



Dedicated to the Ideals and Comradeship
We knew in Wars and Peace and in
Our services both Home and Abroad
VOL: 41 ISSUE 1 FEB./MAR. 1992

THE GROUND SHEET

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF

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

1992 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

ARMOURIES: NEW WESTMINSTER

TIME: 7:00 P.M. SHARP - PLEASE ATTEND
MARCH 19, 1992

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT MORE THAN EVER

SOMEBODY ELSE

There's a clever fellow named 'Somebody Else'.
There's nothing this fellow cannot do.
He's busy from morning 'til way late at night.
Just substituting for me and for you.

When asked to do this or asked to do that
So often you're ready to reply,
"Get Somebody Else, Comrade President
He'll do it much better than I."

There's so much to do in the Association
So much, and the workers are few
And Somebody Else gets weary and worn
Just substituting for me and for you.

So next time you are asked to do something
Come up with some honest reply,
If SOMEBODY ELSE can give the time and support
It's obviously true, SO CAN I!

MELFA '92: MAY 15, 16 AND 17TH - FINAL DETAILS APRIL/MAY ISSUE.

EDITOR'S NOTES:

Have used a point of privilege in lieu of masthead. You will have a new slate of officers published in Apr/May Issue. 1991 saw me somewhat indisposed and continuing to date. Have managed to keep the paper going. Take this opportunity to thank those who visited me, such as Chuck Smithers, Doug Glenn, Stan Conway, Walter Lyle, Bert Stephens et al and for the numerous phone calls and hordes of letters. They helped brighten many a mean hour or two. The many letters from across the land tell me many of you are suffering the pangs and discomforts of many ills and it is the wish of me personally and all the Association that all of you see improved health in the near future. Yes, I agree The Memoriam column grows lengthy and quickly. I just realized that 1992 is the 45th Anniversary of the formal founding of our Association. You have all done well and we have fulfilled our mandates admirably - and are struggling desperately to keep going. We need more help at the executive level AND YOU CAN DO IT. There never was AN INDISPENSABLE WESTIE. There was always a backup in battle and there must be more out there yet. Bas Morgan and his hard working crew of Dick Shannon, Nelson Scott and Geo Hughes are in similar straits. THEY NEED SOME PHYSICAL BODIES TO ASSIST IN ACCESSING, CATALOGUING, FILING INDEXING, ETC. Remember we are speaking of the people in both depts who are in their late 70's and some in their 80's. THE TORCH IS YOURS: CARRY IT.

An apology here to Peter Koshelaynk for missing a line in his fine poem published last issue. The last line in verse 4 was inadvertently omitted and should read "But we cried inside". I'm afraid my concentration was somewhat amiss at that time. As noted, I missed every function of the Association in 1991. I hope to do better in 1992 as I have missed very few in the past 45 years. Keep your dues and donations coming, stay healthy and those who can - LEND A HAND NOW AND THEN.

CIAO! Ron H.

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT'S DESK

We have been busy and hope to see the results of these efforts soon. We have again updated our mailing list which now totals 382 plus 20 for Sgt's Mess. Far too many Groundsheets being returned every mailing so would appreciate any help from members in providing new addresses, corrected ones or better still new members. We have but 32 ordinary 1992 dues paid and 125 paid for 1991. We do not, as yet, have any members from The Men's Mess. We are not

doing too bad financially but with the large increase in paid up Life Members results in diminishing annual dues. We can certainly use any and all donations. REMEMBER, WE PROVIDE TAX RECEIPTS FOR ALL DONATIONS \$25 AND OVER. OUR GOAL REMAINS CONSTANT. WE ARE TRYING TO ESTABLISH ENOUGH INVESTMENTS SO THAT THE INTEREST THEREFROM WILL BE ADEQUATE TO ENSURE THE CONTINUANCE AND FUTURE OF YOUR ASSOCIATION LONG AFTER MOST OF WE WW 2 TYPES BE LONG GONE. IT CAN BE DONE WITH YOUR HELP. I'll save our long suffering Editor some time and work by listing some events to come.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 1992 - ELECTION OF OFFICERS

TIME: 7:00 p.m. sharp. Please exercise your proxy form printed on last page of this issue and return as directed A.S.A.P.

MELFA DAYS: May 15, 16 and 17th. Advance notice - more in next issue.
 Friday, May 15th: Dinner Price: \$20.00 each
 Saturday, May 16th: Melfa Golf Price: \$23.00 each
 Sunday, May 17th: Sunday Brunch ... No Charge
 Sunday, August 2nd: D COY Picnic - A Stellar Event You Won't
 Want to Miss

Relating to the above Picnic: Some suggestions have been made that we find out if there is some interest in chartering a bus in order to eliminate the long drive after possible libations, etc. Let us know what you think and perhaps we can get more people out that way. It might be possible to arrange something with The Regt. and Col. White but that will require further investigation...

CRESTS:

At long last we have a new Association Blazer Crest available and it is very smart indeed. This is a pin type and does not need to be sewn on your Blazer. The cost is \$40.00 and can be ordered only through The Association. Regrettably we can not afford to produce a color print of this but may be able to print a black and white. More on this later. Well that's about all for now, I trust The Editor appreciates my contribution hereto ... See you all soon.

President, Chuck Smithers

IN LOVING TRIBUTE TO MY HUSBAND - WES FEHR

The story behind the poem; A few years ago when Wes was in hospital in Ashcroft, he was a very sick man and some of us felt that he wouldn't make it. Being Wes, he rallied and returned home. He told me that one night when he was really low, a Black Stallion, bridled and saddled, came to him. A beautiful magnificent creature. Just as he was reaching for the bridle so he could mount and ride away, one of the nurses came in and the horse ran off. One other time he caught just a glimpse of him. He said "some day I'll ride that Black Stallion".

When I finally accepted the fact that Wes wasn't going to make it, I wrote this poem for him.

THE BLACK STALLION

Rise up and see, your Black Stallion is here
Mount him and ride him my love, without fear;
Ride over the hills that you hold so dear.

Ride from this world as we bid you adieu.
You have served your Maker, faithful and true,
Ride into the sunset that's waiting for you.

Ride your Black Stallion down over the dale,
Ride him my darling, on this your last trail;
Ride thru the darkness as night starts to pale.

You'll sit tall in the saddle on your last ride,
So ride the right wing till Heaven's Gate opens wide,
Then rejoice when at last you are safely inside.

Turn loose then the Black Stallion, the wild hills to roam
He will browse and run over the range all alone,
Until time comes to carry the next cowboy home.

Colleen

As an added note to this poem; The day Wes died, some very close friends were returning from a funeral in Alberta to their home in Oliver. They did not know that Wes had died and they did not know about this poem or the story behind it, but all the way home, Irene kept catching glimpses of Wes riding in the hills on a big black horse. She could hardly believe it when she heard the poem read at the service.

ATTENTION ALL WESTIES WHO SERVED IN HOLLAND CIRCA APRIL/MAY 1945

If you can assist this Dutch historian please contact him direct at his address listed below:

Liberation of Delfzijl, The Netherlands - April/May 1945

Franz Lenselink, a Dutch historian, is researching Canadian Army ops. re. relevant dates and place noted above.

Mr. Lenselink was recently in Canada examining war diaries and documents in Nat. Archives. He would greatly appreciate any pertinent information and/or personal recollections, photos, documents, etc. Perhaps those who were involved in the campaign with The Westies or were billeted there might help him expand his research, by writing to the address listed below:

Franz F.H. Lenselink
 Fransestraat 72B
 9933 KG Delfzijl, The Netherlands

FROM THE POST:

A brief note here from your editor. The many letters received relating to the death of Bert Hoskin are a fitting tribute indeed to the memory of this much respected soldier and comrade. You will understand my regrets that I cannot publish them as written. Space, costs, etc. preclude me from publishing the many letters received but you can be assured that they will all be acknowledged by a line or two. As I prepare this edition, I am reminded that postage has now risen once more. One more important reason for your dues and donations.

Kind words from old pal Pat McCarthy now of 90 Dale Avenue, Apt. 606, Scarborough, Ont. M1J 3N4. Your tribute to Bert duly noted and also your appreciation re. Peter Koshelanyk's fine poem and I'm sure all will agree with your sentiments. Two fine letters from Jim Oldfield tendering his words of tribute to Jack Mahony and Bert Hoskin... Also some enclosed material for Copper Newitts widow re. her preparation work on Westies overseas memorabilia. Much appreciated Jim and your contributions always welcome... Thanks to Chuck Morwood of Salmon Arm, B.C. for your Life Membership and your info. re. Bob Eacrett, perhaps you could recruit Bob for his membership in the Association. He is an old C Coy friend and we could use his support.

FROM THE POST: (Cont'd.)

Sincere appreciation to Freda Hogg for your kind donation and pleased to know you are continuing your good work in the armoury. Life Membership and greetings from Harry Herman. Nice to hear from you again Harry. Now we need your presence at Melfa Dinner and Armistice, etc. Dues and best wishes from Lawrence Carpick of Winnipeg and we share you tribute to late Scotty Clifford. It seems this lists grows larger and more rapidly than ever. A most interesting letter and Life Membership from former C Coy and support Coy Stalwart Walt Kearsley. Pleased to hear you met the riverboat gambler Bill Majury. Yes he is a great guy and one of the many like yourself who improved the overall character and good name of the Westies. It is letters like yours Walt that I would dearly like to print in to as received. L.M. and kind words from Bob Ross of Vernon, B.C. Glad we solved your worries Bob. Thanks to Gordon Finlayson for L.M. and kind remarks re. Groundsheet. Many thanks to Hector Roberge for Life Membership and sorry to hear of your physical problems but it is people like yourself that help us to keep going despite our rapid depletion. Now if only we could convince others to respond in kind ... L.M. and best wishes from Ross Douglas. And we trust this finds you well. By way of Blind Bay, B.C. dues and instructions from Roy Drury. You may rest assured "Burnaby" stands deleted from your file. Life Membership from Bob Marshall but regret your personal inactivity. Stan Hammond from Armstrong sends in Life Membership and donation. Thanks for your kind remarks re. Groundsheet Stan and give my regards to old friend Sandy Rollo. A gamble, as he says, from the old cat skinner Ken Morgan of Hope, B.C. I think you're still a winner Ken and thanks for the news of Janelle, Chapman and McDonald. Geo. V. Shaw of Edmonton for dues and we trust your address has been corrected by now. Dues and a thank you from Bill Sholtz and from Carmen Man. Dues from Al O'Brien. Thanks to Roy Caswell of Moose Jaw, Sask. for dues and your most interesting comments re. your Association with Bert Hoskin. It is typical of Bert that he would ask you to delete his D.S.O. from the letter you had written for him. We share your feelings Roy. We all feel that we have indeed "lost a very special friend". Dues received from Bill Barrett of Richmond, B.C. Old C Coy Stalwart Bus Morison writes to Bob Dashwood re. the old days and thanks for the greeting bus. Dues and a message from member Emeritus Nelson Scott. His 'annual plan' is still working despite a recent scare... We all hope this finds you much improved Nelson. Thanks to Gordon Higginson of Sardis, B.C. for your dues and donation and your congratulations extended us for keeping the Association machinery well oiled and operating, somewhat akin to the fine annual D Coy effort at the Lindell Beach Picnic. A word of thanks from Art Belyea to Chuck Smithers re. his beret. Pleased to hear of your pride by donning same

FROM THE POST: (Cont'd.)

at November 11 parade. Thanks to Association stalwart Stan Drummond for dues and greetings. A thank you note also for obtaining a Regt. Crest. We're sure you were delighted to wear it in front of those "beloved princess pats" greetings and New Year's Greetings from Geo. P. Demetruk along with his '92 dues. Appreciation to "Royal Westie" Terry Leith for current dues. Sincere appreciation to Ethel Johnstone of new current dues. Sincere appreciation to Ethel Johnstone of New West. for her kind donation and Season's Greetings. Life Membership from hard working museum expert Geo. Hughes and we trust things go well for you and the museum in coming months. An interesting note from Old C Coy pal Jim Walsh of 705 14th Avenue, S., Cranbrook, B.C. V1C 2X2. Sorry I missed you Jim but 1991 was somewhat unkind to me and I missed all the functions I usually attend. Let's wish for better things in '92. Thanks to Domenick Picone of Trail, B.C. for dues and message. Thanks to Cecil Jeffries of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., U.S.A. for your kind remarks and not in the mailing duplications. I had intended to surprise you with a personal visit October 29, 1991. That was the date of a stopover for one night on first day of sea cruise. Folks at Cancer Clinic thought otherwise and I was forced to cancel. Better luck next time... A nice note from Geo. Kalenchuk of Sturgis, Sask. thanks for dues Geo. and yes we agree the list on "the passing parade" is sad to see. Thanks to Ken Godwin for dues and for your personal concern re. my health. Am hoping it will improve soon. Appreciation to re. my health. Am hoping it will improve soon. Appreciation to Mrs. Adair for your expression of gratitude for "Groundsheet Memoriam" your personal sentiments were most moving. Life Membership and greetings from Ken Clarkson of Abbotsford, B.C. Thank you to J. Shawcross, John McLennan, Cliff Wetmore, Olive Rogers and Geo. Griffiths for dues and greetings. Thanks to old friend John Ginter for interesting letter and enclosure of interest. Agree with your sentiments but his article makes interesting reading. Further thanks to Norm Brault and your memories with those who shared your wedding anniversary. Thanks to Jack Terpenning for dues on behalf of himself and Malcolm Flewelling of Dartmouth N.S. A nice gesture Jack and most welcome.

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INSTRUMENT OF PROXY

For those not attending Annual General Meeting March 19, 1992. I, the undersigned member in good standing of THE ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGT. ASSOCIATION, do hereby appoint either DOUG GLENN, CHUCK SMITHERS or RON HURLEY to vote, at their discretion on my behalf.

 (Print and Sign Name Please)

 Date:

IN MEMORIAM:

Wes Fehr		Westminster Regt. (M)	WW2
George P. Carlson		Westminster Regt. (M)	WW2
Lloyd G. Stephenson		Westminster Regt. (M)	WW2
Irvin Barber	K49795	Westminster Regt. (M)	WW2
Harold L. Jones	K47 604	Westminster Regt. (M)	WW2

I'LL REMEMBER YOU WES

I will not mourn you now you're gone
For I'll see your face in every dawn;
When on the hearth a bright fire burns,
And everyday this old world turns.

I'll think of you in deep of night,
And feel your arms that held me tight.
Your cheerful voice, your happy smile
I'll think of these most all the while.

When long legged colts are running
And the new born calves are sunning,
When flowers are blooming in the spring,
In summer when the Bluebirds sing.

And when the wild geese start to call
In Autumn, when the bright leaves fall.
No matter when the time of year,
I'll not be lonesome for you'll be here.

When the winter nights are cold and clear
I'll remember all we once held dear.
I'll remember you with joy, not pain,
And know that soon we'll meet again.

Love Colleen

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COMPLETE AND INITIAL AND SIGN PROXY

Cut out on dotted line and return A.S.A.P. to:

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