



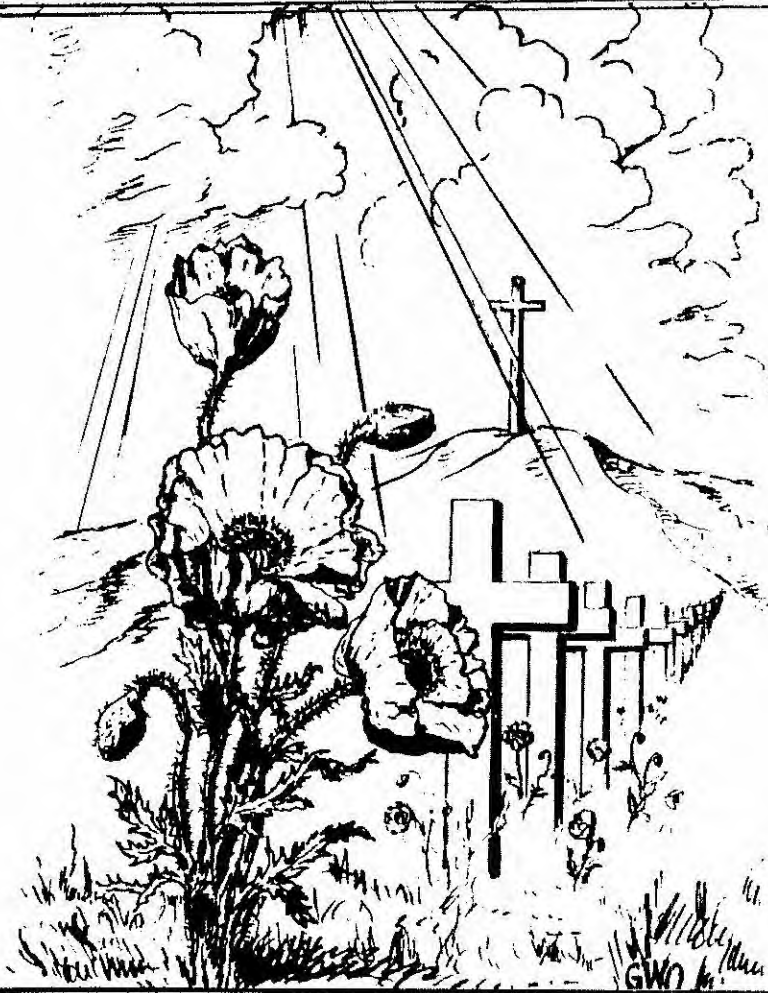
Dedicated to the Ideals and Comradeship
We knew in Wars and Peace and in
Our services both Home and Abroad

THE GROUNDSHEET

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF

VOLUME 39/ISSUE 1

THE ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 854, NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C. V3L 4Z8



1990

NOT FORGOTTEN

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GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome back after the summer hiatus. Your Membership Committee, like the hard working crew at the Museum continued to work through the summer. You will receive with this Groundsheet a separate and updated Nominal Roll Directory of current membership names and addresses. The completion of this took many long hours with constant checking with previous lists. We hope you find this useful. Corrections, changes, deletions, etc. will be listed in future Groundsheets, so please amend your personal copies accordingly. We do regret the small print size but costs, printing, postage, etc. precluded us from preparing this in larger type. Get your magnifying glasses ready.

****WE WELCOME YOUR \$10.00 ANNUAL DUES OR \$50.00 LIFE MEMBERSHIPS NOW.****

SPECIAL REQUEST FROM THE PRESIDENT AND YOUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

Remembrance Day services, Sunday, November 11, 1990, New Westminster, B.C. Please be assembled and seated at the Armouries by 09:30 hours. There is some limited parking in adjacent city hall lot. Our ranks are thinning ... We need you there.

D. Glenn, President

MELFA REPORT 1990

The Melfa Weekend was held May 18, 19 and 20th in New Westminster. On the Friday night dinner was held at the Royal Canadian Legion on 12th Street. Approximately 130 people attended a very delightful evening. Mayor Betty Toporowski and her husband Bob were also in attendance. As usual the Legion staff put on a splendid buffet which always seems to satisfy everyone. As a special item this year all the members who attended were given a small lapel pin. This was a brand new pin produced for the Melfa Dinner. It has the Regimental hat badge and name, along with the colors of the unit. All members who attended were very pleased to receive the pin. All the ladies were treated to a colorful rose of their choice. As another special feature,

MELFA REPORT 1990 (Cont'd.)

the Royal Westminster Regimental Band played a great selection of music during the dinner. Their attendance was very much appreciated. It was also nice to see a good turnout from the active members of the Regiment. The toast to the Melfa was given by Captain Don Haisell who has just recently left the unit and has gone back east to serve with his Regiment, the RCR'S. Don served our unit as the Regular Support Staff detachment commander. I felt the toast that Don gave to the membership was very suitable for the occasion. The Regiment and the Association will miss Don for his contributions. It was also my pleasure to have Walter Lyle give the toast to the Regiment. The Loyal toast was given by Master Corporal Pat Hyska, a serving member of the Unit. The toast to the City was given by Co. Bill McKinney which was followed up with a reply by the Mayor. Bruce Eaton offered the toast to the Fallen Commrades. As an extra feature a few door prizes were given out along with some official cowboy hats from Calgary, which were presented by our friend Dominick from Calgary.

I would like to thank those of you who again offered your gratitude and support for my work. Your attendance is the satisfaction I get for putting the work into the dinner. I hope that 1991 will see more come out. I would like to thank each and everyone who sent their money in advance. You have no idea how easy it makes everything else when you do that.

On Saturday a golf tournament was held and Chuck Smithers will be reporting on that. Thanks Chuck for putting effort into that part for me.

On Sunday there were approximately 70 people who came out to the Officers Mess in the Armoury and had a social get together. The Regimental Museum was open for the afternoon and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. I would like to thank Basil Morgan for his time in opening up for the membership.

In closing my report I would like to say that I have enjoyed putting together these Melfa Weekends for the past five or six years. It is a great pleasure to put an effort towards something that pays off. That pay off to me was the satisfaction I got from seeing so many old friends get together and talk and laugh about old times. The unfortunate part of it is that no more of you who are out there, don't take part. I will not be the Melfa Chairman in 1991 due to other commitments, however I hope those of you who supported me will support the new Chairman just as well.

Again thank you very much.

Ted Usher

"THE JOY OF FREEDOM" - NOVEMBER 8 - 27, 1990
DUTCH COMMEMORATION OF THE LIBERATION OF HOLLAND

On behalf of "THE JOY OF FREEDOM" (TJOF) Committee, it is with great regret that I must inform the membership of the Postponement of the celebrations marking the liberation of Holland by Canadian and other Allied Forces.

Simply stated, the committee was confronted with the fact that there was so much planned and so little time to do it in.

Now What? This event will be re-scheduled for either May or November 1991. Your help is needed in one very important area. It is the intention of TJOF Committee to publish a booklet containing the recollections of Canadian soldiers and Dutch citizens on their first encounters with each other, or to record some incident which was memorable to them during the period of liberation. All of you who served in Holland during the period of its liberation have a story to tell and we would like to hear from you. When the book is published, I would be most proud to see your contribution with the notation under your name that you served with the Westminster Regiment. Our Regiment has a story to tell, let's help tell it.

Let us set the deadline for a submission of these articles for March 31, 1991. Please forward any articles directly to: Jerry N. Gangur,
 2015 Hyannis Drive, North Vancouver, B.C. V7H 2E5.

"D" COMPANY ANNUAL PICNIC

Chilliwack Branch #3 ("D" Coy) of the Royal Westminster Regiment Association celebrated its 17th annual picnic and meeting on Sunday, August 5th, 1990, at Circle 6 Ranch, Columbia Valley, with 62 members and guests attending.

As the heat wave was still at its height the shade along Frost Creek was again most welcome. President John McConnell and Linda relinquished their chef duties, with Bill and Debbie Soutar taking over, and the steak and baked potatoes and trimmings were much enjoyed. A strong turn-out of younger family members were on hand and Shea Henderson at a year and six weeks again won honors as youngest attendant.

At 3:30 the Branch annual meeting was convened with 33 members and guests present. After the President's greeting he reported that Wilf Nelson's,

"D" COMPANY ANNUAL PICNIC (Cont'd.)

Gordon Moor's and Bob Franks' names had been added to the Flask. He thanked Bernie Doughton for rejoining the ceremonial parade as piper, after an out-of-district stay, and also Dan McDermid appearing as bugler for the first time, a very welcome addition. A moment's silence was observed for all members and guests who had passed on since last picnic. Bruce Eaton was named Parade O.C., and the parade time was set at 4:30. Congratulations were extended to Ann and Jeff Britton on the arrival of young Sam, their firstborn.

A letter of thanks for flowers on the occasion of his recent hospitalization, addressed to Bruce Eaton, was read from Bert Hoskin.

The financial statement showed the Branch bank balance to be \$1,488.60.

The Regimental report was given by Lt.-Col. Bill White who advised that one exercise per month was planned for the Regiment, with a P.T. test every two months. He noted that "A" Coy had appeared in the Hyack Festival parade and that Exercise On Guard 90 had combined both regular and reserve units. He advised that RSM Crawford was moving to Ottawa and invited applications for the vacated position. He also noted that the start-up of an Abbotsford - Matsqui company was in the planning stage. Six cadets were again reported to be in Cyprus.

Doug Glenn, Regimental Association President, thanked Marion, Sam and Elsie for their kind hospitality and noted that the annual "D" Coy picnic was one of the best events of the Association year. He advised that the Association once numbered over 800 but that the current membership stood at 438. He stated that the major events of the year had become the Melfa Dinner and the "D" Coy picnic.

Ron Hurley noted that Wilf Nelson's name would be in next Groundsheet's obituary column. He reported that Gino Bortolussi and he had been invited to Trenton, Ont., for induction into the Canadian Forces Military Athletic Hall of Fame and that their Westminster Regiment blazers had attracted fantastic attention. He stated that he had warm memories of the Ontario hospitality as shown by the Sergeants' Mess of the Queen's Own. He referred to the good efforts made by so many members to attend Association functions in spite of serious disabilities and the lingering effects of war wounds.

"D" COMPANY ANNUAL PICNIC (Cont'd.)

Following further remarks by various members, the Flask of Remembrance was circulated. Bruce Eaton, Trustee Committee Chairman, reported that a majority of eligible "D" Coy members had been polled and proved to be agreeable to the idea of the Flask being declared a Tontine. A resolution was moved by Bruce Eaton, seconded by Fred West and carried, declaring the Flask of Remembrance a Tontine -- that is, that the last surviving eligible member of "D" Company will be entitled to receive the Flask and to dispose of it as he sees fit.

Generous donations totalling \$271.00 were received. Norm McAskill offered a further donation of \$1,000.00 to the Branch. He was again warmly thanked by the President, followed by a hearty round of applause. A vote of thanks to the other participating members of the Circle 6 family was warmly approved, with special mention of Bill and Debbie Soutar for their good work with the steaks, potatoes and trimmings. The current slate of officers was then re-elected by acclamation: in addition to John, Ed Shannon, 1st Vice-President, Hugh Shannon, Secretary-Treasurer.

The Branch parade was called around 4:30 p.m., with Bruce Eaton, C.O., Sam Soutar as Flag Officer and Dick and Ed Shannon, colour party. John McConnell called the Roll of Honour. Following the invocation, Last Post and playing of the 23rd Psalm, the lament "Flowers of the Forest" was played by Bernie Doughton. The Company was then dismissed "Until next year". Next picnic meeting will be held on Sunday, August 4, 1991. H. Shannon

MELFA GOLF TOURNAMENT

Held June 18, 1990 at Delta Golf Club.
 Low Gross Winner! George McGregor
 2 Low Gross! Chuck Smithers
 Long Drive 15th Hole: Terry Smith
 Long Drive 9th Hole: Stan Conway
 K.P. 11th Hole: Chuck Smithers
 Low Net: Wilf Johnsen
 2nd Low Net: Terry Leita
 Ladies Low Gross: Isa Lowe
 2nd Ladies Low Gross: Dolly Hammersy
 Ladies Low Net: Ida Hartley
 2nd Ladies Low Net: Nelly Hogarth
 Special thanks for \$200.00 donation George Williams: -
 Williams Moving & Storage.

Jim Blatherwick, 59 Courtney Crescent, New Westminster, B.C. V3L 4M1
June 28, 1990,
D.W. Glenn, President of The Royal Westminster Regiment Asso.,
Box 854, New Westminster, B.C. V3L 4Z8
Dear Mr. Glenn:

I would like to thank you and your organization for selecting me as the recipient of the J. Ford Bursary this year. I intend to use the money you have graciously bestowed on me by applying it towards tuition fees at Simon Fraser University. For my first year there I intend to major in political science and in the future I may pursue planning courses.

It is my intent to start out as a city planner. This will give me the experience necessary to pursue my long term goals. My long term goals are to get involved in politics. This can be local, provincial, or federal politics. I feel that I can make a difference in the world so I want to be in a position to have an impact. I have served in the naval reserve and have ideas of rejoining the military. However, the reduced role of the military due to current world peace and stability tends to deter me.

Thank you once again for awarding me this bursary. I know it will help lead me towards my goals so that I can put back into the community what it has given me.

Sincerely, Jim Blatherwick

The 2316 Royal Westminster Regiment Cadet Corps is housed in the Armoury and sponsored and affiliated to the Regiment. This cadet corps is over 40 years old and has had many of its young people leave the corps and go onto the militia and some even have joined the regular service. Over the past two or more years the corps has been struggling when it comes to the number of cadets enrolled. It seems that to get over 25 cadets active, is very difficult. We offer one of the best programs for the youth today. If anyone in the Association knows a young boy or girl ages 12 to 19 that is looking for a worth while hobby that is full of exciting things to do, have them come to the Armoury any Monday evening after 1830 hours. We could really use the help in building up the numbers.

The cadet corps is also trying to raise some funds to buy Regimental belt buckles and lanyards. We don't have a lot of money to pay for such items as they are not issue so we must look to other means. We feel it will look very good to have several of the cadets wearing the "REGGY BRASS" and lanyard. If any of you would like to donate towards the purchase of the buckles and lanyards it would be very greatly appreciated. If interested please contact me at home, 526-4605 or write to me, Capt. Ted Usher CD, 530 Queens Ave., New Westminster, B.C. V3L 1H7.

CORRESPONDENCE

Preamble from your editor: As stated earlier I regret that space and timing do not permit me to respond to your correspondence as it is received - also that I am precluded from printing many of your interesting letters in full. I do, however, acknowledge by a word or two all correspondence referred to me by your executive directors ... It is a personal privilege to receive them and I extend my appreciation to you all for many contributions. These will be somewhat dated but they are acknowledged ... Many thanks .Ron Hurley

A request and fine gesture from Capt. R.H. Eaton a Coy Royal Westminster Regiment Capt. Eaton would like to supply all of his officers with copies of Westminster Regiment War Diaries. Although no extra copies exist - there has been preliminary efforts re. production of paper back copies. Capt. Eaton your thoughts were discussed and tabled for further investigation. The donations you refer to from Association members will also be considered at that time ...

Thanks to Gordon Radmore again for more information on Geo. Billany and Ellerbeck of Mission, B.C. ... Belated thanks to Bill Gunn of Duncan, B.C. for kind remarks and 1990 dues. To 80 year old Toronto stalwart John Somers thanks for dues and your new address of apt. 405 - 125 Stafford Road, Willowdale, Ontario M2R 1V5. Thanks to old C Coy mate Tom Rusnak for 90 dues. Trust this finds you well Tom. A word and dues from Frank Reiser No. K 74 908 A Coy 4305 27th Street, Vernon, B.C. V1T 4Y5. Dues and thanks to G.V. Shaw. Thanks also to Chappie, i.e. J.A. Chapman of Box 1803, Hope, B.C. V0X 1L0 for your life membership. You can look up the old Cat Skinner Ken Morgan & George MacDonald of C Coy who now reside in Hope ... L.M. and thanks also to Ray Rolandi - also dues from Ellen Johnson of 5282 Neville Street, Burnaby, B.C. V5S 2H5 ... Words and dues from loyal association member Clarence (Silent) Smith of Rosetown, Sask. Trust your crops will flourish this year Clarence ... Nice sentiments, life membership and donation from Al Wilson of New Westminster. As you say Al we shall strive to "Keep Going". A nice \$50.00 donation from Thomas H. Guest of 2506 Duferin, Saskatoon, Sask. No letter enclosed but many thanks Tom ... Although not a member a kind donation in memory of our departed comrade Sid Burton from Bill McAuley of 8523 Karman Avenue, Burnaby, B.C. V3N 2A3. Much appreciated Bill ... From Harry Herman of 6957 Pinehurst Drive, Vancouver, B.C. V5X 4N9 dues and donation. We have missed you at the reunions Harry ... Kind words for the Groundsheet and dues from Hal Campbell ... and another fine donation in memoriam for Sid Burton from his old pal Billy Armour. Dues from Colin Cameron of 504 Ash Street, New Westminster, B.C. V3M 3N5 ... From Ed Wilson

CORRESPONDENCE (Cont'd.)

dues for '90. No, Ed your life membership means just that. You are paid up for life but your thoughtfulness is warmly appreciated ... A fine congratulatory letter with life membership and generous donation from Joe Strawson of 11956 Bonson Box 157, Pitt Meadows, B.C. V3Y 2E6. Your warm expressions of gratitude to the Association and the paper are mindful of the many we receive from members from across Canada and abroad... Dues and kind words from Bruce Hardy of 4654 Burke Street, South Burnaby V5H 1C3. Thanks to 84 year old Ernie Adair of #203 - 11867 222nd Street, Maple Ridge, B.C. V2X 5V4. There are many like you Ernie and your payment of Life Membership at this time of your life is most heartwarming indeed ... Life Membership and donation from Aubrey Coutts. Sorry to learn of your severe motor accident and trust this finds you well on the road to recovery ... Belated thanks to original C. Coy Stalwart Bill McIntyre of Mission for L.M. and sincere appreciation for your many contributions to the Museum ... A nice word and L.M. from Bill Jeffrey of 1100 - 10104 - 103rd Avenue, Edmonton, Alta. T5J 0H8, Phone: (403) 429-8900. Thanks Bill and hope your daughter's graduation day was a very special day for you and her ... All the way from Grande Prairie, Alta. 9661 86th Avenue, T8V 0A4 dues and a note from James A. Gould. Let's hope we see you out this way soon ... From 83 year old Art (Limey, Woodbine) Ward some kind remarks and best wishes to the Association. Art we need you with us to augment C. Coy Ranks ... From Jack A. Smith of 237 Hart St., Coquitlam, B.C. V3K 4A3. Ex K 47 081. No problem, your letter and dues were directed to the proper place ... i.e. Secy. Box 854, New Westminster, B.C. From old friend and Toronto Chapter Stalwart. Alfie Whie of 200 Bogert Ave., North York, Ont. M2N 1K9. Thanks for the dues and donations Alfie from yourself and also on behalf of Cliff Newbigging of 366 Culford Road, Toronto, Ont. M6L 2V9. Thanks again for the fine reception you gave Mrs. Hurley and myself re. my Oct. 89 visit after Hall of Fame induction. It was certainly good to see you all ... From another Toronto Stalwart Ed Guthrie of 27 Pendeen Ave., Toronto M6N 2P4 life membership and some kind words of respect for Bert Hoskin. Many share your kind thoughts of Bert Ed and thanks re. your kind remarks re. The Groundsheet ... From Jack Terpenning of 1295 Tracksell Ave., Victoria, B.C. V8P 2C8. We agree your remarks re. the passing of Jack Headridge and the many others which seem to increase our Obit list each issue ... Kind words and apologies from Capt. Retd. W. Mike Kedziora C.D. of Apt. 601 - 511 Ash Street, New West. V3M 3N4. Sorry to learn of your ill health and no apologies required Mike ... A note from Orville Burden of Armstrong, B.C. I believe Pres. Doug has answered your queries by now. From X Pay Chuck Cousins of 4250 Island Hwy., South Comp., R.R. 6, Courtenay, B.C. and we do hope you make it over for 'A Safari' soon ... Dues and kind words from Gord Corman of R.R. 1, Millgrove, Ontario.

CORRESPONDENCE (Cont'd.)

Via the East Coast a nice letter from George Bayne of R.R. 3 Antigonish, N.S., B2G 2L1. Always a pleasure to hear from you George. Nice to hear that and your wife enjoyed the 125th Annv. Tape. As you say the photo behind The Vickers in one frame may well be that of your brother Day - will try to check it out. By the way George, don't drive out this way. Hop a plane its cheaper and faster. A most friendly and informative letter from Paul Kosh of 11040 Blundell Road, Richmond, B.C. V6Y 1L3, Phone: 273-4092 and many thanks for the fine bit of poetry - I hope to publish it some day. Note that the poetry is signed Cpl. Peter Koshhelanyk. Are you one and the same?? A fine letter from Len Welch of Welch's Family Food Market, 52 Hunter St. E., Peterborough, Ont. K9H 1G5. Note your remarks on joining the unit A Coriano and your fine expressions of loyalty to The Westies ... Perhaps this will produce some results from some of your old 'A' Coy buddies ... Belated best wishes to all re. 1990 Melfa (belated by us that is in publishing) for kind remarks re. the Groundsheet and the Association from the 'Ol Toronna Gambler' Bill Majury. Thanks for the L. Mem Bill and your most complimentary remarks re. The Groundsheet. I have passed your greetings to Ted Hammersley and he reciprocates forthwith. For the many who had the pleasure of knowing Bill you will know that he is some 87 years along life's pathway, looks 57, has just paid his life membership, hits Woodbine Track in Toronto everyday and like the jolly wee leprechaun he is - forever optimistic. Bill, we just lost a member in his 103rd year so your just a stripling yet ... Pat McCarthy's timely and indepth remarks re. The Association were well received and have been tabled for more discussion in the fall. Thanks to Ava Wood for the letter and advise of the death of her father of 98 Brantford Street, Spruce Grove, Alta. T7X 1C2. Our condolences to your family and I believe the President has responded to you personally. Dues and greetings from H.H. Stenbeck of Fort Sask Alta. T8L 2J9. Dues and life membership from John O. Coughlin, K47939 of 48222 Ryder Lake Rd., Sardis, B.C. V2R 1B1. Dues from Jim Walsh of 705A 14th Ave., Cranbrook, B.C. V1C 2Y5, thanks for the donation also Jim and nice to hear of you again ... Thanks to John (Lee) Hiscock for your dues and kind remarks ... From A.N. Jackson of Box 3096, Merritt, B.C. V0K 2B0 dues and thanks to all ... A nice note from Frank Grace of Box 113, Revelstoke, B.C. V0E 2S0 and thanks for dues on behalf of C. Moorwood of Salmon Arm, B.C. A note of thanks to Pres. D. Glenn from Geo. P. Demetruk of Lompoc, Calif. and we hope you got the information you required ... Nice to have you aboard George ... A fine letter from this year's recipient of The John Ford Memorial Bursary a Jim Blatherwick of 50 Courtney Cres., New Westminster, B.C. V3L 4M1. Congratulations Jim and The Regimental Family wishes you every success in reaching your goals... Confirmation from New West Secondary School of the presentation made to Mr. Blatherwick ... A thank you

IN MEMORIAM

CSM Hudson Bready	K47026	Westminster Regiment	W.W. 2
H.W. Cartwright	K47241	Westminster Regiment & Regiment Force	
S.D. Crowle	K48004	Westminster Regiment & Regiment Force	W.W. 2
Thomas Nutley	K47363	Westminster Regiment	W.W. 2
Roy J. Healy	K573965	Westminster Regiment	W.W. 2
J. Murray Hume	K47047	Westminster Regiment	W.W. 2
N. L. Johnson		Westminster Regiment	W.W. 2
Mel Glover		Westminster Regiment	W.W. 2
Clyde Kidd		Westminster Regiment	W.W. 2

DUES \$ 10:00 PER YEAR
LIFE MEMBERSHIP : \$ 50:00



Be an early bird!