



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

THE GROUNDSHEET

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF

= VOLUME 45 / ISSUE 4

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

Annual General Meeting

OF THE ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

and

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Thursday March 17, 1994

PLACE: Combined Officers' and Sergeants' Mess in New Westminster Armoury

TIME: 8:00 p.m.

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

AND WE NEED YOUR DUES FOR 1994

Jerry Gangur, President2015 Hyannis Drive, North Vancouver, B.C. V7H 2E5 929-5785
C. (Chuck) Smithers, Treasurer670 Appian Way, Coquitlam, B.C. V3S 2A9 581-6373
Ron Hurley, Editor2229 Bonnyvale, Vancouver, B.C. V5P 2G4 321-8464

EDITOR'S DESK

50 years and counting — Soon to be but first don't forget The Annual General Meeting Thursday March 17, 1994, time 8:00 p.m. Your attention is directed to the bottom of pages 11 & 12. They contain YOUR INSTRUMENT OF PROXY — ERGO. — YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE. This will be in the form of a cut-out: Simply fill in as directed. Cut out and send back A.S.A.P. *YOUR VOTE IS VITAL*. YOUR ASSOCIATION HAS MANY THINGS PLANNED FOR YOUR 50th ANNIVERSARY. YOU WILL BE FULLY INFORMED IN THE APRIL EDITION OF YOUR GROUNDSHEET.

I REITERATE MY REQUEST OF LAST ISSUE. WHAT DO YOU RECALL OF THOSE HECTIC DAYS OF MAY 24 AND MAY 25th, 1944? WE ALL HAVE CERTAIN MEMORIES SO IGNORE THE GRAMMAR, THE SYNTAX, PUNCTUATION, ETC. SIMPLY SEND IN A LINE OR TWO OF WHAT YOU RECALL — TELL IT LIKE IT WAS!

THERE WILL BE A SPECIAL INVITATION EXTENDED TO ALL WIDOWS AND/OR FAMILY MEMBERS OF OUR DECEASED COMRADES FOR THE FRIDAY MAY 20th PROGRAM — NO CHARGE — WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE AS MANY AS POSSIBLE.

Ron Hurley, Editor

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

TO MEMBERS EVERYWHERE, GREETINGS!

Your executive hopes that all the plans we have for the coming year are in harmony with your wishes. We would like very much to hear from you, even if your opinion leaves a lasting sting for us to contemplate.

There are two areas that you should be well acquainted with and they are:

1. **Melfa - 94.** This will mark the fiftieth anniversary of the Melfa River battle. On the 20th of May (Friday), your association will invite the Public to attend a special tribute to our two Victoria Cross winners. Vernon Ardagh is OIC Friday evening. I can tell that he has arranged for two outstanding individuals to talk about Sgt Konowal and Maj Mahony. You will have an opportunity to listen to a participant in the peace keeping effort in Croatia. This will be something you should not miss. Our Melfa Groundsheet issue will outline plans for the entire weekend.
2. **Fundraising** The Royal Westminster Regiment Association endowment is now in existence. The endowment is being administered by Vancouver Foundation.

It is expected that our fundraising drive will continue to the end of 1994. What should be impressed upon all members is that if we are successful in our fundraising, ***we will not come to you again for funds. This drive will be the final appeal. If you can help us, please do so.***

Our goal is to raise \$100,000 and we have now raised approximately 1/4 or \$25,000.00. Your committee will be exploring many ways to raise these funds and you can be assured we are determined to reach our objective.

As a final note, please let me tell you how cooperative the serving bn has been with me. The commanding officer, L Col Bob Lee, has met with me and has assured me of his admiration for the work we have done over the years. The Regimental Sergeant Major, CWO Chuck MacKinnon, not only talks support and cooperation, he acts it. The JR Club executive have spoken of their desire to participate in our activities. Your president has asked to be invited to the mess meetings and the PMC says this will be done. By the end of the first quarter, all ranks will have paid their dues. With the payment of dues, the association has committed itself to mail each member a Groundsheet to his home address. It is my firm belief, that you will see greater contribution to the Groundsheet by our serving Regiment.

In conclusion, and on behalf of your executive and board of directors, good health and God Speed.

Note: We will take a photograph, in front of the City Hall, of all members attending Melta-94. When? Immediately prior to the cocktail hour. Should you wish to have a photograph, we request advance payment and we will mail photo to you. More details in next Groundsheet.

Fraternally yours,

Jerry N. Gangur

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY 1944 - 1994

MAY 20 - 21 - 22

Friday May 20 — **Melfa Tribute.** This event will be open to the public and will take place in the main ball room of the Royal Towers Hotel in New Westminster at 2000 hrs (8 pm). This tribute will focus on the two Victoria Cross recipients that served with our Regiment or its predecessors in WWI and WWII.

There will be no admission charge for this event.

The Chairman of this event is **Vernon Ardagh.**

Saturday May 21 — **Dinner** to be held in the Royal Towers Hotel. Cocktails 1800 hrs, Dinner 1900 hrs. **Dance** to live music 2130 hrs to 0100 hrs. Cost \$25.00 per person.

— **Golf.** OIC Golf is **Chuck Smithers** and he reports that Tee Off is 1200 hrs. Prizes for all. Admission \$35.00 which will include your lunch. Reserve your place A.S.A.P.

Sunday May 22 — **Brunch** will be held on Sunday in the Royal Towers Hotel at 1100 - 1400 hrs.

— During the latter part of brunch a special activity is planned. It will be short and sweet.

Our plan will be complete for the Melfa Goundsheet issue. With the exception of the charges for the Melfa Dinner and Golf, all other events will be free of charge.

This is your fiftieth. If you can't help organize the celebration, then help by telling us what you would like to see and do.

For those living in the lower mainland, and who would like to help, contact Jerry Gangur, Chuck Smithers, Vernon Ardagh, or any executive member.

**THE ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION
SALUTES & WELCOMES
THE INCOMING COMMANDING OFFICER** _____

Lieutenant-Colonel Robert A. (Bob) Lee is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Wilfrid E. Lee of Cobble Hill and formerly of Peterborough, Ontario. He joined the army as a Gunner in the 50th Field Artillery in Peterborough in 1960. After three years in the Militia, reaching the rank of Second Lieutenant, he entered the Regular Force attending Royal Roads and R.M.C. On graduation with a degree in Civil Engineering in 1967, he served as a combat engineer officer for a year in Gagetown and three with N.A.T.O. in Germany where he was promoted to Captain. Returning to Canada in 1971, he served two successive tours in base engineering at Comox B.C. and Penhold Alberta.

Lieutenant-Colonel Lee attended Staff College in Kingston in 1979 and Toronto in 1980 and then returned to B.C. to command 1 Combat Engineer Regiment in Chilliwack. In 1982 he was appointed Chief Instructor of the Canadian Forces School of Military Engineering. On promotion to Lieutenant-Colonel in 1983 he moved to Ottawa where he joined the Directorate of Professional Education and Development with responsibility for revamping the Officers Professional Development Program. In 1985, he was appointed the Construction Project Manager for the design and construction of the North Warning System (a chain of 48 radar stations and five forward fighter bases straddling the Arctic Circle from Alaska to Labrador to replace the D.E.W. line). He returned to BC again in 1988 to the position of Deputy Chief of Staff at the area Headquarters at Jericho Beach. On retirement from the Regular Force he took up the position of Assistant City Engineer and Emergency Planning Coordinator for Coquitlam.

Lieutenant Colonel Lee has a daughter Elizabeth who is a student and a former member of The Royal Westminster Regiment Cadet Corps.

**OUR ASSOCIATION BIDS A FOND FAREWELL TO OUTGOING
C.O LT. COL BILL WHITE.**

Col White was a dedicated and supportive officer of the association and actively assisted the Board of Directors throughout his tenure.

We wish him the best in his future military career
and extend our heartfelt thanks for
his active co-operation.

R.H EDT.

CORRESPONDENCE

January 5, 1994

The President,
The Royal Westminster Regiment Association

It gives me great pleasure to announce the appointment by Her Majesty the Queen, of His Grace, the Duke of Westminster as our Regiment's Colonel-in-Chief!

After almost two years, you surely must have thought the appointment process to be moribund, if not actually dead. I can assure you that it was very much alive throughout that period; it just took strong will and determination to overcome the many bureaucratic hurdles that we faced.

His Grace will visit the Regiment and the City on Saturday, May 28, 1994. You will be contacted in May with further details.

All members of the Regiment are honoured by the appointment.

“Pro Rege Et Patria”

Colonel W.E. (Bill) McKinney CD
Honorary Colonel

Chuck Smithers,
President,
The Royal Westminster Regiment Association

Thank you so much for your generous contribution through the John Ford Memorial Bursary — it is very much appreciated! Graduation was a very nervous night for me, and receiving this bursary helped to keep me calm (and very happy!). In September, I plan to attend SFU and hopefully find a career in the fields of either criminology or sociology. I am very excited to be returning to school (although it promises to be very different than high school) and I thank you again for your kindness and consideration.

Sincerely,

Elaan Bauder

Editor: Elaan Bauder was recipient of the 1993 John Ford Memorial Bursary

December 20, 1993

Mr. Jerry N. Gangur
 President
 The Royal Westminster Regiment Association
 P.O. Box 854
 New Westminster, B.C.
 V3L 4Z8

Dear Mr. Gangur:

Re: **The Royal Westminster Regiment Association Endowment Fund**

At the most recent meeting of our Board of Directors on December 15th, the following minute was recorded:

“The Royal Westminster Regiment Association Endowment Fund

It was resolved, as the proper documents had been received and approved by the Solicitor as to form, this new Fund be established.”

Enclosed is our official receipt for the \$10,000 donation which initiated the Fund. For your information, accumulated income will be paid annually on November 15th, unless directed otherwise.

In conclusion, the Foundation is pleased to have this new Fund under its administration and looks forward to its development as an important resource for areas of interest as laid out in the Deed of Gift.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Mulcaster
 President

RM:nm
 Encl.

GIFTING IN YOUR WILL

Periodically, we learn of Westies who wish to consider the Association in their Will. It may be of assistance to know that if you wish to leave a legacy to your association; the following wording should be used.

“I give and bequeath the sum of \$_____ to The Royal Westminster Regiment Association to be used by the said association as its board of directors from time to time deem at their discretion to be suitable.”

Bequests can also be made directly to Vancouver Foundation with the stipulation that the funds be directed to **The Royal Westminster Regiment Association Endowment Fund**. Should you have any questions or wish to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact me. My home phone number is (604) 921-7025.

Fraternally yours,
 Glen Gates
 Legal Advocate

VERA LYNN - ENCOUNTER OF THE BEST KIND

On February 6, 1994, your president representing another organization, made an appearance at the Variety Club Telethon, held at the B.C. Enterprise building in Vancouver. A star attraction and performer was the famous **Vera Lynn**, who so many of you will recall from your service in the second war. In a lounge made available for performers and donors, I approached **Vera Lynn**, introduced myself and acquainted her with The Royal Westminster Regiment Association. Plans for our Melfa 50th were outlined and an invitation was extended to her to attend. Vera was ever so gracious and said she would love to be present, but she will be taking part in celebrations in France and England during this time period.

I told Vera Lynn that a note about our meeting would be included in the next issue of our newsletter and that a copy would be forwarded to her.

To **Vera Lynn**, from all Westies, we say thank you for doing so much for us when you were really needed.

Jerry N. Gangur
President

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 1994 DUES?

WE REALIZE YOU ARE BEING TAXED TO DEATH
BUT OUR DUES STRUCTURE REMAINS THE SAME.

\$10.00 ANNUALLY
\$50.00 for LIFE MEMBERSHIP

WE THANK YOU IN ANTICIPATION.

PRESIDENT J. GANGUR

ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT

SICK & VISITING REPORT

Committee Members . . Eben Sweet New West-Surrey, White Rock Surrey Ph 522-3808

DOUG GLENN: VANCOUVER, RICHMOND, BURNABY PH 522-0890

IF YOU KNOW OF SICK MEMBERS IN HOSPITAL OR AT HOME PLEASE 522-0890

AT HOME NEW WEST IAN DOUGLS — WALTER LYLE ALF JACKSON MERRITT B.C.

GEORGE DERBY CENTER, 7550 Cumberland S Burnaby V3N 3X5

THOSE IN GEORGE DERBY: Walter Jackson Rm 2224

Bill Thorarinson Rm 2220

James Palmer Rm 2136

Allister Russel Rm 1224

The above are permanent residents and in my capacity as George Derby Volunteers I visit frequently and see our members on a one to one basis. As for our Editor, he has been in and out of hospitals so much the last 3 years he is a hard person to catch up with. He still manages to do his excellent production of our Groundsheet — Despite many problems he still does an excellent job and I take my hat off to him for a job well done.

Doug Glenn

Chairman Sick & Visiting

FROM THE POST

Like much of the correspondence lately they pertain to the death of one of our fast dwindling members. We are saddened by the news but ever grateful to those next of kin who advise us by letter or telephone. Your devotion and sincerity is greatly appreciated by The Association and more particularly by your editor.

A thank you to Audrey Girard for the notification of the death of her father, Frank Reiser K74908 ... A word from Tom Guest and a kind donation re Future Fund, sorry to hear of your ill health, Tom, but the health factor precludes many of us from active participation. Trust you will improve. Thanks to Doug McNaughton re your memorial donation and the notice of the death of John McLennan ... A special thank you to our old friend Tiny Robertson — particularly for the address of Bonny Mahony, widow of late Col J. Mahony V.C. Tiny, it has been and still is our procedure, to continue mailing The Groundsheet to all widows of former members unless otherwise advised. Regrettably Mrs. Mahony's paper was being returned as incorrect address, etc. The membership mailing committee through your efforts have noted her address and she has been advised. We appreciate any and all information re correct addresses, etc. ... Sincere thanks to Lawrence Carpick of Winnipeg for your kind donations, your information re A.E. Wright - and notably your mention of Wills re donations after death of members. You must be attuned to our Solicitor Glenn Gates QC for that worthy gentlemen has submitted proper legal advice and his words are printed elsewhere in this edition. Sincere appreciation from sunny Arizona via Bill Robson replete with donations to Future Fund and Life Membership. Trust you are still entertaining 'The Snowbirds' with your tap dancing a la Bojangles ... More thanks to Rhonda Hall advising us of the death of her father, Wilson Hall ... to G. Corman of Millgrove Ont. for your donation - noted your remarks re difficulty in responding to the many pleas for funds - and for those on fixed incomes - all too true and it makes your type of contribution all the more gratifying.

An extremely interesting letter from Marion Soutar - her and her family's appreciation for the momentos from The Association & The Regiment for what was the final gathering of "D" Coy picnic. Your remarks are much appreciated Marion but it is we who are always grateful. To the Baldwins and the Soutars et al for letting us share 20 memorable years with you - Precious days indeed ... A special thank you to Clem Beauchesne who is President of The Algonquin Regiment Veterans Association, 1552 Lisgar St., North Bay, Ont. P1B 3B1. We are pleased that you enjoyed our publication, Clem and trust your own Association is flourishing. I received two rather disturbing letters - just days apart. The first from ex "C" stalwart Sgt Wally Lockhart advising that he has lost his second leg re amputation from diabetic problems, etc. He wished us all well and commented on how happy he had been to attend Melta 1992 and how pleased he was to have his picture taken with Bert Stephens, Bruce Eaton & Ian Douglas. This was followed by a letter from Alfie White of Willowdale Ont. with an obituary of Wally's recent death - he could not survive the trauma of his surgery. Sadly we have lost Bert Stephens since Wally's visit but there are plenty of pictures to remind us. Our condolences to Wally's wife & family; Alfie, I'm sure your Toronto chapter will miss Wally's presence ... Special thanks to Clarence (Silent) Smith of Sask. Your recollections of May 24th and 25th 1944 are most vivid and bring back many personal reflections of that time. We hope to hear from more members re their thoughts of 50 years ago.

A warm letter from Margaret Sayer of Surrey, B.C. with a donation in memory of her late husband, Don. Your kind remarks re our production of The Groundsheet are most appreciated as are the remarks made by your late husband re his admiration of Major Mahony V.C. ... Thanks to James Walsh of Cranbrook for dues & donation. Appreciation to Jack Terpenning of Victoria, B.C. for his dues on behalf of himself & those of Malcolm Flewelling of Dartmouth, Nova Scotia — Thank you for your kind remarks re The Ground Sheet, Jack. ... Kind Donation to The Association from Frank Smith of Kingston, Ont; Your remarks re The Future Fund duly noted but we always appreciate your support of The association, Frank. ... A thank you to Irene for her husband, Henry Hurford's dues; A note from A.E. Wright of Box 63, Naicam, Sask; NOT B.C. The mailing committee should have this corrected by now ... thanks to Gordon Higginson of Sardis, B.C. for dues & donation - also your kind remarks re The Groundsheet ... Apologies to Lawrence Carpick of Winnipeg for the condition of your membership card. You may be sure a replacement is on its way ... Thanks to Michael James Lockert of Surrey for dues & kind remarks. Like you, Michael, many of us share your sentiments of luck these long 50 years after May 24/25th 1954. After the Mar 17 1994 meeting 7 election of Officers my official yearly term as Editor will cease. My personal health re 'post Radiation Cancer Treatments' is a little 'iffy' and should I be asked to continue I may reluctantly ask to be replaced. Accordingly I take the opportunity to thank all those in the past 40 plus years who have been so generous in their commendation re their appreciation of my work as Editor - hardly deserved but most rewarding. *You, the members from coast to coast & other countries are the ones who deserve all the plaudits, you founded and maintained this association - mere words of mine are not adequate enough to express our real appreciation. It has been a personal privilege to have contributed on your behalf. I have made no promises to date so will see what the future may bring: if my health precludes me from further participation, you may be assured that if another 'Westie' takes over, it will be first class.*

CIAO

TEAR OFF

**THE ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION
INSTRUMENT OF PROXY RE A.G.M. 1994**

I, the undersigned, being a member in good standing of the above noted Association Society, hereby appoint ... Chuck Smithers, Jerry Gangur, Doug Glenn, Dick Armstrong, to attend, act and vote on my behalf at THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION TO BE HELD ON 17th DAY OF MARCH 1994.

Signed this _____ day of _____, 1994

PRINT NAME

(SIGNATURE OF MEMBER)

IN MEMORIAM

WALKER LOCKHART TORONTO IRISH & WESTMINSTER REGT (M) WORLD WAR 2
A.H. CALDICOTT WESTMINSTER REGIMENT (M) WORLD WAR 2
A. HOLT WESTMINSTER REGIMENT (M) WORLD WAR 2
DON SAYER WESTMINSTER REGIMENT (M) WORLD WAR 2
DAVE TYO WESTMINSTER REGIMENT (M) WORLD WAR 2
WILSON HALL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT (M) WORLD WAR 2
JOHN D. MacLENNAH WESTMINSTER REGIMENT (M) WORLD WAR 2
FRANK REISER WESTMINSTER REGIMENT (M) WORLD WAR 2
RICHARD A. ANDREWS WESTMINSTER REGIMENT (M) WORLD WAR 2
FRANK GALLAN REGT. No K47 537 WESTMINSTER REGIMENT (M) WORLD WAR 2
KEN MORGAN WESTMINSTER REGIMENT (M) WORLD WAR 2
W. 'BILL' MAJURY WESTMINSTER REGIMENT (M) WORLD WAR 2

TEAR OFF

INSTRUMENT OF PROXY RE GENERAL MEETING 17 MARCH 1994

COMPLETE, PRINT & SIGN
ON REVERSE SIDE AND MAIL TO

ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 854

NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C. V3L 4Z3

Mail as soon as possible. Your Vote Counts