

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

B. V. MORGAN,
1547 - 54TH STREET,
ISAANWASSEN, B. C. V4L 3H6

RETURN
REQUESTED



The GROUNDSHEET

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. 2 BOX 854, NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C. V3L 4Z8 MAR. - APR. 1984

BASIL MORGAN, Pres. 1547 - 54th St., Delta 943-4177
JERRY GANGUR, Sect'y. 2015 Hyannis Dr., N. Van. 929-5785
ED SHANNON, Editor, 20250-43A Ave, Langley 534-0108

MELFA DINNER and GOLF TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY, MAY 26, 1984

PLACE: The Armoury, 6th Ave. and Queens St.

FELLOWSHIP: 5:30 pm.

PARADE TO CENCTAPH: 6:15 pm.

DINNER: 7:00 pm.

GOLF: See details page I2.

NOMINAL ROLL of THE EXECUTIVE
OF
THE ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION
for
1984 - 85

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Phone</u>
BASIL MORGAN (President)	1547 - 54th Street, Delta	943-4177
STAN MOORHOUSE (Vice-Pres.)	704 - 700 Hamilton, New Westmr. V3M 2M6	522-3507
JERRY GANGUR (Secretary)	2015 Hyannis Dr., North Van. V7H 2E5	929-5785 (Bus) 430-5055
VERN ARDAGH (Treasurer)	3689 Nico-Wynd Dr., Surrey V4A 5Z5	536-5736
DOUG GLENN (Past Pres.)	6666 Walker Ave., Burnaby	522-0890
LCol. FRED WILKS (O.O. Regt.)	850 Hendry Ave., North Van.	986-2405
FRED BASS (47th Rep)	#2 - 6609 Fraser St. Vancouver V5X 3T6	325-0456
JOHN FORD	3757 West 35 Ave., Vancouver V6N 2N6	263-3682
ALEX GIBSON	820 Norfolk St., Coquitlam V3T 4T4	936-5212
KEN GODWIN	3627 Trinity St., Vancouver V5K 1G5	298-0701
ROBERT GREBINSKI	22612 - 124th Ave, Maple Ridge V2X 4J8	467-2498
WALTER LYLE	614 - 4th Ave., New Westmr. V3M 1S4	521-3265
MIKE STEEDE	1279 Silverwood Cr. Nth. Van.	987-2787
TED USHER	4097 - 204B St., Langley V3A 1Z7	530-2066

THE ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

40th ANNIVERSARY MELFA DINNER

THE ARMOURIES, NEW WESTMINSTER: SATURDAY, MAY 26, 1984

MEMBERS AND WIVES DINNER: \$12.00 per PERSON

MELFA SUNDAY BRUNCH

MAY 27, 1984; 11:00a.m. \$5.75 per PERSON

MELFA GOLF TOURNAMENT

MYLORA GOLF RANGE, RICHMOND. SATURDAY, MAY 26, 1984

TEE-OFF: 9:00 A.M. ENTRY FEE: \$12.00

TO ASSIST US WITH PLANNING, CAN YOU GIVE US A DEFINITE
CONFIRMATION OF YOUR ATTENDANCE, WITH NUMBER IN YOUR PARTY?

BECAUSE OF COMMITMENTS FOR CATERING AND GOLF
WE WILL NEED YOUR PAYMENTS BY APRIL 30.

.....(tear.off).....

MELFA CELEBRATIONS

DINNER: YES... NO... (1... or 2...)

GOLF : YES... NO... (1... or 2...)

REMARKS: BRUNCH Yes ✓ 3 ✓
BASIC / MARGARET
MELGAN

Mail to: N.J. McAskill
7828 Canada Way
Burnaby, B.C.
V3N 3K9

RR # I
 Caledon East, Ontario
 LON IEO

March 24/84

Dear Ed Shannon:

Enclosed please find my personal cheque for payment of 1984 dues. Use the remainder for whatever good purpose you may find.

I look forward to receiving my Groundsheet and I am sometimes perturbed by the rancorous tone it conveys from time to time. I understand the reasons and would only comment that whenever a human endeavour is operated on a volunteer system the same few people do all the work. Its one of life's realities and something we should all recognize and face up to. So, three great, resounding cheers for the volunteers. You will always have the knowledge that there is a grey-haired, old, country curmudgeon in the Albion Hills who thinks the world of you. 'Nuff said.

Ron Hurley's editorial on the inclusion of the members' ladies at the Melfa celebrations contains gold-plated words. We're only a little gang in the good ole T.O. area but there isn't one of us who would attend our little annual bash without the girls we love right beside us. We agreed to a partnership long years ago and the Melfa dinner wasn't considered an exception. So, have your ladies with you and let them share the fun and also the spirit of dedication born so many years ago under violent circumstances.

I am indeed sorry that I didn't get to last year's Melfa in New Westminster along with all the gang from the Toronto area. I had an operation to correct a very serious vision impairment and I was advised not to fly due to pressure changes. (This for a guy who is on the jets anywhere from 6 to 12 times a month.) Anyway, Majury, White and McCarthy telephoned me as soon as they got back so I did live a little of the fun through fantasy.

Keep it going, guys. Keep the spirit of '39 - '45 alive. I can't help very much but I do appreciate what you take on on my behalf.

Best regards,
 W.C. (Wally) Lockhart.

Ed. Note:

In some the spirit is bright and unchanged; in a word, the bedrock of the Association. A good letter, Wally.

WANTED

VOLUNTEERS TO WORK IN MUSEUM

LEARN OUR HISTORY, ACT AS GUIDES AND SPEAKERS
EXPERT TRAINING OFFERED IN THE VARIOUS ASPECTS INVOLVED
ARCHIVES, PRESERVATION, DISPLAY,
ADMINISTRATION, CONSERVATION, ETC.

BE THE FIRST TO GET IN LINE

FOR THIS INTERESTING AND ABSORBING RECREATION
(We should charge you for such an experience!)

ELIGIBILITY: Anyone who is an Association member
or anyone of their respective families.

Make it a family commitment.

CONTACT THE MUSEUM

1 to 4pm and 7 to 9pm Tuesdays, 1 to 4pm Thursdays.

Drop us a note now!!

We will set up a meeting of interested parties
towards the end of May or early June.

6.

THIRTY-EIGHT YEARS LATER

March 1984, and another group to oversee our affairs. Before continuing, thanks to those who have looked after the "Shop" for the past while. The same old faces come up again year after year and most will be around in 1984.

Among the missing will be Nelson "Scotty" Scott. Nelson made it a personal dedication to put us in a financially sound position to ensure our integrity over the tapering-off years. He also strove to ensure our enduring values would not go unattended. His health has forced him to slow down, but his drive and enthusiasm will not be forgotten. We owe him much and have to say: 100%, Scotty, and Thank You.

Other people who have had to step down at this point are: Gerry Churley, Ian Douglas, Freda Hogg, Walter Hogg, Bert Hoskin, Johnny Rosso, Dick Shannon and Al Wilson. We know they are just off in the wings but they are acts hard to follow. They have set standards that will be a challenge to us all. May we say to those who have served so well, "Well done and Thank You."

We who are to carry on have a problem or two to face and would hope that some help might be forthcoming by way of comment or physical commitment.

Our priorities for 1984 will be: 1. To ensure we maintain communication. The Groundsheet is our voice and, as long as we have an editor, it will serve. Ed wants to take it easy this year. So-o-o--we are looking for a successor. If you have the qualifications and can give the time, please contact Jerry Gangur.

2. The Melfa Dinner Format has to be finalized. All Male, or Co-Ed?? The previous request for your guidance produced 3 or 4 replies. All negative. Hardly a sounding-board, but--WHAT DO WE DO next year and so on?? (Ed.note: There was at least two very pro-Coed., Bas.)

3. We are in need of assistance in the Museum to ensure the continuance of this obligation. The work will never end and must be maintained on a continuing basis. We are in a position to train people but we need volunteers to train. Also, having reached such an excellent standard we are more or less obligated to have it open to the public on a more frequent regular schedule. Along with the routine work we need to learn the history to provide knowledgeable guides and speakers. Every member of your family is a candidate for this important function.

6-A

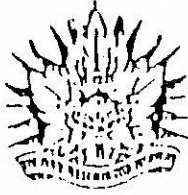
VT
F ASSOCIATION
-, 1983

EXPENSES

Administration	\$ 472.30
Broadsheet	1,823.41
Museum	2,054.37
Rendezvous '83	372.23 (1)
Printer	424.79
Off's Contingency	2,000.00 (2)
Copy Fund	100.00
Memorial Gathering	76.37
City Westminster England Scroll/Parade	151.58
Printing	19.50
Reserve	640.05
	<u>\$ 8,134.60</u>

Statement, Rendezvous Expense totalled \$872.23
and, increasing overall Association support
location required to retire a long term debt.

6-B



FINANCIAL STATEMENT
THE ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT AS
31 December, 1983

ASSETS

Bank - Current Account	\$ 490.00	Reserve
Bank - Savings Account	2,903.49	Golf Tro
Secretary's Imprest Account	100.00	
Inventory	1,168.00	
	<u>\$ 4,661.49</u>	

NOTES: (1) \$3,000.00 transferred 6 May, 1983 to Trustees for In
with Trust Account as passed at the Annual General

We have examined the books of accounts of The Royal West
the Financial Year 1983 and find they are in order and t
the Operating Statement, and other supporting documents
Auditted in the City of New Westminster, B.C.), Canada.

Walter D. [Signature]

Dated..... *Feb.*

INVENTORY
THE ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT
31 December, 1983

Tables & Chairs at Cost

Inventory as per Ledger

ASSOCIATION

LIABILITIES

\$ 4,633.49 (1)

28.00

phy Trust

\$ 4,661.49

vestment
Meeting, 1983.

minster Regiment Association for
hat the Financial Statement,
are correct.

.....Auditor
lyle
.....Auditor
27th
....., 1984

ASSOCIATION

\$ 1,168.00

\$ 1,168.00

7.
4. Ken Godwin has offered to head up our sick and visiting committee. It is well nigh impossible to visit unless we are advised that you are in hospital or otherwise indisposed, or know of someone else who is. A phone call to Ken or anyone else on the Exec. will ensure a visit. We welcome your thoughts and comments.

See you at the Melfa Dinner and Brunch

B. Morgan
Pres.

A RANDOM THOUGHT

Tradition does not mean that you never do anything new, but that you never fall below the standards of courage and conduct handed down to you.



In Memoriam

Clarence Huff
47th Batt., WW I
New Westminster, B.C.
March 7, 1984

John McQuillan, WW 2
Armstrong, B.C..
April 3, 1984

Robert Ross, K48849
W.R.(M), WW 2
Kamloops, B.C..
November 14, 1983

W.(Bill)Neill, Maj.(ret'd)
WW 2, once O.C. A Coy.
Ottawa, Ontario
March, 1984

Frank Thompson, age 97
47th Batt., WW I
Vancouver, B.C..
November 22, 1983

Rule Dobbie, WW 2
Penticton, B.C..
April 25, 1983

H.J.(Bert)Hall, WW 2
Vancouver, B.C..
February 2, 1984

Stan Myslick, WW 2
Regina, Sask.
November 14, 1983

8.

Hotel Van Incident

I wonder what became of Sgt. Quinn who came down from the Yukon and joined the Regiment. I can't recall the date but I think we got some others at the same time. They chartered a 'plane and blew into New Westminster -- a group of characters, to say the least! Harvey Stock and Gibson, the "Gold Dust Twins", were in the same wild bunch.

I didn't know Quinn until he became Sgt.-Cook in the barracks in the old Vancouver Hotel. His name at that time was not Quinn but he had it changed to Quinn. One night in the Sgts Mess in the Hotel we took on a load of booze, and when the mess closed went up to his room where he had a crock of vino.

AS Sgt.-Cook he had a room to himself and his kit and rifle were hanging on the end of his double-deck bunk. After a while we got to arguing. It was my contention that he might be O.K. as a cook but for straight out-and-out soldiering, he was away behind. One thing led to another and he stood up, grabbed his rifle and stood to attention. "Give me some proper commands," he ordered, and I shouted: "Slope arms!" Up comes the rifle -- bayonet fixed and the sheath still on the blade, the way he had hung it on the bunk.

Crash! -- he was standing under the lamp in the centre of the room. Well, the end of the bayonet scabbard went up into the glass lampshade which shattered. Down came the outside shell of the lamp, the bayonet had taken the bottom out of it, and the glass lampshade fell, just missed his forehead and neatly sliced off the nose but left it hanging by the three pieces of his nostrils under his nose.

Blood everywhere! Quinn lifted the nose backup into place and away we went to find the M.O. Our M.O. was out so we got the orderly officer of the unit above us and their M.O. stuck a piece of adhesive tape over and around it, and Quinn sobered up and went down to cook breakfast.

His nose was always a little crooked after that.
This a true story but you better not sign my name.

Eye Witness

SICK and VISITING

Ken Godwin has volunteered to take over this committee, so if any of you have information as to who is sick or in hospital, please contact Ken at 278-0701.

REGIMENTAL INFO.

The Regiment will hold its Annual Inspection in the vicinity of the Armoury on May 26, at 3pm. This is Melfa Day so here is your chance to see a smart body of men (persons?) at their best.

REGIMENTAL CHRISTENING

The C.O. has informed us that this event will take place later this year, in October or November. The date will be confirmed in a later issue.

MAIL BAG

As the Woods Crees would put it, "Tansi, ne moosums!" If the amount of correspondence is something to judge by, the interest in the Association is still very much alive. As Ted Burnby pointed out in his letter, the Mail Bag has been defunct the last few issues, due mostly to nothing much to write about. But that has changed with a vengeance,

9.

this issue, with letters from all over, and most welcome they are.

Roger Hassard at Regina writes in to remark that 40 years added to the 25 he had reached at the Melfa Crossing hasn't changed the spirit any, but makes considerable difference in the physical ability. Too true, Roger. He met Norm Brault in Regina in November, and they and their wives marked Nov. 11th together and decided they would try to make the 40th Anniversary Dinner out here in May. Hope you make it, fellas. He mentions Ray Hockley has been out here in the Rain Forest all winter, and Jim Kyle was in a car accident last fall, but looks OK now. He saw George Carlson, who wasn't sure whether he could make the Dinner or not. I wouldn't think hotels and motels will be a problem, Roger. The Dinner is on May 26, a short week-end. The Royal Towers Hotel on 6th St. is the best bet, only half a block from the Armoury, if you wanted to try for a reservation. Or phone Bas Morgan or Doug Glenn or Stan Moorhouse when you hit town. They'd be glad to help you. Their phone numbers are on the Exec. list.

A good letter from John Parker at Port Moody, B.C. We asked for opinions on having the Dinner a mixed affair or not, so he gives us his, right from the hip. He says he is one of the "many" mentioned by Ron Hurley in the last issue,

an "old chauvinistic curmudgeon" who doesn't see how a gaggle of women will promote the objects of this Association, as stated on the membership card. So on May 24 he'll toast old friends and departed comrades in his own way, especially the five snipers from his platoon left behind in the wheatfield that day 40 years ago. He thinks a hall-full of even the nicest ladies would be out of place at that moment. There were none in the wheatfield, for a fact, John.

Ted Burnby writes from Vernon, B.C., expressing sympathy for Scotty regarding his illness, and "a hearty vote of thanks for the numerous years he has devoted to our Association." He has sent in his Dinner fees to Norm, so it looks like he'll be attending. As mentioned earlier, Ted, the Mail Bag is alive again, and hope you manage to wade through it! Your suggestion re advertising the Dinner in the Legion magazine has been brought up in the Exec., and considered favorably, if I recall correctly.

We have one from Quebec, from F.H. Clark, who appreciates receiving the Groundsheet with names in it of chaps he grew up with in New Westminster. (Hey, Doug Glenn, I never knew you made broom-handles in the '30s). His address is 181 Highfield Ave., Mont Saint Hilaire, Quebec.

A nice note from Reta Hannah at Pentlcton, saying how she and her husband Charles enjoys

very much the Dinner last year and going through the Museum. She says Charles has had a slight stroke, but is coming along very well, has his speech back, but writing is a bit of a problem yet. All our sympathy to you, Charlie, glad to hear you're improving, and best wishes to you both. We also hope you'll make it again in '85.

A note from Bill Jasman at Cultus Lake with his dues and he says he likes having received his membership card, for he claims he usually pays his dues at the 'D'Coy reunion and seems to end up with only the receipt. We've a good thing going there, Bill. If we can collect from you at 'Circle 6' and then have you mail it in, too, we're making money! See you August 5, old son.

Don Robertson (surely that must be Tiny?) writes from Ottawa, acknowledging receipt of his card, and expressing his appreciation to the Exec. and all the volunteers who expend time and effort to keep the Association going. I'm sure 'Monty's' biography would be very interesting reading for old 'Westies', now that enough time has elapsed that everything is told. Incidentally, I have your picture in my living room, only you were 'D'Coy (Aldershot) then.

A long letter from Ted Sullivan, 16 Duke St., Fredericton, N.B. E3A 4J5, enclosing dues and saying he enjoys the Groundsheet. He was originally

with the Carlton York Regt., but joined the Westminsters in Yorkshire, Eng. (sounds like during the Spartan scheme) and says he was proud to belong to such a Regt. He served in 'C' Coy in the mortar section, remembers Maj. Bert Hoskins and quite a few others in the Italian campaign, and would like to be remembered to those who remember him. He recalls Bortolussi quite well, and claims he out-ran him one day when the .88s were coming close. Says his speed was phenomenal at times like that. He says he has had three heart attacks and is not so well these days, and we're truly sorry to hear that, Ted, and offer our best wishes for improvement in your health. Berets are in short supply here, Ted, and blazers are non-

existent, but we might find you an Association Crest. We'll see what can be done. As to the name of the town in Holland and where the Regt. celebrated VE Day, surely someone remembers it and could tell you. Our last action was at Delfziel, but we moved back from there just before VE Day, to where I just don't remember.

Many thanks to all of you who have taken the time to write in, and I hope you continue to do so for the new Editor, as this will be my last issue in that capacity. Change is progress, they say, so who knows? The paper might even improve with a new editor. One thing for certain; it will continue as usual.

Best wishes to y'all!

Ed. Shannon

BRANCH #3(D Coy)REUNION

Its quite a ways off yet, so this is just a reminder that the annual get-together at the Circle 6 Ranch will be held on August 5th this year, with the Soutars' permission, of course. Bring your own lunches, tonsil-warmers, and folding tables if you have them, and be prepared to spend a very convivial afternoon in one of the loveliest settings in the lower mainland. Arrival time is usually around 1:00 pm.

Then there is the story about the Newfie who failed his driver's test because he kept opening the door to let the clutch out.

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MELFA GOLF TOURNAMENT

14th ANNUAL, MIXED

MAY 26, 1984

PLACE: Mylora Golf Club, 9911 Sidaway Road, Delta

HOW TO FIND: Sidaway Rd. runs parallel to and one block East of Freeway 99. From the North, enter off Westminster Hwy. and go South to Golf Course. From the South; through the Tunnel, turn right on Steveston Hwy., then left on Sidaway to the Golf Course.

All golfers and wives must submit their names, at least 14 days prior to play, to Melfa Committee Chairman Norm McAskill.

ENTRY FEE: \$12.00 per person.

TEE-OFF TIME: 0900 hrs. Tee times for foursomes will be posted by 0830 hrs.

BE ON TIME!

LETS PLAY GOLF!

S. Moorhouse
Golf Chmn.

ANYBODY FEELING OLD?

A man went for his annual medical check-up and when he was finished, his doctor said, "You're in very good shape for a man of 65". The man said, "Did I say I was 65? I'm 78." "Now that's really remarkable," the doctor said, amazed, "Your father must have been a very long-lived man." "Did I say he was dead? He's 102 and going strong." "That's astounding!" said the doctor, "Your grandfather must have lived to a good old age, then." "Did I say he was dead? He's 123 and getting married next week." "Why on earth would a man of 123 want to get married?" "Did I say he wanted to get married?"
