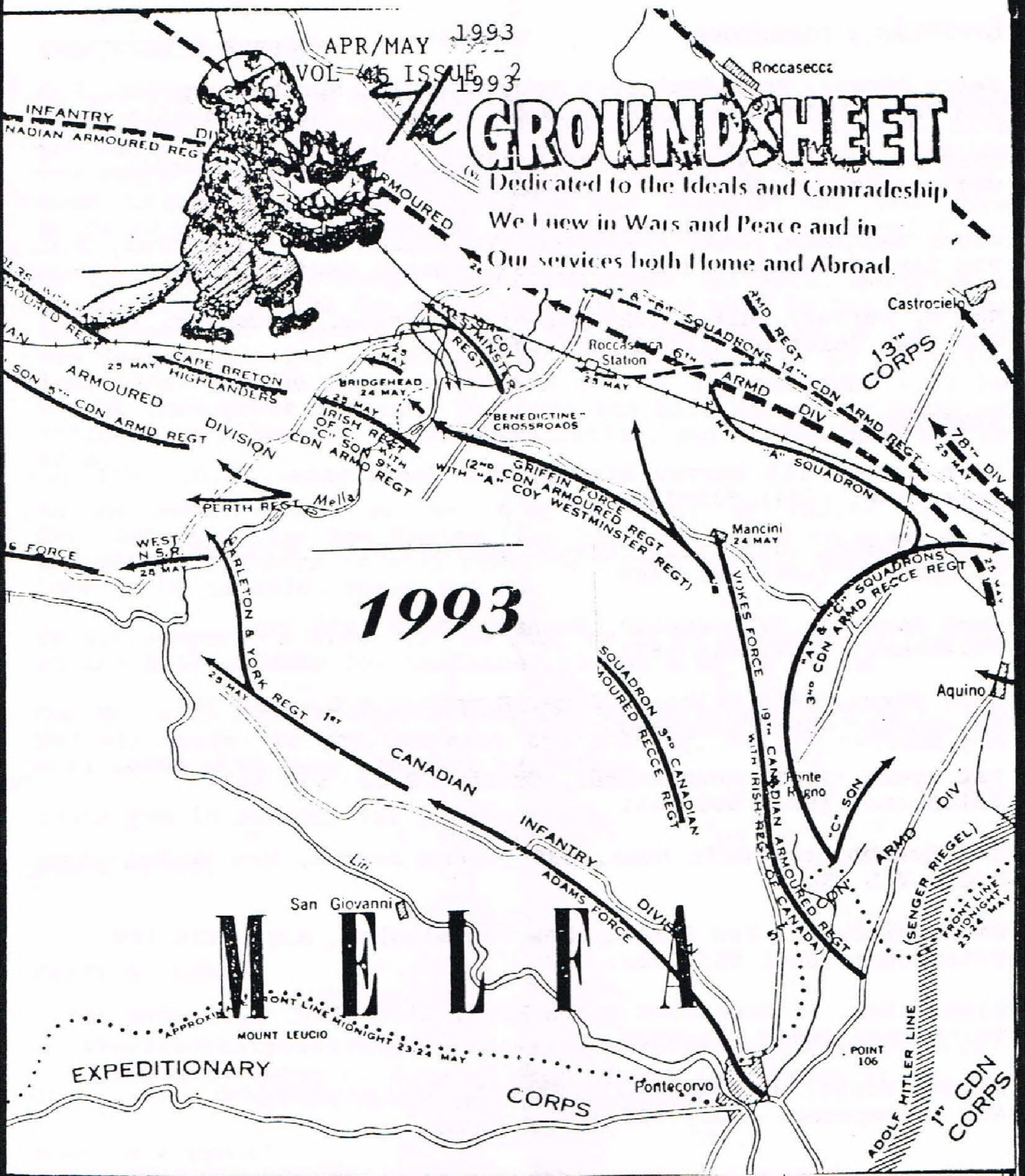


APR/MAY 1993

VOL 45 ISSUE 2

The GROUND SHEET

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



1993

MELFA

May

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

My service with the Regiment began in 1963, after having served three years in the 33rd Fd Sqn RCE in Lethbridge, Alberta. Like the Regiment, my military career began with the 'Sappers'. During the years 1977-1981, I served as your commanding officer. Today, some thirty years after joining the Association, you have honoured me by electing me as your president. How grateful I am!

My immediate predecessor, President Chuck Smithers, deserves a great deal of praise for all the magnificent work he has done. He leaves me with a good up-to-date set of records and he has laid the foundations for our financial future. Chuck is an effective individual and he is a doer. His advice and guidance will be sought throughout my term. To those who have agreed to serve as officers or directors of the Association, our thanks goes out to them.

As an association, we owe a great deal of thanks to our Groundsheet editor **Ron Hurley**. Ron has been asked to stay on as the editor and says he will continue producing the newsletter as long as he is able. Thank you Ron.

To all members, a plea. If you want us to do something different at the Melfa dinner for instance, please drop us a line.

Our Melfa is rapidly approaching and we would dearly like to see you all again. If you can make the journey, we are certain you will leave with many pleasant memories.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Yours Truly,

Jerry N. Gangur

The only thing to do with good advice is to pass it on.
It is never any use to oneself.

Oscar Wilde

What is a cynic?

A man who knows the price of everything and the value of nothing.

Oscar Wilde

FROM THE PAST PRESIDENT: Chuck Smithers

Congratulations to Jerry Gangur as your new President. My two terms as President have been interesting and for the most part, rewarding. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the directors and the editor for their ongoing support, but the real vote of thanks is for **ALL YOU MEMBERS AT LARGE!!!** Your dues and donations have kept us going. Admittedly our ever depleting ranks gave us some concern as to deficit financing regarding budgets etc. As usual the same salwarts came through with dues and increased donations. Let us hope that the two thirds Groundsheet recipients who do not remit dues and/or donations will get the message and respond in kind. You are our only source of revenue and we need you non-committed to help us in the future.

Thank you all and good luck in the future.

Sincerely,

C.A. Smithers.

Melfa Dinner 1993 Format May 21, 22nd & 23rd

Place: Royal Canadian Legion 2-260 12th Street, New Westminster, B.C.

Friday, May 21, 1993 \$22.00/person Cocktails 6:00pm Dinner 7:00pm

Golf Saturday, May 22, 1993 @12 noon at the Delta Golf Club, 1150 Ladner Trunk Road, Delta.

Golf Fees: \$35.00 each.

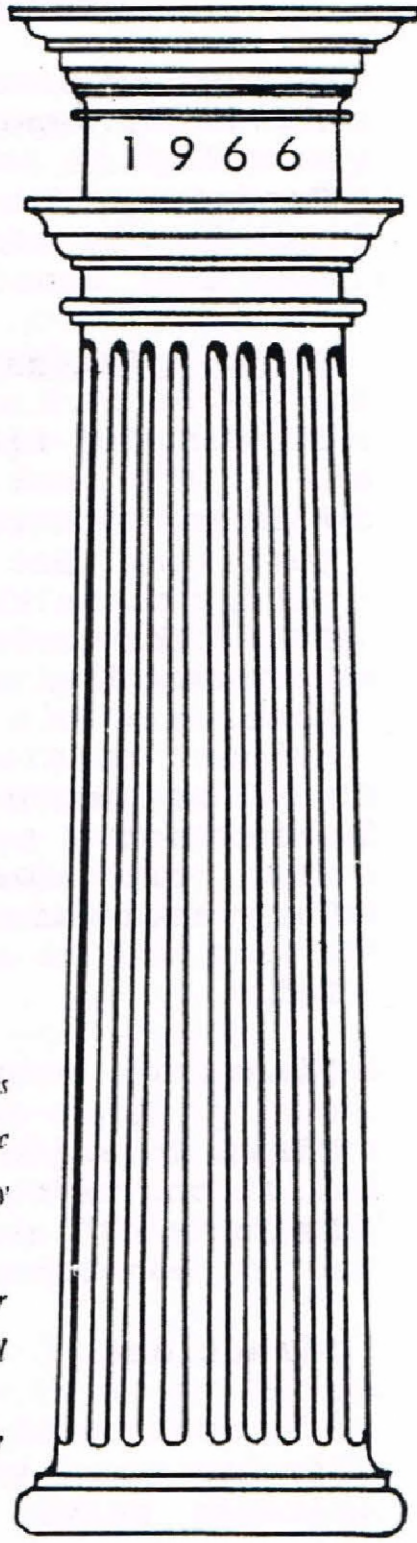
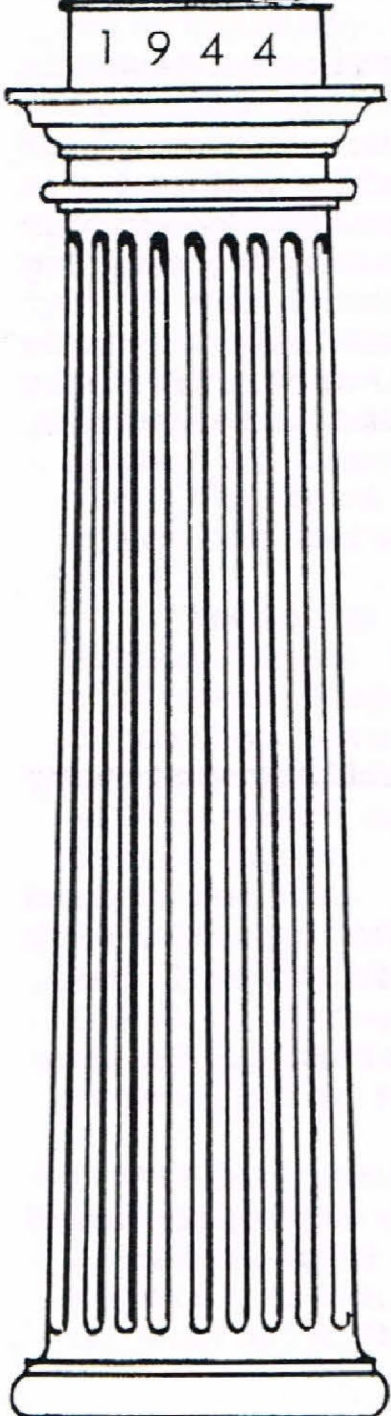
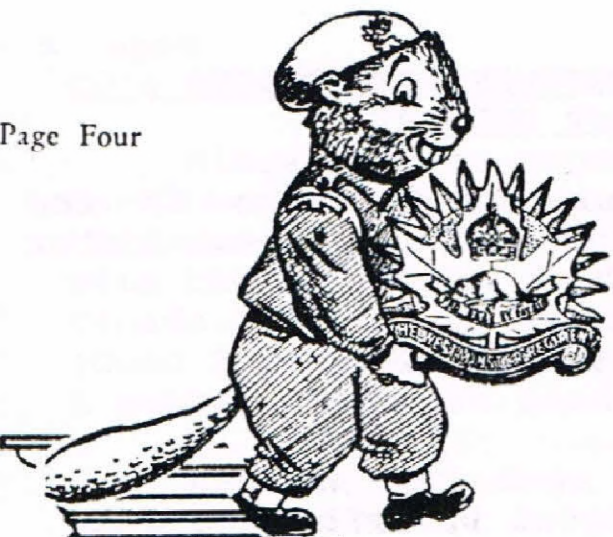
Routes to Course: King George Hwy to Hwy #10; Scott Road (120th St) to Hwy #10; Alex Fraser Bridge to Hwy #10 or Hwy 99 to #10. **Golf prices include beverages & assorted sandwiches or 2 beverages plus a hotdog. This is a condition Re: using the golf course tee off.**

NO CHARGE

NO HOST BAR

MUSEUM OPEN

R.S.V.P. by May 5, 1993 Payable to the following:
 Royal Westminster Regiment Association
 Box 854, New Westminster, BC, V3L 4Z8



FIRST ANNUAL MELFA
GOLF TOURNAMENT
HAZELMERE GOLFCOURSE

Tee Off 9:00 a.m.
Saturday, May 21st

MELFA DINNER

Saturday, May 21st, 1966

RON HURLEY, CHAIRMAN

PROGRAMME

COCKTAILS 7:00 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.

DINNER 7:45 P.M.

- One Minute's Silence in Memory of Departed Comrades*
- Grace Regimental Padre*
- Toast to Queen Ron Hurley*
- Introduction of Head Table.*
- Toast to City of New Westminster by Andy Hunter*
- Toast — The Regiment Mayor S. Gifford*
- Toast — The 47 Bn., 131st and 104th*
by Lt. Col. H. Hamm
- Toast — The Straths.*
- Toast — The B.C.D.'s.*
- Introduction of Speaker.*
- Address to the Melfa by Mayor S. Gifford*
- Toast to Melfa by Regimental Sgt.*

BAR RE-OPENS — FELLOWSHIP

**SPECIAL NOTICE TO ALL APPLICANTS FOR JOHN FORD
ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT BURSARY**

Do Not...Repeat - Do Not write your applications to the Association, but forward them directly to New Westminster Secondary School in New Westminster, BC.

ATTENTION: SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

HELLO & FAREWELL: August 1, 1993

Final D Coy Picnic at Lindell Beach, August 1, 1993.

All good things must end but there is a certain sadness in realizing that August 1, 1993 will be the final D Coy Picnic. It hardly seems that 20 years have passed by since that inaugural of 1973. The ranks of D Coy have indeed been radically reduced but the memories of The Baldwins, D'Arcy and more recently the passing of his beloved Elsie shall always be with us. The ongoing support of Elsie's daughter, Marion and her husband Sam Soutar will be long remembered as will all the D Coy personnel who made this such a special event. The members of The Association who were privileged to attend are most grateful indeed. Meanwhile, lets make this final picnic a day to remember.

Date: August 1, 1993

Place: Lindell Beach

Time: Noon

Bring: Folding chairs and tables, and libations of your choice.

Directions: Take Cultus Lake exit off Hwy #1, proceed around Cultus Lake. Just past Lake end, watch for 54 sign you have arrived. Lets not miss this grand finale.

Ron Hurley, Editor

The government is concerned about the population explosion, and the population is concerned about the government explosion.

Ruth Rankin

CO's REPORT FOR THE GROUNDSHEET:

Since my last report we have been able to welcome back MWO MacKinnon who has returned from UN duty in Cyprus. As I write this our 10 soldiers serving on the first rotation of Op Harmony with the 3 Bn PPCLI in Croatia are in the process of returning to Canada. There will be a parade for 3 PPCLI on the 9th of April (Good Friday) at the Parliament Buildings to welcome them back. A number of us are planning to be there.

Reports back from Westies training with the 2 Bn PPCLI are that our soldiers are doing well except for MCpl Buryniuk who unfortunately broke his leg during training at Fort Ord in the USA. He is now on the mend and will be part of the rear party at Winnipeg on stand by as a replacement.

Just a reminder that our soldiers would welcome articles, correspondence, etc. Please forward to our Orderly Room at the Armoury for mailing.

We had an excellent Annual Regimental Mess Dinner on the 20 Feb 93. The Lt Governor of British Columbia was our guest of honour and this was a great tribute for the Regiment. I had a number of comments from the guests about how impressed they were with the band and our soldiers who participated in the quarter guard and served dinner.

Recently we were down in Yakima, Washington during the school break in March. We did some training on machine guns, anti-tank weapons and threw grenades. The last couple of days we conducted live fire defensive shooting at the computer controlled targets on the Multipurpose Range Complex. We then finished with a 15km march back to our bivouac site which was completed in just over 2 hours.

Kerry McPhedran, a freelance reporter was with us in Yakima and lived with us in the field under canvas. She is a niece of Lt Col G.C. Corbould. I believe that she was suitably impressed with us. Her article will appear in the Western Living magazine probably for the June or July issue.

All members of the association are welcome to attend the church parade (and possible Regimental Christening) on Sunday the 23rd and 1400 hours (following a brunch at the Armoury), and an annual parade along with the firing of the Anvil Battery salute on Victoria Day, the 24th at Queens Park.

CO's REPORT FOR THE GROUNDSHEET: continued...

We also plan to have an open house at the Armoury on the 29th of May. This coincides with the Hyack Festival Parade and the Regiment and Band and Cadet Corps will be in the parade as well. You and your families are most welcome to come and visit the Armoury.

This will be my last opportunity to submit an article for the Groundsheet as Commanding Officer. When the next issue comes out in the fall, I should be working at BC District Headquarters in Vancouver (Jericho). Unfortunately, due to the Brigade Recce for Ex Western Challenge I will be missing the Melfa dinner, golf tournament, and Church Parade. I should be back for the Parade on the 24th. The change of command parade will be in October. The date is yet to be decided, however invitations will be sent out to all members. Of course once I have handed over, then I will be able to join your ranks as a former serving member of The Regiment.

I would like to thank all members of the association for their support to me and The Regiment. Being selected to command this fine Regiment has been the opportunity of a lifetime. The more that I have been able to get to know the members of the association and to find out more about the exploits of the Regiment during the Second World War the more impressed and proud I have become.

Pro Rege et Patria

W.A.S. White
Lt Col

POSTSCRIPT TO ABOVE:

I attended a welcome home parade for 3 Bn PPCLI in Victoria on April 9, 1993, and spoke to a number of the returning Westies who has served in Croatia. They are all glad to be home and keen to be back with the Regiment, but want to be sure they take their leave and come back refreshed. Re The Proposed Regiment Christening and it's location. There appears to be little response to date so we will go ahead with just a church parade after The Association Sunday Brunch at the Armouries at 1400 hours on May the 21st. Future planning re Christening will be forthcoming and published in the Groundsheet. Please note upcoming events:

POSTSCRIPT TO ABOVE: continued...

- May 1, 1993 Officer's Military Ball
Hotel Vancouver
- May 15, 1993 Senior N.C.O's Coronation Ball
HMCS Discovery
- July 15, 1993 The Armoury Reception for **Duke of Westminster**
for confirmation re: above call Major Conradi
or Lt Reimer at 666-4373.
Reception at 1800 hours.

FROM THE POST:

Dues donation and kind words from Old Stalwart Bob Boyd - was interested to learn of Ernie Seel - Now Ernie is one person I have not heard of in years, and I am sure Geo Hughes will appreciate The Italian Flag...Thanks to Frank Reiser of Vernon, B.C. for dues...Interesting words from Jack Terpenning and I trust Walt Lyle's memory is as good as yours re your meeting at a symphony concert 35 years ago...Dues and some information from Jack Smith K47 081 now residing at #219-22611-116 Ave. Maple Ridge, BC V2X 0WT - Jack extends a welcome to any old "Westies" for a drop in visit...Thanks to Micheal Lockert for his dues and yes I remember you well Mike as I too spent over 6 years with Charlie Coy...Thanks to George Griffiths and your kind works re the Groundsheet...Dues from another old C Coy Stalwart in the person of Tommy Rusnak...Thanks to Bill Sholtz of Langley for 93 dues.. From Don Drummond for dues and as always from Don something extra for a donation...William Tyo of Cornwall Ont sends his dues and best regards...A kind donation from Les Deane and we hope your business trip was kind to you...Appreciation to Ethel Johnston for dues and donation...Apologies to Bill Blackwell of 267 Conklin Ave Penticton B.C. V2A 2T1..Can't understand the problem Blackie for that is the same address I turned in when you first moved to Penticton and it still appears that way on our master list-perhaps you should check with the 'Pony Express'...From Prince George, BC, Glen Hollong sends his dues plus a donation, much appreciated...Sincere thanks to Nellie Smith re your nice story on your husband Tommy K47 403-If space allows will print in this issue or the next in Oct...Another word from Jack Terpenning enclosing an obituary of William Glen Smith who had served in B Coy, thanks for your cooperation Jack...Dues, a donation and kind words from George Shaw of 8122-169B St. Edmonton, Alta T5R 2X8, Jack was in R.C.C.S. and was attached to

The Westies from Pippingford Park to A Coy up to Foglia River in Italy...An extremely nice letter and generous donation from Gertrude Johnson on behalf of her husband George, sincerely sorry to learn of George's illness but it is gratifying to learn that Ian and Ros Douglas and Vern Ardagh visit you and keep in touch.. Frank Johnson writes to express his delight re 1992 Melfa and extends his thanks to Chuck Smithers re his help in locating accommodation. Frank just send your letter to: ROYAL WESTMINSTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY ARMOURIES NEW WEST BC...Thanks to Ernie Holland for your prompt proxy return-long time friend and old C Coy sidekick Alfie White of North York, Ont-Thanks Alfie for your dues and kind donations-much appreciated...Bert Wolverton writes to Walt Lyle with dues, donation and complimentary words for the hardworking directors...Thanks to Colin McQuarrie for your kind donation...Word from the inveterate Nomad Pat McCarthy who has moved once more to the Boondocks of Ont at 439 Main S.S.#4 Stroud Ont L0L 2M0-By the way Pat did you receive the crest sent to you? -The Association has not heard yet...Ol Buddy Hammersley writes to note his change of Box No. Now Box 350 in Ganges BC...McNally of Kelowna notes his corrected address to be 134-1255 Raymer Ave Kelowna, BC V1W 3S3...Thanks to Aubrey Coutts for donations and your new Zip Code of V4P 1C8-duly noted...G.F. Corman of RR#1 Milgrove Ont L0R 1V0 sends dues and a donation...Address change of Charles Robertson now of 2494 Reece Rd Westbank, BC V4Y 1N1 ...Sorry to learn of your illness Bill Jasman and thanks for the dues and donation...Dues and donations and kind works re Groundsheet from Gordon Higginson...Change of address from long time personal friend and C Coy stalwart Bill Gunn now enjoying retirement at #31-885 Berwick Rd Qualicum Beach, BC V1W 3S3... Gord McCourt of Sechelt sends best regards and as he words it "A few extra Bucks" to help out-most welcomed Gord...Thanks to Al O'Brien of Carman Manitoba for dues and greetings....

PERSONAL THANKS FROM YOUR EDITOR for all the telephone calls, cards and a special thank you to "THE BELFAST IRISHMAN" Bert Stephens for his personal visits during my stay in hospital. Have managed to survive two life threatening illnesses since Jan and Feb, first viral pneumonia and then three weeks of hell with toxic shock syndrome from the antibiotics they used to cure the pneumonia: pleased to say I have not missed a beat in publishing your **GROUND SHEET**. Am recovering slowly at home...once more **MANY THANKS TO ALL**, and sincere thanks to Dr. Roy Karjala and other medics, nurses, support staff et al at Richmond General Hospital. Believe me there is nothing wrong with our health services as long as Bumbling BC Gov't Bureaucrats leave them to do their jobs--and show them the respect they so richly deserve....

Ron Hurley, Editor

Still going after 50 years

This is a true story of a World War II veteran and a wrist watch.

Tommy Smith enlisted in September 30, 1939, just a few weeks after war was declared. He spent that winter in barracks in the old Vancouver Hotel and then later in the spring of 1940 in Dundurn, Sask.

From there he was sent to Camp Borden until he was shipped overseas in 1941, stationed at Aldershot until 1942 when Westminster Regiment from New Westminster went into the front lines and action.

During the First World War this Regiment was known as The 47 and that is why all the Westminster Regimental Numbers start with 47. Tommy's number was K47403.

While he was in England and was playing ball, he broke his watch, and being a Signaller, he really needed a watch, so he wrote home to his parents in Climax, Sask. just mentioning to them he had broken his watch. His parents placed an order for a watch from Eaton's catalogue in Winnipeg, to be sent overseas.

When Tommy did receive this watch he was in action in the front lines. The Corporal with the Postal services remarked to him that he hoped Tommy would be luckier than two other members of the Regiment that had received watches and now both were killed in action.

Needless to say he started wearing the watch right away and has worn it for 50 years. The original strap was leather, and over the years has had several straps, had it cleaned and repaired

- both of these costing more than the original price which was \$29.95. On the face of it is the words Solar, Aqua.

Tommy's folks never saw the watch until he returned home after three years in action.

Needless to say, everyone is happy that Tommy's luck held out and me especially, as we were married in February, 1948 and have had 44 years together and have one son Neil and Judy, daughter-in-law, Lisa, granddaughter, two grandsons, Killian, Lochlahon in Edmonton.

Tommy worked at various jobs in the building trade in the Vancouver area, later taking a course in Steam Engineering and ended up as Third Class Engineer.

We came to Kamloops in November 1962, as Tommy was employed with DND at Mount Lolo Radar Base, retiring in July 1975.

Tommy just celebrated his 82nd birthday and is still very active as he has a big yard with a hedge to keep trimmed. He is a bowler during the winter and member of several senior groups.



Tommy Smith, with his 50-year-old wrist watch, and Frisky, his eight-year-old poodle.

IN MEMORIAM

Capt. Ken Harrison.....Westminster Regt(M) W.W. 2
 William Glen Smith.....Westminster Regt(M) W.W. 2
 H.L. Jones.....Westminster Regt(M) W.W. 2

HUNT FOR HUMOR

Norm Gibson of Hove, Sussix, England, recounts that in 1942 his unit was moved into a building just outside an English village. The building had previously housed a school for your ladies.

The first evening he was there he found this notice posted over his bed: "If, during the night you require a mistress, please ring the bell".

Rosa Turner of Lethbridge, Alta., recalls the wedding of two goods friends, Joan and Bertie in England in 1940.

Once the wedding ceremony was over, the happy couple waited on the station platform, with a host of friends, for departure time. At the last second Joan's mother came rushing along the platform: "Joan, Joan, you forgot your gas mask."

The laughter was a good omen, says Turner, for a happy marriage that has lasted 50 years and is still going strong.

Syd Webb of Toronto relates that in 1944 Maj. Pete McCordic's D Co., Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders of Canada, had dug in on one side of a canal in Holland. McCordic crawled about, taking stock of what remained of his command. At one point, he reached a slit trench that seemed to extend down to China. He found, among others, he found a nervous corporal.

"Corporal," he said, "you have just become a sergeant and you're in command here."

The corporal replied: "No thank you, sir. I'm not interested in promotion."