

GROUND SHEET

125

YEARS



1863 - 1988



REUNION 88



APPROXIMATE FRONT LINE MIDNIGHT 23-24 MAY

MAY 14 15

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FRONT COVER DESIGNED BY EDITOR

*125th ANNIVERSARY AND COMING EVENTS PROGRAM *

APRIL 28 ..Visit To The Armory By His Grace

The Duke Of Westminster. Pres . B. Eaton & Bert Hbskin to Attend as Assoc. Reps.

MAY 23 1988 * CĒLEBRATION & FREEDOM OF THE CITY EXERCISE *

Place: Queens Park New Westminster B.C QueensBirthday

TIME 11:00 A.M The C.O & The Assoc would like to see as many Assoc members in attendance as possible.

DRESS FOR ASSOC . BLAZERS BERETS & MEDALS: - If you do not have this form of dress please attend anyway. After the Queens Pk ceremonies there will be a parade by The Royal Westminster Regiment at City Hall . The C.O would deem it an honor to have as many Assoc members with Blazers, Medals et al to form a reception unit on the City Hall Steps. There will be a reception after with ALL ASSOC MEMBERS INVITED

NOTE: NO MARCHING REQUIRED BY THE ASSOC.

MAY 28th: Regimental Band & Detachment to participate in Hyack Festival Parade; Assoc invited ; Watch your local newspapers for times etc.

JUNE 18 MATSQUI & MISSION

ABBOTSFORD Time 11:00 A.M Freedom District Of Matsqui.

Assoc Members with Blazers, Medals invited to participate

C.O advises mini bus transport to be provided and their will be a reception to follow

JUNE 18 MISSION B,C TIME: 3:00 P.M

For Assoc members same format as Matsqui Abbbtsford .

PLEASE NOTE:

These June 18th Ceremonies are a change from dates re April.

JULY 1 CANADA DAY Reg't Band To Play At Queens Pk.

Time not known at this prtg. but Assoc members invited.

JULY 31st IMPORTANT DATE TO REMEMBER FOR ALL

ANNUAL 'D' COY PICNIC TIME: 1:00P.M - ? ALL INVITED.

MEN, WOMEN, CHILDREN, GRANDCHILDREN . A FREE STEAK DINNER

WILL BE PROVIDED BY OUR GRACIOUS HOSTS ELSIE BALDWIN AND

MARION & SAM SOUTAR: BRING YOUR OWN LIQUID REFRESHMENTS

FOLDING CHAIRS & TABLES WOULD BE AN ASSET.

PLACE & DIRECTIONS 1715 COLUMBIA VALLEY RD TAKE CULTUS

LAKE RD PAST LINDELL BEACH & WATCH FOR LARGE FLAG AND 54 SIGN.

THE ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION SALUTES:

The R.M.R's 84th Annv & The B.C.D 's 80th.

IMPORTANT EDITOR'S REQUEST: TO MEMBERS AT LARGE

Your letters are always appreciated, but would you please in future address all correspondence to Lynn Tabb, Box 854, New Westminster, B.C. This saves double handling and postage as Secretary first extracts dues, donation, address changes, etc., then forwards to Editor. I will attempt to acknowledge all letters received. Thank you.

Ron Hurley - Editor

SPECIAL MELFA GOLF TOURNAMENT - FRIDAY MAY 13TH, 1988

Place - Delta Golf Club, 11550 No. 10 Hwy., Delta, B.C. Phone: 594-1414

Tee off Time - 9:30 a.m., All Members Welcome and Wives, etc.

Fees - \$12.00 Per Person to be submitted no later than May 2, 1988 to Dick Armstrong or Chuck Smithers, c/o P.O. Box 854, New Westminster, B.C.

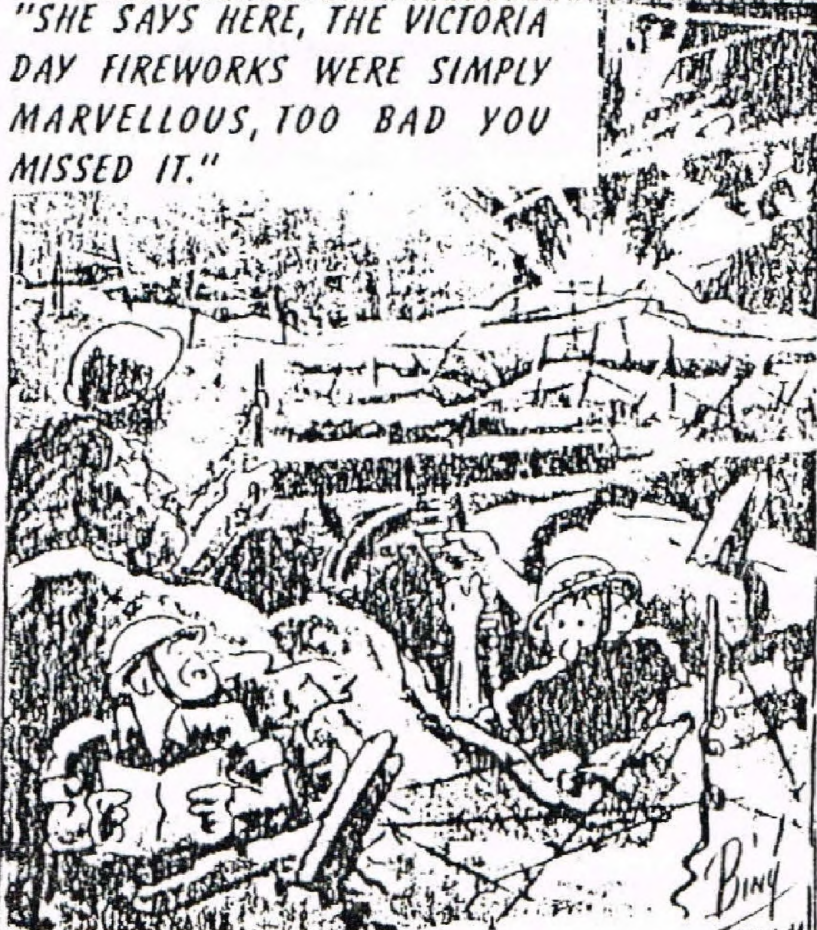
SPECIAL HOLDING DEPOSIT OF \$2.00 EACH REQUIRED IMMEDIATELY SO SEND THAT OR TOTAL FEES PRONTO.

Course: Flat - No Dykes - No Hills

YOUR COMMITTEE HAVE SCoured THE LOWER MAINLAND FOR YOU --

REMEMBER FRIDAY 13TH MAY BE YOUR LUCKY DAY!!! PRIZES PRIZES PRIZES

"SHE SAYS HERE, THE VICTORIA DAY FIREWORKS WERE SIMPLY MARVELLOUS, TOO BAD YOU MISSED IT."



WESTIES AT THE MELFA?
MAY 24, 1944

MELFA



4
MELFA 1988 PROGRAM - SATURDAY, MAY 14TH AND SUNDAY, MAY 15TH

Place: Royal Towers Hotel, New Westminster, B.C. This is located directly across the street from the Armouries and the Cenotaph.

SATURDAY, MAY 14TH PROGRAM

- 17:00 Hours (5 p.m.) No Host Bar - Sgt's Mess Armouries
- 18:00 Hours (6 p.m.) Cenotaph Service, Wreath Laying - Last Post
- 19:00 Hours (7 p.m.) Cocktail Hour, Royal Towers Hotel
- 20:00 Hours (8 p.m.) Dinner, Royal Towers Hotel, Crystal Ballroom
(All Seated)

Table Service Dinner and Dance Price: \$20.00 Per Person

Format: One minutes silence for fallen comrades.

Grace: Toast to the Queen

Toasts and replies to the city, fallen comrades, other comrades in arms, the ladies, to the Regiment, the Melfa

Dinner Chairman: Bob Grebinski, Box 854, New Westminster, B.C.

SUNDAY, MAY 15TH PROGRAM

Champagne Brunch: Time: 11:30 a.m. Price: \$8.00 Per Person -
The Armouries

We would like to make this 125th anniversary of our Regimental Family a special Melfa occasion so please turn out in record numbers and send in your confirmation and monies by no later than May 5, 1988 to Bob Grebinski.

Accommodation: Limited supply of rooms at Royal Towers Hotel
Approximately 45% off summer rates at \$39.95 per room plus 8% tax.
Book now and at least two weeks in advance contact Royal Towers Hotel
at Telephone Number: 524-3777 or CIM, Bob Grebinski at Box 854,
New Westminster, B.C.

There are two kinds of men who don't understand women - bachelors and husbands.

Of all liars, the smoothest and most convincing is memory.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - HIGHLIGHTS OF MARCH 17TH, 1988

President, B. Eaton welcomed 11 directors and 39 members. He thanked Melfa CHM while noting his problems re. sudden change of venue. He thanked Ian Douglas for finalizing our bursary with New West Secondary School. He commented on the renewed expectations of the historical society under chairmanship of Hon. Judge S. McMorran. He reluctantly accepted resignations of Sec./Treas Dave Adlem, Dave Gowler and Dick Shannon. All were accorded standing applause. He commented of death of valued and long time member John Ford and reminded all we needed younger hands to maintain Association continuity ...

SEC./TREAS. - DAVE ADLEM

Dave advised as of March 17, 1988 243 paid up members in amount of \$1,480.50 plus donations of \$1,780.00. Investment of \$15,000 formerly under Trust now a part of Association General Revenue and resignations of Trustees A. Coe. B. Stephens & P. McCarthy as they were no longer required.

125TH ANNIVERSARY

Bert Hoskin gave interim report and would finalize 'November Indoor Picnic' at April 12 committee meeting.

MELFA 87

Chairman D. Glenn reiterated President's remarks but allowed, considering sudden venue switch, the dinner was well accepted and attended. Standing applause for Doug.

MELFA 88

Chairman Bob Grebinski noted all plans 'Go' and promised many surprises e.g. Honor Guard and personnel dressed in period costumes. He asked for aid in obtaining a variety of uniforms.

COMMANDING OFFICER

Col. Bradford gave informative report on The Regiment and noted the high attrition rate. He remarked on his command extension vis-a-vis Glen Hollings Business Transport and invited all Association members to attend as many 125 Anniversary functions as possible.

SMOKER 87

Chairman Dave Gowler re-submitted his report as previously prepared in earlier Groundsheet.

GROUNDSHEET

Ron Hurley noted production costs exceeded Annual Dues Collection. He stressed our dues were the lowest of any Reg. Association in Canada. He thanked all those who had contributed and reminded those that while he had personally received hundreds of compliments - they were meant for all as 'Success Has Many Authors'.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Relating mainly to collection of dues and voting rights. Motions seemed to correct previous anomalies. In future: Dues payment may be made at A.G.M. or any other meeting and/or function within calendar year. Membership cards and invoices would be mailed annually.

NEW BUSINESS

Hon. Col. Bill McKinney reported on pending renovations to The Armouries. He noted the gracious tribute accorded The Regiment by Major Gen. Hoffmeister at recent Off. Mess Dinner. He advised of production of commemorative coin re. 125 Anniversary. He saluted Walter Lyle for his eloquent eulogy to John Ford at March 15 Memorial Service. He thanked Ron Hurley for his efforts re. The Groundsheet and further complimented Freda and Walter Hogg for their loyalty, dedication and hard work.

PRESENTATION

President Eaton presented cheque in amount of \$600.00 from the Association to C.o.'s fund.

ALL SPEAKERS AND COMMITTEES WERE GIVEN STANDING APPLAUSE.

PRESIDENT STEPPED DOWN AND CALLED FOR ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Results of the 1988 elections are recorded on Page 2 of this issue. Ballots to be destroyed and all motions, reports, etc. duly and legally moved seconded and carried with objections noted. Meeting adjourned at 22:30 Hours on Motion by Dick Shannon.

NOTE POST ELECTION APPOINTMENTS

Sec./Treas. - Lynn Tabb - She inherits a tough job but will do well.

Editor - At request of re-elected President B. Eaton, Ron Hurley agreed to continue as Editor but noted he is still seeking a replacement - preferably with younger blood.

FROM THE MUSEUM

MISSING

Information with respect to:

- The Regimental Band
- The Regimental Cadets
- The Regimental Rifle Teams
- The Regimental Christenings

The Royal Westminster Regiment Museum would be very grateful if anyone with any knowledge of these special areas of the Regiment would share their memories, pictures or souvenirs with the Museum.

Please bring them, drop us a note or phone the Museum at 526-5116 with your anecdotes, clippings or other mementos so that we can make the Museum a more complete record of your regiment. People, places and dates should be identified.

Be assured that anything received will be carefully and respectfully handled and preserved, or photographed and returned to you.

Members, past and present, of the Regiment are the only ones who can help us fill in these spaces in the history of this proud Unit. We would also welcome personal help from Association members (4 hours a month) to assist as guides, etc.

M. Norris - Public Relations



Minister
of Veterans Affairs.



George Hees

A Salute to the Hon. George Hees -
Certainly the most able and
compassionate Minister W.W. 2
Veterans have ever known



FROM THE POST

Sincere thanks to old 'Coy' Stalwart Claude Nichol at his new address of 8005 Reigate Avenue, Burnaby, B.C. V5E 4G2. Sorry you missed the A.G.M. and hope you can make the Melfa 88. Thanks to Wilfred A. Tyo of Cornwall, Ontario and the information re. your brother, W.J. Tyo. The corrections have been duly made. Regret there are no extra copies of 'War Diary' but have advertised to membership for any spares and hereby do the same again. From Fred Sharp of Chilliwack dues and a donation for which many thanks. Dues, donation and a nice note to Bert Hoskin from Bob Breaks K47895. Bob waxes nostalgic on the good old days of Drill & Rifle Trg. under Bert. He also sends greetings to Stan Moorhouse. Sorry to hear that you will not be present at Melfa 88 but with all the loot you make from your commercial fishing this summer you will be able to attend the 150 Anniversary celebrations on November 20, 1988. A most interesting letter from loyal member George Bayne of Antigonish, Nova Scotia. Congratulations on your grandchildren and regrets at the loss of your mother but, as you say, at 103 years she did indeed enjoy a full life. Many still remember you George, and if fates be kind, you may yet make it out our way. Meanwhile, many thanks for your continuing support and your kind remarks re. The Groundsheet. Dues and a donation for The Groundsheet from Jack Smith of Coquitlam, B.C. It is most welcome. From long time friend one of the very best Carrier Drivers in the Regiment in Armstrong, B.C., Sandy Rollo a nice note and Sandy age must surely be mellowing you: 'No Complaints, No Bitching' to use your words. I trust you are well. Contrary to your remarks YOU WILL BE MISSED AT MELFA 88. So please get down here in November. From another old 'C.' Coy Friend Ken Morgan in Princeton, B.C. As you say 'There's nobody like the Irish for good old B.S.', but Ken the word is 'Blarney'. Hope to see you at The Melfa . . . Dues and a donation from Ross Douglas of nearby White Rock and Ross it's only a short hop over The Alex Fraser Bridge so please come more often . . . New address for Ethel Johnstone now at #303 - 841 McBride Avenue, New Westminster, B.C. V3L 2C3. Thanks for dues and donation Ethel and trust you will receive your mail more promptly now . . . Many thanks to Andrew Roy Trimble of 1507 - 1150 Jervis, Vancouver, B.C. V6E 2C8. Pleased we are in touch once more and thanks for your dues and donation. As above a note and dues from yet another 'C' Coy Stalwart in the person of Art Ward. Thank you Art and it would seem that 'C' Coy has now emerged from the woodwork. Sincere appreciation to E. L. Steward of Kitimat, B.C. and deeply sorry to hear of Wick's major illness and stroke. The entire Association extends their hopes for his recovery.

Those wishing to send a card etc. should address it to:

'Wick' Stewart. Extensive Care Wing Kitimat Hospital, Kitimat, B.C.
From Walt McErvell of Golden, B.C. dues, a donation and some complimentary remarks re. The Groundsheet. We keep trying our best Walt and only hope we can maintain the standards allude to . . .
From Ernie Holland a nice note via Doug Glenn. Your remarks re. grandchildren are most apropos, and they are indeed a blessing . . .
Another note with Proxy form Art Ward of C8 Coy. Your remarks re. 'A Good Editor' are most welcome, albeit not deserved. I also do not, as you don't drive at night anymore, as I share your vision problems.
From a former Editor, President and once long time active executive member Ernie Dayton his A.G.M. Proxy and, get on the Exercise bike Ernie. We need you walking around again . . . Simply from 'Old Walt' of 11450 Cote De Liesse Dorval, Quebec H9P 1A9. No surname 'Old Walt' so please write and identify yourself meanwhile 'Bon Chance'. A most sincere vote of thanks re. 'The Quality Of The Groundsheet' from loyal Toronto Chapter member Pat McCarthy now of 100 Parkway Forest Dr. Apt. Willowdale, Ontario M2J 1L6. Delighted to hear you are once again chairman of Toronto Chapter and we all extend the best for your Toronto Melfa Dinner. Many of us would like to visit you as some of us have in the past but this being the 150th Anniversary of 'The Regiment Family' it would seem that 1989 would be more appropriate.
A most warm and personal letter to me and the Association from the Old Mississippi Gambler, Bill Majury of Toronto. Bill your memory of our 'Athletic Prowess' in our salad days is very good and most appreciated. Sorry to say that my good friend/competitor, Bortolussi has not been in the best of health in the past two years or so but he is fighting as hard as ever to overcome it . . . I can only assume your memories of our past achievements is so sharp because you participated, avidly, in the betting on us as did Major Gen. Sansom, Ducky Drake, 'Pop' Becker, et al, alas none of the latter no longer with us. Delighted to know that you and your granddaughter were able to see 'The World's Fastest Human' Big Ben Johnson in action. He is something else and I hope he continues . . . Many thanks to D.F. Drummond of Lake Cowichan, B.C. for your dues and donation. A welcome word and another warm greeting from Toronto in the person of Ed Lasher. Thank you for your dues and donations. Best of luck in your May 14 Toronto Dinner and hope to see you in November. Sincere appreciation to Les Deane for his kind remarks re. The Groundsheet and his appreciation of Ian Douglas's fine 87 Melfa Address. Yes, Les we all agree; Good feelings and fellowship vis-a-vis The Regimental Family do and always have existed. Outside interference should not be tolerated by any component of 'OUR REGIMENTAL FAMILY'.

Finally, for this issue a most interesting letter from Mrs. Audrey Swain of Maple Ridge. Mrs. Swain writes to advise us of the passing of her Uncle Harry Cutler a few weeks shy of his 95th birthday. Mrs. Swain's father Justin Anderson and her late aforementioned Uncle were both in the 47th in W.W. 1 and she writes of his many letters of that era and other things which she intends to donate to The Museum our condolences and thanks are extended to her and her family . . . Late thanks to Heber Smith of Barrie, Ontario informing us of the passing of former 'C' Coy Lt. Donald Elines. Appreciation to Doris Grossman with a copy of a letter from her late husband Maj. Peter Brossman - BN 2/1C written May 22, 1944 to his mother on the eve of The Melfa Battle. Doris, I believe his sentiments spoke for us all . . .

Dear Mum:

May 22, 1944

Your Birthday letter arrived this evening just when I most need all the things you wished for me. It is the best present I could have had.

I wouldn't worry too much about people being frightened. Everyone is, even if he won't admit it but perhaps we are afraid of different things. Right now I am scared stiff, not of being killed. I don't think that is what any of us fear.

We regret the probability but I think we are more afraid that we will not do the job that we have been given and when we pray it is not for safety but for courage.

I suppose the radio keeps you up to date with the great things that are happening. It is a pity that they can't pass on the great spirit of these men. It isn't over confidence or conceit but a sound determination to put everything they have into the job.

Great ideas need landing gear as well as wings.

C.D. Jackson

One does not make friends. One recognizes them.

Garth Henrichs in
Sunshine Magazine

IN MEMORIAM

Harry Cutler

Age 95

47th BN

W.W. 1

Donald A. Elines

Westminster Regiment

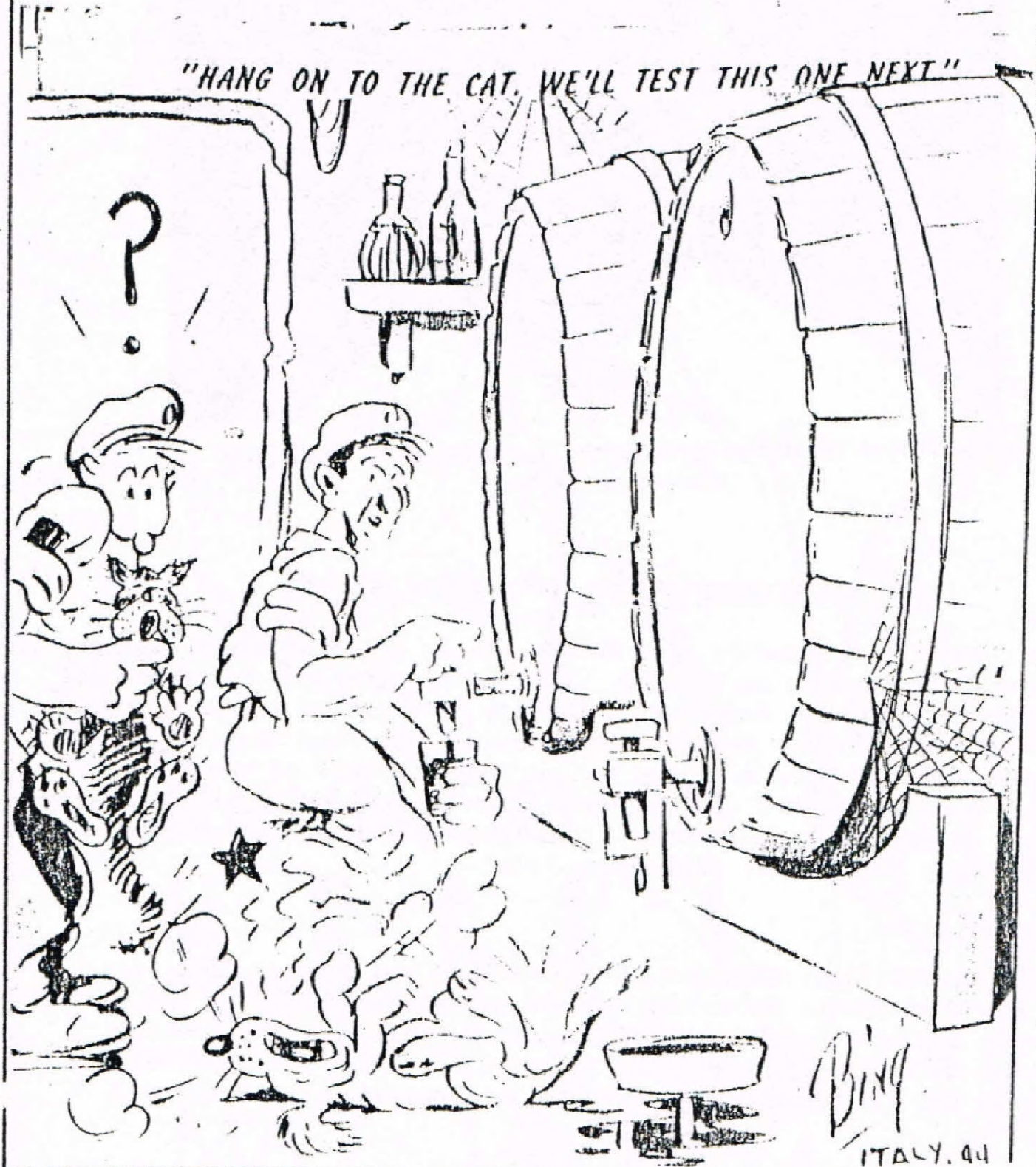
W.W. 2

John R. Ford K47 411 Age 65

Westminster Regiment

W.W. 2

"HANG ON TO THE CAT, WE'LL TEST THIS ONE NEXT"





'EPITAPH' FOR JOHN R. FORD

'IN LASTING TRIBUTE'



The Royal Westminster Regiment Association John Ford
Memorial Bursary

ORIGINAL FOUNDER OF OUR SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

On a motion by Ron Hurley seconded by Walter Lyle the entire membership agreed to honor John as follows. That hereinafter the current Royal Westminster Regiment Association Bursary be retitled to read 'The Royal Westminster Regiment Association John Ford Memorial Bursary' and, subsequent to the motion that a member of the Ford Family and/or a member of the Association or both be invited annually to act as presenter or witness to the proceedings and be advised accordingly as to time, date, place, etc.

Postscript:

Mr. Roger Phillips, Chairman of Scholarship and Bursary Committee for New Westminster Secondary Schools has already effected the changes and invited Mrs. Helen Ford to be this year's presenter and Ron Hurley to represent the Association. Much gratitude to Ian Douglas for his considerable efforts in finalizing the details.