



The GROUND SHEET

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF
THE WESTMINSTER REGIMENT ASSN.

Dedicated to the Ideals and Comradeship We Knew in Two World Wars

104th — 47th — 131st — The Westminster Regt.

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August, 1959.

MELFA DINNER

This year's Melfa Dinner was one of the best. It was held in the new Legion auditorium where everything is new and comfortable. Attendance, food and deportment were all excellent.

Jimmy Oldfield came up from his university at Courvalis, Oregon, and proposed the toast to "the Melfa". His talk was comparatively brief and most interesting.

Among the guests at the head table were Sgt. Crossland Oddy. He was the eldest and oldest member present. He joined the Army 60 years ago, and served many years in New Westminster. Oldtimers of the 47th will remember Sgt. Oddy.

Johnny Rosso and his committee provided an excellent menu and programme. The menu included ample portions of a fine brand of "vino".

Frank Young represented the "Straths". He replied pleasantly to our established toast to his regiment.

Colonel McKinney, present Commanding Officer of the regiment, thanked the Association for the work they do and the various funds they supply to assist the activities of the regiment.—A. B. NOBLE.

LT. COL. H. F. HOSKINS, D.S.O.

On the evening of Tuesday, July 7th, I wandered into the Officers Mess of the Westminster Regiment and had the pleasure of meeting Lt. Col. H. F. Hoskins, D.S.O.

It is a great many years since I first met Bert in a military way. Over thirty years ago Bert commenced his Army career as a Cadet in the Cadet Corps at the Technical School in New Westminster. In October, 1929, he joined the Westminster Regt. N.A.P.M. and was a most enthusiastic young soldier.

In 1937 he was chosen to attend the Coronation of King George VI in London and while there was on guard duty at Buckingham Palace.

In September, 1939, on the outbreak of World War II the Westminster Regiment was mobilized and Bert who was then C.S.M. of A Coy. volunteered immediately. In February, 1940, he was promoted R.S.M. and later in 1940 he was commissioned.

He served with the Regiment in Canada, England, Italy and the Netherlands.

In December, 1944, while serving in Italy, he was awarded the D.S.O. for conspicuous bravery. After the war he very wisely decided to remain in the Army and has since served in Canada and two tours in Germany, one with the 27th Brigade and the other on H.Q. of B.A.O.R.

Since taking the Staff Course at Kingston Col. Hoskins has been stationed in Ottawa, but when he returns

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from his leave he will be stationed in Toronto as the Army member at the R.C.A.F. College.

He was promoted to rank of Lt. Col on June 25th, 1959.

All ranks of the Westminster Regt. and the members of the Association should be very proud of this distinguished soldier who spent most of his Army life in the Regiment and is a member of the Association.

W. J. (Bill) WILLIAMS.

SICK AND VISITING COMMITTEE REPORT

On the evening of the 27th May, 1959, John Hou, our "Bulletin Editor", accompanied your visiting Chairman, to see our hospitalized comrades, to leave with them a few comforts and in general let them know that the Association has not forgotten them.

Before we went to Shaughnessy we called at a private hospital on 63rd Avenue, Vancouver, (opposite the Children's Hospital) to see Pete La Cour, an old Westie from "C" Company. Pete had been in a very nasty accident a few years ago and the after-effects are now catching up with him. He is totally blind and had for some time mentally lost all touch with the world, then his mother flew over to Vancouver from Denmark and a decided change came over Pete and at times he is quite

lucid in his talk and thinking. His mother intends to take him home with her as soon as all necessary arrangements are made and has promised to keep John Hou informed as to his progress in his native land. Pete was certainly pleased with a visit from his old Comrades and said he always thought highly of the Westminster Regiment.

We arrived at Shaughnessy at 7:45 p.m. but did manage to visit with most of our Comrades.

We were informed that A. E. Neeves had been discharged and returned home. Called on Pop Fenwick and visited with him for quite a spell. Pop, an old-timer from "A" Company, looks as young as ever and never passes up a joke, be it on himself or anyone else. He said he will always have a soft spot in his heart for the Association, pays his dues well ahead and always sells (or buys) his two books of Christmas draw tickets. Pop, your a wizard and I sure would like your secret of eternal youth. Called on C. R. Lajeunesse, an old 47th member, who would certainly like to be enrolled as an Association member. (Nelson, his address is c/o 1 Cordova Street West, Vancouver, B.C.) When we called on Bill Lawson, he was watching T.V. and I was glad to see him up and around again. He missed Tommy Thompson, who incidentally deserted me this Wednesday for some blonde in Vernon or Penticton.

Ginger Coote, when we called to say "hello", was as quiet as ever, but it was quite noticeable that he was pleased to see us. Our last call, as usual, was with Tom Carson and Tom must have been making good use of the little sunshine we have had and he has picked up quite a tan. One sad note in our visitation, we were informed that A. G. Pettifer, an old 47th member, had passed away during the month of April.

Here is the list of our hospitalized Comrades:

Harry Watts (972 Holly St., Vancouver, B.C.)	
T. R. Carson	G. Walker
Ginger Coote	C. R. Lajeunesse
Bill Lawson	Pete La Cour
T. H. Wright	Pop Fenwick

H. A. STEPHENS, Committee Chairman.

MAPLE RIDGE MASTERS THE MIRACLE MILE

The Miracle Mile proved just that for Capt. Finnegan's fighting band of Cadets from Maple Ridge at the Third Annual Cadet Sports Day held at Queens Park on Sunday, June 7th.

Capt. Walt Lyle's crew had led almost all day and coming down to the wire had what appeared to be a commanding three point lead to clinch the meet. A second place finish in the mile was all the insurance needed for a New Westminster victory. The Westminster boys had won out in a particularly gruelling Tug-O-War victory and on past performance and spirit appeared to be a sure thing. Finnegan's men had other ideas however; they predicted and promptly placed first and second in the mile to score a thrilling climax and victory for the second successive year. The final sizzling triumph gave them a narrow two point victory over the strong N.W. Coy. The final standings were: Maple Ridge 22, New Westminster 20, and North Burnaby 12.

All in all it was a grand day for the Cadets and though the weather looked somewhat dark at the start, providence prevailed and the meet finished in bright warm sunshine. It was gratifying to see the almost 100 spectators in the stands and although this is by no means large it represents a considerable increase over the past years. The Regimental band provided sparkling musical accompaniment to the crowd and contestants alike and in addition the Cadet Bugle band gave a crisp military display of music and marching. Highlighting the afternoon was a truly amazing display on the trampoline by the amazing Godden family. Canadian champion

Neil Godden and brothers were brilliant in a really grand display of physical perfection.

The afternoon came to a successful close with the presentation of trophies by President Bun Noble, Col. Bill Williams and Major Tom Forman. Col. McKinney closed the proceedings with a message of thanks to the Association on behalf of the Cadet Corps and Regiment alike.

With a view to the future, plans are already under discussion for next year's Cadet Sports Day. Your executive and relative committees need the support of every member of the Association to ensure continued success in this venture. Criticisms are always welcome, but without new ideas and support they go for naught. We welcome new ideas, we hope and anticipate this program will grow, we expect you in large numbers as spectators to support these boys. You have about a year to think it over, how about it?

CPL. PHILIP KONOWAL, V.C.

In Ottawa, on June 3rd, a distinguished Soldier who served in the 47th Bn. during the 1st Great War passed away.

This was Corporal Philip Konowal, V.C.

He was awarded the V.C. for conspicuous bravery and leadership in France on Aug. 21st, 1917.

He won his V.C. while cleaning out the enemy from cellars, craters and machine-gun emplacements in a two day battle. Corporal Konowal killed at least 16 of the enemy until stopped by severe injury.

READERS WRITE

Enclosed find three dollars for my 1959 dues and for one ticket for the Melfa Dinner. I am not sure I will be there, but would like a ticket just in case.

I asked about my dues at the Smoker, but the Secretary did not have the data handy so I was unable to find out. However, should be up-to-date by now.

Best of all for the Association.

Yours truly,

Bill Gamon, 541 East 51st Ave.,
Vancouver 15.

Unfortunately I was unable to attend the Melfa Dinner this year, even after making extensive plans (mainly because this would have been my first). I have always been under the opinion that a lot of drinking took place and I don't exactly trust myself even among friends. Being an Epileptic with a 100% war pension perhaps you may understand the position that I am in so far as partaking in the usual liquid refreshment go. Do hope you will undersatnd and accept my apologies for missing the get-togethers.

One of the Westies.

Tom Davidson, No. 2 Platoon, A Coy.

From THE WESTMINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION
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