



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

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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

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1985

THE ARMOURY, NEW WESTMINSTER

6th AND QUEENS ST.

DRESS: BLAZERS, MEDALS, RED BERETS

TIME : 09:30 hrs

PARADE: 10:00 hrs.

MARCH TO CENOTAPH

CENOTAPH SERVICE AT 11:00hrs.

BREAK OFF FOR REFRESHMENTS AND

COMRADESHIP



The Royal Westminster Regiment Association

P.O. BOX 854 / NEW WESTMINSTER / B.C. / V3L 4Z8

Comrades:-

This year we have a new format in our yearly draw.

All members will receive two tickets, value \$10.00 each ticket. ONE PRIZE ONLY. A Trip for two (your own destination) Total Value \$2,500.00.

These tickets are in two parts, tear on perforated line and return half the ticket with your remittance in the self addressed envelope enclosed.

If you buy only one or none, Please Return unused tickets in the same envelope.

Draw date is December 7th, 1985.

Good Luck

John Rosso - 525-2910

Jack Ford - 263-3682

COMING EVENTS

The Band of The Royal Westminster Regiment will be holding a concert at the Vincent Massey Auditorium in New Westminster on Friday, December 13th at 20:00 hrs. The purpose of this concert is to assist with fundraising to repair/replace the scarlet uniforms. Please plan to attend. Tickets can be obtained at the door, or by phoning the Orderly Room at 666-5131.

❁

GREETINGS FROM ITALY

BASIL MORGAN PRESS THE ROYAL
WESTMINSTER REGT. ASSOCIATION
1547/54 TH STREET DELTA BC (V4M 3H6)
DC /9434177 TF/
LADNER (CANADA)

CONGRATULATIONS ONE THE 41 ANNIVERSARY OF MELFA BATTLE IT
WAS A TOUGH TOUR OVER NOW STOP I DID GET A PICTURE OF MELFA
RIVER HAVE A GOOD NIGHT

ART MILLER

COL 1547/54 TH /9434177 TF/ 41

SICK AND VISITING REPORT

Since the last issue of the Groundsheet a number of our comrades have passed on. Please read the "In Memoriam" section. It is unfortunate that we as Association members are not able to attend the services at church or chapel. Too often our information is obtained long after the fact. Through this column we offer to the family and friends our sincere sympathy.

Last week Jack Gebbie passed on after a long illness. Attendance at the Boal Chapel in Vancouver of some ten members of your Assn. permitted the show of respect towards old comrades

Ducky Drake is a patient in the Nicola Valley Hospital. He suffered a stroke that led to complications. His spirits are good. A note from a good friend of his advised us concerning Drake's condition. We had been advised of the problem by Ken Moyes, who visits Ducky frequently. Good for you, Ken.

John Ford is now out of hospital. A minor surgery job that affords more comfort. Malcolm Stewart still confined at the Intermediate Care unit in Coquitlam. Signs of progress are noted. His spirits were much improved. On a nice day we took him out for a drive. This was what the

doctor ordered.

Ed Grinstead now pretty well confined to the wheel chair. He is his usual bright and cheerful self. Elmer Markle is still in the Shaughnessy complex, also confined to a wheel-chair. A stroke has left him with no apparent feeling to legs or arms on his right side.

Again we must use this opportunity to remind members that we are very interested in your wellbeing. We would appreciate being advised of anyone sick or in need. With our ranks fast diminishing, we want to know through family or friends should anyone become hospitalized. Phone me collect: I-298-0701

Ken Godwin
Chairman S&V Committee

P.S:

Latest information regarding Duchy Drake: now transferred to Shaughnessy hospital. Will welcome visitors.

BROCK FARM/PAVILLION - RM. 415

MELFA GOLF REPORT, MAY 25/85

Saturday morning 26 members of the Assn. and four guests arrived at the Mylora Golf Course. The weatherman cooperated, the course was fast, the golfers ageing.

The Melfa Golf would not be complete without Ian Douglas; although unable to golf, he did a super job on the starting-line. Thanks, Ian.

At the completion of the 18 holes, we proceeded to the 19th for refreshments, and to honour the winners, and give a small prize to each golfer. Part of the prizes were donated by Jack Hogarth and Vern Ardagh.

For Low Gross we had a three-way tie, Joe Bush George McGregor and Terry Leith. A putting contest was run and Joe Bush came out the winner. Sorry, George, but your name was on the cup so many times Joe felt it was his turn.

Many thanks to Ken Godwin, Ken Moyes and Stan Conway for attending to the score-cards. Under the system used it is strictly a mathematical job.

Melfa Trophy and President's Cap

Ist Low Gross: Joe Bush
2nd " " : George McGregor
3rd " " : Terry Leith

These three actually tied for low gross, so they settled it with a putting competition. Joe won.



1st Low Net: Scotty Low
 2nd " " : Gus Hill
 3rd " " : Doug Glenn
 Mens 'Longest Drive: Joe Bush
 Ladies 'Longest Drive: Ida Hartley
 Mens 'Nearest the Pin: Scotty Low
 Ladies' " " " : Ida Hartley
 Visitors 'Longest Drive: Doug McBay

Runners Up; All Received Prizes.

Ken Godwin	Isa Low
Ken Moyes	Wilf Johnson
Jack Hogarth	Dick Armstrong
Jack Lang	Gord Armstrong
Ed Shannon	Bill Robson
Vern Ardagh	John Ford
Jack Hartley	Trev Whitehead
Bert Stephens	Al Wilson
Blanche Stephens	Stan Conway

Visitors

Art Pickering(Irish Regt), Darl Cannon, Terry Smith,
 and Doug McBay

Each year there is the President's Cap, which was donated by Bas Morgan, and I presume it is on Joe Bush's head or maybe the Trophy is wearing it.

We look forward to a larger and better day in '86, and maybe the Regt. will not hold a parade that day and we will be honoured with a few golfers from it.

Thanks everyone, see you next year.

Doug Glenn
 Golf Chairman '85

Usually the husband regards himself as the head of the household, and the pedestrian has the right of way. And, usually, both of them are safe until they try to prove it.



THE ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT

ON MILCON '85

The annual Militia Concentration for 1985 saw the unit involved in a different kind of exercise than those we have become familiar with in recent years.

Instead of traveling the relatively short distance to Fort Lewis, Washington, all units of Militia Area Pacific moved to Wainwright, Alberta to participate in a Brigade exercise.

In fact the concept of acting as part of our own Militia Brigade was also new to us, Milarea Pacific becoming II Canadian Brigade Group for the duration of Milcon, a change which we all hope will become permanent as part of the overall reorganization of the Militia we expect to see in the next two years.

The actual move to Wainwright was conducted in two main phases; a road move for all our vehicles leaving a week before the main party, and an air-lift for the latter by means of a C-130 Hercules shuttle service between Vancouver and the Wainwright air strip. Both moves went well, despite frustrating delays with the aircraft, which gave our soldiers plenty of opportunity to avail themselves of the hospitality of I2 Service Battalion's various messes.

We eventually arrived in Wainwright in the very early hours of Sunday morning, 25 August, and moved straight into a hide(?Ed.), set up by our advance party under the command of Major Beck.

The following three days saw the Regiment involved in Brigade Battle School training, which included night patrolling, a platoon live firing exercise, and participation in a mechanized quick attack laid on by the Canadian Scottish, utilizing their Grizzly armoured personnel carriers.

With the other infantry Battalions in the Brigade, we also watched a fire-power demonstration which involved the B.C. Regiment, the B.C. Dragoons and I5 Field Regiment RCA, plus the mortar platoon from the Seaforths. The demonstration was accepted with the usual infantry suspicion for anything that fires from a distance, or needs an armoured shell to protect it!

In the meantime the Battalion had been settling into a defensive position overlooking Purple Ford on the

Battle River. We occupied the right forward position of the Brigade line, with the Rocky Mountain Rangers in the centre and to their left the Seaforths; the Canadian Scottish being held in depth as the Brigade Counter Attack force.

As we dug in and prepared our position, "enemy" activity steadily increased, including frequent helicopter sorties and F-5 strafing attacks against us. In due course the Engineers arrived to lay minefields around the obstacle and to assist us in building up our defences, and a FOO from 15 Fld. Regt. RCA conveniently co-located himself with A Coy's CP to enjoy the latter's commanding view of the river. In fact the joint efforts of OC 'A' Coy, Capt. Gerry Pickell and his 2i/c Capt. Ron Glen to make themselves at home, earned for their CP the title "The Wainwright Hilton" and it became a popular rendezvous for visiting VIPs.

The evening of the 29 August saw the climax to the defensive battle, with the "enemy" (the BCRs and BCDs) mounted in tracked vehicles probing our defenses and attempting to breach the minefields. Due to thorough work by our Recce Detachments, under the command of Sgt. Mike Halton, we were able to foil an attempt by a large enemy force to out-flank us, and 'A' Coy's No. 1 Platoon will remember their swift advance to contact for some time.

At first light on Friday morning, the enemy crossed the river to our front and attempted to advance on an axis between ourselves and the RMRs. Heavy concentrated and interlocking fire prevented this, and we were quickly rewarded with the umpires declaring one vehicle after another "destroyed".

Friday evening saw our traditional end of exercise all ranks party, enjoyed particularly by our four visitors from 6 Bn., The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, who made a significant contribution to the large number of "empties" which were collected the following morning.

Our Honourary Colonels also visited us in the field and were present for the Area change of command Parade on Saturday, BGen. Heppell handing over to BGen. Kilby, a former CO of the RMRs.

Again there were frustrating delays with our return flight, but eventually Sunday afternoon saw us back in the Armoury tackling the usual post-Milcon chores of handing in kit and cleaning equipment.

115 all ranks of the Regt. attended Milcon, supported by a Cadet detachment representing all our affiliated Cadet Corps, and our Band, which spent most of its time honing its skills in Camp Wainwright and performing at a large number of official functions.

Milcon 85 was certainly a success, and, as has become the standard within Milarea Pacific, the Regt. acquitted itself well in all facets of the exercise.

C.B. Bradford, LCol.
OC Regt.

BRANCH#3(D Coy)RWRA

1985

ANNUAL MEETING & PICKNIC

The 12th annual gathering of ex-members of 'D' Coy and their guests took place at the "Circle 6" Ranch of Marion and Sam Soutar, Columbia Valley Road, on Sunday, August 4th, with a total of 34 in attendance.


Weather for the occasion was perfect, a choice of sun or shade being available at the beautiful ranch setting alongside Frosst Creek. A period of socializing during the afternoon was much enjoyed by the rather light turnout present. At 4pm the Branch 3 Meeting was held in the tree-enclosed "holler" with Pres. Bert Hoskins in the Chair and 18 members and guests participating. Bruce Eaton was elected incoming President and Lyn Edmonds re-elected as Secretary. It was noted that the names of Arlo Kipp, Alf Howell, and Ted Law had been added to the Flask of Remembrance.

At 5pm, members and guests were paraded and moved off to the strains of "The Maple Leaf Forever", the original Regimental march. Piano music was provided by Mrs. Gwen Baldwin, who also played the hymns "O God, Our Help In Ages Past" and "The Twenty-third Psalm". The Roll of Honour from the Flask of Remembrance was read by Vern Ardagn, the colours were lowered and a one-minute silence observed. Unfortunately a bugler was not available and the 'Last post' could not be sounded. Following presentation of the colours the parade marched off to "Colonel Bogey" and was dismissed "until next year".

A further session of song and socializing ended the reunion, with the break-up around 7pm. Marion and Sam and the Soutar family, together with Elsie, Sandy and Gwen Baldwin, were the recipients of warm thanks from the guests for their hospitality.

Next Meeting and Picnic is scheduled for Sunday, August 3rd, 1986.

Courtesy Chwk. Progress


LETTER TO THE EDITOR

1740 Glendale Ave.
 Coquitlam, B.C.
 V3K 1X4

Dear Ed:

It was with pleasure that I received the mid-summer Groundsheet. A person cannot blame Ted Burnby for being upset. He has been a very loyal member of the Assn. Ted travels over 300 miles from Vernon to New Westminster to attend our functions each year. I think by being singled out one person gets more attention.

I had found a way, from the time that I saw you, to save \$600 on our fares to Holland. So I went overseas at the end of April and came back at the end of May. The reception that we received in 1980 was overwhelming, but it was even greater this time. I met Len(Killer)Bailey in Holten, and Ron Hurley and Jack Usher in Appledorn. We left Holland on the 9th of May for Italy.

I found Zeller's grave(KIA at Coreano). He was killed about 30 feet behind me coming down a ridge on Sept. 13/44. Also Pte. Brager(KIA Dec/44). Met Art Miller at Rimini and dined with the delegation on May 15.

We have been to Cassino twice before, but am very pleased to have visited the Adriatic this time. There are more German people there during the summer months than there were during the War. Became friends with some German vets, very nice fellows, but I find it odd how they had all fought in Russia. Would someone put me straight and tell me who we fought?

Was honored to have been asked to carry the Canadian flag at the Holten, Holland Cemetery ceremonies, wearing the Westmr. Regt. crest on my blazer and our beret and hat-badge.

Expressing Ted's concern, I would like to say to the locals, "Get off your fannies and attend the functions!" If Ted can do it, so can you.

Your truly,
 Doug Furlot



The Royal Westminster Regiment Association

P.O. BOX 854 / NEW WESTMINSTER / B C / V3L 4Z8

NOTICE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

Dear Comrades:

Please accept this letter as a "notice of an Extraordinary General Meeting" to be called on November 14, 8:00 p.m. in the Armoury in New Westminster, B.C. The meeting is being called for the following reasons:

1. For a considerable number of years, some of us members have been concerned that at least 235 or 43.4% of our active membership of 541, due to their geographical location, have lacked the opportunity to influence or record their approval of or displeasure with certain policy proposals concerning the Association. For example such major policy matters as the dispersement of Association funds, election of officers, etc.
2. A considerable period of time has been devoted to exploring the problem and searching for an equitable solution which covers the members from Vancouver Island to Halifax, Nova Scotia, encompassing the loyal and active chapters in Chilliwack and Ontario and individual members in all provinces.
3. Having examined our Constitution and By-Laws, discussions with the Office of the Registrar of Companies, and executives in business and non-profit societies, it is quite clear, legally, and beyond question, that society members may vote by Mail or Proxy Form over their signature, at any or all Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting of the Society.
4. They can that is if the following action is or has been taken:
The President with Executive approval at an Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting seeks approval for amendments to existing By-laws and/or a new Clause to be added enabling all members in good standing to vote by mail or proxy form at all Annual or Extraordinary General Meetings if they so choose. The approved amendment(s) or clause to be forwarded to the Registrar of Companies for government approval.

Late in our history as it may seem, we are presenting the following resolution which if you approve, will allow us to so vote at our AGM in March 1986.



MOTION: Whereas a great number of members in good standing, geographically are unable to express their wishes at any annual or extraordinary meeting of the society, BE IT RESOLVED to allow the practice of mail or proxy voting in The Royal Westminster Regiment Association subject only to final approval of the Registrar of Companies, Government of the Province of British Columbia.

Finally, the executive hopes that you will agree with our proposed amendment and show your support by attending the meeting.

Fraternally yours,

Jerry N. Gangur,
Secretary

MAIL BAG

The July issue was a sort of 'quickie' deal and the Mail Bag didn't make it, but we'll try and do a little better this time around. There are quite a few letters have come in, all of which are very welcome, but many are just brief notes concerning dues or tickets, and some aren't dated(!) but we try and make sure that requests are answered and pertinent information recorded.

An 'E' for effort to J.A. Chapman, Box 1803, Hope, B.C. VOX ILO (address: 548 Wallace St) for locating a couple of our 'Kellys', Sid Burton, 45493 Watson St., Sardis, B.C. and Bernie Lane, 1929 E. Jensen, Parksville, B.C. Good show, John. See this issue for latest word on Ducky Drake.

Best wishes from Doug Watts, 15419 Goggs Ave, White Rock, B.C. V4B 2N5, and he was very pleased the Groundsheet had caught up to him again. When your wedding anniversary and the Melfa Dinner fall on the same date, you have a problem, Doug. Our sympathy.

One of her usual nice letters from Rhonda Hall, describing an interesting trip last year to England, Germany, and other parts of Europe. And thanks for the info. on Bob Schaffer, Rhonda. This is the only way we hear that some of the old boys have passed on.

The majority of those who have mentioned it think the new Draw formula is OK, which is good. No tickets to sell, far better odds, and a respectable prize. It will be interesting to see how it turns out. Note the article on proxy voting, too. It should also be interesting.

Best wishes to all.

Editor

IN MEMORIAM

A.W.Kipp, WW 2
Cultus Lake, B.C.
December 22, 1984

C.G.Graham, WW 2
Armstrong, B.C.
June 25, 1985

D.H.Potts, WW 2
Langley, B.C.
August 22, 1985

S.R.(Bob)Schaffer, WW 2
Wawota, Sask.
November 27, 1984

Andrew Krall, WW 2
Sparwood, B.C.
September 9, 1985

Jack Gebbie, WW 2
North Vancouver, B.C.
September 26, 1985

R.H.Thompson, WW 2
Trail, B.C.
September, 1985

WHAT BECAME OF KELLY?

F.Barnes
J.D.Blair
Dan Buss
C.P.Carlson *Deceased*
J.H.Clash
J.J.Claxton
T.G.Clemas
Gord Corman
J.A.Dines *Dec 1979*
D.G.Donald
Mrs.Stella Duhig
A.D.Dueck
D.Dunnington
G.Enright
Norm Emery
Harry Excell
T.W.Fawkes
A.Gardiner
Harvey Hamilton
Stan Hannah
R.E.Hardy
Ron Klassen
Ken Kiernan
O.Le Compte

W.A.Lewalne
Bill Majury
M.Miranda
Joe Moran
Philip McCaffrey
John McMahon
Ivan Nickerson
A.A.Passey
Ray Pattenden
David Pearden
W.W.Remus
Charles Rines
J.C.Russel
Jerry Roberts
L.Sherk
W.A.Street
D.Shaw
G.H.Temple
Norman Topham
Tom Tyson
R.H.Wildman
E.E.Wood
W.R.York