



1289
Dedicated to the Ideals and Comradeship
We knew in Wars and Peace and in
Our services both Home and Abroad

VOL: 45 ISSUE 1

THE GROUNDSHEET

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF

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

Annual General Meeting

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Thursday, March

18th 1993

7:30 P.M

PLACE: ARMOURIES – NEW WESTMINSTER, B. C.

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

WE NEED YOUR DUES AND DONATIONS NOW::: PRONTO

----- Ann.\$10:00, Life \$50:00

MELFA 93 ADVANCE NOTICE MAY 21st 22nd & 23rd SEE BELOW

TIME IS RUNNING OUT – RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

MELFA '93 May 21-24 weekend. Dinner Friday at Cdn Legion, New Westminster; Saturday Golf Tournament; Sunday Brunch to be followed by Regimental Church Parage and possibly the Annual Christening Service. The Hyack Salute is scheduled for the 24th. Advertise this weekend in Groundsheet with special emphasis on a joint Regiment/Association participation.

PAST

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Doug Glenn, President & A/Co Sect'y, 666 Walker, Burnaby, B.C.
V5E 3B9 Telephone: (604) 522-0890

Chuck Smithers, ~~Vice~~ President & A/Co Sect'y, 670 Appian Way,
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Ron Hurley, Editor, 2229 Bonnyvale, Vancouver, B.C. V5P 2G4
Telephone: (604) 321-8464

FROM THE PRESIDENT

"Our Funds are low - We need your dough!" *6156*

During 1992 only 90 paid their annual dues; We have 179 Members totalling 269...We mail out approximately 450 Groundsheets each Issue; Mystery 'The few are paying the costs plus much needed added Donations; Lower Interests rates have halved our interest income; **WE NEED YOUR HELP...A FEW MORE MEMBERS REMITTING DUES AND THE EVER WELCOME DONATIONS WOULD GO A LONG WAY TO SOLVING OUR FUNDS FOR NEEDED ANNUAL OPERATING EXPENSES. DO YOUR BEST!**

PLEASE DO NOT CONFUSE DONATIONS WITH JERRY GANGUR'S REQUEST FOR HIS PLEA FOR HIS 'FUTURE FUND'. That too, is a worth while cause but it is separate, above & beyond our URGENT NEED FOR ANNUAL OPERATING EXPENSES.

FROM THE EDITOR

Forgive me if some latter G.S. Editions seem sub par, but since early 1991 I have been undergoing Cancer Radiation & Post Radiation Treatments throughout 1992. Early January 1993 saw me in hospital with severe viral pneumonia. I am now home & just finished 3 weeks of injections in the butt, courtesy of visiting Home Care Nurses. Will still be confined to barracks for some time but this gives me, as a paid up Life Member to extend, on behalf of The Association & personally, sincere gratitude to the best assistant Editor one could wish for. (ie: My wife Ruth who's help has been invaluable.) On this Valentine's Day she will take my copy to Delta for finishing, then to Richmond for photocopying and thence to Chuck & Doug for their despatch. PLEASE DON'T SHOOT THE MESSENGER! ANY FAULTS ARE MINE.

R.H. Editor

This provides a good opportunity to salute ALL WESTIES serving in that so called 'PEACE CORPS IN THE SHATTERED STATES WE KNOW AS YUGOSLAVIA'. You are all WESTIES and we know you will acquit yourselves in the same territory that the little pipsqueak Gavril Princip launched 'The Great War'...'The war to end all wars' by rubbing out an Austrian Archduke. We Wish you all well and a safe and speedy return home...

EDITOR

CO's REPORT FOR THE GROUND SHEET

Since my last report another demand for soldiers for the second rotation of troops for Operation Harmony was received. This rotation involves the replacement of 3 Bn PPCLI with 2 Bn PPCLI on UN peacekeeping duty in Yugoslavia. Again Westies answered the call. 14 soldiers are now training in Winnipeg with 2 Bn prior to going overseas. By recent accounts they are doing well with 3 Westies coming first on a run and doing well on the battle tests. They are;

Cpl Badgley	Cpl Baron
Cpl Beglaw	MCpl Buryniuk
MCpl Harrington	MCpl Lowe
Cpl Malish	Cpl O'Mara
Cpl Scott	Sgt Setter
Cpl Stearn	MCpl Stephenson
Cpl Stewart	Cpl Syverson

This makes a total of 25 soldiers away on UN duty or training for duty. (10 in Yugoslavia, 1 in Cyprus)

We had a good send off for this last batch at the annual soldiers' Christmas Dinner. We wish them well. Of course they are under strict orders to come back in one piece.

Pte Hartwig serving with 3 Bn PPCLI in Yugoslavia was unfortunately injured when the Armoured Personnel Carrier he was in hit a mine. Luckily he only received a cut knee and badly bruised arm. His injuries were not severe enough to warrant a trip home. (Not a blighty one!). We are expecting the lads to return in April at the end of their tour.

If anyone would like to send any correspondence to your soldiers overseas (and they are requesting things to read from home) please forward same to our Orderly Room at the Armoury.

With these rotations taking soldiers away we have been increasing our efforts to recruit new soldiers and to maintain an interesting and challenging training programme.

Earlier in the year, on the 26 Oct 92 the Governor General came to New Westminster to present new coats of arms and flags to The City of New Westminster and to the Police Department. We mounted a quarter guard to salute him on his arrival at City Hall. The presentation ceremony was held in the council chambers

and our band was present to play "O Canada" and "The Queen". I had a chance to speak with the Governor General and he made a point of saying how much he appreciated the welcome he had received from the Regiment.

As usual the Remembrance Day Service was held in the Armoury and Dawn Black MP gave the memorial address. The Band played very well and there was good turn out from the Regiment both in New Westminster and in Abbotsford where B Coy were on parade.

On the 21 Dec 92 at a City Council meeting the Mayor of New Westminster presented the Regiment with the new flag of The City of New Westminster.

We have not a great deal of success on getting aircraft for our jump platoon. A number of our Hercules aircraft are supporting the UN operations that involve Canadian troops.

With the restructure of the Army under Land Forces Western Area all units have received training missions. Our mission is to produce a rifle company of two platoons and a company headquarters. One of the platoons is to be made up of paratroopers. I am pleased that this has now been confirmed as we were all concerned about the loss of the airborne tasking and the impact that would have on the unit.

We are now looking forward to Exercise Western Challenge to be held in CFB Wainwright from 14 to 22 August 93. This will be the first time that the Western Training Brigade will be exercised. The Brigade will be made up of composite units based on each unit's battalion made up of The Royal Westminster Regiment, Seaforth Highlanders, Canadian Scottish, Rocky Mountain Rangers and The Loyal Edmonton Regiment. The training will consist of defensive operations (including patrolling which is right up our street).

On the 21-24 May weekend, along with the Melfa Dinner on the 21st and the golf tournament on the 22nd, we are looking at having a church parade (and Regimental Christening if appropriate) on the Sunday the 23rd, and an annual parade along with the firing of the Anvil Battery salute on Victoria Day, the 24th, at Queens Park. If there are former members of the Regiment who have children or grandchildren that they would like to have Christened please let my Adjutant Lt Reimer at the Armoury know.

His number is 666-4373. We will keep you advised when the final details have been confirmed.

In closing, let me say how proud I am of all our soldiers and members of the Band. All have been working hard to maintain the traditions and standards established by previous members of The Regiment.

Pro Rege et Patria

W.A.S. White
Lt Col

SICK AND VISITING

Norm McAskill
Henry Horford
Walter Jackson

B.F 4 Shaughnessy Hospital
B.F 4 Shaughnessy Hospital
George Derby Centre
Cumberland & 16th Avenue

If you hear of any member in hospital, please phone
Eben Sweet 522-3808
Doug Glenn 522-0890

Just a quick thank you. It was with pleasure that I received a copy of The Ground Sheet, via my comrades.

I found it an immense pleasure to read about Melf 92 and reminisce. Furthermore, the Commanding Officer's letter that you published help me to determine who had actually been sent to Yugoslavia.

The UN mission that I'm attending is not as exciting or unique. However, it was nice to hear about the Westie family young and old.

I look forward to hearing and seeing you all upon my repatriation. Please pass a message to the Museum staff. I will assist them in cataloguing the materials I sent them from Cyprus.

Yours truly,

MWO Chuck MacKinnon CD.

P.S.

I hope Pte Steve Hartwig has recovered from his wounds in Yugo. To the rest of you in Yugo, Good Luck!

November 13, 1992

Your Worship,

Subject: The Armistice wreath - laying ceremony.

For many years the procedure of laying wreaths has been imperfect. The announcing of individual Associations, Auxiliaries etc. has been taking too long and is irrelevant.

Inclement weather - standing on sodden grass and subjected to the elements (never the best) creates a balky reaction.

May we suggest, through your good office that the matter be discussed by the Committee in charge, so that next year a more stream lined, but still effective format be evident.

Why not allocate or reduce the time spent after the 2 minute Silence to laying wreaths in groups of six or ten reading the manes over the speaker, with a short break of 20 seconds, then in with the next batch. This would speed up the present dreary recitation. It would most certainly make the time spent "on parade" standing on wet grass with cold winds and possibly rain more bearable.

I am a veteran of the Royal Westminster Regiment presently a member of the Association. I am also of the opinion that many of my compatriots feel the same way as I. We suspect there may be petty politics involved, but this matter needs resolving and re-organization.

I trust the above comments will be discussed by the committee in charge.

Your sincerely,

Ken Goodwin

R. Paterson-Burton
26 Foxborough Gardens
Edmonton, Alberta
T8N 5E3

October 30, 1992

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

Please note my change of address on your membership list. I have been posted to Land Force Western Area Headquarters in Edmonton, Alberta. New address is as above.

It was sad to read in the Nov 92 Groundsheet of the death of Al Lee, but I had to chuckle as I reminisced on our meeting a year ago.

Al's wheel chair was positioned in a perfect blocking position in front of the doors of the Lougheed Mall liquor store where he was aggressively selling chocolate bars for one of his charities. I was on my way home in uniform and had slipped into the store to pick up a bottle of wine, but no way was I going to get past him on my way out! Al recognized my cap and badge. The ensuing five-minute chat by a couple of Westies became an hour - much to the detriment of his chocolate bar sales, I fear.

It was a cold day, but Al's zest for life warmed up the area. Al loved the Regiment. He was fascinated to hear what we were presently up to, and noted how many present concerns were shared by our predecessors fifty years ago.

We met again at the same location, but I could only stay a minute, so we enthusiastically agreed to continue our discussion at a later time. Shortly thereafter I was posted to Edmonton HQ, and I didn't make that RV.

Although our RV may have to wait a while longer, Al, I'm sure we'll have much to talk about when we next meet.

WHO WAS THE CADET ?

In my last Edition, I asked a question about who the Ranger Cadet was who gained commendable recognition in other Regiments. Those whose answer was Lieut-Colonel Howe Lee CD, win the big cigar and are entitled to a weekend in sunny, scenic Spuzzum, BC. The following 'brief' is an outline of his military background, after serving as a Ranger Army Cadet in Armstrong, B C.



From 1950-52, he served as a Private in the R M Rangers. While attending the University of B C, he took Officer Training in the C O T C where he qualified as a Junior Subaltern. From 1959-67, he served with the 156 Company of the RCASC and during that time, he was promoted to Major. When he left them, he was the C O. In 1961, he served as a Platoon Commander & Instructor at the Army Cadet Camp in Vernon, BC. After he joined the R. Westminster Regiment in 1967, he served as A/OIC Armoury, Security Officer, and finally, CO of the #2316 Cadet Corps. From 1974-76, he served with H Q, Militia Area Pacific as a Staff Officer i/c Operations & Training. Then, he went back to the 'Westies' and by 1980, he became their Deputy CO. From there, he went to #12 (Van) Service Battalion and the time spent with them, gained him the rank of Lt-Colonel. When he stood down as their CO in 1984, he went back to H Q Militia Area to become the Senior Staff Officer until 1987.

He is presently serving as the Regimental Secretary of the Royal Westminster Regiment & is also very involved with the Army Cadet League of Canada as a Zone Commander - I believe. A fitting finale to this soldier's commendable Army career. He started as a Cadet and now, in his reclining military years, is most concerned about the Cadet

Movement. Acting on behalf of this, your Association, Sir --- may I salute you as an indication of our respect & admiration for what you have achieved over the years, as an ex-Rocky Mountain Ranger. We wish you continued success in the years ahead, especially with your first love --- the Cadet Corps.

* * * * *

COVER HIS FACE

He appeared at C Company headquarters as another reinforcement from Canada. In late November 1944 any new body was a welcome sight to a Canadian infantry regiment.

No one in the company knew him. According to his documents he was just over 17 years of age, one of the youngest recruits we had ever recieved. He had joined the army s soon as he could, had finished all the prescribed military training and somehow had managed to reach us on the banks of the River Maas in Holland.

There he stood - a big husky lad eager for a fight, but with no combat experience.

This was after the costly clearing of the Scheldt Estuary. Our regiment, the Regina Rifles, was in a holding action. My company was dug in around a huge abandoned brickyard. The weather was wet and it was cold. Everyone had sentry duty: two hours on and four hours off. All hands 'stood to' before dawn and dusk.

We were shelled intermittently but persistently by large and small mortars and medium artillery. No patrolling was in progress because we were on one side of the Maas and the Hunn on the other, but it was necessary to be alert at all times.

So thin was our company on the ground that many sentry points had to be manned by individual riflemen. Our new recruit was placed in such a position, a safe point not far from company headquarters.

I was 27, a lieutenant acting as second in command of the company. I worried about him out there by himself and visited him at least twice the first two-hour watch. After my second visit, I returned to company headquarters, just as a long burst of mortaring occurred.

I immediately dashed back out to his post, taking my runner with me. There we found our new recruit, slumped up against the brick wall of his post, dead. In the dark, there didn't seem to be a mark on him. I sent my runner for the stretcher-bearers.

When the stretcher bearers got him back to headquarters, we found a small hole in his left temple. Obviously he had died instantly.

This bothered me so much that while on leave in Nijmegen at the end of November 1944 I wrote this poem:

* Poem continued on Page #10 *

KILLED IN ACTION

"Cover his face so they can't see it!"

A while ago we talked together
Right on this post black as pitch.

I patted his shoulder,
Told him to say awake an hour more
Then he could sleep at least four.

"Cover his face. He was so young!"

I told him how safe he was,
Behind this wall of bricks.

But that was ten minutes ago
An now he is dead.
Quite dead, and heavy to carry,
As only the dead can be.

"Quiet, you there. Carry him softly."

"Cover his face," I said,

"We've too many young ones

"Who will see death soon enough.

"Put him down there.

"I'll write his parents, tomorrow."

LEGION, NOVEMBER 1991.

CONTRAILS

A critic is a man who knows the way but can't drive the car.

Kenneth Tynan

Thinking is the only thing no one has ever been able to tax.

Charles F. Kettering

The great end of life is not knowledge, but action.

Aldous Huxley

Anger makes dull men witty, but it keeps them poor.

Attributed to Queen Elizabeth I

FROM THE POST

Received two nice letters from Al Pradine of 471 Timberlane Place, Qualicum Beach, B.C. V9K 1B9;

Sorry to hear of your health problems Al, but pleased you were able to fly to the Sun Belt; I believe I can empathise with you as I have been undergoing the same problems. Thanks again to Roy Drewery RE: the mystery of the 'A' Coy Photo -- Keep trying Roy. Thanks to Tom Guest of Saskatoon for your kind remarks and donation...Appreciation also to Larry Durro for the same...Many thanks to Olive Rogers for her husband's dues. From Old Reliable dues for himself & also Malcolm Flewelling of Dartmouth, Nova Scotia via Jack Terpenning of Victoria, B.C., thanks also Jack for your kind remarks. An exceedingly interesting letter from Lloyd E. Stuart of Hardisty, Alberta; Your compliments RE: The Groundsheet received with thanks but we regret the lack of extra War Diaries - Perhaps this would be a good time to request ALL MEMBERS if they have some spare copies out there somewhere send them in to us we have several avid customers awaiting... Sincere thanks to Ken Goodwin & your letter copy to the Mayor RE: the wreath laying snafu. I shall print it verbatim because WE ALL AGREE WITH YOU KEN! Thanks to W. Westlund for your dues & kind remarks. A very special word of appreciation to Gason 'Gus' Provencher of Garden Bay, B.C. for the report of Baldy Haddock's memorial and also for the photo's and cards. We regret that lack of space precludes us from printing your letter in total but we assured the entire Association is most grateful for your considerable efforts.

I have taken the liberty of forwarding you letter to Baldy's step-brother in Vancouver. Thanks to Tom Guest of Saskatoon for your kind remarks and pending donation.

Thanks to Jim Kyle of Saskatoon for interesting comments and dues plus donation...Thanks to Brenda Mannering for dues & kind remarks. Thanks also to Geo Demetruk for 93 dues, and sincere regards to old reliable for dues and donations and sincere compliments RE: Groundsheet. Thanks to Cliff Wetmoore and last but not least, an always welcome letter from Clarence 'Silent' Smith who is now operating his large farm from the comforts of Saskatoon; you've earned it Clarence....That's thirty for now!

OBITUARIES

ERIC LATTA	Westminster Regiment W:W 2
ART GREENSILL	Westminster Regiment W:W 2
PHIL HAYES	Westminster Regiment W:W 2
E.W. HENRY K42-491	Westminster Regiment W:W 2
DOUG MOHR	Westminster Regiment W:W 2
GEO. KALENCHUK	Westminster Regiment W:W 2

SPECIAL OBITUARY

Elsie Baldwin the Grand Lady of the special 'D' Coy Annual Picnic: She will be sorely missed by all and the Association extends our deepest sympathies to her daughter **Marion Soutar** and Marion's husband **Sam Soutar** for their courtesy and kindness in making us all welcome at the grand event.

THE ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

The undersigned, being a member in good standing of the above mentioned Society, hereby appoint **Doug Glenn, Chuck Smithers, Walter Lyle, Bruce Eaton, Ron Hurley,**
 _____ as proxyholder for the undersigned to attend, act and vote on behalf of the undersigned at the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Society to be held on the 18th day of March, 1993.

Signed this ___ day of _____, 19__.

MAIL TO ASSOCIATION

Box 854 New Westminster, B.C.

 Print Name

 (Signature of Member)

NOTE: Forward this proxy to the member you wish to act on your behalf.