



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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ANNUAL

MELFA

DAYS

3DAYS

MAY

19, 20, 21ST



1944

45TH

ANNV

1989



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WHY THE MELFA DINNER

Each year the Westminster Regiment Association holds a reunion dinner, and the question "Why call it the Melfa Dinner" is frequently raised. Our members are drawn from the 104th, 131st, 47th Bns. as well as the first and seconds Bns. of the Westminster Regiment together with the continuing Reserve Bn. and there are other famous battles - Vimy, Cambrai Passchendale, to mention a few.

A very simple answer may be that the Melfa River Battle culminated a long period of Regimental activity. The veterans of 1914-18, the members of the Regiment from 1922 - 1939 and the men who trained from 1939 to the Melfa River Battle in May 1943, all contributed to the success of that one action. The 1914 - 1918 war gave us the fighting 47th, establishing a history and a tradition second to none in Canadian Military History. The long years of N.P.A.M. (Non Permanent Active Militia) left us in 1939 with a nucleus of Officers and NCO's. who inculcated the earlier traditions of the Regt. within the then present Battalion, which gave it Discipline and Esprit De Corps, that intangible quality, which added to the long period of training in Canada and England, was successful in the Action of the Melfa River. This action was so important that the on-the-spot commander was awarded the highest award for Valor recognized in the British and Commonwealth Armies; the Victoria Cross was awarded to Major J. K. (Jack) Mahony.

All members of our Association should welcome the opportunity to attend our annual reunion dinner.

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

On March 17, 1989 at the Royal Westminster Regiment's armouries, The Association held its Annual General Meeting, at which time the members attending elected a new executive, a list of same printed in this Ground Sheet.

I thank you for electing me your President for the coming year. Also for the fine body of men whom will join me on the executive.

Over the past 42 years your Association has accomplished many tasks, so a a tribute to those who gave days and years of their time, energy and thoughts.

Operation of a lottery for over twenty years, the profits of same directed into Co.'s fund, Cadet Corp, the band, sick and visiting, Scholarships, museum, awards, melfa dinners, smokers, and most importantly life line of our association The Ground Sheet.

The year 1989 is up on us. The association no longer controls or operates a museum, its under new management, so to speak. The museum of the Royal Westminster Regiment Historical Society; but still an integral component of your association.

The scholarship now permanently administered by Lester Pearson, New Westminster Secondary School by funds secured in perpetuity by the association.

Interest from short term deposit (\$20,000.00) will enable the association's contributions to Co.'s fund, plus Cadet Corp.

The bottom line we have fulfilled our commitments to three of our tasks. Where do we go from here? This is your association, what suggestions have you to offer. I leave the door open, if something comes to mind write Box 854.

Again I thank you for your trust in the new Executive.

President Doug Glenn

MELFA 1989-May 19/20/21

Hello again. In the last issue I reminded you about the Melfa weekend to be held May 19, 20, 21, 1989. The dinner will be at the Royal Canadian Legion #2, 260 12th Street, New Westminster, on Friday the 19th. The doors will open at 7 p.m. and I would like everyone seated by 7:45 p.m. Please don't arrive before 7 p.m. The cost of the dinner is \$15.00 per person and I need you to send the money in advance. There will not be tickets at the door.

Golf is set for Saturday at 11 p.m. at Delta Golf Club. \$20. is the fee on Sunday, 21st at 1 p.m. we will be holding a short service at the cenotaph followed by a no host social in the messes. There will be sandwiches, tea and coffee etc. and a presentation by Chrissie Harris. There is no charge for this however it is important for you to let me know who will be attending so we can notify caterers. So that's what is planned for the Melfa weekend. Please comply with my request for sending your money and RSVP along with letting me know if you plan to attend the Sunday social.

★

The deadline for RSVP on Melfa is May 12, 1989. Fill out the attached RSVP cut out and send it to me as soon as you can.

For those from out of town the Royal Towers Hotel has been completely refurbished and seems to be a first class place. Please call the hotel for reservations.

Thank you for your co-operation. LET'S HAVE A RECORD TURNOUT!
Ted Usher - Chairman



THE ASSOCIATION WELCOMES NEW C.O. MAJOR BILL WHITE

Education: B.Sc. Civil Engineer, Queen's University, Belfast, Northern Ireland

Military Experience:

Nov. 87 - Sept. 88 Brigade Major (G3), II (TRG) Brigade, Pacific Militia Area, Vancouver

Aug. 78 - Nov. 87 Various positions including C.O. 6 Field Engineer Squadron, N. Vancouver

Apr. 74 - Aug. 78 Various positions including Field Troop Commander 3 Field Engineer Squadron, Ottawa

Nov. 68 - Nov. 70 Officer Cadet, Queen's University, Northern Ireland

Sept. 62 - July 68 Cadet to Colour Sergeant, Campbell College, N. Ireland

Civilian Experience:

Apr. 87 - Present Regional Emergency Planning Engineer, Public Works Canada

Aug. 78 - Apr. 87 Various positions including Project Manager, Transport Canada, Vancouver (relating to the construction, restoration and maintenance of civil facilities such as runways, aprons, roads, car parks, etc.)

Memberships:

Association of Professional Engineers Ontario and B.C.

Military Engineers Association of Canada

Legion, North Vancouver

Meraloma Rugby Club

Personal:

Major White is the son of Lt. Col. Stuart Nesbitt White, former Honourary Lt. Colonel to 3 Field Squadron, Ottawa, who saw action as a Royal Engineer in France and Italy during WW II. Major White is also the grandson of Major William Robert White OBE MC of the Ulster Division, 16th Battalion (Pioneers) Royal Irish Rifles (2nd County Down Volunteers) during WW I; who also commanded a detachment of the Home Guard during WW II and was Commanding Officer of the Army Cadets Force for 14 years, near Belfast, thereafter.

Major White, his wife Carol and young son Robert are residents of Vancouver. Mrs. White is a former resident of Southern Ontario and a graduate of McMaster University (BA Geography). She is currently a full time mother and a freelance planner.

Anecdote:

While on vacation in the UK during September 1988, the Whites visited the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers and their museum at the Tower of London. They also travelled throughout Holland, Belgium and Normandy France visiting sites of military interest while on their honeymoon in 1985.

SPECIAL TRIBUTE

The riders in the race do not stop when they reach the goal; there is a little finishing canter before coming to a standstill. There is still sufficient time to hear the kind voices of friends and to say to oneself 'The work is done'. We now say those words for our friend 'Stan' - not known to all of us except those who attended, over twenty years, an association smoker or dinner in New Westminster. He was the jovial face behind the bar - usually unpaid, unfazed by Colonel or Corporal, for to him people were to be enjoyed. Friendly - sincere. He was not of The Regiment, but proud to be recognized as being a part of what took place - he lived our memories with us.

I knew him as a business associate as well as a friend. Sadly the gratitude, due him in life, was not expressed before by all of us who benefitted so greatly from his tireless efforts.

STANLEY E. 'STAN' OSADCZUK
DECEASED - MARCH 24TH, 1989
1913 - 1989

BY NELSON SCOTT

Toronto Chapter Melfa Dinner May 13, 1989

Time: 6 p.m., Place: Cafe Nouvelle, 5353 Dundas St., W. Islington, Ont.

Contact: Pat McCarthy, 100 Oky Forest Dr., Apt. 110, Willowdale, Ont.

Telephone: 756-2692 - All Westies Welcome - R.S.V.P. by May 1/89 PLEASE

BEST SUMMER EVENT OF THE YEAR:

BR 3 Chilliwack Picnic & Barbecue, 1st Sunday in August, August 6th

All welcome, wives, sweethearts, children, grand and great grandchildren

et al. Place Circle 6 Ranch at Marion & Sam Soutars, Lindell Beach -

just past end of Cultus Lake. No admission - Free steaks, hamburgers,

etc. Bring your own liquid refreshments and folding chairs, tables,

etc. Time: around noon.



WESTIES RETURN TO ACTIVE SERVICE IN 1988

It began on the first week of January 1988. The 5 members of the ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT, M/CPL R. Struckoff, M/CPL B. Kelly, CPL S. McTavish, CPL P. Fiedler, PTE. R. McTavish, moved to Work Point barracks to prepare for their up-coming tour to CYPRUS. They were attached to the highly motivated, skilled and professional of professionals the 3RD Battalion P.P.C.L.I.

Two months of grueling infantry training made the modest Westminsters into a top rugged team of professional peacekeepers that could only benefit the elite P.P.C.L.I. However the Westies were only five of two full militia manned platoons that went on the tour. And as M/CPL-PTE. B. Kelly stated "Where damned proud to be the first." In fact this was the first time a militia platoon was used for such a call out.

Mid March the change of command for the Canadian Contingent is in effect. The 3RD P.P.C.L.I. has taken up the line that keeps the two warring factions (Greek & Turkish) apart. The observation posts (O.P.) are manned around the clock and the 12 hr. shifts along with the 47 degree heat take their toll.

Our job as peace keepers is not an easy one, we have to be able to do many things. Along with manning O.P.'s we fought 80 km wide brush fires; built a road (SESAME ST.), riot control and responded to 'BUG OUTS' or emergencies on the line. The stress level became quite high at times, especially when your leave was cancelled. However there were many things to do on our off time that compensated for the hard work. For example you could join the 'Ledra Palace Gardening Club' or go to AYIA NAPA (a common peasant village indigenous to that area) and bird watch. A casual conversation with the local population was another gratifying way to spend the day. "They are very friendly and cooperative, I liked them alot ... and fun to" stated M/CPL.

CPL. R. Struckoff

As the tour came to an end in September the 'Westies Five' could not help but feel sad to leave, for this was their home for half a year and they would be leaving their newly made friends behind. When asked if it was worth going, PTE. R. McTavish answered with reflection "Yup it sure was a real neat experience." As all things do, the sadness turned to happiness as they returned home to their loved ones with a medal proudly pinned to their tunic for a job well done.

Good luck to all who served and may 'The Force' be with you.

Cpl. Parry Feidler.

FROM THE POST:

A nice note from Alton 'Al' Hansen of Edmonton. Sorry to learn of your stroke and paralysis of your right hand and arm. Your new found ability to write with your left hand is most commendable and better than a lot I received from many. From the Toronna 'Mississippi Gambler' Bill Majury and Bill your special remembrance to Ian Douglas will be sent to him - also many thanks for your kind personal references to me re. The Groundsheet - It is indeed still our lifeline. From 88 year old A. Guetre of Winnipeg - thanks for the comments and note you have not lost your sense of humour - re. your use of 'Bren Gun Carrier for Wheelchair'. Dues and note from Ted Churchill. Sorry we will miss you this year Ted but Pat McCarthy will be delighted to know you plan to attend the Toronto Dinner. Thanks to Tom Guest of Saskatoon and thanks for the obituary of Ernest Russel. You are right - the 'Sand In The Hour Glass' seems to be running downhill. Dues and nice note from Bill McIntyre of Mission. Pleased you enjoyed the Picnic. Dues from Jack Terpenning and also included same on behalf of Malcolm Flewelling of 14 Belevista Drive, Dartmouth, N.S. V2W 2X3. Much appreciated Jack. Dues from Frank Whitford - much needed from ALL, of course ... Dues and donation from Walt McErvell of Golden... thanks for the personal compliments re. Groundsheet ... A word from old standby Ernie Holland of Whiterock. Long time no see Ernie ... Kind words and generous donation from Bob Boyd of Powell River. Bob sends us the name of Mrs. A. Grundle of 7037 Tahasis Street, Powell River, B.C. V8A 1G4. Bas has your pictures well in hand. Note that Mrs. Grundle was formerly the wife of the late Jack Hall. Does she want the paper Bob? ... A thank you to Nellie M. Smith of Kamloops, B.C. and for the added words from Smitty - they may be a bit shaky, as you say, but much appreciated. Sad to hear of both of your illnesses and hope you are on the mend ... A nice long letter from Geo Bayne of N.S. Your words are always welcome Geo. and we trust some day you may make it out our way. Thanks also for your interest re. the 125th Annv. Bks. They should be on their way by now. A special letter from Art Miller of Kamloops. Yes Art we all remember your many years on The Executive and your days as Editor of the paper with the help of your good wife Phil. Ruth and I are trying our best to maintain the high standards previously set ... you will appreciate it gets more difficult each passing year. I appreciate your kind personal and warm commendation re. my own editorship. See you soon ... Long lost Dominick Picone from Trail sends Dues and warm regards to all. How are you Tony? Haven't heard from you since Ruth and I put you on the bus homeward after your surgery in Vancouver some years ago. Trust all is well ...

A note and Life Membership dues from T.D. O'Connor of Naramata. We agree, sorry to hear of Guetre's poor health but his letter indicates his courage and spirit is unfailing as ever ... A sincere and warm note from Mrs. Pearl Townrow of Richmond. Pearl thanks us for keeping her on the mailing list after the death of her husband Jack 'Butch Townrow'. We are pleased to oblige Pearl and I am pleased personally more so because Jack and I were personal friends of over 50 years and joined the B.C.D. Militia at 12 or 13 and later as 17 year olds were on duty with The B.C.D. detachment at Prince George on August 26, 1939. We both came to the Westies in December 1939. Fond memories indeed ... Dues and a word from Chuck Cousins of Courtenay, B.C. Sorry you won't make Melfa '89. Keep trying ... Dues and kind words from Peter Adlem of Victoria, B.C. Hope to see you. From Toronto Chapter, President Pat McCarthy of Toronto. Best wishes for our Melfa Dinner and may we reciprocate and yours on May 13 is a complete success.

Pat always signs his correspondence 'Always A Westie' and that should mean something for ALL OUR REGIMENTAL FAMILY as he left a fine Eastern Regiment to come to us ... An extremely nice letter from Fred Murray (Ex Sgt) Royal Westminster Regiment ... Also a kind donation and application for Life Membership. Sorry re. your receipt Fred but believe that matter has now been settled by Bob Grebinski our new Secretary/Treas... From 'The Desk Of Cliff Wetmore' no less thanks for the remarks and also your 89 dues. Fred Sharp of Chilliwack sends dues and donation and glad your health is improving Fred ... Thanks to Ken Campbell for dues and remarks ... Thanks to The Regiment for dues and list of From PMC Off. Mess ... Dues 89 from H.R.H. Campbell with thanks ... From Stan Drummond dues and donation and best wishes. Hope your health has improved Stan. Dues and kind words from Bob Franks of Vavenby, B.C. Despite your 83 years Bob hope you make the move to Chilliwack you suggest ... Generous donations and application for Video and Brochure from Joe LaCroix of Mission. Delighted to have you back with us Joe ... the absence has been too long ... From Joe Strawson of Box 157, Pitt Meadows, B.C. V3Y 2E6. Your new code noted Joe and thanks for the compliments re. The Groundsheet ... Life membership from Fred Duthie ... many thanks. Donation and Life membership from Bert Woolverton of Burnaby, B.C. Thanks for your kind remarks Bert ... Thanks to W.J. Lenaghan for L.M. dues ... Dues from N. Sholz of 206 - 20460 54th Avenue, Langley, B.C. V3A 6N6. Thank you Ellen Johnson for dues and note your correct address is 5282 Neville Street, Burnaby, B.C. V5J 2H5. Thanks to Jack Smith of Coquitlam ... better late than never Jack. Your dues received Bill Armour and thanks for coming from Victoria for Annual General Meeting. From former Editor and member of the hard working Shannon

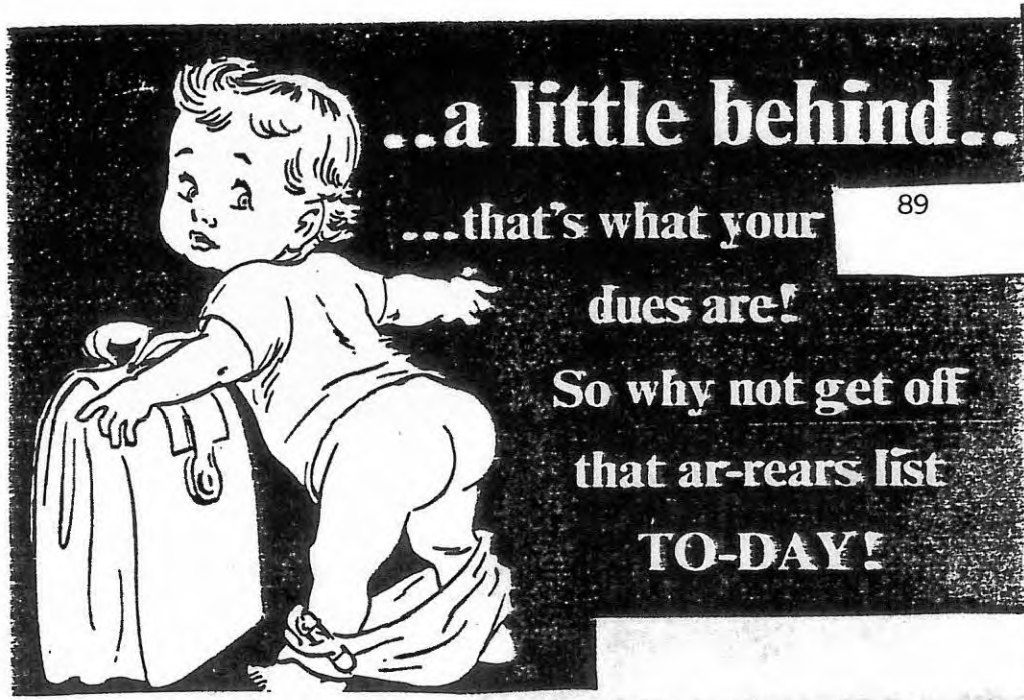


Family in the person of Ed some nice words and a particular tribute to the passing of Col. Mike Steede. Nice to know Ed that you and brother Dick and Mike have your initials in the cement under the Cannon ... a la Hollywood Boulevard. A nice memento Ed. Sorry to hear of your wife's illness ... hope things have improved ... Dan Nikofooruk of Peachland, The Video is V.H.S. only hope this answers your question ... More thanks to Ed. F. Mahoney re. the forthcoming 'D Day' pilgrimage. Thank you Ed and sincere appreciation for your remarks re. The Groundsheet. "The Groundsheet is well thought out and most informative". Your request re. badges has been referred. Word from Jack Laing of Bellingham, Wash., U.S.A. Your golfing partners are waiting Jack ... Thanks to Mrs. Donald Sayce re. your order of Video. Hope its arrived. Dues from John Hiscock of Burnaby Many thanks Lee ... Thanks to Al O'Brien for 89 dues ... L.M. Dues from Bill Jasman of Cultus Lake. Hope your improving re. health ... Walt Kearsley ... Your request all slotted to proper places and trust you have received action. Your letter and photos were much appreciated...



EDITOR AND BERT HOSKIN AT 125TH ANNIVERSARY - November, 1988

WE NEED YOUR DUES AND DONATIONS NOW!



..a little behind..

...that's what your dues are!

89

So why not get off that ar-rears list TO-DAY!

MELFA 89 - MAY 19, 20, 21

* Dinner \$15.00 each/Golf - \$20.00 each/Sunday - No Charge
 * (Circle appropriate number attending)

* Dinner 1, 2, 3, 4 x \$15.00 = _____

* Golf 1, 2, 3, 4 x \$20.00 = _____

* Sunday 1, 2, 3, 4 x N/C = N/C

* TOTAL = _____

* Name (Print) _____

* Send to Ted Usher, 923 B 2nd Street, New Westminster, B.C. V3L 2N8



IN MEMORIAM

Ernest Russell

Westminster Regiment (M) W.W. 2

J.J. Danielson K47 891

Westminster Regiment W.W. 2

Stan Osaćczuk

A Westie if not by name by his years of service to The Regiment & Association.

EDITOR REQUESTS:

Please send all correspondence VIZ with dues and donations to the Secretary/Treasurer. This saves double handling and postage.

Videos of 125 anniversary at \$30.00.

Books at \$10.00

Order from Regiment via museum.

In order to acknowledge as much as the correspondence as possible, highlights of Annual General Meeting will be published in the Fall.

PLEASE ACT AS SOON AS YOU RECEIVE
 YOUR PAPER

Mr. Ted Usher,
 923 B 2nd Street,
 New Westminster, B.C.
 V3L 2N8

CUT OUT ON REVERSE SIDE AND SEND TO
 ABOVE ADDRESS IMMEDIATELY
