



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

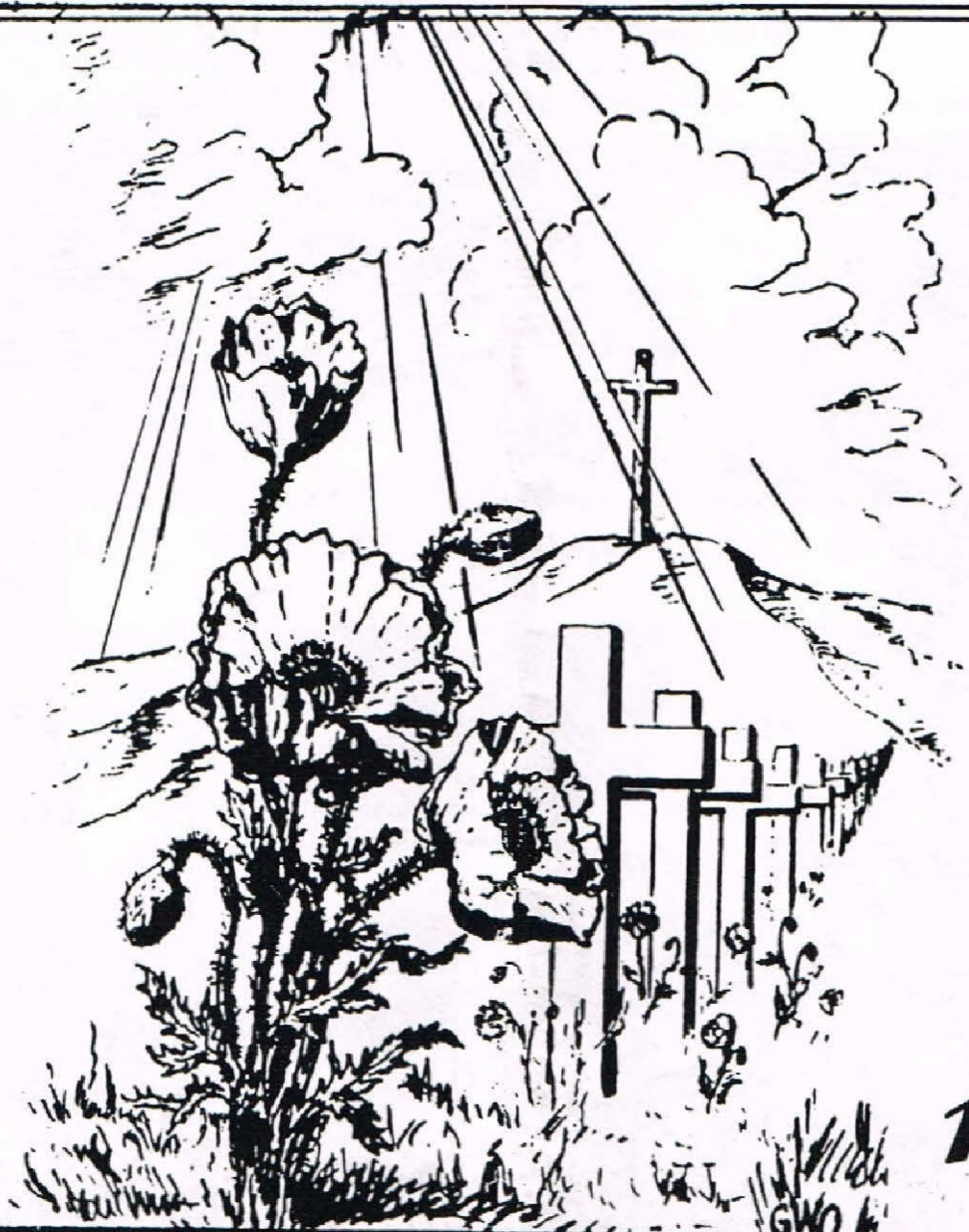


# THE GROUND SHEET

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF

=VOLUME 45 /ISSUE 3

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



1993

**NOT FORGOTTEN**

**Jerry Gangur**, President - 2015 Hyannis Drive, North Vancouver

Telephone: (604) 929-5785

**C. Smithers**, Treasurer - 670 Appian Way, Coquitlam

Telephone: (604) 581-6373

**Ron Hurley**, Editor - 2229 Bonnyvale, Vancouver

Telephone: (604) 321-8464

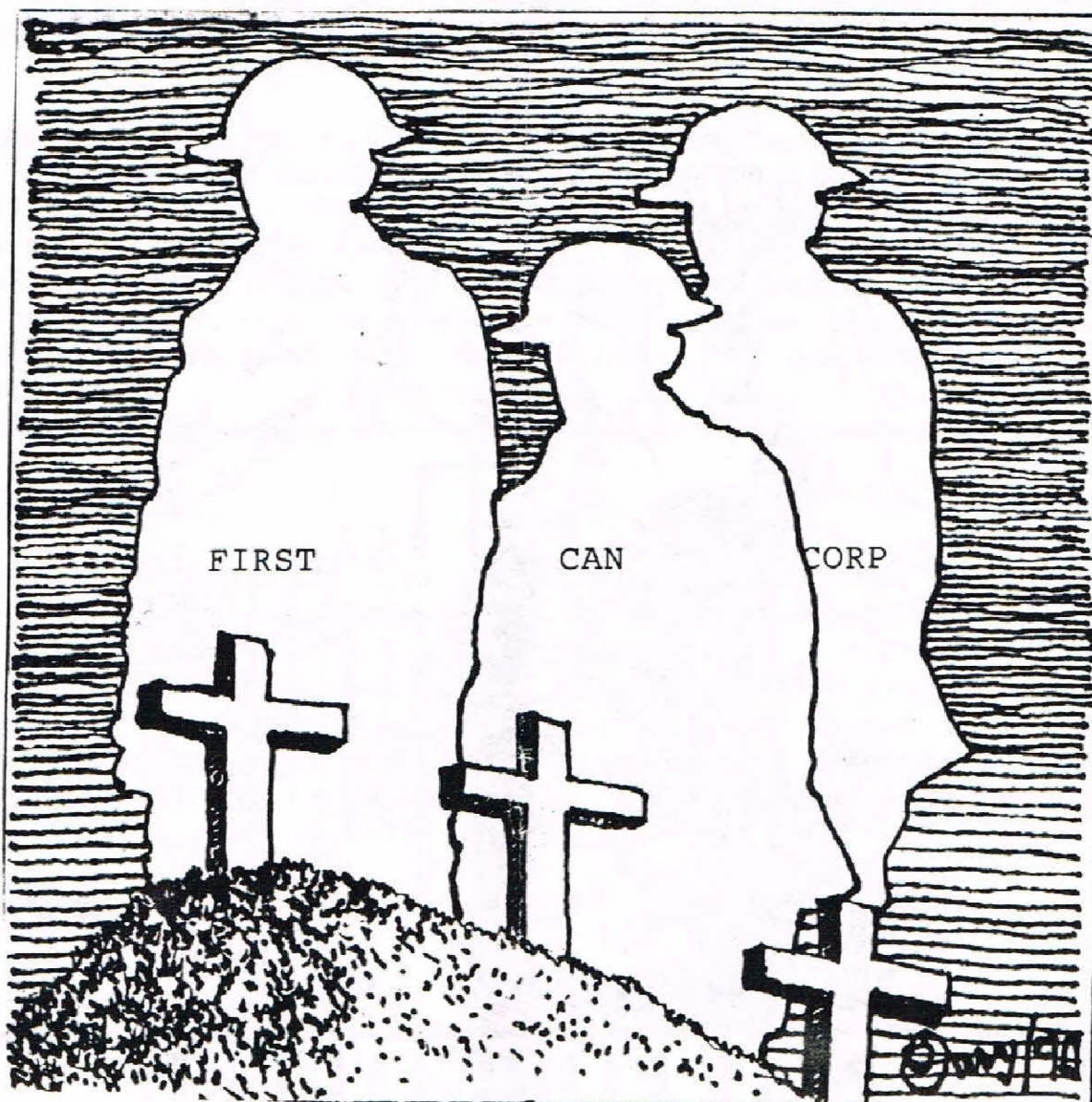
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*Remembrance Day Services November 11, 1993*

*To be held at the Armouries at 0:930am - Blazers, Medals & Berets*

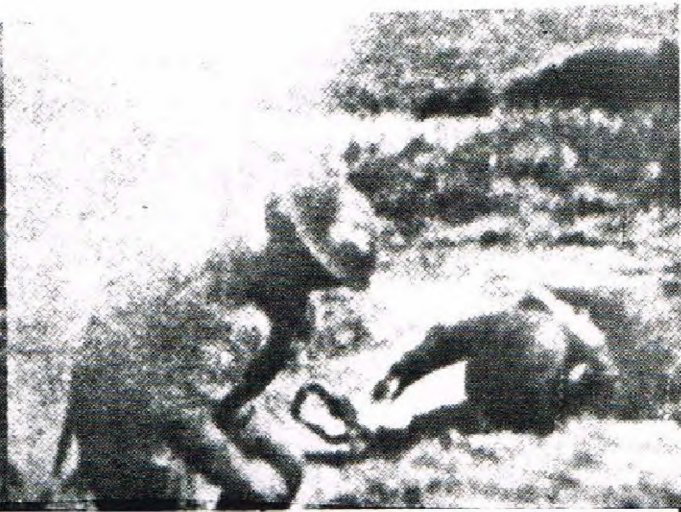
*Spirits of 1st Canadian Corp Sicily & Italy 1943-1945*

*We are the "D-Day Dodgers, remember us in 1994.  
We also marched to battle, we were wounded and died;  
Our efforts were central to the success  
of the allies from June 6, 1944 - May 1945.*





A MACABRE -DEMENTED GERMAN SOLDAT-CAMERA ON MACHINE GUN



FILMING THE DEATH THROES OF CANADIANS CAUGHT IN AMBUSH



SOMEWHERE IN ITALY 1944

Melfa 1993 Report

110 Members enjoyed the 93 Melfa including the golf and brunch.

Yes, the ranks are thinning rapidly, but for those able to attend, all declared it a "Good Show". Melfa 94, our 50th Anniversary looms large, and we must make every effort to see that this will be the biggest and best yet. There will be no 1939 Vintage members for the next 50, so lets enjoy!

Melfa Golf Highlights

1st Low Gross.....	Chuck Smithers
2nd Low Gross.....	Joe Bush
Low Net.....	Terry Leith
Ladies Low Gross.....	Wilsa Poon
Ladies Low Net.....	Evlyn Johnson



L - R: John McConnel, Marion Soutar & Sam Soutar  
Received plaque from Jerry Gangur



L - R: Sam Soutar, Flag pole,  
Dick Shannon & Ed Shannon

Report of Branch #3 20th Annual Picnic Meeting, August 1, 1993

The twentieth, and last picnic meeting of Branch #3 ("D" Coy) at Circle 6 Ranch opened under sunny skies on the finest day of the year. It was good to have so many of our loyal picnickers of past years from the Association, including Jerry Gangur and his wife, Angie and daughter, Kim, also Ron and Ruth Hurley, Walter Lyle, Major Conradi Beryl, Fred and Eva West, Jack and Ida Hartley. Edna Harrison won honours as the most distant visitor, as her home is in Lancashire, and Baby Sarah at six months, pride of the McDermids, the youngest. The supporting cast of Soutars, Baldwins, Hendersons, Brittons and McDermids was in full force and good to see them all. All told, guests, members and family numbered 52.

"D" Company, which has grown perilously thin on the ground, was represented by the following members and wives: John and Linda McConnell, Bruce and Alice Eaton, Johnny Coughlin and Iris, a trio of Shannons with wives Vee and Barbara. A few more are extant but have not been coming to the picnics. Some are unable to travel and have our sincere sympathy.

President John welcomed the members and guests totalling 23 to the Branch meeting and reported that Bill Moore's name had been added to the flask. He thanked Piper Bernie Doughton and Bugler Dan McDermid for turning out and called for the observance of a moment's silence for Elsie Baldwin and all who had passed on since last picnic. Bruce Eaton was named parade O.C., parade time would be 4:30pm. He reported that the committee was still looking for a suitable place for next meeting.

Secretary Lyn gave the Financial Statement which showed a bank balance of \$1,026.36.

President Jerry Gangur thanked our hosts and advised that the Association would be involved next year in the 50th Anniversary of the Melfa River Crossing, May 24th, 1994, also the Seaforth's 50th a year hence. A major effort for the year would be fund-raising with the possibility of approaching the Vancouver Foundation for an annual grant in perpetuity.

Major Conradi reported that 140 soldiers paraded recently and that two rotations in Croatia had been done. The regular forces were being amalgamated with the militia. 3rd Battalion, P.P.C.L.I., had been transferred to Camp Chilliwack and had been

allotted an anti-tank role. He advised that the outlook was optimistic and that the changes were being absorbed efficiently.

The Flask of Remembrance was circulated and generous contributions of \$285.00 were received. The current slate of officers consisting of John McConnell, President, Ed Shannon, Vice President, Lyn Edmonds, Secretary, Ruth Newitt, Historian, and Hugh Shannon, Treasurer, were elected by acclamation.

The parade then fell in under O.C. Bruce Eaton. The Roll of Honour was called and the well known extract from "For the Fallen" given by Flag Officer Sam Soutar. Last Post was blown by Bugler Dan McDermid, followed by a hymn and the lament "Flowers of the Forest" by Piper Bernie Doughton.

On the upper grounds the parade was reconvened and mementos were presented to Sam and Marion, a regimental flag by Major Conradi, a suitable plaque by Jerry Gangur for the Regimental Association and a vase and flowers by John McConnell for Branch #3, together with sincere expressions of thanks for the unforgettable two-decade long hospitality of Circle 6 Ranch and our gracious hosts there.

The new locale will be advised as soon as possible.

Hugh Shannon

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*And so the parade passeth. Effectively dismissed and we shall  
not see it's like again - all those association members who  
attended over the past 20 years say with one voice to all  
the Baldwins, to Big John, The Shannons et al:  
Well done, we shall cherish the memories:  
Grazie, salut and ciao.*

*Ron Hurley, Editor*

September 15, 1993

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**TO: ALL "WESTIES" &  
FRIENDS OF THE REGIMENT AND THE ASSOCIATION**

This is an appeal for funds in support of **The Royal Westminster Regiment Association - Future Fund**. The goal established by the members of your committee is to raise a sum of \$100,000.00.

Over the years our Association has gradually taken on projects or made annual "commitments" of financial support that have now become routine items in our annual budget. In part, these routine expenses include the publishing and the mailing of the "**Groundsheet**," annual grants to **The Regiment**, the **Cadet Corps**, and the **Poppy Fund**. We remind you that all services performed by your executive, directors and members are voluntary. No one receives payment for services rendered.

Your Directors share some real concern regarding the future ability of our Association to meet the financial commitments that have come to be "fixtures" of our annual budget. The days of the Annual Draw are history; our source of funding is by **dues** and **donations**, which is an ongoing struggle with ever decreasing income, making it more difficult to deliver a high level of service to those in the Association.

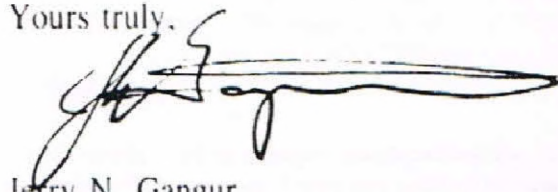
We are also reminded, that with the passage of time, the measure of our Regiments' history and those who make that history, will like old soldiers, tend to fade away. In our determination to keep the memory of the Regiment and Association alive, we ask you to provide the financial base that will enable us to remind future generations of the honor and sacrifice made by those who served when asked to do so.

To summarize, we invite you, through your financial contribution to participate in the establishment of our Future Fund and hopefully offer your support to its immediate and long term goals. All contributions will be invested with a third party administrator and it is the **income** from your donation which will help meet the financial commitments of our Association. The principal will remain inviolable and under the direction of a designated foundation.

Enclosed, please find a donor's form, which we hope you will return with your contribution. Income tax receipts will be issued.

**OUR SUCCESS DEPENDS ON YOU.**

Yours truly,



Jerry N. Gangur  
CHAIRPERSON FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Please accept our contribution as follows to:

THE ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION FUTURE FUND

- a. \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Lump Sum Donation
- b. \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per each year for \_\_\_\_\_ years.

THE ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION  
CHARITABLE TAX NO 039550950

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name/Company (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Province Postal Code

( ) ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Facsimile

Please send a charitable tax receipt for my donation Yes  No

If address for tax receipt is different than above, please print name and address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Province Postal Code

( ) ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Facsimile

Please make cheque payable to  
THE ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION  
and mail to:  
P.O. Box 854  
New Westminster, B.C. V6Z 1Y5

Yours truly



Jerry Gangut  
Chairperson Fundraising Committee



Attention Members: Due to large time lapse between correspondence for Melfa

Melfa and Fall issue considering that most of the former were simple ticket requests I shall acknowledge by a word or two. Sincere thanks to the McIntyres of Mission, B.C. for tickets, The McQuillans the same, plus donation. To Art Miller for similar requests. To J.E. Wilson for dues and donation. To L.L. Griffiths for dues, donation and kind words re: groundsheets. Also the same to the Motzers. Life mem to Howard Smith re: groundsheets, thanks. W.M. Fairweather for dues and remarks...to the Burnby's, thanks for the tickets. Sincere thanks to the Howard Smiths of 204 Malahat. If you were with Len Bailey, you were in good hands. Sincere appreciation to Rob J. Moore for Melfa fees and generous donation. Many thanks also to Ruth Hume for her generous donation re: her late husband. Murray is remembered by all.

R Melfa dues received Wilf Johnsen, much appreciated. To A.E. Wright, your letter received, cannot understand your missing Groundsheets, they are still being sent to Box 63 Naicam, B.C. Had a personal visit with Ginter recently and you will receive all pertinent re: Melfa. (Thanks to Bill Roson for dinner tickets. Thanks to Al Wilson re: Dinner 7, also for the donation. Better late than never Al. Much appreciation to Pat McCarthy for your lengthy informative letter, Pat I can assure you the crest issue has been resolved. Thank you re: your concern of my health. I am still able to carry on with the aid of my personal amanuensis. She has been terrific these past 3 years. Thanks in large measure to her the presses continue to roll, me thinks however it is getting close to time for a new editor. I've enjoyed these past 40 years, but there comes a time to say ENOUGH ALREADY! Hope this finds you much improved and my regards to all you Eastern Capitalists.

Warmest thanks to Geo Bayne of Antigonish, NS. I'm always delighted to receive them - wish I had room to print one of your letters in full, perhaps I might do it before I pack it in. Glad you like the crest and many thanks for the nice photos. Unfortunately, I can't reproduce colour in this format but I may be able to convert them to black & white. Good health to you and your family.

A very special thank you to Peace Keeper, Sgt. Doug Setter and for your copy of P.P.C.L.I. "Sandbag". I would like to re-print your letter as is and I will when space allows.

**Fiftieth Anniversary of the Battle Melfa**

General:

1. The RWRA will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Battle of the Melfa River over the period of May 20,21,22, 1994. Something will be occurring each day.
2. The president envisions activities related to this celebration occurring Friday evening, Saturday afternoon, Saturday evening, (dinner) and Sunday (brunch).
3. Details of events will be released by the Chairperson at a later date.

Accommodation:

4. Special room rates for members attending our celebration have been negotiated with the Royal Towers Hotel in New Westminster (one block south of the Armoury). The toll free hotel number is 1-800-663-0202. Room rates are \$59 plus tax and you have your choice of single, double, or twin accommodation.

Dinner:

5. The Melfa Dinner will be held in the Royal Towers Hotel on Saturday, the 21st of May (time to be announced).

Comment:

6. Our brunch is held on Sunday, normally at 11:00 hours. On two occasions, the president has been asked to move the starting time to 10:00 hours. We want to do what is best for our members. Tell me what you think.

Volunteers:

7. Melfa - 94 is a major undertaking for us and we are in need of volunteers. Can you act as a guide? Ticket collector? Display maker? Contact us if you are willing to help in any way.

Special Editors Request to all Those Actually at the Melfa  
May 24, & 25, 1944

I would like to get as many personal anecdotes from you as possible something like the "Gripe Lines" in local papers a few words or a sentence or two will suffice - I'm sure everyone has some personal recollections of those hectic hours - be they humorous, sombre or sad: Start right now I need them

Ron, Editor

## Lulu left name on map

There's no doubt the honorable gentleman was smitten.

The enchanting young thing who also sailed the West Coast more than 100 years ago left a lasting impression on the chivalrous colonel, and her name on the map.

Lulu Island, upon which Richmond is situated, nestles in the arms of the Fraser.

Perhaps that is why, in 1861, the then Lt. Governor, Colonel Richard Clement Moody, named the seagirt expanse after Lulu Sweet.

Lulu was an English actress visiting the colonies with the first theatrical troupe to play here.

As the Chief Commissioner of Land and Works, and a person prone to exploit his position, he felt free to stamp her name for posterity.

A history book includes this note on the Colonel, who commanded a detachment of Royal Engineers: "Moody's charm was expansive as was his chivalry (he named Lulu Island after a visiting actress whose performance took his fancy) ..."

We may assume that the role she took on stage held no portent for him.

She played Lucrezia Borgia.

• • •

The origin of the name Richmond is much more prosaic.

In 1861, Hugh McRoberts emigrated from Australia and established Richmond Farm.

The name was chosen by one of his daughters in remembrance of a favorite place back home.

Whatever Lulu wants, Lulu gets...Or was that Lola?

No mind, it proves that the first commanding officer of the R.C.E. detachment in 1861 and whose name we perpetuate (today the chain unbroken as the Royal Westminster Regiment) surveyed more than the currents of the mighty Fraser or the dangerous Eddies round Queensborough's Banks.

Mr. Hurley,

I just received my copy of the Groundsheet out here in Croatia. Its always good to keep in touch with the home unit.

During this six month peace keeping tour, I have witnessed a few situations that were very similar to those described in Col. Hoskins book; "Sometimes with Laughter". It would seem that although weapons and technology have changed since WWII, the soldiers haven't.

I have included a copy of 2PPCLI's "Sandbag" Newsletter. The cover photograph features Canada's External Affairs Minister. Barbara MacDougal and page 3 features a poem: "Just a Common Soldier"

My Regards to the Royal Westminster Regiment Association, (particularly L. Col. Morgan, Col. McKinney and Col. Deane), the Regiment and our Cadet Corps.

Westies,

Sgt. (Doug) Setter

### JUST A COMMON SOLDIER

He will not be mourned by many, just his children and his wife,  
For he lived an ordinary and quite uneventful life.  
Held a job and raised a family, quietly going his own way.  
And the world won't note his passing, though a soldier died today.

When politicians leave this earth, their bodies lie in state,  
While thousands note their passing and proclaim that they were great.  
Papers tell their whole life stories from the time that they were young;  
But the passing of a soldier goes unnoticed and unsung.

Is the greatest contribution to the welfare of our land  
A guy who breaks his promises and cons his fellow man?  
Or the ordinary fellow who, in times of war and strife,  
Goes off to serve his Country and offers up his life?

A politician's stipend and the style in which he lives  
Are sometimes disproportionate to the service that he gives.  
While the ordinary soldier, who offered up his all,  
is paid off with a medal and, perhaps, a pension small.

It's so easy to forget them for it was so long ago  
That the old "Bills" of our Country went to battle, but we know  
It was not the politicians, with their compromise and ploys,  
Who won for us the freedom that our Country now enjoys.  
Should you find yourself in danger with your enemies at hand,  
Would you want a politician with his ever-shifting stand?  
Or would you prefer a soldier who has sworn to defend  
His home, his kin and Country and would fight until the end?

He was just a common soldier and his ranks are growing thin  
But his presence should remind us we may need his like again.  
For when countries are in conflict, then we find the soldier's part  
Is to clean up all the trouble that the politicians start.

If we cannot do him honour while he's here to hear the praise  
Then at least let's give homage at the ending of his days.  
Perhaps just a simple headline in a paper that would say,  
Our Country is in mourning, for a soldier died today.