



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: 38 ISSUE: 1

FEBRUARY/MARCH 1990

Annual General Meeting

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

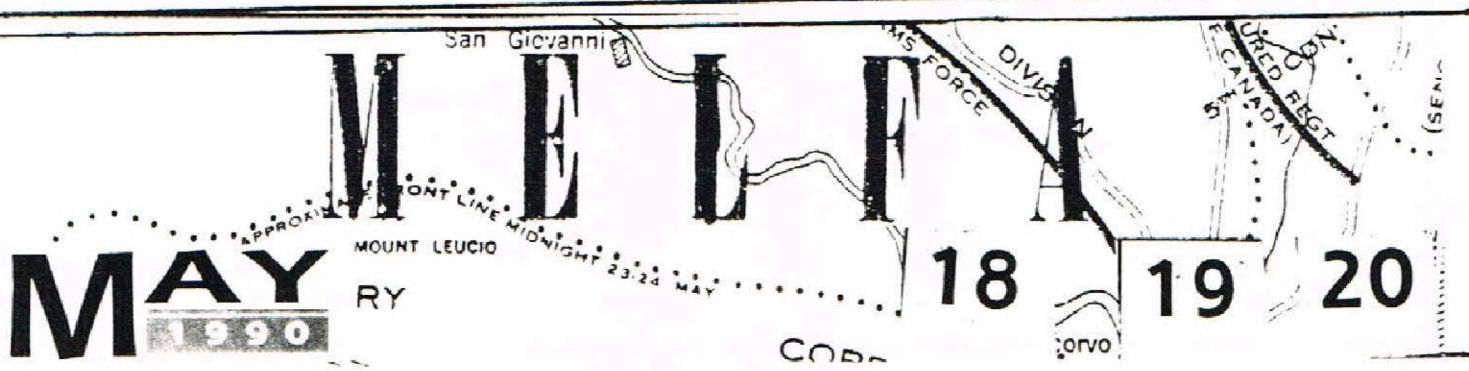
Thursday, March 15 1990


TIME: 8:00 P.M.

PLACE: ARMOURIES Drill Hall in New Westminster
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





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WELCOME TO THE 90's:

From Greed to Glasnost - The let's do it for me decade - Geo Bush's 'Thousand Points of Light' seemed to expend all their brilliance in El Salvador & Panama in time to bid farewell to the 80's. Let's leave all that to the historians. How did our Assoc. fare in the 80's? All in all - very well I should say - Of course I am biased because I'm writing this. There were a few minor gliches (and thats what they really were) vis a vis The Regiment & The Assoc. about the mid 80's. Simply there were some disagreements re. The Future of The Museum. They were expressed democratically, as of course is everyone's right. I believe that is one of the salient things we battled six long years for. The Right of Free expression in print and/or orally without fear of torture or relegation to 'The Ovens'. True there were, in my humble naive opinion, some rather easily bruised egos and a few barbs directed at one another. (Was on the receiving end of a few myself). The situation was much overblown and perhaps that was a good experience for us all from the past decade. Mid Dec. of 1989 was my personal 50th anniversary of association with The Regimental Family. Our initial reception was hardly warm and all eight of us gave serious thought as to how we might get out (Actually many of us could have due to our tender age). I'm glad I stayed and as the old saying goes 'I found a home in the Army' and with the best unit too. There are four of those 8 still alive and still paying their dues. Fred Evans & Roy Little in Kelowna, Bill Gunn in Duncan and yours truly. One of the great privileges of doing this paper (regardless of how amateurish it may appear) is reading the vast amount of correspondence and noting, like we first group of newcomers, the ongoing devout loyalty and respect shown to The Westminster Regimental Family. As Pat McCarthy from Toronto says 'We'll keep going as long as we have two people to sit down for dinner. Right on Pat, so LET'S DO IT. Welcome to the 90's and keep your letter, dues and donations coming.

Ron Hurley
 Editor



FROM THE PRESIDENT:

What can I say that has not been said?

What can I do that has not been done?

1989 is now history and The Association has survived yet another year. We have lost some valued members along the wayside but are continuing on. Currently we have approximately 400 paid up members, including life and yearly. This would tend to increase the percentage from the old one third but it reflects a considerable down turn from the approximately 750 - 800 Groundsheet recipients heretofore. The return of The White Cards sent out in last issue has provided us with a more realistic figure of approximately 500 members who are still paying, donating, and expressing ongoing interest in the Association and The Paper alike. We now know, at least, who is still out there and also your interests. The Editor emphasised in the last edition that 'The Card Process' was by no means an attempt to expel those who have not paid dues from our nominal roles. There were some 75 or so who indicated that they no longer wished to receive The Groundsheet for a variety of personal reasons. That is their collective democratic right and we have adjusted our mailing lists accordingly. More disturbing were the hundreds who did not return the cards or update their whereabouts. Obviously, we cannot mail to unknown addresses. It should be stressed that ALL of the names from nominal rolls long past have been entered on a computer disc and are readily available at a moments notice. Gratifying was the increase in our correspondence from all across the country and abroad. Time and space preclude me from answering and thanking you personally but our most excellent Editor, Ron Hurley (and I know I'll get a blast from him for that description) acknowledges by a line or two every letter received. Your letters are much appreciated KEEP IT UP.

It is sometimes spread over more than one issue re. space but it will be there. Our Association social formats remain basically unchanged, i.e. Melfa & Golf 'D' Coy Picnic in August (a truly grand event) Remembrance Day, etc.

Question: Our December smoker was cancelled for lack of interest and/or numbers. Let us know if you would like it restarted? Thank you for allowing me the privilege of being your President in 1989 ...

Doug Glenn
President



MELFA MELFA MELFA 1990

ADVANCE NOTICE

Yes, it's that time of the year again to mark your calendar for the MELFA WEEKEND. The dates this year are the 18th, 19th and 20th of MAY, 1990.

The dinner is again on the Friday night, the 18th at The Royal Canadian Legion Branch #2 on 12th St. in New Westminster. The world famous MELFA GOLF CLASSIC will be played on Saturday morning at the MYLORA GOLF CLUB. On Sunday there will be a no host afternoon social at the Armoury. The Museum will be open at that time for your viewing. In the next issue of the GOUNDSHEET will be a tear-off slip that you must send in to let me know what functions you and your wife or friend, will be attending. Most important again is that there will be no tickets at the door for the MELFA, so please pay in advance. It makes planning a whole lot easier. Last year almost 99% paid in advance and that was very much appreciated.

The dinner format will follow along the same idea as last year, allowing for less time for speeches but more time for socializing.

So mark your calendar for the 18, 19 and 20th of MAY, 1990 for the MELFA WEEKEND in New Westminster.

As a young person in this ASSOCIATION, I encourage you to attend at least the dinner or the Sunday social for an opportunity to see some old friends. The ASSOCIATION numbers are decreasing each year and your time to spend with those 'old friends' is also decreasing. So please take the time this year and join us at MELFA.

Your Melfa Chairman
Ted Usher

Attention: All Golfers for 1990 MELFA Tournament --- ADVANCE NOTICE


Date: May 19, 1990 Place: Mylora Golf Course, 9991 Sidaway Road,
Richmond, B.C.

Tee Times Start: 11 a.m. Tentative costs per person \$25.00 each

It would greatly assist this Golf Chairman if you would send in your entries EARLY: Also please indicate if you have your own 'Foursomes'. Early confirmation with Mylora Golf Course is essential. Note: To prevent double mail handling send your entries directly to me at the following address: Chuck J. Smithers, #3 - 356 Columbia Street, New Westminster, B.C. V3L 1A6 Phone: (604) 522-5912

DO NOT SEND GOLF ENTRIES TO BOX 854

This gives Melfa Dinner Chairman, Ted Usher a real break as he will not have to separate the Dinner Applications from the Golf entries and re-transmit them to the Golf Chairman. Thanking you for your anticipated co-operation. Sincerely, C.J. Smithers, Golf Chairman



SOME THOUGHTS ON THE ASSOCIATION

There comes a time when some of us because of age or various ailments feel the time has come to turn our responsibilities over to younger, more active members. In leaving the Executive, I thought I might make some comments on the Association and its possible future.

Perhaps it is best to go back to the formation of the Association for we all know that we have had our ups and downs, and have been at odds with the current unit at times. I know many members have been bewildered as to the reasons for these little feuds.

Unknown to some, it was Lt Col Lewis of the Second Battalion who first conceived the idea of an Association, followed by Fred Simpson, and finally when we had our First President, Walter Lyle, and Secretary, Nelson Scott, that the Association began to take on real substance. During these formative years it was decided, and heartily endorsed by all, that the Association would:

- Be an autonomous organization responsible to no senior authority;
- Call members by name only, with no recognition of military rank;
- Be restricted to anyone who served in, or were attached to the Regiment during the Second World War;
- That no Honourary or Associate memberships would be allowed.

With these regulations adopted, it should be clear that some friction would result. Other Associations have gone down a different path, for we find many are directly under the control of the unit or its governing body or former senior officers. That obviously was not acceptable to our membership.

Friction first surfaced through the operation of the Museum and periodic pressure from the Regiment to impose its will on the Association. It was the will of the Executive and members to hold firm to its mandate. With respect to the Museum, our recommendation that our archives artifacts and history could only be achieved in perpetuity was through amalgamation with a civic museum and most of us feel this proposal still holds true. The recent changes in the composition of the Regular Force and Militia Units into a total force, the closure of military camps and buildings and the building of new, so-called "one company armouries" is disturbing to us, and does not seem to be a long term solution to our concerns. We must, however, be conscious of the problems of the Unit, for the new training standards alone leave little time for the unit to participate in museum or Association matters. Hopefully the Hon. Judge A.S.M. McMorran who is Chairman of The Historical Society of The Royal Westminster Regiment Society will find our recommendations acceptable.

But what about the future of the Association itself? It seems appropriate in forecasting a scenario to first review the past history of our associations dating back to the 1918 return of the 47th En., who



SOME THOUGHTS ON THE ASSOCIATION (Cont'd.)

formed the first real Association. Over the years the membership dwindled and were not replaced by new members from the active 1918 to 1939 Militia units. Inevitably, the 47th Bn. Association just ran down.

To me it appears that the same thing is happening to our Association, for few new members are coming forward from the current Militia Regiment, except perhaps for a small number of the more senior ranks. Obviously, if the Regiment chooses to do so they can take over control of the Association Executive at some future Annual Meeting and election of Directors.

Personally I welcome it, for the demise of the Association is inevitable if the Royal Westminster Association is to continue to function as a Society. The only problem I can foresee is the disposal of our financial assets.

I have researched our position pretty carefully, and the most favourable forecast as I see it is that (with a mean age of 71 or 72 for our Second World War veterans) our operation of the Association would end about 1994 in any case. Some loyal oldtimers might ask "Do we just fade away?"


There is something worth considering for such persons. I have always been impressed with The Hon Sir Winston Spencer Churchill Society who meet once per year for a "No Host" luncheon in his memory. At times if a special visitor is in B.C. they may also host an informal dinner, eg. the visit of Lady Soames. This small society always includes in the luncheon a "Key Note" speaker with an intimate knowledge of that great statesman. The Society provides any travel and lecture costs which are often refused. That loose association imposes no major involvement on any one person. I personally like the idea of getting together once a year, and to have a gifted key note speaker gives the luncheon real prestige.

I do not wish to pursue this proposal further unless there is sound evidence that sufficient members agree with my assessment of the situation. Perhaps those who feel as I do would wish to let the Groundsheet know how they feel about the future.

Finally, I do regret how my intense pride in The Westminster Regiment (Motor), our Regiment, has made me so domineering and dogmatic whenever a real or imagined threat to our organization appeared over the years.

H.F. Hoskin

NOTE: The remarks, thoughts, opinions, etc. printed in this article do NOT, necessarily, reflect those of The Editor, The Directors and any or all members of The Association. They are the exclusive expressions of Bert Hoskin on his leaving, after many long years of dedicated service, to the Regiment & Association alike. Ron Hurley, Editor.


 ARTICLE FROM VANCOUVER PROVINCE DATED OCTOBER 22, 1945
 Courtesy of Peter Adlem

COMING EVENTS

WESTMINSTER REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

All residents of New Westminster and the lower mainland who have ever served in the Westminster Regiments, or its predecessors, in peacetime, the South African War, World War I. or World War II., and who are interested in the organization of a regimental association, are requested to communicate with the secretary, Major I. F. Douglas, the Drill Hall, New Westminster. Please give the regimental number, rank, name in full, particular unit served with, and present home address.

A roll will be compiled from these communications and an early organization meeting will be called. The first project of the Westminster Regimental Association will be assisting in the local reception of the 1st Battalion.

COMING EVENTS:

March 15th, 1990 - Annual General Meeting

May 18th, 19th and 20th - Melfa Days

August 5, 1990 - 'D' Coy Picnic ... A truly stellar event

November 11, 1990 - Remembrance Day

SPECIAL EVENT COMMENCING NOVEMBER 10TH FOR TWO WEEKS

'A Canadian Sketchbook' Sponsored by Can. Nat. War Museum.

Subject: Art Display of CanWar Artists of Troops & Life in War Time Holland. The Dutch Consul has requested assistance from Regimental Museums to augment this display by artifacts etc. from various Regimental Museum e.g. perhaps our rebuilt Bren Carrier & Jeep. This will require some ongoing assistance viz. meetings from the Association and Historical Society alike. This will be discussed at Annual General meeting, March 15th and more detailed information provided in next Groundsheet.



FROM THE POST - Re. November 1989 Meeting

A note from Lloyd G. McKenzie - Thanks re. the return of Don MacKenzie's card and trust you have received yours O.K... Thanks to Bob Dashwood for dues and greetings from Mission, B.C... To Alan Brand of Rexdale, Ont. We trust you have received the information re. Steven Nabozniak courtesy of Museum Curator Bas Morgan ... Dues and some nice words from long time Assn. Stalwart George Bayne of Antigonish, N.S. ... It's time you came our way George perhaps Melfa 1990? ... Kind words from 84 year old Ernie M. Adair of Maple Ridge, B.C. and your correction noted ... Thanks to Jack Smith of Coquitlam, B.C. for your Life Membership. That and your comments are much appreciated. We too hope that many more members will adopt the Life Membership route ... L.M. also from former executive member Dave Gowler. Your comments noted Dave and sorry to learn of your illness. We hope you have recovered and we would welcome you back to the fold... Thanks to Spence Bolton for dues and sorry also to learn of your illness. It seems endemic as the years roll on... A kind word and dues from Glen Holling from "The Rain Forest" of Prince Rupert... Not to worry Glen "We" might strike a lottery someday and dues will be then irrelevant... Appreciation to Hugh Wray for the kind remarks and his Life Mem. Yes, Hugh, we agree. We need more help desperately from the survivors of W.W. 2 (The Big One As Archie Bunker would say) ... Compliments and dues from Frank Smith of Kingston, Ont. Frank your query re. dues should be settled by now ... A most interesting letter from Doug Morgan of Langley ... Your analogy re. the 60% Tax Prayers is most apt. For over 40 years it has been a problem within the Assoc. Countless methods tried over the years have failed to increase the percentage of members paying. Perhaps we can a Federal type deficit ... Your dues and donations most appreciated. Some splendid words and a generous donation from Don M. Robertson of Nepean, Ont. (Ex C. Coy). Thank you Don and it was nice to talk with you on my October visit to Ottawa. The support of members outside B.C. and particularly Ontario is out of all proportion compared to our local receipts. Like others who came to this Regt. from other units, etc. it is heartwarming to hear your expressions of loyalty to the Association and Regiment alike. Now if we could only duplicate that here ... Sincere appreciation to 85 year old D.B. MacKenzie for his Life Membership. We hope your positive attitude rubs off on others ... Thanks to Buck McQuillan of Kelowna for dues, donations and kind words re. The Groundsheet and also your concurrence re. the recent "Card Return System". A generous and



FROM THE POST (Cont'd.)

most interesting contribution re. The Groundsheet from Harold & Ruth Bomback of Gold River, B.C. on behalf of daughter Arlene a former member of The Royal Westminster Regiment and now of the permanent forces. We are pleased to accommodate you and our fondest wish is to hear from the 8,000 to 10,000 people who have passed through the Regiment since 1945 ... We also send our congratulations to Arlene for winning "The Commandant's Shield" at Cornwallis for her outstanding academic mark of 97.6%. Arlene's remarks re. her pride are certainly echoed by The Royal Westminster Regiment and The Association alike. It's just this type of achievement that has existed in "Our Regimental Family" for 126 years ... Dues and greetings from H.L. "Whimpy Jones of Moosmin, Sask. Glad you had a reunion with old pal Jim Kyle ... From Cornwall, Ont. from the person of John D. MacLennon dues, donations and kind words re. The Groundsheet. It is our fond hope that the paper will continue for years to come, despite our rapidly depleting ranks ... Nice to hear from old friend Herb Timpe and thanks for your L.M. and hope you are enjoying the south ... Dues and donations from another Ont. Stalwart John Somers. Most appreciated John and it was a personal pleasure to enjoy the reception you have to Mrs. Hurley and myself on our October '89 visit ... Nice to hear from an old workmate Ernie Holland ... Thanks for your L.M. Ernie and trust all is well with you and yours ... Dues and greetings from Bruce Hardy of S. Burnaby, B.C. ... Dues from Cedric Jones. Thanks a lot. By way of Mt. Lehman, B.C. Life Membership and donation from James Taylor. Received with thanks. Yet another Ontario stalwart Bill Dennis Dues and another greeter of Ruth and myself at our small Oct. 89 reunion. Most appreciated Bill. Sincere appreciation to Ethel Johnstone for your donation in memory of late Jack Usher and particularly the warm words you expressed thereto. From Cornwall, Ont. Dues and a change of address from Wilf Alex Tyo now of 232 8th St. W, Cornwall, Ont. K6J 2Z6 ... Apologies to long time member D. Drummond re. your 1989 Dues. We trust the Secy. has suitably apologized and thank you for your 1990 Dues. Dues and greetings from our most expert historian Geo Hughes. George is somewhere in Australia or New Zealand, and we trust he is well and enjoying the summer down there ... Gratitude to old friend Peter Adlem of Victoria who has sent me a photocopy of a Vancouver Province "Coming Events" dated October 22, 1945 which announces the proposed formation of A Regimental Association with advice to communicate with the then Secretary Major I.F. Douglas. Their first object on their agenda



FROM THE POST (Cont'd.)

was to organize a "Local Reception" for the returning 1st Bn. of The Westminster Regiment (MOTOR). I must confess Peter that I had not heard of this before. I was still in Shaughnessy Hospital at that time and was most unaware of Regimental News. This is most interesting. Have you the original and, if so, I am sure The Museum would be most delighted to have it. An extremely nice letter and change of address from Toronto Chapter President Pat McCarthy whose new address as of January 12, 1990 will be: Mrs. Pat McCarthy, 309 Flora Drive, S.S., No. 1, Stroud, Ontario L0L 2M0. Pat organized the welcoming group at The Queens Own Mess for Ruth and myself on our arrival at Toronto from Ottawa in late October, 1989. I thank you Pat for your nice remarks re. "The Hall of Fame Do" and also for the dinner at your home and the night tour of "Cabbagetown". You certainly know your city. Don't know the location of Stroud but trust it will not prevent you from duties in Toronto Chapter ... Also sincere appreciation for your returned list of Ontario Members with their codes and phone numbers. Our membership committee will be pleased. Trust the mistake re. The Tyos of Cornwall has been answered and corrected William J. Tyo's address is 312 Meadowvale Crescent, Cornwall, Ontario. An extremely nice letter from an old friend and fellow C. Coy Soldat. Alex (Bus) Morison of Alvah Banff, Scotland. Glad you got the War Diary Bus and you can really thank Bert Stephens for he gave it to me for my disposal. Re. your question of page 95 and Sgt. Bill Laine. I will have to check it out and let you know ... No Bus Bill is no longer with us but fondly remembered by old C. Coy Types ... I hereby pass on your regards to Sandy Rollo now of Armstrong, B.C. REMAINDER OF CORRESPONDENCE IN NEXT ISSUE...

A Little Behind...

*...that's what your
1990 dues are!*

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





IN MEMORIAM

Jack Headridge	Westminster Regiment (M)	W.W.	2	
Ivan Ackery	47 Branch	W.W.	1	
Edmund R. Ball K50091	Westminster Regiment (M)	W.W.	2	
Harold G. Patton K47 778	Westminster Regiment (M)	W.W.	2	
Harrison R. Rhodes	Westminster Regiment (M)	W.W.	2	
George Victor Burr	Westminster Regiment (M)	W.W.	2	
Jack Usher	Westminster Regiment (M)	W.W.	2	& Royal
R.E. (Bob) McCourt	Westminster Regiment (M)	W.W.	2	Regt.
K47 064				

12th ANNUAL D-DAY DODGERS REUNION

MAY 11, 12, 13, 1990 - ORILLIA, ONTARIO

"THIS YEAR WE HONOR THE ROYAL CANADIAN REGIMENT"

NOTE: Send for registration form to Cliff Evans,
336 Nottawasaga Street,
Orillia, Ontario
L3V 3K6

PLEASE CUT THIS OUT AND RETURN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO:

The Royal Westminster Regiment Association
P.O. Box 854,
New Westminster, B.C.
V3L 4Z8