



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: 37 ISSUE: 1

Annual General Meeting

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Thursday, March

TIME: 8:00 P.M.

16 TH

PLACE: ARMOURIES – NEW WESTMINSTER, B. C.

Parking in City Hall Parking Lot

IF YOU ARE EVEN REMOTELY INTERESTED IN
YOUR ASSOCIATION YOU WILL BE THERE!

These Are Crucial Times For YOUR Association

WE NEED YOUR ADVICE AND SUPPORT

**45 TH
MELFA**

**ANNV
89**



PRESIDENT

SEC./TRES.

EDITOR

Bruce Eaton
1223 52nd Street
Delta, B.C.
V4M 2Z1
943-3097

Jody Morrison
207 - 140 E. 4th
North Vancouver, B.C.
V7L 1H6
980-0378

Ron Hurley
2229 Bonnyvale
Vancouver, B.C.
V5P 2G4
321-8464

EDITORIAL - 'ALL IN THE FAMILY'

In this issue, Commanding Officer Lt. Col. Chris Bradford has presented his final report to the Association of C.O. of The Unit. It is a thought provoking, insightful and moving farewell. Chris Bradford took command under some stressful conditions and, as he noted, some emotional differences vis-a-vis The Regiment and The Association. He notes further - that these, so called differences, have been resolved. He is dead right on that account and he and Association President, Bruce Eaton deserve high praise for their joint efforts leading to that conclusion. Col. Bradford lauds the fine support and efforts of Hon. Col. McKinney, Hon. Lt. Col. Les Deane, Regimental Secretary, Walter Hogg and wife Freda. The Association shares those commendations whole-heartedly. We extend those remarks to ALL present and past serving members of The Royal Westminster Regiment. Ironically I resumed this editor's role when Chris took command. A letter I wrote at that time was perceived to be most controversial. I was upbraided by a few as being disloyal and had, in fact, 'Destroyed The Association'. The Association is functioning and the mutual respect has never been greater. I would be remiss if I did not report that I got no Flak from members of The Royal Westminster Regiment but rather from a small few of my W.W. 2 peers. I have never and, do not now, claim any editorially expertise and/or journalistic talent but realize the value of disclaimers and 'Editor's Ifs'. At no time were my remarks intended to denigrate anyone personally within The Regimental Family. The differences Chris relates to were exacerbated and engineered by one OUTSIDE THE REGIMENTAL FAMILY. Those were fighting words to The Westies of W.W. 2 and I responded in kind. We were fierce competitors on the playing fields and more so on the battlefields. We did not back down during wartime and as an Association valued and do our integrity highly. This is certainly consistent with the thoughts expressed by Col. Bradford in the last chapter of his report.

Surely no Commanding Officer could leave a command with such pride of accomplishment. The Royal Westminster Regiment during the 1988 anniversary year, and before were a credit to all and are true Westies indeed. We wish Chris Bradford the very best and trust he will lend his talents and energies to the Association in a different role. Hereinafter lets keep all our differences (and there will be some - and democratically so) literally 'ALL IN THE FAMILY'.

ARRIVIDERCI AND
BUONA FORTUNA.

R.H.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The 125th anniversary year is over. We think the activities of the unit and the Association honored it in a memorable way. The Officer's Mess Dinner in February with 125 members and guests including Bert Hoffmeister got the celebration off to a good start. The Regiment exercised the freedoms of the Districts of Matsqui and Mission, and the City of New Westminster. Representation at each by members of the Association although few in number will be remembered by them with affection. The Remembrance Day Parade was very well attended and the weather was excellent for the outdoor ceremonies. The large turnout shows people still care and remember on this special day.

The 125th anniversary picnic on November 20th had a turnout of about 600. By the quantities of hamburgers, hot dogs and soft drinks consumed it would have to be termed a success. The efforts and planning by Bert Hoskin and his committee for the Association as well as Les Deane and his committee for the Regiment, were evident throughout the day.

Two publications were produced to commemorate the 125th anniversary and are available through the Regimental Kit Shop at the armories.

An excellent brochure was produced and published under the direction of Fred Wilks. This highlights the history of the Military from 1863 to the present and I recommend it to all. The cost of this brochure is \$10.00.

A video was produced by the local community television station and made available to us. This video is very well produced. It is a priceless visual record covering the unit's history from the museum, pictures, etc. with input from our veterans including Ivan Ackery W.W. I. This video was aired by all the local T.V. stations. The comment from the general public has been very favourable. As mentioned above, it is available through the Regiment at a cost of \$30.00.

I would remind everyone that the 1989 membership dues are payable and as we have no other source of income, the prompt payment of them plus any donation will help to keep us solvent. All donations over \$10.00 will have a tax free receipt issued.

The annual general meeting will be March 16th and a new slate of officers and directors will be elected. Please send in your proxy if you are unable to attend the meeting.

I will not be running for President. This being my last report, I take this opportunity to pass on my thanks to all the directors and members for their support and help during the past two years. In addition, thanks to Col. Bradford and the many officers and men of the current unit who have worked with us and helped achieve the goals of the Association.

The World War II veterans are getting fewer every year. Membership is increasing from the post-war and current unit taking an active part and bringing a modern approach to the Association. It is time for the old sweats to bow out and make room for the younger generation.

Our branch #3 at Chilliwack puts on the best picnic and barbeque the first Sunday in August - this year the 6th of August. It is hosted by Marion and Sam Soutar and Elsie Baldwin at the Circle 6 Ranch. The simple flag and remembrance ceremony each year is a very poignant and touching memory for all present. If you have not attended before you should plan to be there this year.

I am sure that all the Association members will be pleased to hear that through the efforts of many people finally by Bert Hoskin, the D.N.D. finally recognized the athletic achievements of Ron Hurley and Gino Bortolussi by electing them to the Canadian Forces Sports Hall of Fame. A long overdue award.

Thanks again to all and best of health for 1989.

Bruce Eaton

NOTE: In accordance with legal authority -
 In our constitution we are offering \$50.00 life memberships
 Tax receipts for amounts of \$10.00 and over sent as
donations, life memberships do not qualify re. tax receipts.

To the Editor, The Groundsheet

This is a somewhat sad occasion for me as it is the last time I shall be submitting this report as Commanding Officer of The Regiment. On April 1, 1989, Major Bill White will take over from me and we hope to hold our formal change of command parade in Queen's Park Stadium on Monday, May 22nd (Victoria Day) following the Anvil Battery salute.

Obviously 1988 was a most exciting year for me and it was a great privilege to be CO for the 125th Anniversary. The celebrations throughout the year put significant demands upon the time and energy of our serving members and my heartfelt thanks go to all my officers, NCOs and Junior Ranks who supported me so loyally and with much enthusiasm. In a reflective mood and after all the festivities had been completed I analyzed the cost of our celebrations and although it might appear over materialistic to put a price tag on our Anniversary Year, I believe the members of the Association may be interested in the following statistics:

<u>Event</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Source of Funding</u>
Preparation, rehearsals etc. for three Freedom Parades 125th Anniversary Picnic etc.	Approxing 7 full man days for the unit x \$5,000. = \$35,000	Public funds. Additional funding made available from Pacific Militia Area
Publication of Souvenir Brochure	\$9,000.00	Supported largely by a donation from the NW Lions Club
125th Anniversary Year Video	Estimated in excess of \$50,000.00	Donated as a Community Service by Western Cablevision (Copies available from the Museum at \$30.00 each!)

<u>Event</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Source of Funding</u>
Commorative Medallion Presentations, Receptions etc for Freedom Parades in New Westminster, Matsqui and Mission	Estimated in excess of \$6,000.00	Funded by the City of New Westminster, District of Matsqui and District of the City of Mission plus Unit and Regimental Funds.

In addition due consideration must be given to the time and trouble given to support our efforts by our Affiliated Cadet Corps, the Legion Branches in whose areas we enjoy a presence, to say nothing of the work done by many municipal employees, the City of New Westminster Police and the RCMP who helped make everything such a success. Add to this the hard work undertaken by L. Col. Bert Hoskins and the Association in sponsoring the highlight of the year - our 125th Anniversary Picnic and the bill certainly tops \$100,000.00!

For a Regimental Family of our size to have undertaken all that we did in 1988 is no mean achievement and our sincere thanks go out to all who supported us and made everything possible.

Before leaving the 125th Anniversary Year in proper place in our history I would like to mention the sterling contribution made by our Honorary Colonel, Bill McKinney, the Hon. Lieutenant Colonel Les Deane and the Regimental Secretary Major Walter Hogg, ably assisted by Freda, who masterminded and organized much of the behind the scene planning in our Anniversary Year. No Commanding Officer could have a better team of "Honoraries" to back him up and a big "thank you" is due to them all.

Finally I would like to acknowledge the help given (often voluntarily) by our Regular Support Staff Officer Captain Don Haisell and his RSS team. They have made and answered phone calls, typed envelopes and looked after a thousand administrative details for us which might otherwise have bogged things down completely. We owe them a lot and their contribution is much appreciated.

Today the Unit looks forward to an exciting 1989 with the demanding task of providing the enemy force for the Brigade Exercise in CFB Wainwright in July. This means lots of patrolling, ambushes and the promise of an airborne drop behind "enemy" lines and much of our current training is being directed to sharpening up our skills in these areas. Recruiting has been brisk in the past few months and



soon we hope to have forty new "Westies" on their Recruit Course at the Area Battle School in Nanaimo. With the prospect of more than doubling our current strength by the year 2002, the "new soldier" becomes a vital component in the expansion and development of the Militia.

Since I took command four years ago we have seen many changes in the relationship between the Association and the Active Unit. We have had our differences and at times emotions have run high tending to cloud the fact that we both belong to and exist to support that all important, all embracing most important organization of all - the Regimental Family. I am glad these differences are now resolved and that relationships between us are probably never better than they are right now. In closing to all Association members - and particularly the World War II veterans - I would say the following -

As peace time soldiers we honour and respect the sacrifices made by you and your comrades in arms, in ensuring the future and freedom of ours and successive generations. Your contribution will never be forgotten by us, as we carry forward our Regimental tradition for service to Queen and Country. We in turn take as much pride in our Battalion as you did in yours; we have the spirit and mettle to match your deeds of heroism and daring should we ever be called upon to do so. Because our bonds of friendship and loyalty are fashioned in peace time rather than forged on the anvil of war does not make them any weaker or less important to us. This is as much our Regiment as it is yours and we will strive constantly to maintain its place of honour in the annals of the Canadian Military, to ensure that, for all of us, to be a Westie will remain a thing of honest and unselfish pride.

Pro Rege et Patria

Chris Bradford

Worrywart

You can't do anything about the past
But here's the real sorrow:
You can mess up the present
By frettin' too much about tomorrow

Harold Helfer

THE ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT



1863 - 1988

CONTRIBUTION OF THE ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT TO 125th ANNIVERSARY



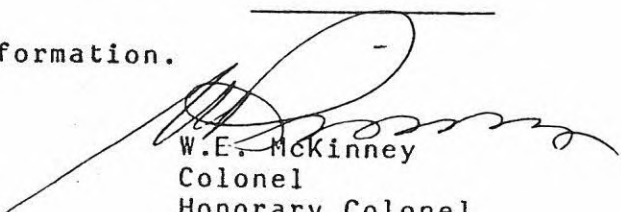
The following amounts reflect

- 1) Direct Donations
- 2) Goods and Services
- 3) Public Funds

1) Video	\$55,000.00
2) Tapes	2,000.00
3) Brochure	9,800.00
4) Banners	1,800.00
5) Cadet Flags & Staffs	2,000.00
6) Medallions	1,800.00
7) Reception	600.00
8) Soldiers' pay to exercise three Freedoms	25,000.00
9) Plaque presented to B. C. Government	800.00
10) Plaque mounted on cannon at Westminster Quay	850.00
11) Typing invitations and postage	250.00
12) Food for Indoor Picnic and drinks, etc.	2,000.00

TOTAL: \$ 101,900.00

Passed for your information.



W.E. McKinney
Colonel
Honorary Colonel

Item The President and directors are pleased to announce the appointment of Norm McAskill as a liaison officer between the Association and Legions and other Regimental Associations.

Attn: All 'D' Day Dodgers (Courtesy of late Lady 'Nasty' Astor) 11th Ann. D. Day Dodgers Reunion. Orillia Ont. May 12, 13, 14. This year the Gunners of 1st Can. Corps R.C.A. are being honored. Price \$25.00 each for three days excluding accommodation, meals, etc. You may contact your Editor or write Cliff Evans, 336 Nottawasaga St., Orillia, Ontario L3V 3K6 or Phone (705) 326-2859. Should be a ball for all you old Italian Dodgers of W.W. 2.

Item Toronto Chapter Royal Westminster Regiment Dinner May 13, 1989 place and prices in next issue.

Item 45th Anniversary 'D' Day Pilgrimage to Europe (yes we 'Dodgers' are invited too). Contact Edward F. Mahoney, P.O. Box 592, Station A, Hamilton, Ontario L89 3K7, Phone (416) 522-2621 for details.

MELFA 1989
19, 20, 21, MAY 1989

This is your advanced warning for MELFA 89. It is to be held the long weekend in May, which is the 19, 20, 21.

There are a few changes in the format and these are as a result of requests from the membership and the executive. To begin with the dinner will be held on Friday evening, the 19th, at The Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 2, New Westminster. We had the dinner there a few years ago and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. This is again a mixed function so bring your wife, girlfriend, date or even the mother-in-law. This will be a buffet style dinner. I am in the process of trying to invite a very special guest, who, I won't mention at this time in case he can't attend.

For Saturday, Chuck Smithers and Dick Armstrong are looking after the golf. The time and place will be in the next issue.

On Sunday, 21st, we will be doing something a little different which will consist of a gathering at the cenotaph for a brief service and wreath laying. After, everyone will be asked back to the messes for a no-host social gathering. This will be a casual get-together with the bars open and lots of sandwiches, cheese, crackers, coffee and tea. There will be no charge to attend this function, however we still have to know how many will be attending on the Sunday so that we can advise the caterers. There are also a few other plans and ideas in the making so pay attention to your next issue of the



GROUNDSHEET.

In the next issue of the **GROUNDSHEET** there will be a separate sheet of paper for your RSVP to MELFA 89. Please take the time to fill it out and send it to me. It is very important that you do this so we can order the proper amount of food etc. There are a few people who do show up at functions with out letting us know. We would never turn them away but it just makes it difficult. So please send in the reply after the next **GROUNDSHEET**. With an active member of the unit on the Executive, from the Junior Ranks Club, we hope for a good turn out at the dinner from the active unit.

The costs and time will be announced in the next issue. If you have any questions don't hesitate to call me. Lets try and make this years MELFA dinner a great success and have a large turnout. Let's remember that the membership is not getting any younger and its on these such occasions that we can spend that special time with our friends and comrades we fought so hard for what we have today. Again, mark your calender for May 19, 20, and 21st for MELFA 1989.

YOUR MELFA CHAIRMAN - TED USHER

MELFA GOLF 89

PLACE: Delta Golf Club, 1150 No. 10 Hwy., Ladner Trunk Road

DATE: Saturday, May 20, 1989

TEE OFF: 11:00 a.m. sharp

FEES: \$20.00 each includes green peas and prizes.

Reply and Confirm ASAP (like right now) to Chairman, Chuck Smithers, c/o P.O. Box 854, New Westminster, B.C. - Mark envelope: GOLF 89
Royal Westminster Regiment Association

FROM THE POST FOR MARCH GROUNDSHEET 1989 A.G.M. ISSUE

... Belated apologies to all who have written but time between issues and summer hiatus, unfortunately means delays in acknowledgement ...
Ed. R.H.

From the Hon. Geo. Hees Minister of Veterans Affairs Minister For Seniors Admin. a letter of congratulations re. Groundsheet and best wishes for an enjoyable 125th Anniversary Reunion ... Note: The Hon. Mr. Hees has now resigned his dual portfolios). He was an able most respected Minister of Veterans Affairs. Certainly the very best in that department of all time. We shall miss him but wish him the very best in his future endeavors ...

from Elizabeth (Beth) Hill, author of that fine book 'Sappers' some nice compliments re. Groundsheet and The Best For The 125th Anniversary. A sincere thank you to Lily Hockley of Weybourn Sask. We extend our sympathies to Lily and her family on the loss of her husband Ray. He was certainly well known to The Westminster Regiment and The Association. It was interesting to note that he was honored, in the role as pall bearer by other well known 'Westies' viz Roger Hassard, Jim Kyle, and Geroge Carlson. Belated condolences also to Rita Dunn of Ottawa, Ontario. Many thanks to Tony Walters of Kamloops for notification of Wick Stewart's passing in Kitimat. Wick, of course, was a well known figure in the 'Westies' during W.W. 2 ... Old father time seems to be bringing more bad news each passing day ... A pleasant surprise to hear from long lost Bert Woolverton now of #201 - 3737 Bartlett Court, Burnaby, B.C. V3J 7E3. Nice to have you back Bert and pleased you enjoyed The Museum. Thank you for the donation and trust you have now received your Groundsheet. Your regards will certainly be passed on to Bas Morgan and he will be pleased to know that his considerable efforts re. The Museum are appreciated ... A generous donation and nice note from Tiny Robertson. Your comments are much appreciated Tiny and pleased to know you are in contact with Jack Mahony V.C. and Heber Smith. Tiny's address is Major Ernest, B. Robertson, 233 Holmwood Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario K1S 2P6. Thats just to let you know that 'Robertson's Bar' is open and you are invited if down that way. A thank you to Irene Hurford of Box 83, Squamish, B.C. V0N 3G0 for dues and donation on behalf of Hank. Deeply sorry to learn of his illnesses and we all wish him well ... Delighted to hear from Glen Holling of Prince Rupert. Glen sends his regards and advises he will join us on 125th Anniversary. Glen your letter and suggestions were forwarded to the President. Perhaps many do not know but Major Hollings would have been the new C.O. of Royal Westminster Regiment had business not transferred him from this area.

THE ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

The undersigned, being a member in good standing of the above-mentioned Society, hereby appoints Bruce Eaton, or failing him Doug. Glenn. as proxyholder for the undersigned to attend, act and vote for and on behalf of the undersigned at the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Society to be held on the 16 th day of March, 19 89.

Signed this ____ day of _____, 19 ____.

MAIL TO ASSOC.

BOX 854 NEW WESTMINSTER B,C

(Signature of Member)

Note: Forward this proxy to the member you wish to act on your behalf.

IN MEMORIAM

Ernie Winding
 Arnold 'Curly' Donald
 Lt. Col. Mike Steede

Westminster Regiment W.W. 2
 Westminster Regiment W.W. 2
 & P.P.C.L. .1 Korean War
 Former Commanding Officer Royal
 Westminster Regiment

FROM THE POST (Cont'd.)

Thanks to Roger Hassard for a nice letter and also congratulations. Roger your comments are most appropriate and we agree - Our ranks are thinning rapidly. Your thoughts re. a reprint of Diary are duly noted thanks. Thanks to Sandy Rollo in Armstrong, B.C. Thank you for the kind wishes and the photos. They will be turned over to the Museum re. your request. A nice note from A. Guetre of Winnipeg. Sorry to learn of your many disabilities and trust your whimsical remarks re. your demise are premature. From long time Association stalwart Clarence 'Silent' Smith of Rosetown Sask. some dues and nice comments. We trust the increased snow fall will help to overcome last year's dry conditions and all your crops flourish. Your interest re. a re-issue of a 'Paper Back' version of The War Diary is duly noted and will be turned over to the executive ...

PLEASE ACT AS SOON AS YOU RECIEVE YOUR PAPER.

ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT ASSN.

P.O. BOX 854
 NEW WESTMINSTER, B. C. V3L 4Z3

CUT OUT YOUR PROXY ON REVERSE SIDE AND SEND TO

ABOVE ADDRESS IMMEDIATELY.