

# THE GROUND SHEET

40 ISSUE 3  
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THE ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION  
P.O. BOX 854, NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C. V3L 4Z8



*John Thudford*

*And all I ask  
is a merry yarn  
from a laughing  
fellow rover,  
And quiet sleep  
and a sweet dream  
when the long trick's over.*

## OUR SILENT REMINDER

# Be An Early Bird



Pay 1992 Dues (\$10.00) before November 30, 1991. By doing so you will greatly assist in the continuance of YOUR ASSOCIATION and ensure the delivery of The Groundsheet - Better still, send in \$50.00 for Life Membership ergo: no more worries over forgetting. Never mind forgotten past dues - if your conscience bothers you - simply send in a donation - WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT TO KEEP GOING.

November 11 - Monday: Remembrance Day Services

Be at the armouries at 9:30 hours for service and short walk to Cenotaph Association. Dress - Berets and Medals - Please record turnout expected.

"Westies"

They are no old men standing there,  
For if you look in the hearts of all  
You'll find again the vibrant youths,  
Who rallied to their country's call.

The line is formed and forth they march  
In memory of those by gone days.  
Their heads are proudly lifted up  
As on that cherished flag they gaze.

It matters not that here and there  
Some one may need a helping hand,  
Every man who is marching there  
Is still a soldier of our land.

The Sergeant's voice reads out the roll  
As silence on the company falls.  
The list is overlong of those  
Who do not answer when he calls.

In each heart fond memories linger  
Of departed comrades and friends;  
As Last Post echoes across the valley  
This day of poignant tribute ends.

Colleen S. Scambler

Melfa '91

Melfa 91 a resounding success - weather good - dinner excellent, Golf Par Shattering, and the Sunday Brunch Relaxing.

Some 115 plus 13 guests enjoyed the dinner and the chance to renew old friendships. Despite the absence (the first in many years) of our editor, due to illness - it was gratifying to greet many first time attendees ... The suitable "Toasts" were tastefully given and responded to in like kind.

Melfa '91 (Cont'd.)

Domenick, from Calgary, was there once again - disturbing his quota of Ten Gallon Hats. (The editor is still waiting for his promised chapeau). The evening was further enhanced by the presentation of a "Plaque of Merit to past President Doug Glenn for his years of dedicated service to the Association directors. Doug was under strict orders from President Elect Chuck Smither not to "Belittle and/or minimize his accomplishments. Doug's loyal and hard working assistant, his wife Pam was honored by presentation of a set of silver goblets - much deserved - these awards were financed by direct donations from his grateful fellow directors and were not an expense to the Association in any way.

We are looking forward to Melfa '92 and, despite our ever dwindling numbers, are hoping for better attendance next year.

President, Chuck Smithers &  
Melfa '91 Committee

Thank you all.

Melfa Golf Report of May 18, 1991

Delta Golf Course.....	39 Attending (Best for sometime)
Winners: Low Gross.....	Geo. McGregor
2nd Low Gross.....	Scotty Low
Ladies Low Gross.....	Isa Low
Low Net.....	Jerry Gangur
Ladies Low Net.....	Ida Hartley
Reg't Low Gross.....	Steve Cowan
Guests: Men's Low Gross.....	Bill Clydesdale
Ladies.....	Anne Markem
Long Drive Mens.....	Barry Jones
Long Drive Ladies.....	Judy Hogarth
K.P.....	Wilf Morton
Cash Donations.....	Geo. Williams, Ed Shannon, Ted Hammersley, Joe Bush, Doug Glen, Chuck Smithers
Prizes Donated By.....	Mack Agencies (Jamie McKenzie)
.....	Labatts Breweries, N.W. Police Dept.

Thanks to Stan Conway & Ken Moyes re. excellent scoring work ...

Golf Committee: Dick Armstrong and Chuck Smithers.

"D" Company Annual Picnic

The 18th annual picnic and meeting of Branch #3 ("D" Company) of the Royal Westminster Regiment Association was held on Sunday, August 4th, 1991, at Circle 6 Ranch, Columbia Valley, Chilliwack.

While the turnout was a smaller one, the delightful weather and warm welcome were vintage and the entire afternoon most enjoyable. Fifty-eight members and guests attended and a bevy of younger generation chefs including D'Arcy-Jane Henderson, Jeff Britton and Marion Soutar produced many excellent steaks accompanied by salad and baked potatoes. The latter have been supplied for years by Bruce and Alice Eaton and good they were, too. Bernie Doughton played the pipes for us as an aid to digestion (Scots wha hae, that is) and song, clarinet and piano music by John and Mary Young was a delightful addition. Tune up your pipes, lads and lasses, the sing-along can be a great deal better. Thank you for your participation, Elsie, and thanks to you Sam, for your great idea. Ann (Soutar) Britton and Big Sam graced our gathering most of the afternoon. Most distant visitor was Doris Moore, McLure, B.C., and youngest, Amanda Guliker at nearly eight months.

At approximately 3:30 p.m., the branch meeting was held with twenty two members and guests in attendance and President John McConnell in the chair. He reported the addition to the Flask of the names of Copper Newitt and John Clifford. A bugler, Joe Hobek, was expected. Bruce Eaton was again named Parade O.C. Ruth Newitt was welcomed as the Branch's new Historian and committee member, with much of Copper's memorabilia of the Regiment to be displayed, hopefully, at future picnics. The chefs were heartily thanked for the excellence of the cookery.

The Secretary read a card of thanks for flowers from Ruth Newitt who expressed Copper's great love for his Branch and Association. A letter was read from Ron Hurley enclosing the generous donation of \$50.00 and expressing his regrets on being unable to attend the picnic. The financial statement was then presented showing a balance on hand of \$1,215.99, still showing the effects of Norm McAskill's most generous donation.

Colonel White reported on the training program at Fort Lewis which had included range work and forced marches. Live fire training had been carried out at the computer - controlled camp at Yakima and the Airborne Platoon had had an active year with jump sessions at Abbotsford, in Alberta and at home. Jumps at Reno and Hawaii were scheduled for the future. "B" Company was established successfully at Abbotsford with a complement ranging between 20 and 30. He also reported that four cadet corps were operating in Abbotsford, Sumas and New Westminster.

"D" Company Annual Picnic (Cont'd.)

Chuck Smithers, President of the Regimental Association, reported that there were 135 life members and 113 annual members. Out of a total membership of 438, 190 received the Groundsheet without paying dues. 45% of the annual dues - paying members were post war. He reported the obituaries of M.C.L. Adair, Merv. Sands, Bill Barrett, Bill Robertson and Mary Parr-Pearson.

Lynn Edmonds reported that she had collected over \$200.00 in Regimental Association dues at the picnic and was thanked for her good efforts.

Bruce Eaton advised that he had visited Bert Hoskin in hospital on Saturday and had found him in good spirits but very restricted in activity. He reported that Ron Hurley had developed shingles and was awaiting the results of further tests. Walter Lyle advised that he had seen Norm McAskill in hospital recently and that Norm had not recognized him and had also not known Doug Glenn when visited.

Chuck Smithers passed on Doug Glenn's regrets for being unable to attend the picnic. Curley Janelle and Bill Jasman were reported to be ill or in hospital. Bas Morgan was reported to have been selected by the Minister of Veterans Affairs to be a member of a committee of five who would visit Canadian grave sites in Italy and n/w Europe in the 1995 VE Day Memorial observances.

The plight of our members who were unwell or in hospital was regretted by all. Messages will be going out to them at an early date.

A vote of thanks to Marion, Sam and Elsie for their kind hospitality was heartily approved.

The Flask of Remembrance was then circulated. Generous donations totalling \$382.00 were received.

President John referred to the appointment of Ruth Newitt as Branch Historian and committee member and stated that Copper had accumulated photos and documents relating to the Regiment which would be of interest to all. He recalled that Ruth was a member of the original committee which had consisted of D'Arcy and Elsie Baldwin, Leo and Daisy Wright, Copper and herself, and which had been responsible for establishing the annual picnic in 1973.

The current slate of officers, John McConnell, President, Ed Shannon, 1st Vice-President and Hugh Shannon, Secretary-Treasurer, were returned by acclamation.

## "D" Company Annual Picnic (Cont'd.)

The parade and ceremony then followed shortly before 5:00 p.m., and the Roll of Honour was called. As our bugler was unfortunately held up by traffic, the stand-by tape was utilized, with some difficulty. This resulted in the regrettable loss of the Retreat call and reduced the Last Post to its Reveille conclusion. During the playing of the 23rd Psalm the colours were lowered and presented by the colour party of Sam Soutar, Dick and Ed Shannon. Then the familiar lament, "Flowers of the Forest" was piped by Bernie Doughton as an appropriate end to the ceremony.

The parade was then dismissed "until next year". Next picnic date will be Sunday, August 2nd, 1992.

Hugh Shannon



John Somers,  
Todmorden Br.,  
Toronto,  
Life Membership

### FROM THE POST

Congratulations to John Somers of Toronto on your Life Membership to your Legion Branch. Most richly deserved John and we in the Association salute you and your Toronto and other Ontario chapter members are warmly thought of for your continuing loyalty to the Assoc. and you epitomize what our Assoc. is all about. The Westminster Regt. (M) W.W. 2 was enriched by your presence and you played no small part in establishing the wonderful W.W. 2 record our Regiment achieved. By the way, John - no apologies needed re. your handwriting - it is more than legible. Many of us wish, if and when, we reach our eighties we can do half as well... Sincere thanks to Harold Miller of 25246 Running Horse Rd. Newhall California, U.S.A. 91321 for your most generous donations and for your extremely complimentary remarks re. my Editorship - hardly deserved, I suspect, but gratifying you value the contact re. the Groundsheet you so much enjoy. Regret space precludes me from publishing your letter in too but assure you it will be read out at September Executive Meeting. From Surrey, B.C. dues and a word from Ed Wilson... Thanks for the reference to Chuck Davis and your quest for dues from same... Kind thoughts from Frank Johnson of Winnipeg, Manitoba ... Trust you will make The Fort Garry's re. union in Chase, B.C. and contact the Association ... Many thanks to old friend and former 9 Platoon Section Carrier Driver Al Manuel (and a damned good soldier and driver alike) Al Manuel of 515 Cree Dr., Kamloops, B.C. V2H 1G7. Thanks Al for your Life Membership ... much appreciated ... From another old "C" Coy stalwart Bob Dashwood of Mission, B.C. By now President Chuck Smithers had advised you of A.G. Bus Morison's address in Scotland. Make sure you note the "ONE R" in the name Morison - Bus will appreciate that ... Belated but

FROM THE POST (Cont'd.)

sincere appreciation to Freda Hogg re. her information of her late husband's will. I believe the Assoc. has responded to your kind letter by now ... From loyal ex Westie & Assoc. member Bill McIntyre of Mission, B.C. Glad you and your missus enjoyed Melfa '91 and your many old comrades and friends. Yes we share your sentiments Bill re. "No Shows" from local area - have been trying to correct that over 40 years - little success to date... Ironically and regrettably Mrs. Hurley and yours truly missed our first Melfa in decades - sorry beyond my control ... Personal thanks to Vern Ardagh for his continuing submissions of material re. possible G.S. usage via Les Deane and Archie Miller received letter from a Don Benson re. his seeking possible assistance for his writing a "Narrative Verse History of Royal Westminster Regt ... Phoned him immediately after his letter. Offered some aid but no return call to date since May 1991 ... Sincere thanks to old "D" Coy stalwart Gordon Higginson of Sardis, B.C. for your dues and generous donation. We will continue to print G.S. as long as loyal members like yourself support us so generously. Bottom line Gord is funds - the pool is drying up and WE NEED MORE MEMBERS TO PAY THEIR ANNUAL DUES. Donations always welcome. Thoughtful words of encouragement and dues from C.E. "Buck McQuillan" of Kelowna - We agree Buck THE OLD GUARD IS LITERALLY "FADING AWAY". Appreciation to Joe Strawson re. your offer of some pictures you have offered. I'm sure Nelson Scot will direct them to proper channels. Sorry to hear of your cardiac problems Murray Fairweather K47170 Ex "B" Coy 8 please get well soon and thanks for your kind donation. From old friend Bill "Pop" Jameson your remarks to our President noted Bill but doubt you have lost your Blonde & Re. Head excitement factor. Sincere appreciation to Roy Durury of Blind Bay, B.C. and your thoughtful inclusion of the grave sites of three fallen Westies at OSTERBEEK CEMETERY in Holland. Cpl. A.A. St. Cyr Pte. T. Huth and Pte. W.J. Koller. This will be valuable information in est. an updated list of all Westies interred on Foreign Soil ... Thanks for the new address of Gordon "Bud" Mabbet now R.R. #6, Site C 60, C5, Courtenay, B.C. Thanks for your dues Patrick and always nice to have those who have served in ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT on our rolls ... YOU ARE OUR FUTURE ... Thanks again to Norm Brault of Calgary re. your confirmation, albeit sad, of the death of our much respected W.W. 2 R.S.M. John "Scotty" Clifford. Keep those "Cards and Letters" coming Norm ... President Chuck has "The Crest" situation in hand ... News, dues and some thoughts from Lawrence Carpick of Winnipeg, Manitoba. We share your sentiments re. "Scotty" Clifford but pleased you were able to visit with A.E. Wright ... Our thoughts and hopes are with some stalwart Westies, Norm McAskill - in hospital and Curley Janelle, now home, but not in the best of shape ... and best of good wishes to all members who find themselves in similar circumstances ... Courtesy of Hon. Col. W.E.



FROM THE POST: (Cont'd.)

McKinney, the Assn. lauds the information that Lt. Col. H.Y. Lee C.D. as "Regimental Secretary" Col. Lee is a fine man and will do well in his new appointment.

ODE TO THE WESTIES: I WONDER IF THEY HEARD

If I go to heaven and The Westies aren't there  
I will write their names on the golden stairs  
Then I will ask the Lord to appeal their case  
Because The Westies deserve a better place.

The jury will listen to what I tell  
That the boys fought the war and came through hell  
Then I will ask the jury if they heard.

I wonder if they heard  
The noise of the shovels  
That covered their graves  
The pounding of the crosses  
With the names of the brave.

I wonder if they heard  
Us saying goodbye  
They say that soldiers never cry  
When we stood to attention  
Crosses side by side  
The tears weren't coming.

I wonder if they heard  
The words of the pastor  
With his bible in hand,  
On a hillside in Italy  
In a far away land.

I wonder if they heard  
The word of command for the Bugler to blow,  
The Last Post to our friends  
The click of the boots  
About turn they made  
Then marched off in the distance  
To join their brigade.

ODE TO THE WESTIES: I WONDER IF THEY HEARD (Cont'd.)

The jury came out  
The verdict they read  
The Westies, NOT GUILTY  
The jury foreman said

So - as I read The Last Post in The Legionaire  
I know that someday my name will be there  
Farewell my friends and loving ones  
Before I go on my lasting way  
To a place thats always full of love  
And sunshine everyday.

By Cpl. Peter Koshelanyk H H17719.

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# THE LADY LIVES ON

by Dave McIntosh



One spring day in 1915, Lieut. Ingraham (Gitz) Rice of Montreal and Sgt. Edward (Red) Rowland of London, England, were sitting in the Café de la Paix, rue de la Gare, Armentieres, in northern France, trying to dream up a new song for that night's troop concert.

Rice, 24, had enlisted on the first day of war in August, 1914, and was commissioned in the 5th Bty., CFA. But soon after he reached France he was made a full-time entertainer, working with Rowland, 27, a British music hall actor who had enlisted in the Royal Army Service Corps at war outbreak but had been assigned to entertainment for the duration.

On a battered piano in little more than half an hour, Rowland wrote the words and Rice the music for *Mademoiselle from Armentieres* destined to rank behind only *It's a Long Way to Tipperary* as the most popular song of WW I.

The subject of the ditty was present when Rowland and Rice cobbled it together from an old marching song British soldiers had sung in the Crimean and Napoleonic wars and likely before that. Marie Lecocq was a 24-year-old waitress in the Café de la Paix and already noted by Commonwealth troops for her vivacity and her chastity.

Rowland's original opening verse went:

*Mademoiselle from Armentieres, parlez-vous,  
Mademoiselle from Armentieres, parlez-vous?  
Mademoiselle from Armentieres  
She's never been kissed for 14 years,  
Inky, dinky, parlez-vous.*

The song was an instant hit. It was soon being sung wherever Commonwealth troops congregated, though soldiers almost invariably and ungraciously lengthened the unknissed time to 40 instead of 14 years. Rowland's original lyrics comprised only four verses but before long the troops had added hundreds of their own, some far less decorous than Rowland's.

Neither Rowland nor Rice apparently ever considered copyrighting their song, and never made a penny out of it. They spent the rest of the war entertaining the troops in France, Belgium, and England. In the winter of 1915-16 alone, they entertained more than 55,000 men behind the front line.

Rice was born in New Glasgow, N.S., and moved to Montreal with his family at an early age. He later worked with his father and brother, Charles, in the family photographic studio, but Rice's avocation was Montreal amateur theatricals. An accomplished pianist, during and after the war he composed many popular songs, including *Dear Old Pal of Mine*, *I Want To Go Home*, and *Take Me Back to the Land of Promise*. The latter was used by the Canadian Dumbells concert party as the opening chorus in one of their shows in France. He died in New York in 1947 at 56.

Rowland went back to the musical halls after the war and eventually became manager of a London movie-house. He died in his home in Surrey in 1946, age 59.

As for *Mademoiselle from Armentieres*, she became *Madame Merceau*, and later a grandmother, and died in 1945 at 55. □

IN MEMORIAM

Ray Newman.....	Westminster Regt.	W.W. 2
Stan Brandson.....	Westminster Regt.	W.W. 2
H.M. Sands K47 223.....	Westminster Regt.	W.W. 2
J.T. Sparks.....	Westminster Regt.	W.W. 2
W.H. Barrett.....	Westminster Regt.	W.W. 2
Ernie Roberts.....	Westminster Regt.	W.W. 2
J. Morenco.....	Toronto Scottish & Westminster Regt.	W.W. 2
R.J. Franks.....	Westminster Regt.	W.W. 2
R. Bob Reynolds.....	Westminster Regt.	W.W. 2
Lt. Col. H.F. Bert Hoskin D.S.O.....	Westminster Regt.	W.W. 2
	& Post War Permanent Force	
Master Cpl. E. Adair.....	Royal Westminster Regiment	
Joseph Koberstein K47560.....	Westminster Regt.	W.W. 2

SPECIAL NOTES:

A church memorial service was held on Saturday, September 21 for long time and most respected Lt. Col. H. "Bert" Hoskin - well attended by Assoc. and community of Delta/Ladner alike.

There will be a further memorial tribute to Bert to be held at The Armouries, New Westminster, B.C. Saturday, October 5, 1991.

Some of you, subject to timing of this Groundsheet, postal problems et al, may receive this issue and notice after the fact. To that extent the Assoc. and your editor offer our regrets, but it is simply beyond our control...you may be assured that every effort has been made via other media to circulate this information re. this most special event. Thank you. Ron Hurley.

CHANGES AND NEW ADDRESSES - UPDATE YOUR NOMINAL ROLL

N.A. Cassey, c/o Officer's Mess, CFB Montreal, P.Q. St. Hubert P.Q. J3Y 5TY  
 Geo. Shaw, 8112 169B Street, Edmonton, Alta. T5R 2X5  
 John Hou, Dania House, 4279 Morland St., Burnaby, B.C. V5G 3Z6  
 Robert Moore, 82 - 27272 32nd A, Aldergrove, B.C. V0X 1A0  
 Colin Cameron, 504 - 527 Ash Street, Vancouver, B.C. V3M 3N5  
 Colin's name in Obit Column in error in Apr/May 91 Issue, please adjust  
 Joe Bush, 406 - 1254 Pendrell, Vancouver, B.C. V6E 3N4  
 Len Bailey, 5795 Vanderneuk Road, Nanaimo, B.C. V9T 5H3  
 Frank Reiser, 46 1220 25th Avenue, Vernon, B.C. V1T 9A1