



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

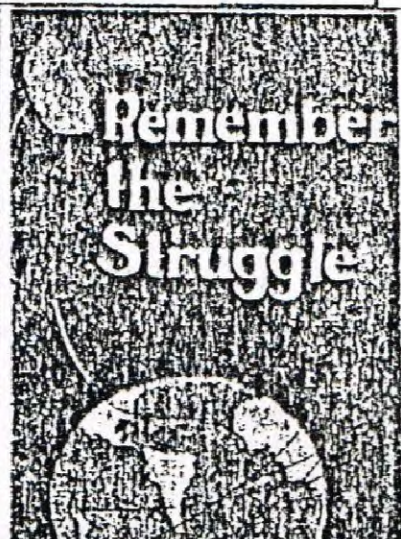
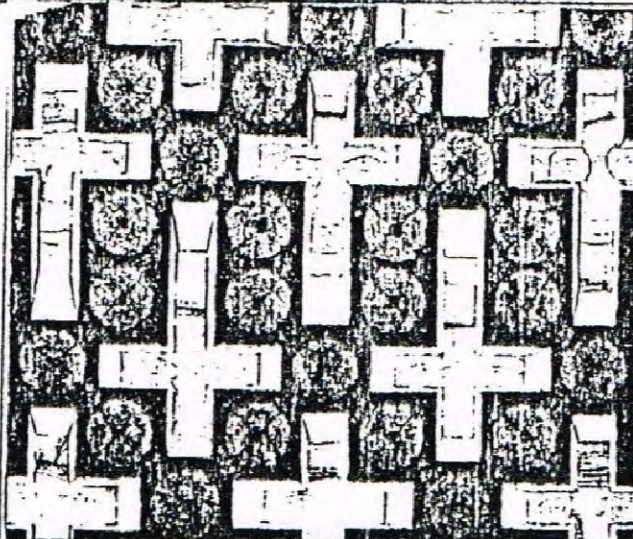
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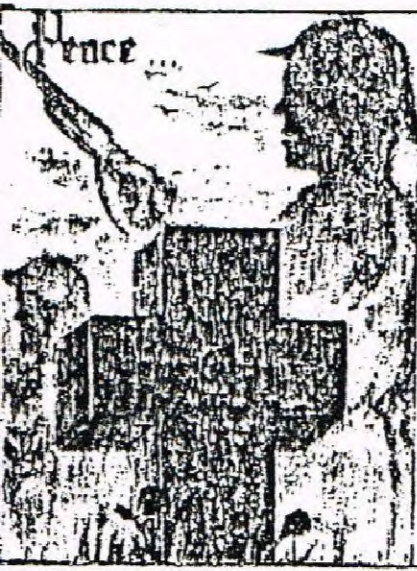
OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 1986



Remember
after the Parade



Remember
the
Struggle



IN
MEMORY

REMEMBER



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REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICES NEW WESTMINSTER, BC

PLACE: THE ARMOURIES - 6th and Queens Street

TIME : 09:30 Hrs Service Commences at 10:00 Hrs.

CENTOTAPH SERVICE: Adjacent to Armouries and City Hall

DRESS FOR

ASSOCIATION: Blazers, Berets and Medals

LETS HAVE THE LARGEST TURNOUT EVER!

C O M I N G A T T R A C T I O N

ANNUAL SMOKER - SATURDAY DECEMBER 6, 1986

PLACE: The Armouries - New Westminister, BC

TIME: 19:30 Hrs. DRESS: Casual

COME AND ENJOY IN COMRADESHIP AND GOOD FELLOWSHIP

IMPORTANT SPECIAL NOTICE

The usual Annual Draw will not repeat will not be held in conjunction with the Smoker this year due to some application difficulties in obtaining the required license. The Draw Chairman advises that a new date will be set at the November Executive Meeting and you will be advised accordingly.

FRONT COVER: Constructed from Legion Magazine



RIFT IN THE RANKS A HOUSE DIVIDED

LETTER TO THE EDITOR FROM A PAID UP MEMBER AT LARGE:

Currently I am the Editor and, in that capacity, I offer the customary disclaimer. The thoughts expressed herein are not by design the thoughts of any group and/or persons and are not to be construed as the opinions of the presently appointed Association Executive or any of it's officers. I make no apologies however, as writer, for my personal statements herein.

Remembrance Day draws nigh and I believe this is an appropriate time to remember and reflect on just what your Association is and where it stands. The facts are that you out there, the longstanding loyal dues paying members of your Association may not be fully aware of the somewhat critical issues that face the Association today. I attempt, hereby, to make you more informed because you are, and have been, the lifeblood of this organization despite the fact that many of you have never, and probably may never, attend any of the functions held in the City of New Westminster from year to year. You more often than not have been unable to cast your democratic vote for the operation of your Association and it's Executive. You in Toronto, the Maritimes, the U.K., the U.S.A. Your loyalty and contributions have been overwhelming and out of all proportion in exceeding greatly those members close at hand. You are needed more than ever before and you will get your vote by legal constructed proxy as is your democratic right.

Elsewhere in this issue you will read a more detailed outline of some special problems that are germane to my writing. They have been presented by H.F. (Bert) Hoskin in his capacity as Chairman, Special Museum Committee. They are not, as some suppose, his thoughts but rather a consensus of opinions of a special fact finding committee he was appointed to. The Chairman's remarks consist of a Special Museum Committee Information Bulletin, replete with attached correspondence and reports. There are those who oppose the findings of the S.M.C. report most strongly and, in my humble opinion, with some vehemence and vituperation if not downright vitriol. Bert has been vilified for his (more correctly the views of the Special Committee) opinions respecting the possible relocation of the Museum to a safe place, secure and more readily accessible to the public of the City of New Westminster and all who may choose to visit. There are those who seem to believe that the Chairman wishes to proclaim a 'Hoskin' Museum and furthermore that he has a triumvirate established to assist him in those goals. Crapola. Pure Crapola. Those who know Bert and those who have served with him in war and peace deplore the barbs and arrows aimed in his direction Bert did not ask for this Chairmanship and ironically he is now besieged by some of those who so appointed him. This is more than deplorable - .../4



it is undeserving, unwarranted and petty sniping. It is interesting to note that Bert, throughout this protracted controversy, has not reciprocated or responded in kind.

You may well ask - Why the hassle? I doubt that I can fully explain or understand it myself. Suffice it to say that this internecine war of words began with some rather simplistic differences of opinions. You have already voted and approved the 'Special Future Directions For The Association' by voice and proxy at the last Annual General Meeting. You have further approved the expenditures of funds to achieve those goals. Some did not agree with your vote. That is their democratic right as it was most assuredly yours when you granted your approval. Some of those detractors, however, have withdrawn in seeming petulance over their inability to exact their will. This then seems to be the source of the ongoing and often bitter condemnation of the Association today. We, you, I, us are now accused of disloyalty, indifference and disregard and disrespect for the Royal Westminster Regiment, as it exists today. How bloody absurd. It is now apparent that a special interest group has been formed to overturn that which you have already voted for and to discredit and change the findings of the Special Museum Committee. They have designated themselves "The Senate" - God what originality. Do they mean to pattern themselves after the toga garbed minions of Caesar's days, or the more current occupants of the isle of ineptitude that dwells, at our expense, in the red carpeted halls of Ottawa today? The tenor of their platform seems to be all powerful. Thou shall not, cannot nor will not, now or hereinafter, attempt in any way to relocate the Museum under penalty of law or other indescribable punishments -more crapola.

Who are these 'new senators'? To date, it appears to be another Officer's Club comprised of Hon. Colonels, Colonels, other Officers and strongly supported by Area Commanders such as Brigadeers, etc.

Have this group the right to form a "Senate"? Certainly they do. Albeit it appears to be but an adjunct of a current Officer's Mess. It is hardly needed, as Officers, Ex-Officers, have always had that right and indeed they have always been respected in that right.

Something vital seems to have escaped these "Senate" members. The Royal Westminster Regiment Association is not an Officer's Club. It never was, can never be, and it is enshrined in the Constitution and Bylaws to that effect, Buster Lynch must lie uneasy in his grave today.

I was present at the formation of this Association and one Former Colonel of the proud Regiment made a motion on the floor that 'the future Presidents of said Association must at all times be an Ex Colonel or an Ex-Officer with no less a rank than Major'..more crapola. He was not granted a seconder and it is good to reflect that we were supported



by other Ex Colonels, Majors and Officers of all ranks. This Association was, is and will be for all those who served before, during and since W.W.2. Former rank had and has no significance whatsoever.

Further to the report of the Special Museum Committee contained in this issue - I should tell you that Chairman Bert Hoskin has been more than conservative in his presentation and does not emphasize enough that it was always the goal of the museum and it's founding members to relocate the museum when and if, and only if, affordable and security guaranteed premises might be located elsewhere. Bert's early knowledge of the considerable support to this Regiment, financially and morally, is incomplete because he remained in the military service until his required retirement, as a Colonel no less. This Association, since it's inception has always done all in it's power to further the needs and interests of the Royal Westminster Regiment. This must, or should, be known by all - pros and cons alike, and particularly some members of "The Senate" as they themselves were often instrumental in supplying that support.

Have they so soon forgotten?

The dipping in personal pockets to provide comforts for our hospitalized members.

The provisions of hospital canteen funds for those same comrades.

The purchase of boots and other clothing for the cadets.

The purchase of instruments and uniforms for the band.

The formation of an intramural cadets sports day to be run annually and administered and financed by the Association.

The purchase of trophies for that event (the event was a complete success until Area Command ordered it stopped because it allegedly interfered with their own program).

The cadets were not happy and the trophies have long since vanished.

Assistance to the men's mess.

Financial assistance to the unit CO's long before we were able to afford an ongoing grant as it exists today.

These are but a few programs that come to mind. Do they appear to be the actions of an uncaring Association? Did they not 'promote the welfare of the existing Regiment in all possible ways?' You're damn right they did, and you did it, and are doing it today, and let no one tell you otherwise. You cared and do care and I believe that the majority of those who have served in the Regiment since W.W. 2



agree and appreciate your efforts, the opinions of "The Senate" notwithstanding.

Nostalgia and recollection of past events do not properly illustrate some of the more immediate and pending plans that await us and you should be forewarned and be prepared to accommodate those threats whenever they present themselves. I do not presume to tell or advise you how to vote but do urge you to exercise that right by voice or proxy and remember this is not a fund raising campaign but your dues must be paid to validate your vote.

There are those who consider the old Armouries in New Westminster to be sacrosanct and eternal. All Association members revere and honor it's presence. It has survived two major conflagrations that have destroyed the entire cities of Vancouver and New Westminster. Realistically of course, it could be destroyed by some crackpot with a match. This then has been one of the considerations in moving the Museum to more secure quarters.

There are those who maintain that the Royal Westminster Regiment is eternal and shall forever be thus. History tells us different. Our proud U.K. affiliate (with hundreds of years of history) is no more. They are now part of a brigade of fusiliers.

Some of the original and most famous highland regiments no longer exist. They have been collated and renamed. It could happen to us. This has been just another consideration.

Those who support the premise presented in the Special Museum Report want to see the history of our Regiment and perhaps more importantly the history of the military presence in the City of New Westminster preserved in perpetuity. Of course we would have to share such preservation with other military presence - Navy, Airforce, other units, etc. Is that so evil a wish? His Worship the Hon Mayor of the City of New Westminster and many of his council have indicated interest and support as they too regret the lack of a proper museum in their fair city. Quite rightly, they cannot and will not take any sides as long as this internal bickering persists.

Please forgive the hyperbole and lengthy dissertation but I am most disturbed by the outlined events. I am incensed and damn well disgusted at the accusations directed towards us. We have to date been:

1. Accused of disloyalty, disrespect, and indifference with our treatment of today's Royal Westminster Regiment.
2. We have been threatened by legal action and the use of military police to prevent us from achieving any of our goals should they be so approved at some future meeting.



3. We have been accused of ignorance of the law as it applies to possessions of the Museum's contents.

4. Strong evidence exists that the current Commanding Officer will call a special parade of All Ranks purportedly 135 in number, to attend either the next Annual General Meeting or any so called Special Meeting in order to prevent the Association from enacting that which has not yet been voted on.

5. That the current Honorary Colonel is backing "The Senate" and the CO's actions in every way.

What the Hell do we do about all this? What is our answer?

Regardless of the accusations we have, do, and will make every effort to promote the welfare of the Royal Westminster Regiment. It is fondly hoped that such action will be reciprocated.

Does "The Senate", Hon. Colonel, Area Commander or any group regardless of its nomenclature, seriously think that this Association would quietly tolerate the interference of military police against us? We are an autonomous civilian body and do not come under military jurisprudence.

The rank of Honorary Colonel is ceremonial only and is appointed by the Commanding Officer of the Regiment. The role of such rank has absolutely nothing to do with the operation of our Association. If he so seriously influences the duties of the Commanding Officer then that officer is more to be pitied than censured.

Let the CO call his parade. It may be legal but it is unethical and smacks of gerrymandering a la politics B.C. He cannot force the rank and file to vote Aye for he and "The Senate" and I believe the ranks will see through this hollow charade and deny him the support he seems to demand.

It would seem, as the words of the Royal Canadian Legion specify, the years have indeed wearied us and now seem clearly to condemn. For all of us we have more yesterdays than tomorrows. Protracted illnesses have further reduced our ranks and notably many of those who have served this Association with such distinction in the past. We know that, in due course, this Association must pass to other hands, but let it be known, we are still functioning and will face up to any challenge. It has been my privilege to have served in almost every capacity in your Association Executive from President, Secretary, Editor, Committee, Etc. They have been rewarding years and the Association has more than honored me. I have formed warm friendships with many I have shared these experiences with. Some of those do not agree with my thoughts and that is their right. That is one of the principles we fought to maintain.



I still have that respect for those people and trust they respond in kind. I sincerely hope, however, that they are not among those who have heaped the charges, allegations and personal invectives I have alluded to herein.

To all those who have, I say: You have dishonored us and moreover you have, by implication, dishonored all who gave their lives in the cause of this Regiment and it's country and have further maligned those who have served and passed on since. Remember: We banded together to keep alive the spirit of comradeship and good fellowship known during service and might I add Peace. It is my fond hope, however illusory that might seem, that we can amicably settle our differences free of personal bile. This Association deserves a better fate.

Ron Hurley

Back as Editor My views are obviously biased but reflect my true feelings. I have taken advantage of my position as Editor. In fairness, I invite "The Senate" group or any other individual, so willing, to use these pages to respond. To explain to the membership at large, not to a special interest body but all Association members that is their right and yours.

R.H.

THE ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION
SPECIAL MUSEUM COMMITTEE
INFORMATION BULLETIN

THE CHALLENGE

We have all, I am sure, met and overcome many challenges in our lifetime. Today, we as an association and as operators of our military museum face a major challenge which must be overcome.

What is the challenge? It is identified in the following two questions:

Are we as members of an autonomous society going to continue to guide the destiny of our Association?

OR

Do we capitulate to the stated aim of the current Active Unit who are mounting an active campaign to seize control of our executive, hence the Association?

How could the Regiment achieve this? Simply by signing up as many Officers, NCO's and men as they can (voting members) and trying to enlist the support of as many original members as possible, or by

proxy to vote for their nominees for executive office at the March 1987 Annual General, or Extraordinary General Meeting called at any time!

One could rightly ask of us, "What has brought this unforeseen confrontation to a head?" An urgent necessity on our part to ensure the integrity and continuity in perpetuity of our museum by relocating the museum within a City or Municipality within the County of Westminster, which has the funds, accommodation, paid museum staff and real desire to do so.

BACKGROUND

Our Association formed immediately after the Second World War as an autonomous society under the Society's Act of British Columbia has remained so to this day. It supports, but does not answer in any way to, the Regiment.

Currently the greater percentage of our membership is comprised of veterans of the Second World War and a small number of ex-members and serving members from the Active Unit. In time, if they are interested, control could pass to them. We do not oppose this in the long run.

Our concern is and has been for years to ensure the integrity and continuity of our history, presently displayed and told in the museum. It was conceived and operated by the Association who are the legal owners of its artifacts, documents, memorabilia and furnishings. The Regiment, except for brief periods of interest by individual members has never indicated evidence that they can or will be able to maintain its ongoing operation to the degree necessary to build up public interest, nor does the Armoury invite visitation.

As briefly as possible, we, your Special Museum Committee, have summarized what has brought about the state of affairs we face today with the Regiment, finally coming to a head as we said over our urgent search for an organization which will guarantee the integrity and continuity of our collection (history). In terms of continuity, we know that this can only be achieved through some public body or organization. Our earlier plans were, hopefully, with the City of New Westminster, but with time running out we are searching elsewhere within the County with public organizations such as Chilliwack and Burnaby who contributed so much to our history over the years. We are now very close to achieving this goal if the members so wish at the next Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting.

In the early 1960's, two members of the Militia Unit, Padre Pearson and Walt Tyler gathered together bits and pieces of our history lying here and there in the Armoury. Their hope was that the Unit would perhaps build up a military museum, but could not stimulate interest in or participation by the Unit to do so. Eventually the Association assumed the responsibility. The Association planners were asked by .../10

the Association in 1967 to search for a suitable building or large house, but in view of the cost and budget at the time, and the news that the old 'Gun Room' might soon become available, it was proposed to "begin" in the Armoury with the ultimate goal still relocation.

The museum opened officially on April 15, 1973, due to the many hours and days of work by such stalwarts as Johnny Rosso, Andy Hunter, and others.

If added proof were needed in support for relocation, the late Brig. Gen. Eakins provided the sum of \$10,000 in his will towards a building fund, his loyalty to his Regiment notwithstanding, recognizing the vulnerability and unsuitability of the structure.

Since the organizational period, repeated attempts were made over a span of 13 years to interest the City in first a jointly operated civilian/military historical museum, and ultimately a city operated museum, without success. The integrity and continuity of our contribution to the city and county as we said can only be guaranteed by a public body, CO's come and go, and no one knows better than we do, the changing policies of Federal Governments.

The Special Museum Committee, with Executive Committee approval, is now negotiating with other public bodies who have made substantial contributions to our military history. We have great hopes that we will achieve our goal.

We were amazed, during the period March 1985 to September 1986, at the disruptive efforts of the Honorary Colonel and the CO of the Active Unit, who, because we, the Special Museum Committee, will not be dictated to by either one or their "Senate" in searching for relocation outside the city if necessary. The Mayor of the city too, will not make any move to keep the museum in the city without the approval of the Hon Col and the Unit.

Enclosed are three pieces of correspondence which show clearly the current situation:

- Letter from Col McKinney to the Museum Chairman;
- Page 5 of Lt Col Bradford's presentation to the Museum and SMC Committees;
- An analysis of the SMC's reaction to the presentation.

By comparison, our continuous support of the Regiment is reflected in such outright gifts as \$2000 to assist the Regiment with their financial difficulties in the past, Grants totalling \$25,000 not including a \$10,000 Trust Fund, the annual interest accruing to be used at the CO's discretion, and other non-military support. Yet we have been charged for a Unit work party to set up and dismantle tables, chairs and screens

for Association events. Some example of mutual support.

In view of their stated intentions, and we feel to be the arrogant and threatening ultimations inherent in their correspondence and dialogue we know you would not wish us to accept, the Special Museum Committee asks you to be on the alert for any campaign for control of the Association they are likely to initiate, and most important, an appeal for your proxy vote in their favour.

CONCLUSION

Your Special Museum Committee has been working diligently on the problem of relocation in accordance with the mandate directed by the Association Executive and if successful will recommend to the Executive that they call for an Extraordinary General Meeting as soon as possible enclosing a proxy form which we trust you will complete in favour of our proposals.

SIGNEDChairmanMember
SecretaryMember
MemberMember

LETTER FROM COLONEL W.E. MCKINNEY, CD

14 March 1986

Dear Bert:

As a member of the "Ad Hoc" Negotiating Committee, it has become obvious that the current museum space is crowded and a reorganization of the present space, or more space, is required.

You are, I understand, in receipt of a letter from His Worship the Mayor (to which I am not privy), indicating that other premises in the city may become available at an unknown future date.

As the Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, I must clearly state that if the museum is to move to any new location, such location must be approved by the Honorary Colonel and the Commanding Officer, together with the former Commanding Officers' Committee.

It will be obvious to you and your members that the continuity of the museum in any location will depend entirely on the efforts of post-war members of the Regiment.

It is imperative that negotiations with the city, if they are to continue, should be approved by those indicated in the paragraph above.

I trust this letter is in conformity with our discussion by telephone on Thursday night.

Yours Sincerely
Honorary Colonel .../12



In accordance with precedence established in virtually every army in the Western World who can boast any vestage of military history, I believe the natural home of a Regimental Museum is with it's Regiment.

I am concerned as to the long term security of the artifacts if they are to be placed under control of any organization outside the Regimental family. It is my fervent hope that the museum remain in the Armouries is to be denied any unilateral action on your part, and if handing the responsibility for the future of the museum over to the Senate is unacceptable my remaining efforts must be concentrated on securing the artifacts to ensure that they will never be dispersed or disposed of by any agency outside the Regimental family who might exercise day to day control over them. I am therefore prepared to support this Committee's approach to City Hall with respect to the future location of the museum under the following conditions:

1. This Committee recognizes that representatives of the Active Unit will have an equal voice with them in any negotiations with City Council;
2. This Committee undertakes not to make any move to relocate the museum or any of it's artifacts until negotiations with City Council are complete;
3. That if negotiations with City Council are successful, upon relocation the Regimental Association transfers legal title of all artifacts and other Regimental ecoutriments currently owned by them to the Senate of The Royal Westminster Regiment to ensure that ownership never passes outside the Regimental family;
4. That this Committee recognizes that the time constraints, as have been suggested in the past, are unrealistic when dealing with a project of this magnitude.

COMMENTS ON THE CO'S ADDRESS TO THE MUSEUM COMMITTEE AND SMC

The CO's presentation was a great disappointment to the SMC and to the majority of the Museum Committee. We had been led to expect some suggestions and proposals that would go some way towards addressing the main problems we face with relocation. Instead, his words can only be taken as a threat and an ultimatum. Our main concerns were again ignored, as they have been over the last year, and we are no closer to a meeting of the minds.

We had hoped the CO would have indicated to us in his address that he was finally reconciled to the rationalization behind our convictions

that the long term permanent home for our museum has to be other than in the Armouries and that a guarantee to this effect be acquired by us now. We also hoped he, finally, was prepared to give us his whole-hearted support, unconditionally, to a final attempt by the Association to come to a mutually satisfactory arrangement with the City.

If he had told us this, then we are reasonably confident we could have eventually looked forward to seeing our museum safely established as a museum available to the public (not a collection of military artifacts) located within the boundaries of the City of New Westminster — where it should properly be.

Regretfully, the Regiment has effectively closed the door to this possibility, as the City has adopted an attitude that the Regiment must be equally involved in the future of the museum or they won't talk to us -- an attitude we find difficult to understand.

We have reluctantly come to the conclusion that there is nothing to be gained by further consultations or negotiations with the Regiment.

The Regiment's attitude has forced us to the crossroads, and, to the SMC, it appears we have no alternative but to commence, now, to actively seek a future home without the blessings of the Regiment or the City.

31 August 1986

EXPO SUCCEEDS WITH HELP FROM OUR MUSEUM

Well, Expo '86 has come and gone. What a wonderful experience it was and what a boost it has given us.

You may remember it was in 1985 our Association was requested by the Honourary Colonel to have our Museum open during Expo as one more "point of interest" in New Westminster for tourists to visit. Now, manning any operation 4 hours a day, 5 days a week from 2 May to 10 October is no easy task, especially from our aging and increasingly infirm reservoir of manpower. But, it was done. It was done well, willingly, with credit to the Association and with a sense of satisfaction for all those who contributed of their time and energy. Also, another benefit accrued to the Association. We had a number of volunteers from our ranks who, as a result, have a much greater knowledge of the contents and the operation of our Museum than they had before. The Executive feels it has a pool of competent members to draw on if, as and when replacements are needed. All in all, it was a great training exercise as well as a civic duty carried out, we hope, to the satisfaction of the City and the Armoury Colonel.

.../14



Some days the number of visitors were nil, but there were not too many of them. The busier days saw visitors in the 20's. They came from many places, as follows:

	Local	366
	Greater Vancouver	135
	B.C.	109
	Rest of Canada	109
	United States	80
	Other countries	80
		<u>879</u>
PLUS:	The Dutch visitation	108
	The Heritage Village weekend	<u>129</u>
	TOTAL UNITS	<u><u>1,116</u></u>

Some of the more interesting visitors included Germans who had been wounded, Americans who served under various U.S. Generals, a German and his wife who purchased Bert Hoskin's book, Dutchmen liberated by the Canadian Army, ex British Navy, visitors from Japan who spent hours inspecting everything, Austrians wounded in Holland, a G.A.F. type shot down twice on the Russian front (and has lived in Vancouver for the past 26 years) - and so on. Space does not permit anything like a full account of the more interesting events.

The members who staffed the museum each day kept a daily log. The main comment that kept appearing more than any other was that the visitors were all so interested. Some spent hours. Some came back a second time. If that was the main reaction, then maybe we have been doing something right.

The membership at large should be grateful to the volunteers who gave of their time so willingly. Here they are:

X Dave Allen	Ken Godwin	Norm Palmer
Gordon Armstrong	X Dave Gowler	Jerry Roberts
Dick Armstrong	Stan Hartridge	Bill Robson
Bill Benson	Jack Hogarth	Nelson Scott
Stan Conway	X John Hou	X Dick Shannon
Aubrey Coutts	X George Hughes	Bert Stephens
Ted Dashwood-Jones	Ron Hurley	Doug Stevens
Ian Douglas	Walt Jackson	Ev Sweet
Mike Dragen	Norm MacAskill	Bert Turney
X Bruce Eaton	Fred McMillan	X Walt Tyler
Doug Furlot	X Bas Morgan	Jack Usher
Alex Gibson	X Walter Lyle	Arb Ward
George Gibson	Stan Moorhouse	Terry Williams
Doug Glenn	Doug Morgan	Al Wilson

The names of the Museum Executive are marked with an "X". On each one of the 115 days we were open, at least 1 Executive member was on duty.

Vern Ardagh

- MELFA 1986 -

The MELFA 1986 weekend seemed to be enjoyed by all of those who attended. We started out with a golf game at the Mylora Golf Club in Richmond, with approximately 35 men and women teeing off. The weather was good and the game was enjoyed by all who attended. For a complete report see Doug Glenn's report on how the day went and who the winners were. Thanks Doug for looking after the golf. The Museum was opened early along with the Sgt's Mess for those who arrived early. At 6pm a small group walked down to the cenotaphe for a service conducted by Arch Deacon Jack Hoad. All of us who attended enjoyed the short but meaningful service. Our President, Stan Moorhouse, laid a wreath on behalf of all members of the Association.

At 7 pm we all met at the Royal Canadian Legion, (138 to be exact) on 12th Street for a splendid dinner put on by the Legion staff. It seemed from all the comments, the dinner was enjoyable.

After dinner many stayed on and socialized with alot of old and dear friends. On the Sunday seventy people sat for brunch at the Drill Hall. A/F catering arrived early and set up an excellent brunch that again was enjoyed by all. There was plenty of champagne and orange juice to go around. This is a very casual event and should continue.

Just to mention a few who travelled from afar, in a hope to create some interest in others who live away from New Westminster, to come next year to MELFA:

Ed Guthrie and wife	- Toronto, Ont.
George Kalenchuck	- Sturgis, Sask.
Dominicks, Grinsteds, Timpes & Martins	- All from Alberta
Lend Bailey	- Naniamo
Ted Burnaby	- Vernon
Ken Moyes	- Merritt
Ted Churchill	- Sorrento
John Ginter	- Chase
Ted Hammersley	- Fulford Harbour
Ken Morgan	- Princeton
Gordon McCourt	- Sechelt



Bud Mabbett	- Courtney
C. McQuillan	- Westbank
C. Robertson	- Westbank
C. Nichol	- Oliver
Jack Usher	- Gabriola Island

Not to forget, some of the above travelled the distance with their spouses. If I left anyone out I apologize in advance.

There were also many who travelled from many areas of the Lower Mainland to attend the dinner. Thanks to you.

The weekend was a great success and I look forward to seeing all of you and many more at next year's MELFA weekend.

Again it was great seeing all of you and serving you as MELFA '86 Chairman.

Ted Usher

C O N T E S T

HOW ARE YOUR OVERSEAS PHOTOS ???

"READ ON"

Aldershot Military Historical Trust

Established to record, preserve and present to public the story of the home of the British Army.

During the Second War it was also the home of the Canadian Army for six years. (This fact is almost entirely unrecorded in England).

The Museum will include a substantial Canadian Gallery to cover not just the Second War but previous Canadian Army Associations with Aldershot as well, going back to Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee parade.

They are seeking our help in building up their archives of photographs that we feel we would like them to feature.

1. The need is specifically for one or two (2) photographs which best depict action by the Regiment in the Second War.
2. Also photos of formal events of informal life in the Aldershot area then or in earlier years.

Size is not important ---- CLARITY IS !

A committee will be formed to select the package for mailing.

✻

Your name could remain forever in Aldershot.

All photos will be returned if so requested. Otherwise, they will become the property of the Association and will be maintained in our archives.

The need is urgent --- we need the photos at the Museum by the middle of November (the 15th).

The marvellous hospitality of Elsie Baldwin and the family of Marion Sam Soutar highlighted the 12th annual picnic and "D" Company Survivors outing. In lieu of the usual published report, I have submitted this moving testimonial by Bert Hoskin. It speaks for itself.

Editor.

THEY DO NOT ANSWER, SIR!

Many elaborate ceremonies are carried out annually to record major events such as the passing of a VIP, or specific and important occasions or anniversaries - Governmental, Civic and Military, etc. Many are carefully staged with special scenery, lighting, sound systems, music special effects and so on.

We have all, I'm sure, helped organize or attended many such events over the years. But none, to my thinking, have been any more impressive or retained for so long in the mind, than a simple ceremony we have been invited to and honored to attend every August.

Each year, thanks to the family of one of our late Officers, the surviving members of those who volunteered and served overseas in the Second World War from their small, rural community, gather to honor and remember those fellow soldiers who have passed on.

The ceremony is held at a ranch in a secluded valley, an unspoiled and natural setting, quiet except for the music of a fast flowing stream. The remnants of this proud Company, after an afternoon of reunion, form up and march a short distance to the bank of the stream where stands a raised area complete with flag pole.

Still displaying most of the old precision in spite of the years, the parade faces the flag, a short but appropriate address is given, and the names of all those who fell in action or who have since crossed their last 'start line' are called out. Finally, in a clear tone, echoing throughout the enclosed valley a voice calls out, "They do not answer,

.../18



Sir!" With the playing of the last post and then reveille and the lowering of the flag the ceremony is at an end.

What pageant, what gathering could convey its message of sacrifice, duty, and honour better than this simple, unpretentious programme?

H.F.H.

BIOGRAPHY OF THE COMMANDING OFFICER

Christopher B. Bradford was born in the County of Somerset, England on the 17th June 1939. Following his education at Blundell's School, Tiverton, Devonshire, he joined the family business and remained with them until 1977.

In 1964 he was commissioned as a Second-Lieutenant in 250 (Queen's Own Dorset and West Somerset Yeomanry) Medium Regiment, Royal Artillery (Territorial Army) and served with them until the TA was disbanded in 1967.

In 1971 the Territorial Army was reformed and he joined 266 (Gloucestershire Volunteer Artillery) Battery, Royal Artillery (Volunteers), and with them gained his promotion to Captain.

In 1975 he took a Company Commanders Course at the School of Infantry at Warminster in England, and later transferred to 6th Battalion The Light Infantry (Volunteers) on promotion to Major serving as "B" Company Commander until 1977 when he and his family emigrated to Canada.

On arrival in Winnipeg he served on attachment to the Royal Winnipeg Rifles, receiving approval to transfer to the Canadian Armed Forces Reserves in 1980. By that time the Bradford family had moved to Ontario, and he joined the 4th Battalion The Royal Canadian Regiment with whom he served as Officer Commanding "T" Company at Stratford.

In 1981 he relocated back to Winnipeg and transferred to the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada, serving as Officer Commanding Support Company and latterly Deputy Commanding Officers.

In 1983 the family moved to British Columbia and he joined the Royal Westminster Regiment acting as Officer Commanding "A" Company until September 1984 and Deputy Commanding Officer until 31 March 1985.

On 01 April 1985 he took Command of The Royal Westminster Regiment, the formal Change of Command Ceremony taking place on 25 May 1985 in Queen's Part Stadium, New Westminster.

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Lieutenant-Colonel C.B. Bradford is married, and he and his wife Jennie and their three sons James, Charles and Edward currently reside in Aldergrove. In civilian life he is a Business Consultant.

A SALUTE FOR THE REGIMENT

Joe Soap

A salute from this corner to the 187-member Royal Wesminster Regiment, which once again picked up the prestigious Sir Casimir Gzowski Trophy. That's the second year in a row the unit has picked up the award and the fifth time for the honor in its illustrious 122-year history.

The trophy was presented at special ceremonies to unit officers last Thursday by commander of mobile command, Lieutenant-General Charles H. Belzile, CMM,CD, who flew out from headquarters in St. Hubert Que.

The Gzowski Trophy means the Royal Wesminster Regiment is the top infantry militia unit in Canada. The Regiment is a military reserve involving both men and women ranging in age from 17 to 55. They are your next-door neighbor, students, professionals, civil servants, mechanics and clerks.

They train year-round during weeknights and weekends beginning with general military training as recruits. Their level of training is constantly being upgraded so that today reserve units all across Canada are ready at a moment's notice to give support to regular military defence units.

Heaven forbid they should ever be called to war, but should our country ever need to defend itself militarily, people like those belonging to the local regiment will be ready to do it.

But for now, at least, troops. The Soap salutes you.



IN MEMORIAM

M610246	Pte Ferbey, W	Westminster Reg't	W.W. 2
K47096	Sgt Gutteridge, G.F.	" "	" " "
	Szendrey, Joe	" "	" " "
	Gray, John W.	" "	" " "
	Fields, Lew	" "	" " "
628599	Cpl Clash, J.H.	47th Bn	W.W. 1
	Buckingham, Matt	Westminster Reg't	W.W. 2
	Reid William Martin	47th Bn	W.W. 1
	Oldale, Tommy	Westminster Reg't	W.W. 2
K42098	Towrow, Jack	Westminster Reg't & BCD's	W.W. 2

SPECIAL MEMORIAM

Ruth Little (Meek)

1 August 1986

Many Association members, and in particular Executive members, attended Memorial Services for the late Ruth Little. Many of course knew her as the wife of the late Bill Meek, one of our more popular and outstanding Westminster Officers. Bill was a devoted Association member and he and Ruth, through their North Van Printing Business, contributed years of loyal and subsidized service to the printing of YOUR GROUNDSHEET. After Bill's death, Ruth carried on the same dedicated service to our Association. Approximately two years ago Ruth married a fine gentleman and fellow member of the printing trade, Mr. Bob Little. He too had assisted in this paper's production. Through Bob's courtesy in noting the name (Meek) in the papers we learned of her untimely death. Bob nursed her through a severe and protracted illness and we offer a sincere tribute to Ruth Little (Meek) and our heartfelt condolences to Bob Little and family.

R.H.