

= VOLUME 95 / ISSUE 1

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

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

FEB. / MAR. 1995

Annual General Meeting

OF THE ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

and

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Thursday March 16, 1995

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 1995

EXECUTIVE

President - Jerry N Gangur, 2015 Hyannis Drive, N. Vancouver, B.C.
V7H 2E5 Tel: 929-5785

Past President - Chuck Smithers, 670 Appian Way, Coquitlam, B.C.
V3J 2A9 Tel: 936-7328

Hon Treasurer - Vernon Ardagh, 3689 Nico Wynd Drive, Surrey, B.C.
V4P 1J1 Tel: 535-9093

Editor - Ron Hurley, 2229 Bonnyvale, Vancouver, B.C._
V5P 2G4 Tel: 321-8464

EDITOR'S CORNER

I think this is good opportunity for me to extend to all You WW2 Westies appreciation for your continuing support and in particular all who continue to write and express your appreciation. I feel somewhat humble for all the congratulations in my 40 odd years as your Editor. It has been a pleasure but I have to thank the Presidents and the Executive Directors for their assistance. I thank you all for the many letters concerning my health. Thanks to Jerry Gangur, our first post WW2 president, for his efforts re the assistance in improving the quality of your paper with new age tech computers etc. The Obituaries will tell you that the Passing Parade is thinning our ranks.

I can reassure you that as Mark Twain so aptly put it, 'News of my demise is somewhat premature.' I will continue as long as my health allows or I am no longer asked to do so. Again many thanks to all. We are still in an Anniversary Mode, so I urge you all to attend the many functions, listed elsewhere in this issue.

I Trust I may meet many of you in the near future. Til then

CIAD. Ron Hurley.

Items Available For Purchase

MELFA - 94 50TH ANNIVERSARY CUPS	\$12.00
MELFA - 94 GROUP PHOTOGRAPH	15.00
TRIBUTE TO THE REGIMENT PROGRAM (12 PAGE COLORED BOOKLET)	12.00

Note: All supplies are limited and cost includes postage.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

We can regard 1994 as a year of progress and a year of considerable accomplishment.

Funds raised in support of the Future Fund exceed \$35,000. This is an impressive reflection of the willingness of our members to support a worthy cause. The casino license we were hoping to get this year will, with good fortune be granted in 1995. Our fundraising goal remains to raise \$100,000 for the Future Fund and \$10,000 in support of the Royal Westminster Regiment Historical Society.

Melfa - 94 was a magnificent success and was no doubt enjoyed by all who attended. We commemorated the 50th anniversary of the battle at Melfa River and paid tribute to the Regiment wherein we invited the general public to join us in honoring the achievements of our two warriors who served with our regiment and were awarded the Victoria Cross. Our regiment was honored this year by the appointment of The Duke of Westminster, Lieutenant Colonel Gerald Grosvenor, as Colonel-in-Chief of the regiment. The unit paraded in September in the armoury before a packed house in honor of this appointment.

Our board of directors consists of two of eight elected members coming from the serving regiment. Our nominating committee will attempt to repeat the ratio and almost certainly include the names of post war members on the nominating slate. The torch will slowly be past on to the next generation.

As you have already been informed, the decision to disband the band of the regiment was taken in October of this year. We know that your letters objecting to this action have been received by the Minister of National Defense and the heat is on. Will the decision be reversed? We will wait and see.

The Junior Ranks Christmas Dinner was a dinner second to none. The tradition of Officers and Sen Nco's serving the men dinner was followed, BUT this year a special program was planned. L/ Sgt Len Bailey, M.M. of the Snipers and Scout Platoon (WWII) was invited to attend. He was not told why. He and his wife Flora came for dinner, from Nanaimo, and the surprise was that the annual trophy awarded at the Xmas Turkey shoot was to be renamed the L/Sgt Len Bailey, M.M. Trophy. After a short introduction to Len's wartime service by President Gangur, Len said a few words and presented the trophy to the winner.

Your executive will continue to work and build for the future. We ask that you plan to come to Melfa-95. We have a special program planned which will be outlined elsewhere in the Groundsheet.

Thank you for your support and may God keep you around for another year

Yours truly,



Jerry N Gangur

Fundraising Report

Fundraising will continue in 1995 as we are short of our goal. As of the end of December 1994, we have deposited \$35,000 with Vancouver Foundation. We have received additional donations, in December, not included in the \$35,000. In the first quarter and in the next issue of the Groundsheet, we will publish a financial statement relative to fundraising.

An application for a casino license will be submitted in the first quarter of 1995.

To all those who have donated to our Future Fund, we are most grateful and extend to you our heartfelt thanks. Through your donations, and words of encouragement, we are convinced that our objectives as originally stated, will be achieved.

You will be hearing directly from the fundraising committee shortly.

Jerry Gangur
Chairperson

Warning Order - Melfa 95

On May 7, 1945, preparations for further action were being made by the Westminster Regiment (M), when on the same evening the official announcement of the cessation of hostilities reached the battalion.

During the months of March, April & May, the Westminster Regiment had fought and advanced through many centres in Holland and at wars end was still in Holland.

It is our plan to invite those Dutch citizens who lived in the areas that our Regiment fought through and who may now be living in Canada, to our Annual Dinner. For this reason we ask that you make a special effort to attend as almost certainly, stories are to be told and heard.

While details are still being fine tuned, we can tell you that this will be a special dinner and one that you will remember. Cost of the dinner will be \$30. per person and it will be held in the Armoury.

Dates: May 19-20-21 with the dinner being held on the 20th.

Chairman for the Melfa Dinner will be Nelson Scott. More details to be announced in the Melfa issue of our Groundsheet.

Commanding Officer's Report

The past year has been full of events and experiences, with the Regiment breaking new ground in many areas. The New Year arrived with word that Her Majesty had approved our request to name His Grace the Duke of Westminster, as our first Colonel-in-Chief. This is only the second time that a non-royal has received such an appointment, and is due in large part to the unflagging efforts of Colonel Bill McKinney to make his vision a reality.

Following on the heels of this good news was an announcement which shook the Unit to the core - the loss of our Airborne Platoon. Due to force restructuring and internal army politics, the Airborne platoons of all tasked western Canadian Militia units were disbanded. The loss was most keenly felt by the young troopers in the Platoon itself, but all members of the Regiment were upset by the cut. As its last official duty, the Platoon provided an excellent quarter-guard for the Commander of Land Forces at the annual Regimental Dinner on 17 February 94.

Spring and summer saw the renovation project near completion, with nearly one million dollars being spent to bring the building's aging facilities up to par. Included in the work was a sprinkler system for fire protection, a complete rewiring of all electrical systems, comprehensive renovations to the basement offices and Q.M., and a new ventilation system for the Range. The controls for all these systems are housed in an underground addition to the Armory, located inside the compound.

Summer also saw the first new arrivals from 3 PPCLI, who are to work with us in the "10/90 Battalion" project. The plan is for the Patricia's to provide a cadre of full-time NCO's and Officers who will assume the burden of training and administering the troops, leaving the Westies free to concentrate on leadership and soldier skills. Another benefit of this system is the wealth of new equipment at our disposal. Our first demonstration of how well this new organization will work came when a platoon-size course was run in August to qualify soldiers on the TOW (Tube-Launched, Optically-Track ed, Wire-guided) anti-armour missile system.

The Fall training season was barely underway when word reached us that our Band was to be dissolved. With only five day's notice, Area HQ ordered the Band to cease all training and turn over all its equipment. A last-minute reprieve allowed us to have music on Remembrance Day, but future operations are in grave jeopardy. The local community has generated a great deal of support aimed at having this decision reversed, but for now the fate of our Band is in doubt.

In summary, the year of 1994 produced positive results in training and facilities, but was a black year for the Regimental spirit. It is to be hoped that 1995 will hold more positive news in store for the Band and other Regimental interests.

R.A. Lee
Lieutenant Colonel
Commanding Officer

WESTIES AT HOME Contributed by MCpl Cam Copeland

Over the past twelve months we have witnessed many changes in The Royal Westminster Regiment. How have these changes affected the Regiment and where are we now?

Up to February 1994 we trained and maintained an infantry company, one parachute qualified platoon, built up another infantry platoon in the Fraser Valley and supported ourselves with all the necessary personnel and equipment. Since February '94 we have become part of Western Canada's first Total Force Infantry Battalion (TFIB). Our responsibilities are now to train and maintain one infantry company as B Coy 3 Bn PPCLI (Third Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry) and to provide on fully trained TOW platoon (Tube Launched Optically Tracked Wire command link guided missile system). We are supported by 3 Bn PPCLI, this includes regular force personnel and equipment. I do not hesitate in saying that the TFIB organization is for the good of the Regiment. Regular force personnel working with the RWR are dedicated and professional. Equipment and supplies are now better maintained and more properly managed. Our units' resources are now more efficient and focused on training the infantry and TOW. Recruiting, which is so vital to our survival is being approached with renewed enthusiasm, however, one regrettable casualty has been the band.

Training this year is focused on the "Advance". Sept 94 to Dec 94 saw training at the individual level. This was to standardize skills in weapons handling, navigation and personal battle craft. Personal skills training culminated in a 'soldier skills evaluation' conducted by district HQ. Jan '95 has been allotted for section level training. In addition to Thursday evenings, section commanders were allowed a full day on Jan 7 to sort out their sections. Section level training has included movement across ground, use of terrain and formations on the move, section level battle procedure & patrolling doctrine. Section level quick attacks and patrolling were practiced in Ft. Lewis, Wash during the weekend 20-22 Jan. February will be used for Platoon training. This training will include movement across ground, platoon level attacks and platoon size fighting patrols. We hope to have each platoon outfitted with a complete support weapons det for this phase of training. Platoon tactics will be practiced in Ft. Lewis, WA during the weekend of 24-26 Feb. March will see the culmination of this training in live fire and company level operations. A week long exercise is to be held in Ft. Lewis, Wa during the period 17-26 Mar. This exercise will include range training for personal weapons as well as platoon support weapons. There will be ranges for practicing team and section live fire quick attacks which should also allow the use of grenades. In April the regular force members of 3 Bn PPCLI presently attached to us will be departing to Dundurn, SASK. Once there they will be conducting selection training for soldiers who have applied for peace-keeping duty in the former Yugoslavia.

In light of the recent decision to disband the Airborne Regiment we could expect more changes to the role and taskings of The Royal Westminster Regiment and our TFIB. The Regiment has maintained its' unique identity and unit pride throughout the last 12 months of change. I am confident that we will continue to grow and strengthen throughout the changes yet to come.

WESTIES IN BOSNIA

Contributed by Cpl David Antolinos

Recently Cpl L. Hellewell and myself returned to Canada from one six month Peacekeeping tour of Bosnia. As part of Op Cavalier Rote III, we belonged to the Strathcona Battle Group. Lanny was with the Strats TOW Troop and I was with B Coy of 1 PPCLI from Calgary. We were based in Camp Visoko 30 km northwest of Sarajevo.

Arriving in Bosnia was definitely a culture shock. The landscape disclosed the effects of war. Bombed out pockmarked buildings, ruined churches and mosques, numerous cemeteries and police/military checkpoints along major roads. The destruction we saw in 1994 Bosnia was reminiscent of what the veteran Westies must have seen 50 years earlier in Europe.

The two factions we came in contact with on a daily basis were the HVO (Croatsians) and the BiH (Muslims). For the most part they seemed to tolerate the UN presence, although at times depending on the political climate they would try and hamper our movements.

During the beginning of our tour the weather was extremely hot and humid. This made our job hard. Constructing O.P.s, filling and moving sandbags was arduous work, especially in temperatures of 40 degrees centigrade. Depending on the threat level we had to wear our flak vests and helmets while carrying out our tasks. This made life truly miserable for us.

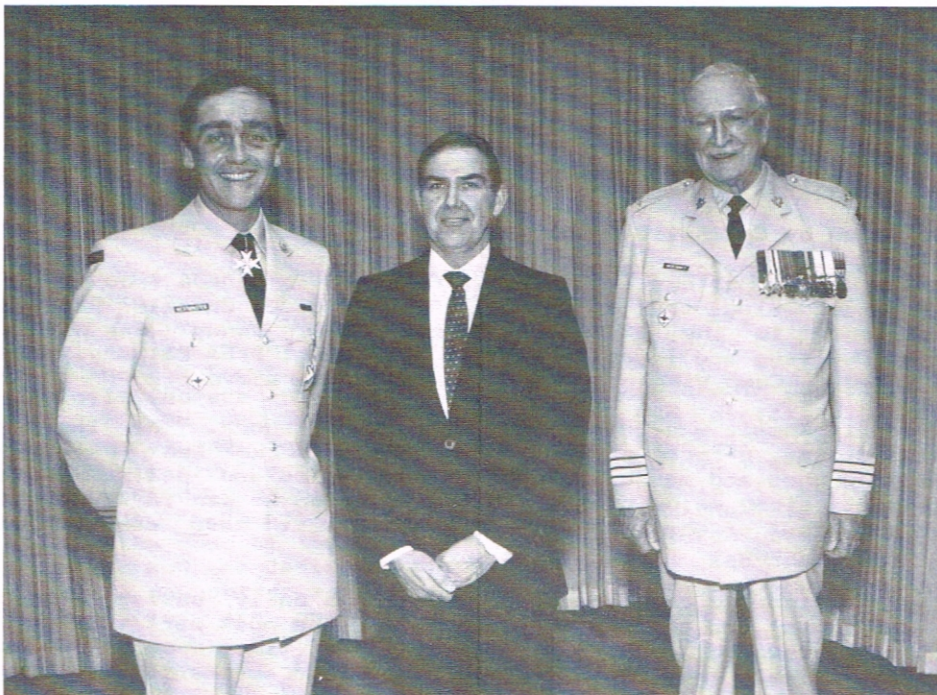
Boredom was a constant of the tour. Long hours manning the O.P.s, radio watch and calling in shot reps became routine and boring. Receiving letters and care packages from family and friends really boosted morale. After mail call whether you got mail that day or not everything was shared.

The most interesting part of the tour was the foot patrols to the Croatian-Muslim front lines. We got the chance to meet face to face with the soldiers manning the trench systems and bunkers. Our task was to ensure both sides were not violating any of the ceasefire conditions. Turkish coffee and "Schlive" was always offered to us by the soldiers who looked just as bored as us having to man O.P.s.

At times we were either ticked off, hot, cold, tired, excited or just plain sick of Bosnia. We all missed home and felt the tour couldn't end fast enough. By the end of September the weather began to turn wet and cold. Our track vehicles turned the roads up to the O.P.s into a quagmire of mud.

Compared to the Westie Vets who fought in Europe long ago, we had it easy, our tour was not years, only six months.

Lanny and I are proud and honored that we had the opportunity to represent our Regiment in Bosnia. We learned a lot about life and ourselves.



A few moments of your attention please! Colonel-in-Chief, LCol G Grosvenor, President Jerry Gangur and Hon Col W.E. McKinney caught by the photographer's eye following Special Parade for the Colonel-in-Chief.

Unofficial Sick & Visiting Report - Doug Glenn

I use that heading as I am no longer a member of the executive of the association sick & visiting committee, by my own request. The following report is what I do on my own, as I am a member of the George Derby Centre Volunteers and visit there every Thursday. Centre located at 7550 Cumberland, Burnaby, B.C. V3N 3X5

Walter Jackson A Coy - Lives in a wheel chair, spends many hours in arts & crafts. Does needle work which is very good.

Bill Thoraranson HDQ Coy - Gets around very well, is his own man, comes and goes at his own will.

Mr Russel A Coy and Jim Palmer

Ian Douglas - Queens Park Hospital 215 McBride Blvd., New West
Room 233. Ian very alert, reads and has a computer
and telephone. Enjoys visitors.

Alan Coe - Sunny Side Manor 15340 17th Ave., White Rock. I phone
Alan occasionally, as of this date have not been able
to visit him. Will some day.

If you are travelling in any of the above areas, the above would enjoy your company.

CANADIAN VETERANS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Join the Dutch Canadians in May, 1995
Celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Liberation of Holland
Dutch Canadians say "Thank you Canada" & "Thank you Veterans"

The "Dutch Canadians Remember 1945 Society" is planning an extensive celebration marking the 50th anniversary of the Liberation of Holland during the period May 4 -6, 1995 in the Vancouver area. The Society has communicated with us and have asked that we encourage members of the Westminster Regiment(M) who fought in Holland to participate in any or all activities that are organized. To the "Host a Liberator" Dinner, the committee has asked us to limit this invitation to those Veterans who served in Holland. At wars end, we know that the regiment was in Holland, so many of you qualify to attend these events.

Thank you Events Planned

- * Parade - April
- * Wreath laying - May 4
- * Presentation of a Memorial - May 5
- * Symposium on "Canada and the Netherlands during WWII - May 5
- * Music Festival - May 5
- * "Host a Liberator" Dinner - May 6
- * Visiting Canadian World War II Veterans in Hospital

PARADE RETURN If you are a veteran who fought in Holland and you would like to attend the "Host a Liberator" Dinner on May 6, in Vancouver, please forward us your name and address, using the tear away form at the rear of this issue of the Groundsheet. Invited veterans and their spouse will attend the dinner, free of charge. The dinner will most likely be held in the Seaforth Armoury, on Burrard Steet, in Vancouver.

Other Celebration around the May 6th date.

Maple Ridge - (tentative) 1:30 pm Form-up at Maple Ridge Legion
2:00 pm Ceremonies at centaph
4:00 pm Reception
6:00 pm Dinner. Legion? Dutch Families?

Lyndon Wash., USA - From Canada Remembers Committee, received letter stating that Dutch community would like to have Cdn Vets participate in celebrations 6 May. A meeting to discuss this event is being held soon and we hope that we can tell you all in the next Groundsheet.

FROM THE POST

Thanks to LL Griffiths for Dues & Donations..... A nice letter from Clarence Smith of Saskatoon. Thanks for the dues Clarence & for the interesting letters you send me..... A very special note of appreciation to Jack Terpenning of Victoria for his dues for himself & always the same on behalf of Malcolm Flewelling of Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. A nice gesture Jack on behalf of a friend. To answer your questions. Annual dues \$10.00, Life Membership \$50.00. Yes the Future Fund is still in operation and would welcome all donations thereto. Thank you also for your kind remarks re - The Groundsheet. It is, as you say "The Life Line of The Assoc." It has been a pleasure for me to act as your Editor for almost 4 decades. Someday soon, they will have to "Drop The Pilot."... A most touching letter from Evelyn Johnson; Sorry to learn of Frank's stay in the Palliative Care at Princess Elizabeth Hospital in Winnipeg. We share Frank's concern about the Band. Many will join you in a prayer for his recovery.. From Abbotsford a note & dues & donation from W.J. Barrett.. Kind words re The Groundsheet from Margaret Sayce & a donation for the Future Fund in memory of her Husband Don Sayce. Thank you also for support re the Band...Thanks to Cliff Wetmore for dues... A special note of appreciation to Olive Rogers in sending notice of the death of her husband Bill Rogers No K47189... via Ottawa donation for Future Fund from E" Tiny" Robertson. We share the sentiments re the Band..... A change of address from Orvel Bolton now of 45 Prince Edward Street, Unit #4 Brighton Ont K0K 1H0. Your best wishes to Les Dance & Gino Bortolussi duly noted...Special appreciation to Maj T Buchenauer for your excellent support re the Band... Also a letter of thanks from Capt J Blomme for our Cadet support... A change of address from a long time loyal assoc. member Ian Douglas. New address Ian Douglas c/o Queens Park Hospital, 315 McBride Blvd, New Westminster, BC V3L 5E8... A letter of appreciation from Len Bailey re The Guest of Honor at the Junior Ranks Christmas Dinner and the honor of presenting a Trophy for Annual Shooting Competition and which will bear his name. Congratulations Len, All the Westies remember your outstanding skills as a sniper in Italy. You were the candidate to, be so honored..... Sincere appreciation to J.H. & G. Strawson for their five year pledge for the Future Fund...A special thanks to Mr & Mrs George Bayne of RR 3 Antigonish, Nova Scotia B2G 2L1. George, you have been a long time correspondent for decades now. I thank you for the comments re my health. I reassure you that I will continue to as as long as my time will allow. My number one priority is to acknowledge all letters from the Westies, for that is what we were known as among All THE " D DAY DODGERS". Sincere thank George & continue to write.

Reminder

In this issue of the Groundsheet we are asking you to do one, two, three or four of the following:

- a. Send us your telephone number.
- b. Send us your 1995 dues (If our records show your dues have not been received, you will have a bright orange dues invoice enclosed with the Groundsheet.
- c. Complete and return "Host a Liberator" form, if you are a Vet and fought in Holland.
- d. Complete your proxy.

Telephone Registry

It is our intention to maintain a telephone directory of our membership. We request that along with your submission of dues or proxy, you complete and return the form below.

Name: First _____ Last _____
 Tel No (area code) _____ Number _____

Host a Liberator Dinner
 May 6, 1945

Yes, I will be in Vancouver for the Dutch Canadians Remember 1945 Society "Host a Liberator Dinner" and would like to attend.

Name
 Spouse (If Attending).....
 Address

 Telephone

 THE ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION
 INSTRUMENT OF PROXY

I, the undersigned, being a member in good standing of the above note Association, hereby appoint

_____ or in his absence _____

to attend, act and vote on my behalf at THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION TO BE HELD ON 16TH DAY OF MARCH 1995.

Signed this ____ day of _____, 1995

 Print Name

 (Signature of Member)

When completed, mail to The Royal Westminister Regiment Association,
 P.O. BOX 854, New Westminister, B.C. V3L 4Z3

IN MEMORIAM

Einor Bird A Coy.....	Westminster	Regt. (Motor)	W.W.2
Arther George Burton.....	Westminster	Regt. (Motor)	W.W.2
Ron Grinsted.....	Westminster	Regt. (Motor)	W.W.2
Milt Hambly	Westminster	Regt. (Motor)	W.W.2
Frank Johnson A Coy.....	Westminster	Regt. (Motor)	W.W.2
Edwin McConnel K47848.....	Westminster	Regt. (Motor)	W.W.2
Douglas McIndoe.....	Westminster	Regt. (Motor)	W.W.2
Harris Miller K47698.....	Westminster	Regt. (Motor)	W.W.2
John Nowell.....	Westminster	Regt. (Motor)	W.W.2
Bill Rogers.....	Westminster	Regt. (Motor)	W.W.2
William Ceasar Sholz.....	Westminster	Regt. (Motor)	W.W.2
Forbes Alec Stuart C Coy.....	Westminster	Regt. (Motor)	W.W.2

Something you may wish to know...

..... Courtesy of His Grace, the Duke of Westminster.....

The Officer's Mess has a handsome built-in gas fire place. The Warrant Officer's and Senior NCO's mess has an equally handsome free standing gas fire place. And not to be left out is the Junior Ranks Club, which received a deluxe dishwasher, installed.

INVITIATION

Support your W.O. & SGTS Mess

The PMC, W.O. DAY, extends an invitation to Association members to attend a Dining-In Night, on Saturday, March 4th, 1995.

Cocktails: 1900 - 1930 hrs

Dinner: 1930 hrs

Dress: Jacket & Tie

Cost: \$20.00 per person

Where: The SGTS MESS where we now have a fireplace to keep you warm. PHONE - 666-4374

MOVING?????LET US KNOW

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