies had enjoyed on that memorable week-end. Indeed, almost all expressed the opinion that they would not return to another Dinner unless it included a mixed format.

The opinions expressed herein are but those of an ordinary member, although I did spend some 30 years on the Executive from committee member to secretary, editor and President. I can assure you that it requires great effort and complete support from all to enable your Exec. to make this 1984 Melfa the grand affair it should be.

Doug Glenn is now your President and Norm MacAskill has been designated as Melfa 84 Chairman. I know that they would appreciate and need your support in writing, and soon! Like before February/84. Please write now.

And the Fates be willing, I and my dear wife hope to see you all in May.

Ron Hurley.

Editor's Note: One opinion well and ably put forth. Let's hear from the rest of you.

THE ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

40th ANNIVERSARY

MELFA DINNER

SATURDAY, MAY 26, 1984

THE ARMORIES, NEW WESTMINSTER

Norman McAskill, Chairman

PROGRAMME

FELLOWSHIP HOUR	5:30 P.M.
CENOTAPH SERVICE	6:15 P.M.
DINNER	7:00 P.M.

DINNER WILL BE \$12.00 PER PERSON

BECAUSE OF THE SUCCESS OF LAST YEAR'S DINNER
WE ARE AGAIN INVITING YOUR LADIES TO BE WITH
US. THE SAME WILL APPLY TO THE GOLF TOURNAMENT

MELFA GOLF TOURNAMENT

MYLORA GOLF RANGE

TEE-OFF 9:00 A.M.

SATURDAY, MAY 26, 1984

ENTRY FEE \$12.00

MELFA DINNER RESERVATION

TO ASSIST US WITH PLANNING, CAN YOU GIVE US
A TENTATIVE CONFIRMATION OF YOUR ATTENDANCE

WITH NUMBER IN YOUR PARTY ?

SUGGESTED DATE - MAY 15, 1984

DINNER : YES/NO (1 or 2)

GOLF : YES/NO (1 or 2)

BECAUSE OF COMMITMENTS FOR CATERING AND GOLF

WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR PAYMENTS BY THE

ABOVE DATE.

MAIL TO

Norman J. McAskill

7828 Canada Way

Burnaby, B.C. V3N3K9

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

On Thursday, March 15/84, the doors are once again wide open to welcome all you members, within reach and mobile, to the Annual General Meeting of The Royal Westminster Regiment Association. This one is important, with vital issues at stake to be decided on, and your vote may be the decisive one.

To give one evening out of 365 to the Association doesn't appear to be much of a hardship when you consider the untold hours voluntarily put in by those interested and dedicated few who keep it functioning.

So set aside the 15th as a priority evening, activate those genes, crank up that flivver, and be there in large quantities, complete with bricks, bouquets, and ideas, good and otherwise. The 40th anniversary of our gambit in the Liri Valley deserves a record turn-out.

Editor



In Memoriam

Ed Houliston, WW 2
Vancouver, B.C.
February 4, 1984

Doug McNab (D Coy) WW 2
Thunder Bay, Ontario
December 28, 1983

Robert(Inky)Johnstone, WW 1&2
90 years of age
White Rock, B.C.
January 11, 1984

Wm.(Bill) Foster, WW 2
New Westminster, B.C.
January 12, 1984

THE YOUNGER GENERATION SPEAKS UP

As a member of the Association for a few years, I feel somewhat ashamed that I haven't taken the opportunity to write a comment for the GROUND SHEET. Knowing that this will be read by many, I hope my points will get across.

Firstly, being a "young" member of the Regiment and Association I know that there is a concern by many "old" members, if whether or not the Association and Museum will be carried on years after those that started it have gone. Well, I can honestly tell you that it will be carried on. I will be around in one capacity or another to continue the tradition. But you must remember that my family is unique. I was born into this establishment so it's in my blood. But there are many present and past members of the active Regiment who only joined because it was something to do or to make a few dollars or even as a hobby. Regardless of their reason for joining, they don't have the understanding of what the Association is or for that matter, who the Association is and what it stands for.

I feel that there must be present Association members who have families, and in those families there are certain members who could become active in some capacity of the Association to help carry on a family history. I don't feel that totally depending on the active Regiment to be there ten or twenty years down the road when there aren't but a few World War 2 veterans left to run the Association, is fair.

(CONT'D)

Our society today is much different now and our youth are also different and to try and make them understand, what you as veterans went through to establish this comradeship cannot be taught to them.

I think that we must start now to try and educate the active members of the Regiment on what our Association stands for and how they can help. But on the same hand search through your own families and see if you can educate them as well. Let them know that there is something dear to you that you want continued after you have gone.

I have sat through a number of executive meetings over the past five or six years now and I must say there are the same faces who appear year after year to keep the Association going. They are a very dedicated few but I feel some are getting tired.

They will probably never give up doing what they are doing because of their strong feelings but surely you out there that read this GROUNDSHEET, that occasionally come by for the SMOKER or MELFA must have a day per month to help your Association. The annual General Meeting is coming up. Get out and support your Association. Get involved and more importantly get someone else involved.

Lastly I would only say that if we fail to educate our active Regiment and your family members on the continuation of our Association then your Melfa Dinner, Golf tournament, Smoker, Groundsheet and Museum will be no longer. It takes planning and hard work to set these functions up and those that volunteer for them are few and far between.

2Lt.D.E.A.(Ted)Usher
THE ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT

BUISNESS COMPLAINTS

SICKNESS: No excuse. We will no longer accept your doctor's statement as proof since we believe that if you are able to go to the doctor, you are able to come to work.

REST ROOM: Too much time is being spent in the Rest Room. In the future, we will follow the practice of going to the Rest Room in alphabetical order. For instance, those whose names begin with 'A' will go from 8 a.m. to 8:05 a.m., 'B' will go from 8:05 a.m to 8:10 a.m., and so on. If you are unable to go at your time, it will be necessary to wait until the day when your turn comes again.

WE DID IT!

So it took us thirty-eight years to do it, but we now have a most impressive Illuminated Scroll on display in the Regimental Trophy Case and a copy of the Scroll in the Regimental Museum commemorating the Guard of Honour the Regiment mounted in the City of Westminster, London, England on January 5, 1946.

The British Consul General, Mr.S.Stephenson, presented the Scroll to the Lieutenant Colonel of the Regiment, Lt.Col.F.Wilks, and Mr.D.Glenn President of the Association on behalf of the Lord Mayor of the City of Westminster, London, England, Madam P. Sitwell.

The joint Unit/Association Parade was most impressive. We, the Association had over 35 members on parade that night, a most rewarding response to our request for a good turn-out.

To all those who were able to participate in the parade, to the members and ladies who contributed to and helped with the Reception, and to those who were unable to attend but sent along their best wishes, a real 'Sincere Thank You' from your Executive.

H.F.H.

KINDNESS

I shall pass this world but
once; if, therefore,
There be any kindness I can
show,

Or any good thing I can do,
let me do it now.

Let me not defer or neglect
it; for I shall not pass this
way again.

Anon.

Fusiliers go west

THE ROYAL REGIMENT of Fusiliers has an affiliation with the Royal Westminster Regiment — a Canadian Reserve Forces unit — in Vancouver and although the Regular battalions have had the opportunity, after training at the British Army Training Unit Suffield, to visit the Westminsters, such a chance has not occurred for the Territorial Army battalions.

However, on the initiative of their Training Major, Major John Rice, six members of the 6th Battalion, which, as part of 15 Infantry Brigade is NATO-rolled and based in Northumberland, have recently returned from a memorable month in Western Canada. (Ave./13)

The party flew by Tristar to Calgary and continued their final leg by Air Canada to Vancouver, arriving at 9.00 pm local time.

Their feet scarcely touched the ground for by 0500 hours the following morning, the six were on the road accompanying the Royal Westminster Regiment to their annual "MILCON" (Military Concentration) at Fort Lewis in Washington State, USA.

If the Fusiliers thought they were there only to observe, they were in for a surprise: each was allotted a 'key appointment' for the period of MILCON and participated fully in all training activities which, in a very full programme, ranged from low level tactics through FIBUA to a com-

pany level infiltration attack and included live firing of Soviet weapons and those from other NATO armies.

Inevitably there was considerable Canadian interest in the "Brit way of doing things" as Lieutenant Peter Marshall — in civilian life a foreign currency dealer with the National Westminster Bank — discovered when his Orders Group audience included two Generals, five Colonels and six Regimental Sergeant Majors. In the field of specialist training, Sgt 'Jock' Reid of the 6th Battalion's sniper section — provided a valuable contribution to Reconnaissance Platoon training and Sgt Paul Debie gave a "UK view" to the Machine Gun Platoon's activities.

Fusilier Stan Young — a company medic — was able to demonstrate the importance which medical training now attracts in the British Army as a result of the Falkland Islands campaign.



The 'travelling salesman' was ex Assistant Regimental Signals Officer and now Company Sergeant Major of X Company, WO2 Alan Wall who, never at a loss for words, became directly involved in the supervision and criticism of all training activities.

But, MILCON was not all work, as L/Cpl Kevin Murphy — a section commander from Alnwick — discovered when he was presented in the field with a 21st birthday cake by the Royal Westminsters.

With a lasting impression of a high level of enthusiasm, motivation and professionalism, the group returned to Vancouver at the end of MILCON to encounter the overwhelming hospitality of the Royal Westminster Regiment on their home ground. Each Fusilier was accommodated with a Canadian family for the remainder of their stay and the group met up for pre-arranged events.

Courtesy of the U.K. magazine "Soldier's Magazine"

MELFA SUNDAY BRUNCH

MAY 27, 1984
11:00 A.M.

Scrambled Eggs
Sausage-Bacon-Ham
Danish Pastries

Fruit Salad
Muffins - Three Choices
Coffee

\$5.75 per person