



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

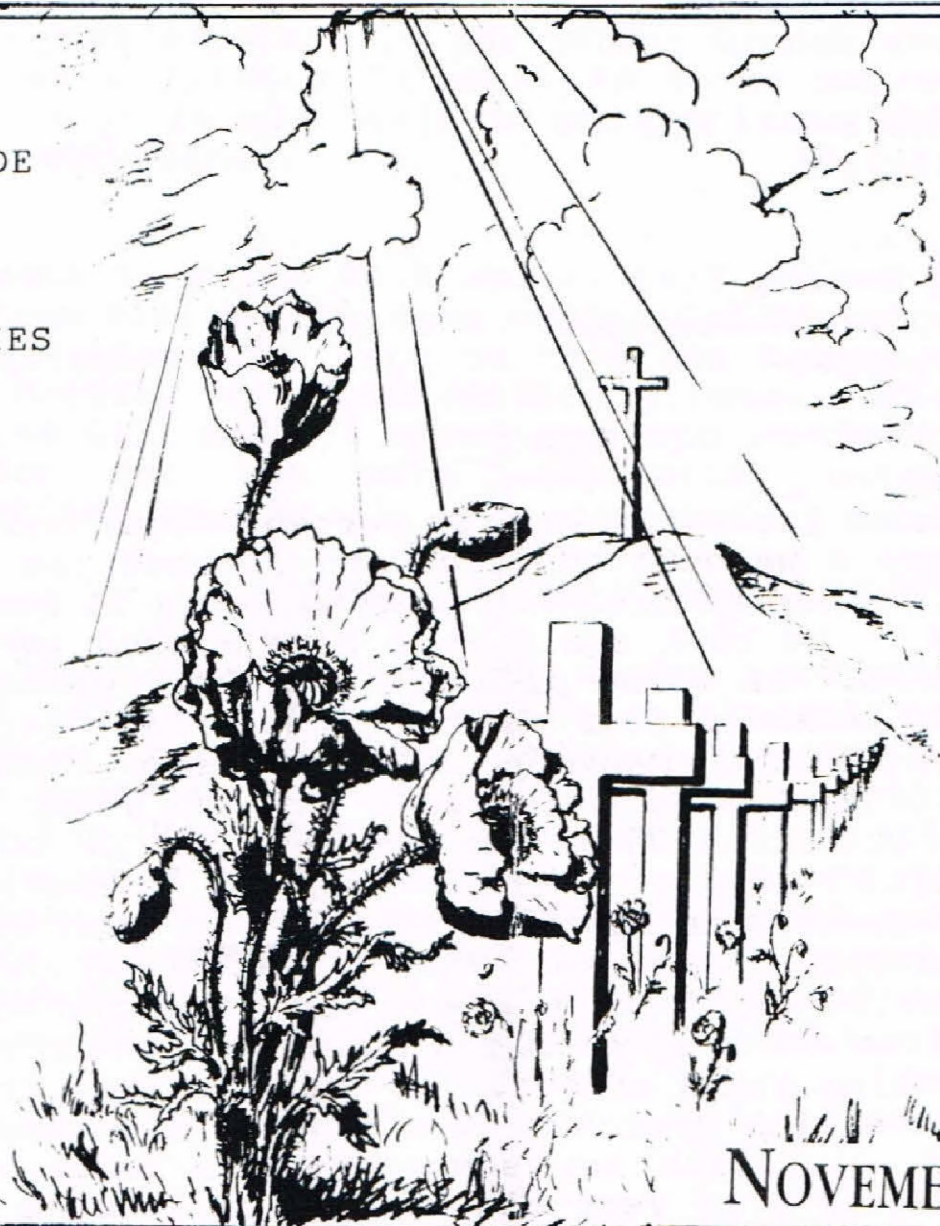
VOL 44 ISSUE 3

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

PARADE

9:30A.M

ARMOURIES



NOVEMBER 1992

NOT FORGOTTEN

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MELFA '92

About 120 attended including 20 from current Regt. and 7 from the band. They were a welcome addition and livened the evening by their youthful exuberance. After missing Melfa 91 re illness it was a pleasure to be back again as I have missed very few over the past 45 years. An added pleasure was the presence of old C Coy Sgt. Walley Lockhart from Caledon, Ont. His charming wife, Joan and beautiful and vivacious daughter Margo added to their warm welcome.., Youth will have their way and young Margo soon received rapt attention from the young folk in todays Regt. Wally had just recently lost a leg to diabetes but he specifically requested an opportunity to visit with Ian Douglas, Bruce Eaton and Bert Stephens.. They all attended and Wally was overjoyed at their reunion.. The meal was great and Norm Palmers music soon had the dance floor swinging. The seating arrangement presented a looking glass effect. On one side were the halt and the lame, replete with crutches, wheelchairs and canes-the once proud youth of.....1939 now some 53 years later and on the other, the young 17 & 18 year old members of today's 'Westies'.

MELFA ' 92 (cont'd.)

Did we old codgers really look like that so many years ago and how nice it would be to turn back the clock. One could well imagine the thoughts of those opposite us... Are we going to be like those old folks 53 years hence. Once could not dwell long on such radical impossibilities and 'The Westies' young and old soon blended into an enjoyable evening. A most moving and poignant highlight was the words of appreciation extended to The Regiment and The Association by our late comrades Curly Janelle's son. For their honour guard attendance at his father's funeral mere days before the dinner.. He spoke magnificently and with great poise and sincerity, years beyond his youthful age. A salute and Kudos to the 39 who turned out for Melfa Golf 92. Congratulations to our winners Joe Bush and our President Chuck Smithers for a fine tournament and all reports indicate enjoyment by all who participated.... The Sunday brunch was well attended and provided a fitting farewell to three marvellous Melfa 92 days. Let's do it all again in 93 and let's make an effort to double our attendance.

Ron Hurley

As a footnote to Melfa 92 I should tell you of the warm letter received from Bill Majury on a successful Toronto Chapter dinner and how delighted they were to have Len Bailey, Ted Hammersley and Jack Hartley as their wester guests. The feelings are reciprocated Bill and all three are loud in their expressions of appreciation for the warm hospitality extended to them. Congratulations to you all.

ANNUAL D COY PICNIC

As usual a glorious way to end our summer activities by attending the always enjoyable D Coy Picnic at Lindell Beach with hosts Elsie Baldwin, Marion & Sam Soutar. The day was marvellous, attendance somewhat down but a grand day, as always. For the first time the Shannon Bros. were not all in attendance. Hugh and Ed were at a school reunion in Sask. so Dick upheld the family honour. The evening parade, roll call and flag lowering ceremony was as moving as ever and the bagpipes added special significance to the obvious depleting ranks of D Coy Survivors. Those of The Association privileged to attend are blessed indeed.

WESTIES DEPART FOR YUGOSLAVIA

When the 3rd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry made the request for 200 militia to augment their ranks for duty with the United Nations in the former Republic of Yugoslavs, 23 soldiers of The Royal Westminster Regiment answered the call. From this number 14 were picked to undergo the selection process, and ten were finally accepted to go overseas with Battalion.

Of particular note is the fact that all NCO's selected for deployment have been employed at their current rank and responsibility. Those who are going are:

Warrant Officer Rob Gilmour, Platoon Warrant
Sergeant Perry Fielder, Section Commander
Master Corporal Torry White, Section 2 i/c
Master Corporal Dennis Keeton, Section 2 i/c
Private Alex Duff, Rifleman
Private Jeremy Hamming, Rifleman
Private Steve Hartwig, Rifleman
Private Brendon Krueger, Rifleman
Private Mike Milne, Rifleman
Private Mike Tsiatas, Rifelman

The Canadian troops in Yugoslavia will be based in Daruvar, Croatia, and will serve a six month tour of duty from Oct 92 until February '93.

We are proud of our soldiers as they go forth to assist in the humanitarian effort in the war-torn land of Yugoslavia. Our thoughts will be with them, and our hopes for their safe return.

Lt. Col. White

THE ASSOCIATION SALUTES THE ABOVE MEMBERS AND WISHES THEM GOD SPEED AND A SAFE RETURN FROM THE ARDUOUS DUTIES YOU HAVE ACCEPTED.

THE ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT REUNION

On Saturday, 5 December 1992, a reunion will be held at the Armoury for all past and present members of the Regiment, Association, Band, and Cadet Corps. More details to follow.

FUNDRAISING

FUTURE OF THE ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION (RWRA)

Preamble

Our association, like any active organization, requires funds for the routine expenses related to its ongoing activities, In part these routine expenses include publishing and mailing of our Groundsheet, sick and visiting activities, annual donations to the active battalion and cadet corps, donations to the poppy fund and numerous administrative costs. Annually these expenditures total between six and seven thousand dollars.

Our primary source of income is derived from membership dues and member donations. The main source of this income, our WW II veterans, is slowly being eroded away with the passage of time and may affect the ability of the future executives to deliver the current level of services to our members. This matter, together with the security of our funds, was considered by your executive and the decision to raise a capital sum sufficient to produce an annual income to cover our annual expenses was approved. It is our intention to raise funds and once having raised the funds, entrust them irrevocably to a third party for investment and administration.

Fundraising Committee

A fundraising committee is currently being assembled and will hold its first meeting in the very near future. Once our plan is finalized we will communicate with you and request your assistance.

Resolution - Approved

Move that the RWRA appoint a fundraising committee (FRC) for the purpose of raising funds in order to:

- A. Provide an annual income equal to the operating expenses of the RWRA.
- B. Provide a one-time donation of \$10,000 to the Museum of The Royal Westminster Regiment Historical Society.

Appointment:

Jerry N. Gangur is appointed chairman of the fund raising committee.

Fundraising: (Cont'd.)

Message from the Chairman:

Creation of such a fund outlined above along with the security of funds and the purpose has been discussed quietly with a few individuals over the last two years. One member of our association listened and acted out of the goodness of his heart. **DOUG MORGAN HAS MADE A GENEROUS DONATION OF \$5,000 TOWARDS THIS FUND.** Our gratitude and thanks go to Doug. What a magnificent gesture and boost to the start of our fund raising endeavour.

DONATIONS: We will accept donations effective immediately. Please make cheque payable to The Royal Westminster Regiment Association and tell us it's for the "FUTURE FUND".

Jerry Gangur

EDITORS NOTE:

A year passed since we lost our gallant comrade Bert Hoskin. For some time and practically up to his death, Bert had a project going whereby he was seeking anecdotal material from W.W. 2 Westies at large of anything they wished to submit that might enhance his 'Sometimes With Laughter' last issue you heard from Bert Stephens. The following is submitted by Walter Lyle and there is more of Walt's material to come. I have a few myself I may add later. I urge you all to continue. I will gladly accept any and all submitted.

Ron Hurley

Dear Bert,

At long last, as promised, here are some stories, any one of which, even briefly mentioned in your otherwise excellent volume, 'Sometimes With Laughter' would have satisfied me, at least, that as a group, we signallers had not been down-graded, by omission.

The first of the events that involved Signals Platoon is one that you must certainly recall, not for the most important thing about it, but rather for what followed it. To the members of Signals Platoon, the most important part of the happening was the death from an accident during a signals exercise of one of our most popular buddies, Jim Pudney. The fact that that hard-case character, Buster Lynch, was moved to compose a poem about him, was a measure of Jim's popularity but I suspect that little Joe saw a great opportunity to put on a great show, for this was the first death in action you might say. In any case, you, as RSM had us drilling and practising the slow march, carrying a wooden bench to simulate a coffin for several days. And, on the day of the funeral, from the old hotel the whole regiment in slow time, marched along Georgia and across Granville past what seemed to be the population of the entire city. No doubt it was a great show indeed and intended to stir the emotions, which it certainly did

Bert Letter (cont'd.)

for there was hardly a dry eye along the route and L. Cpl. Jim Pudney had far more attention paid to his death, than was paid to any other of our fallen comrades in Italy or Holland; or since.

Walter Lyle

SICK AND VISITING

Norm McAskill	B.F. 4 Shaughnessy Hospital
Henry Horford	B.F. 4 Shaughnessy Hospital
Walter Jackson	George Derby Centre
	Cumberland & 16th Avenue

If you hear of any member in the hospital, please phone:

Eben Sweet 522-3808

Doug Glenn 522-0890

I visit George Derby Centre every Thursday. Part of M.G. Volunteer Service. This new veteran's hospital is a first class. If you have not visited it, take time to drop in and see Walter Jackson.

Doug Glenn, Volunteer

AL AND ALICE: A LOVE STORY

They met at a Legion dance in Saskatoon in 1940. Al Lee and his brother Roy had joined the Westies in Dundurn. They hail from Prince George, B.C. Al was a dark, good looking soldier and very gregarious. He referred to himself as a bushman who loved hunting and fishing and regaled us all with stories of poaching deer out of season. He called them 'Mowitch', based loosely on some local native dialect. Thereafter he was known to C Coy as 'Mowtich' and became an integral 'Character', in the Coy. Al's interest in 'The Mowitch' after he met the pretty blond Alice soon waned. They were seriously in love with one another. A typical lovers spat clouded their romance and Al departed with The Regiment to Camp Borden and thence to the U.K. Al somehow left the unit and The Regiment and Alice were not to hear of him for 40 years. Alice had married, raised a family, and now on her own again and she set out to locate the man she still loved. Her diligence paid off. The Legion, D.V.A., this Editor, et al all assisted in her quest. I am sure Alice was as shocked as I was to see Al's condition after these many years. Al had been seriously wounded with the S.S.R. and was a mere shadow of his former self. He was working for B.C. Parks Department at Manning Park, despite his handicap and ongoing pain. Alice's love for Al remained undiminished and they were soon married in the marvellous lodge at Manning Park. Al's health continued to deteriorate and only the loving care of his beloved Alice kept

Al and Alice: A Love Story (cont'd.)

him going. Alice's poor health now became double jeopardy but they carried on together. Despite Al's poor health he continued to help various charities by selling a variety of goods from his wheelchair. He was now in almost intolerable pain and I marvelled at his courage and Alice's loving care for him. On 19th August last, Alice, in obvious and understandable distress, phone to inform me that Al had died. Death had, at last parted them but I have the feeling they will be together again. I was able to attend the Legion Services but I wondered if many understood how the love of this remarkable lady and her unselfish loyalty an devotion had given Al an extended life - with many years of happiness.

So here, "This Love Story Endeth ---But Not Forgotten.

Ron Hurley

FROM THE POST

Royal Westminster Regiment Association
John Ford Memorial Bursary
530 Queens Avenue, New Westminster

Dear Sir,

This letter is to thank you and show my appreciation for being the recipient of your bursary. It is not often that a gift of that magnitude is handed out, and I would just like to have the opportunity to thank you for your generosity. This money will enable me to further my education at the University of British Columbia. I am truly honoured to be chosen as the 1992 recipient of the Royal Westminster Regiment Association - John Ford Memorial Bursary.

Yours gratefully, Jennifer Anne Nelson

Royal Westminster Regiment

Dear Sir,

I am trying to get in touch with Americans who served in the Canadian Army during World War II. Any assistance would be

From the Post: (cont'd.)

appreciated. Contact: Fred Gaffen Military Historian, 82 Florizel Avenue, Nepean, Ontario, Canada, K2H 9R1. Telephone: (603) 996-1388. Many thanks for your assistance.

Yours sincerely, Fred Gaffen, Military Historian

Dear Chuck,

Please find enclosed the cheque sent to me because I was unable to attend the Melfa Dinner. I was sorry not to be able to attend due to having to attend a funeral in Cranbrook. I do not wish to accept the cheque as I am sure you boys will be able to put the money to good use in the Association. I only wish I could help more. See you next May, for sure.
George McDonald.

VETERANS HELPING VETERANS

To all concerned: Veterans, Veterans' widows, Veterans' wives, Veterans' children, Veterans' grandchildren, Veterans' friends and relatives.

In uniform we Veterans were second to none. Working together we can still be a formidable force. Let us direct it toward another cause today by signing the enclosed letter and mailing it to your M.P. in Ottawa - no postage required.

As a veteran, if you feel that you do not require a "Basic Pension" there are Veterans, or their widows, who do. Give them your support - sign the letter and mail it.

Make photocopies of these two pages and mail one of each to fellow veterans, or their widows, wherever they live.

It is probably time you wrote them anyway. As they used to say in the trenches "pass it down the line".

There is no time to delay - do it now - let us show our members of parliament that we are a group to reckon with. There is an election coming up so the timing could not be better. If you would rather write your own letter or add comments - please do - and mail it.

We all know how unreported wartime injuries and abuses to body

Veterans Helping Veterans: (cont'd.)

and soul can, and do, come back to make life more difficult. If you have had any dealings with the Canadian Pension Commission you will know the hopelessness of seeking any compensation there at our age. To have suffered in silence for years and years means nothing, everything is now attributed to old age. We need a basic pension to overcome this injustice - and we need it now - not six years from now. The average age of W.W. 2 Veterans is approximately 72 years.

Finland pays its Veterans a basic pension based on where they served. Italy pays a pension to its Veterans in their senior years if they served at least one year. Canada pays a pension to some foreign "freedom fighters" who now reside in Canada.

Were we not "freedom fighters"? We also suffered on more than one battlefield. Someone has their priorities all screwed up.

This is our country and they are playing with our tax dollars. Buy a few business size envelopes and get busy - timing is everything. A basic pension not to reduce present pensions.

ATTENTION.....M.P.

House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Member:

Would you bring to the attention of the House, for immediate consideration, the plight of Canadian War Veterans.

In particular, the fact that the average age of W.W. 2 Veterans is approximately 72 years. These are people who volunteered to give their all if necessary, and find that wartime injuries and abuses to body and soul now make life difficult. No one survives a battlefield without either visible or invisible wounds.

Applications to the Canadian Pension Commission can take up to 20 years to win approval. The first stage alone can take 11 months. This is ridiculous, D-Day to Ve-Day only took 11 months. There is no justification for submitting Veterans to years of anger and frustration at this late date.

Government agencies and their employees should never be permitted

Veterans Helping Veterans (cont'd.)

to infringe upon any Veteran's pride and dignity in the slightest way. Partisan politics, prejudice or antagonism have no place here.

The Honourable solution would be a basic pension for all Veterans or their widows - **NOW** - before it is too late.

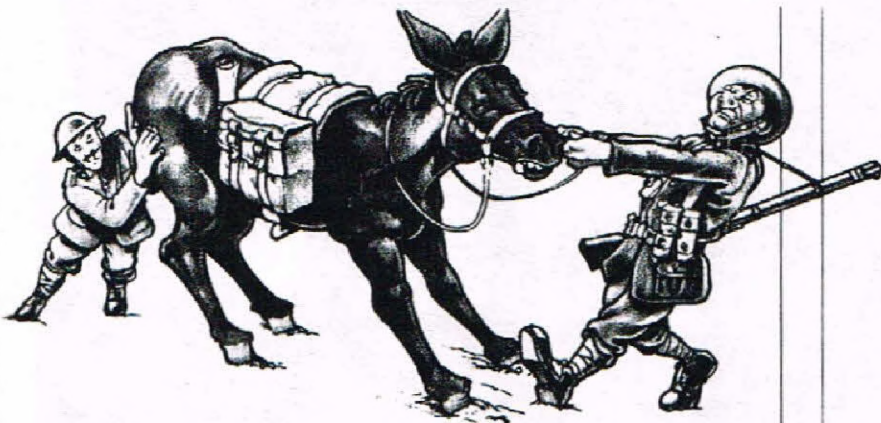
Canada's 125th Anniversary should be the year of the Veteran, with a more tangible form of appreciation - pomp and ceremony do not solve their problems. Our servicemen have always been Canada's best ambassadors - they were accepted into hearts and homes wherever they were sent overseas. Their welfare should now have the highest priority here at home.

A thorough updating of the Department of Veterans' Affairs and the Canadian Pension Commission should be initiated as soon as possible in order to meet the needs of this aging group of deserving Canadians in today's society.

We are all Canadians - it is time we began to look after our own in the best possible way.

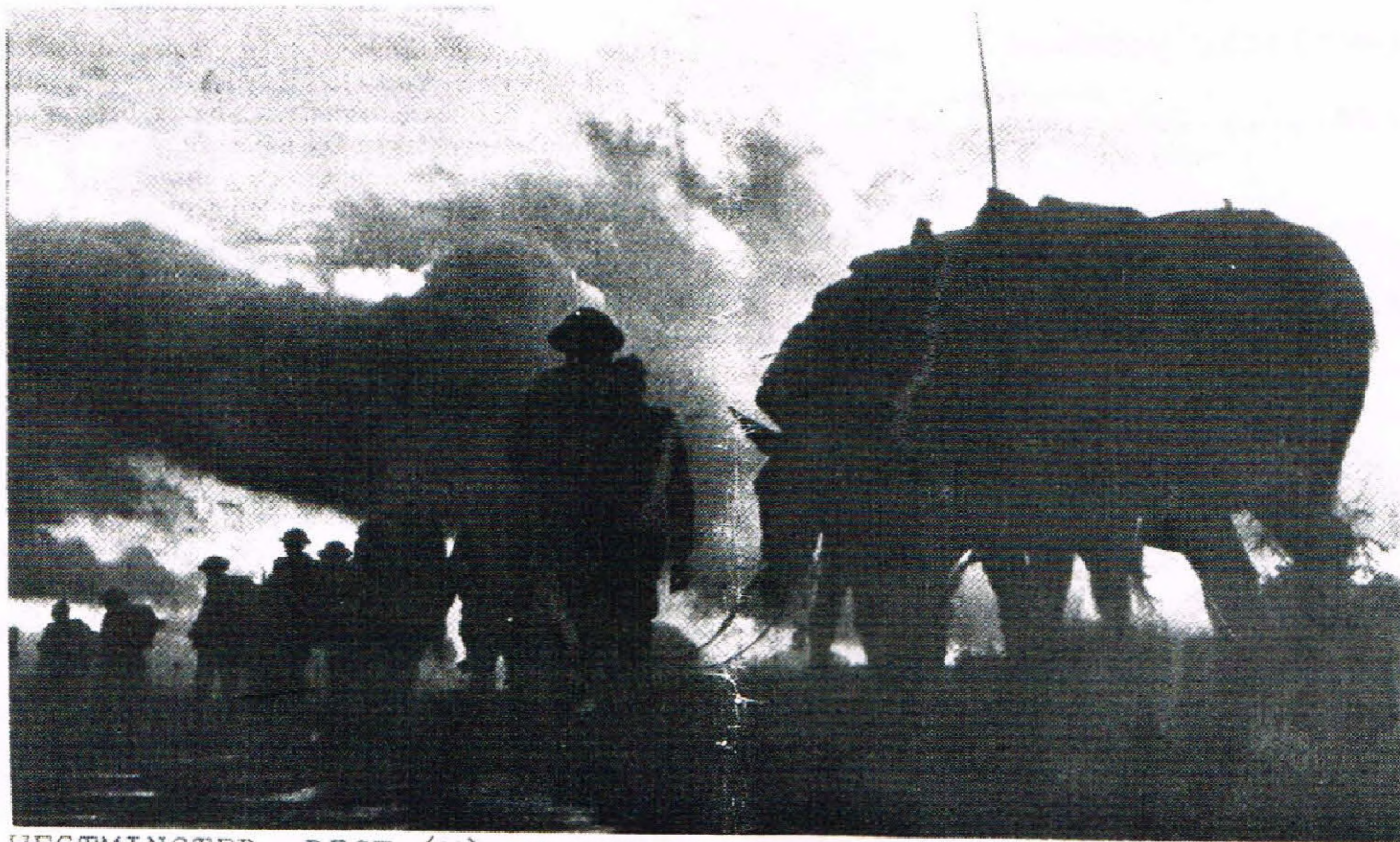
Respectfully yours,

Signed.....



IN MEMORIAM:

Ron 'Irish' Conley	Westminster Regt. (M) WW 2
Alan 'Mowitch' Lee	Westminster Regt. (M) WW 2
Tommy Owen	Westminster Regt. (M) WW 2
Bill Redman	Westminster Regt. (M) WW 2
Maj. Vic Wilson M.C.	D.C.O.R. and Westminster Regt. (M) WW 2
Stan Moorehouse	Westminster Regt. (M) WW 2
Albert Henry K43 502	Westminster Regt. (M) WW 2
George 'Baldy' Haddock	Westminster Regt. (M) WW 2
C.L. David K47 976	Westminster Regt. (M) WW 2



WESTMINSTER REGT. (M) TO THE FRONT WITH THEIR MOST RELIABLE
& EFFICIENT MOTOR OF THE CAMPAIGN