



Dedicated to the Ideals and Comradeship
 We knew in Wars and Peace and in
 Our services both Home and Abroad.

THE GROUND SHEET

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF

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

VOL: ISSUE: OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 1984

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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

REMEMBRANCE DAY

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1984

THE ARMOURIES, NEW WESTMINSTER

6th AND QUEENS ST.

DRESS: BLAZERS, MEDALS, RED BERETS

TIME: 09:30 HRS - Come early

PARADE: 10:00 HRS.

MARCH TO CENOTAPH

CENOTAPH SERVICE at 11:00 HRS

BREAK OFF FOR REFRESHMENTS AND COMRADESHIP

Back again, after a hiatus of some nine years. My lack of practice will, no doubt, manifest itself in the quality of this edition - I beg your indulgence thereto. Some of you may be surprised to know that I actually held this position a few times in the past - once for a continuous period of 12 years, 1963 - 1975. I trust I can do it justice.

The accolades extended to Ed Shannon, in the last edition were, if anything, understated and he most deservedly merits the gratitude of all members for his proficiency and service. The previous editor pro-tem alluded to the problems of the editorial position and certainly highlighted the problems that have beset all editors of The Groundsheet since its inception.


The names of a host of previous editors are legion and all, in their own fashion, served your association well. Sadly, many are no longer with us - but you will surely recall them.

Ernie Dayton, the original, Tom Forman, Gordon Rennie, Walter Lyle, Art Miller, Nelson Scott, Bas Morgan, John Hou, 'Col. Bill' Williams, Ron Mannering, Doug Glenn, John Ford, Al Little, Bert Stephens and Walt Hogg. The above are surely remembered by the membership and apologies to any that have not been given recognition. The memory dims each passing year.

It is generally recognized, or at least should be, that Your Groundsheet is the number one priority of Your Association. It is the Glue that binds us together and assures our continuity. This is particularly relevant to the vast numbers of our loyal supporters outside the Lower Mainland who never get to attend our functions.

I agreed, as did my immediate predecessor, to do this on a One Shot basis. I re-emphasize his urgent request. Please help NOW be it for one edition or one year.

Ron Hurley


ANNUAL ASSOCIATION SMOKER AND XMAS DRAW

PLACE: THE ARMOURIES, 6th & Queens,
NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C.

TIME : 19:30 HRS.

PROGRAM: FOOD, REFRESHMENTS AND, MOST IMPORTANT,
COMRADESHIP AND FELLOWSHIP

TIME OF DRAW: Approximately 10:00 P.M.

SMOKER CHAIRMAN: DOUG MORGAN - PHONE 534-7193

THE YEARS ARE FAST FADING - OUR RANKS EVER THINNING
PLEASE ATTEND

FROM THE SMOKER CHAIRMAN

Fellow Members:

It is that time of the year again. Please support our annual Christmas Draw. We need money to carry out our various activities - Our Sick & Visiting Committee - The Groundsheet - Army Cadets, Poppy Fund - Annual Smoker Museum - Annual Melfa Dinner and many more.

So you see it's a fairly ambitious program.

These raffle tickets are the financial lifeline of Our Association - Please HELP. Get Busy and Sell.

IMPORTANT: Return ticket stubs on time.

If you cannot sell or make a contribution please destroy the tickets but RETURN CONTROL COPY AT REAR OF EACH BOOK TO THE ASSOCIATION MARKED FOR MY ATTENTION.

Thank you.

Doug Morgan



A REMINDER FROM THE PRESIDENT

You will have received your Christmas Draw Tickets. You will also have read the pleas of this year's hardworking chairman, Doug Morgan. It is incumbent upon me to stress what Doug has requested and I have drawn on the words of the hardworking founder of our Christmas Draw, Nelson Scott. I cannot improve upon the words written by Nelson in the letter included with your tickets. I respectfully reissue it with the most sincere plea that you respond and help Chairman Doug Morgan and his committee achieve a banner year.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DRAW 1984

December 15th, 1984

PROMPT ATTENTION REQUIRED

G R E E T I N G S

WHAT WE SAY - WHISPERS

WHAT WE DO - THUNDERS

This is the time of year when what we, the members of this Association, do, counts most. I'm not going to give you an inspirational or dramatic sales letter, as you are as fully aware of the facts as I am, but it is your involvement that makes the draw either a success or an exercise in futility.

Each of you will, I sincerely hope, again accept the sale of these tickets, as your contribution and support of your Executive. An experience stretching back many years shows that if you will only take the time to show the books to your friends the sales are almost automatic.

Last year many of our members returned the total receipts from the sales --- only five dollars is required for each book, however, if you return the full seven dollars the help would be tremendous.

This Draw is part of the ANNUAL SMOKER and will take place in the Armouries, New Westminster, DECEMBER 15TH, 1984.


More books readily available, call Collect to Doug Morgan 534-7193, and he will take your order.

Thanks for your past good performance; and good luck this year.

Sincerely,

Bas Morgan,
President

We are late this year!!!
DO IT NOW!!!


COMING EVENTSREGIMENTAL CHURCH PARADE
AND NON DENOMINATIONAL CHRISTENING

DATE: December 2, 1984
PLACE: Holy Trinity, Carnarvon St.,
New Westminster, B. C.
TIME: 1300 HRS (1P.M.)
ELIGIBLE FOR CHRISTENING: All sons, daughters, grandchildren, great
grandchildren of members of the Royal Westminster Regiment, The Royal
Westminster Regiment Association or any of its affiliates noted on the
face of your Groundsheet.
IMPORTANT: Please submit the names and birthdates of those to be
Christened at once to the Armouries in New Westminster,
B.C. or phone 522-4342.

ALL ASSOCIATION MEMBERS WELCOME AS GUESTS

NEW YEAR'S DAY - JANUARY 1, 1985

The messes will be open on January 1, 1985 in the A.M.
Association members cordially invited.

PENDING:

Hon Col W.E. McKinney CD has advised the association that plans are
afoot to stage a pilgrimage to Italy in the Spring of 1985 to celebrate
the 40th anniversary of cessation of hostilities in that country in
1945. The Regiment and The Association will be involved and more
pertinent and accurate details will be forthcoming.

ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: Date to be confirmed.

MELFA DINNER: Sometime in May of 1985.



SPECIAL NOTICE FROM THE SECRETARY

During the last year we have been preparing an updated Nominal Roll Directory Issue for publication. This will probably be issued in a separate Groundsheet issue containing nominal roll only. In an earlier edition we requested your assistance in locating Westies who might not be receiving the Groundsheet. We did locate some members this way and we are asking all to renew and continue this method in the future.

If possible we anticipate the publication of this Directory issue in late December of 1984 or early in 1985. Would you please forward any names that you obtain directly to the Secretary at his home address:

2015 Hyannis Dr.,
North Vancouver, B.C.

J. Gangur,
Secretary

A NEW FORMAT BY KEN GODWIN,
CHAIRMAN, SICK & VISITING COMMITTEE

In the past we have confined our activities to the metro area of New Westminster, Vancouver. We propose that you, The Association Members, act as our ears and our liaison. The program suggested allows anyone knowing of any of our members confined to a hospital or ailing at home, regardless of location, to convey this information by letter or telephone COLLECT to the undersigned as listed. This program will enable us to contact the person confined or permit us the opportunity to locate a member in the near vicinity.

We would like YOU to act on our behalf as a Sick and Visiting Committee.


Here is an opportunity to sustain and enlarge the comradeship as it was so many years ago.

Please keep the address and telephone listed below.

IF YOU KNOW OF ANYONE IN THE LOCAL AREA OR ELSEWHERE, PHONE COLLECT
LONG DISTANCE: 112-298-0701

OR VANCOUVER : 298-0701

Thank you
W.K. (Ken) Godwin,
Chairman



SICK & VISITING REPORT

Members will be pleased to know that Teddy Williams, ex H.Q. Coy, is progressing well. Ted suffered a stroke about a year ago. He has some limited mobility with the assistance of a cane. He remains positive and cheerful.

Walter Lyle is now located in Geo Derby Hospital in New Westminster. Walter is vastly improved and maintains a bright outlook. He gets out on Day passes - without having to report to an orderly room. Good Luck Walter.

Malcolm Stewart (Ex C Coy) is still confined to Coquitlam Intermediate Hospital. We visited him recently and found him much the same. His respiratory functions are very minimal thus restricting his movements within the centre. He is always pleased to have visitors.

Jack Breitenbach had major surgery on 18th September last and had his Gall Bladder removed. He reports that Cancer was detected and that he spent eleven days in Shaughnessy Hospital. He expects Chemotherapy to follow in the next few weeks.

Old friend and ex 47th Bn Fred Bass reports that he will shortly have to go to hospital for a hernia operation. He has just recently moved to new surroundings in the False Creek area of Vancouver. We are all pulling for you Fred.

Received word that Major Tom Hall is ailing at home. No information as to severity, but we wish him well.

Have also been advised that long time executive member and tireless Museum worker Ian Douglas is restricted close to home due to a nagging hip and leg ailment. He may be slightly less mobile but we know that his alert and fascinating mind is still as active as ever. The very best to you Ian.

And the very best to all we may have missed.

Ken Godwin

MUSEUM NOTES

The Museum has been host to some 300 or more visitors during our Tuesday and Thursday openings this past summer. We are sorry to report that Museum stalwart Walter Lyle is still hospitalized and, although improving, still not his old self. John Hou has returned from holidays and is working with Walt Tyler on the Thursday Shift.

Among the many visitors were three small parties from Chile, Fiji, and Japan. They were a reminder that not everyone knows of 'The Boer War' or 'The Fenian Raids'. In late August a party from the Monmouth Royal Engineers supported by a squad from North Vancouver's 6th Field Sqdn. staged a symbolic landing at the site of the old New Westminster Penitentiary. The purpose was to commemorate the City's 125th Birthday and re-enact the part played by the Royal Engineers in the development of that city.... We should also remember that those soldiers of so long ago, who took their military discharge in the old townships that is now the City of New Westminster, were the basis and the founding force of our Regiment today, and all those who have come and gone between.

This party, along with many of the public, were greeted at a reception held at the Regimental Armouries. We had a hectic two or three hours - processing some 200 or so. An inspiring afternoon indeed.

Saturday, 30th August we opened for The Regina Rifles who were enjoying their reunion at the Royal Towers Hotel. Fifty or Sixty of their group kept us happily reminiscing for two or three hours. Altogether a rewarding educational summer. Remember: If you can spare some time and offer assistance refer to your previous Groundsheet for details or phone Museum at 526-5116, Tuesday or Thursday, 1-3 P.M.

THE ASSOCIATION SALUTES THE REGIMENT FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT

The Sir Casimir Gzowski Trophy Back Home Again

The Sir Casimir Gzowski Trophy is awarded by the Canadian Infantry Association to the unit which displays the best overall performance based on strength, trade qualifications and training. All militia infantry units are eligible to compete for the trophy. This year our serving battalion was the recipient of the trophy. This achievement is a reflection of the dedication of the officers, NCO's and men of the unit and in particular the hard work of the Commanding Officer, LCol F. Wilks. Our congratulations and best wishes go to the officers, warrant officers, sen NCO's and men of the unit for a job well done.

Just as a matter of interest, the last time this trophy was won by the unit was the three year stretch 1970-72-73. It's nice to have it back home again.

ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT INVADES FORT LEWIS

(From The Royal City Record, Sept. 8/84)

By Maylene Chan

The "Westies" like to travel in style.

And according to Master Corporal Larry Beckett, that style includes the reputation of the "best feeding regiment in the Pacific Militia Area."

In the dusty, sun-drenched forests of the U.S. Army Base at Fort Lewis, Washington, The Royal Westminster Regiment is living up to its reputation with the best bivouac area and field kitchen of all four B.C. infantry units that are just winding up ten days of intensive training at the sprawling 80,000 acre base south of Tacoma.

Seated in the Westies mess tent, with its coco matting floors and clean white oilclothed tables, Master Corporal Beckett proudly enumerated the advantages of serving with the Royal Westminsters.

"We keep food hot for soldiers coming in off field exercises with steam tables...we are the only unit that does its own baking in the field. We were lucky enough to land Corporal Mike Cameron - the best baker in Pacific Militia Area Command - as our baker.

"It's a well-known fact we serve up the best food. We came here direct from the Nanaimo military camp, and there we had regular force people sneaking into our mess lines because they liked the food better."

Beckett is a long-time Westie who is now attached to Pacific Militia Area's Food Services, as Senior Non Commissioned Officer.

Each year B.C. reserve units travel to regular force military camps for the annual "MilCon" - Militia Concentration, at which they hone up the soldierly skills they have practiced at their home armories over the year.

This year, besides the Westies 134 all ranks, Fort Lewis is playing host to Vancouver's Seaforth Highlanders, the Rocky Mountain Rangers from Kamloops, the Canadian Scottish from Victoria plus B.C. reservists belonging to medical, service and signals units. In all, a total of just under 800 soldiers.

Beckett's team of cooks agree that it is only proper that B.C.'s senior regiment should provide the best table for its tired and hungry Westies.

Besides Beckett and Cameron, the varied menu of cold cuts and hot food is dished up every day, three times a day, by Corporals Paul Archibald, Mike Mitchell, Michelle Gaudet and Pte. Ed Selens, a Regular Force cook from the Calgary Service Battalion.

"We even had the U.S. Rangers eating here," said one of the kitchen crew.

...cont'd

FORT LEWIS Cont'd

It's only fair. For the past three nights, Ranger combat team - trained in the deadly art of infiltration - have returned in force, attempting to wipe them out and bivouac area.

"For the past three years we have trained with the Rangers," said Sgt. Major Brian Knipstrom. "They act as the opposing force for battle procedures and we have worked out a very close relationship with them."

That night the Rangers would attempt to "knock out" Westie defensive points.

First scouts would probe the regiment's forward line, locating the strong points and trying to find the nerve centre of the defense line -the command post.

Once they had been located, the Rangers would return in full force attempting to wipe them out and capture the position.

And how have the reservists stacked up against the full-time professionals? Military courtesy prevents an answer, but a Westminster rifleman did concede that 'they got some of ours, and we got some of theirs...they didn't get all they came for."

Pressed on that point Sgt. Major Knipstrom would only agree that 'they never got what they came for."

That was on Tuesday evening. The Rangers - mostly big men, silent, their faces painted with green and black camouflage cream, smiled politely hitched up their weapons and filed into the surrounding forest. They would be back later, when it got dark.

The Royal City soldiers cleaned their weapons, applied their own camouflage and set out to their forward position. The emphasis in this year's Battle School is on defensive warfare and patrolling.

Back at the kitchen, there was an invitation to dinner "roast beef and veal cutlets" - but it had to be declined. The next round of the press tour was at the positions held by Victoria's Canadian Scottish.

After that, another invitation to join the troops for dinner in the field.

"We serve up the best food in the command." a Canadian Scottish sergeant assured us solemnly - but we knew better.

At the invitation of LCol F.T.H. Wilks, Commanding Officer, in consultation with Col W.E. McKinney CD, Honorary Colonel Mayor Tom Baker and Mrs. Baker visited the troops in the field as observers. Additional observers in the party were Mr. George Cassady from the Regimental

Cont'd

FORT LEWIS Cont'd

Council and Mrs. Cassady, Maj. W.S. Hogg CD, Regimental Council Secretary and Mrs. Hogg, Mr. J. Tutton from the New Westminster Chamber of Commerce and his son Chris, while Maj. G.W. Holling acted as a guide and Liason Officer throughout the trip to Fort Lewis.

On August 24th the group visited the Regiment, arriving at Base Camp at 0730 hrs for breakfast. After a tour of the Base facilities under canvas they were transported to see the troops in the field at the conclusion of their three day exercise, during which time the members of the Regiment were part of the defending forces against a mythical attacking enemy composed of members from Alpha Company of 2/75 Airborne Rangers, U.S. Army.

The visitors were also afforded an opportunity to fire the various weapons with which our forces are now equipped.

The group again joined the Unit for a barbecue at Base Camp in the evening, meeting the troops who were then all returned from the field. Also in attendance were the "enemy" visitors from 2/75 Rangers.

THE MAIL BAG

A nice note from Art Miller of Kamloops. Wish you will in your new home in sunny south. Just mail check Art. We will fill in your tickets.

A welcome note from Jack Terpenning of 1295 Tracksell Ave., Victoria, B.C. V8P 2G8. Glad you found us Jack and your request has been noted. Ex 13 Pltn Support Coy.

A nice letter from I.W. Tipping from Clarenceville, P.Q. You should contact your local Legion Br and they will advise you as to obtaining your medical records, etc.

IN MEMORIAM

- W.H. Patterson, 47 BN, W.W.I
And Westminster Reg't W.W.II
- Geo. Smart, W.R., W.W.II
- Capt. Miller Loughheed, W.W.II
Westminster Reg't.
- C.W. Chuck Hannah, W.W.II
Westminster Reg't, C. Coy.

TO ALL MEMBERS AND NEXT OF KIN

A delicate subject but your association is concerned that we do not receive information of the death of our members until long after the fact. WE URGE ALL ASSOCIATION MEMBERS TO ACQUAINT YOUR FAMILIES, NEXT OF KIN, OTHER FRIENDS, ETC. AS TO YOUR REGIMENTAL AFFILIATION, SERVICE NUMBER TIME OF SERVICE IN MILITARY AND IT WOULD BE MOST APPRECIATED IF THE TRADITIONAL CROSSED FLAGS could be included in all newspaper obituaries.

THE MAN BESIDE YOU

These fine sentiments from Walt Kearnsey, Ex 'C' Coy stalwart from Toronto

The greatest thing I learned was at war. How wonderful, how courageous, how tough, how compassionate, how truly majestic is the common ordinary man! Led by egotists, preached at by warped minds, he carries on through disaster upon disaster to snatch tranquility from turmoil and calm from chaos - to bring more power to the powerful, more fame to the famous, courage to the coward and the spoils to the spoiled.

My message is: Do not blindly worship false idols, presidents, prime ministers, dictators, heads of state, heads of corporations, heads of unions, heads of churches and religions, heads of political parties. They too are human. The person who appears to be head and shoulders above the crowd may be standing on the skulls he crushed to get there. Never lose faith in the man beside you, for he is the fellow that makes our world worth living in. Believe that without him and you there is nothing great, nothing glorious, nothing worthwhile.

KELLY
WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Miss M. Plecas
J. Scotty Clifford
Wally Nelson
David Peardon
E.J. Agar
J.A.G. Audet
D.A. Leedham
L. Sherk
F.J. Richardson
Jim Palmer
R.H. Carter
L. Gregson