

VOLUME 8 / ISSUE 1

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

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

FEB. / MAR. 1996

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION and ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Thursday March 21, 1996

Place: Combined Officer's and Sergeant's 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!
**WE NEED YOUR ADVICE AND SUPPORT
AND WE NEED YOUR DUES FOR 1996**

Executive

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Asst. Editor. Jerry N Gangur	As above	

Editor's Corner

1995 saw an end to the plethora of 50th Anniversaries, but the Association is but a year away from its 50th Anniversary. Personally, I and my good right hand--Ruth, are but weeks away from our 50th Wedding Anniversary. It is difficult to explain the invaluable re Groundsheet aid she has given to me & the association these past 40 years. I believe that we both "DESERVE A BREAK TODAY." I have just been released from hospital a week ago. This marked my 6th bout of pneumonia in the past 3 years. Something to do with over exposure to Post Radiation destruction of my immune system re Cancer Treatment. I have not missed an issue, albeit some of it was done in hospital. The minutes tell me our executive is depleted of WW 2 Vets. Noticed also that the format of our paper must change---and "no more War Stories." If you have read your Groundsheet, you should have noted I DID NOT WRITE STORIES - I wrote about PEOPLE vis Westies who served in WW2 and WW2 Westies made and paid for the association you know today. The approximately 300 or so left today and they are still contributing morally & financially to date. The countless letters I have and do receive from Westies are most warming. Many are aged & many are sick. I made a commitment that as long as I'm allowed to continue as Editor, I would acknowledge all letters I receive. Good health to all & keep your letters coming. We need Westies to assist the younger members as they assume the various Executive roles, as surely they must.

BUONA FORTUNA, RON HURLEY

President's Message

Greetings to all members! Special greetings go to all ranks of the Regiment as we welcome all as paying members. We sincerely hope that as many of the serving members will attend the **Annual General Meeting** which will be held in the Armoury **21 Mar 96**.

There are some bits of information that is essential to pass on to you and they are:

1. **Tel Numbers.** We have for the last two years been gathering the list of tel numbers of members. We have had much success and we are happy to report that you can now contact any director and ask for the tel number of any of our members, anywhere in Canada. We have designated **two regional representatives** to whom you can write or tel and they too will have an up-to-date list of phone numbers. The Interior representative is **Ken Moyes tel: 378-6855** and our Island rep is **John (Jack) G Terpenning Tel: 383-7223**.

If by chance you have not forwarded your tel number, please do so soonest.

2. **Groundsheet.** In this issue you may find different type sizes. Perhaps you may write and give your views on what is easiest and most attractive for you to read.
3. **Future Fund.** We will continue to accept donations in year 1996. A full report will made later this year.

We are in constant need of articles to publish in the **Groundsheet**. The Editor has related to me on many occasions that he would like to hear from you and even publish some photos that you may care to pass along.

Rumors abound and we know that changes for the Regiment are coming. We need your support, encouragement and action when the Regiment asks for it. Write your MP and let him know the value of the reserves for BC and Canada.

Will sign off for now. Remember to send us your Proxy and let us know how you feel about anything we are doing. Compliments are welcome too.

Best of health to you and yours.

Jerry N Gangur

Commanding Officer's Report

1995 was a year of many changes for the Regiment. It was also a year that cast a shadow on the future of the Battalion and on the future of Canada's Militia overall.

One aspect of the Battalion that escaped significant change in 1995 was the Unit organization. The 180 plus members on strength (as of 05 May 95) were distributed amongst Bn HQ, two rifle coys and a recruit coy. On top of this the community still had the loyal service of our Regimental Band. Funding was cut for the Band in 1994. Despite this obstacle our band members have volunteered and have played at many occasions including: a Spring/Valentine concert, the Hyack Parade, the Military Ball, a Drum-Head memorial service, Remembrance Day, and they finished the year with a Christmas concert. We must continue to strive for means to pay these fine young men and women until our Band is officially re-established!

Unit training also adjusted to this year of change. As the year began the Battalion continued with training in individual battle skills and in collective offensive operations. As a 10/90 (Regular / Reserve ratio) Bn, we were tasked to provide a dismounted Rifle Coy and a TOW Anti-Armour Pl to 3PPCLI. Early in the year a moral-boosting call for volunteers to serve with Canada's UN force in Croatia came, and with it a heightened sense of urgency for the battle skills preparations necessary for selection. As the selection date approached, collective trg was cancelled due to early deployment of several key personnel and much of our equipment. We were able to get a good week of solid trg in prior to these cancellations by participating in the Spring Gun Camp at Yakima, Wash.

Our Anti-Armour Pl set a benchmark as the **first ever Canadian Militia Combat Support Pl selected in its entirety for UN duty!** However, in keeping with the year's spirit of change, at Summer's end, the government announced a suspension of further Canadian deployments to this planned mission. We await further developments.

In the Fall of '95, the Bn hosted several civilian organizations in a one-evening/day earthquake response trg ex. This trg received television media coverage. There is little doubt that the civilians who participated recognized the value of having a Reserve Force ready for such an emergency.

The Colonel-in-Chief visited the unit twice during 1995 and His Grace was most pleased both times with the trg he saw and the hospitality shown him by the Regiment. Colonel Grosvenor plans to visit the Regiment again this year on 24 Feb 96. He will also attend the Annual Officers Mess Dinner to be held on the same evening.

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Commanding Officer's Report cont

The decision to close Camp Chilliwack and move 3PPCLI to Edmonton has been made. As CFB CHWK was our support base this will have a profound effect on the unit. What the move of 3 PPCLI to Edmonton will mean to the Westies is not clear since most of our stores, vehicles and weapons now belong to 3PPCLI. One thing that is clear though is that our Bn will lose about ten officers and senior NCOs, that have been integrated into our Battalion in Edmonton.

Through-out this year of change, and expectedly more so in the near future, this support provided to the Unit by the **Honorary Officers, the Regimental Senate, and the Regimental Association** has been most appreciated and needed. This includes a special thank-you to the association for their Christmas gift to the Unit, and for being there as an organization dedicated to the continuance of the memory of the Unit come what may!

R.A. Lee,
Lieutenant Colonel
Commanding Officer



Prssident Jerry Gangur and Groundsheet Editor congratulate MCpl Rob McTavish on his election as PMC of the Jr Ranks Club. With this appointment MCpl McTavish also represents the JRC at the association board of directors.

Tow Platoon - Capt GT Zilkalns

TOW Knows No Bounds

The year continues to be an extremely busy (and rewarding) one for Anti-Armour PI (AAP). With the defeat of the Krajina Serbs by the Croatians, AAPs scheduled rotation with 1RCHA was cancelled, but that doesn't mean we've been sitting on our haunches. Almost immediately upon our return from Shilo AAP could be found up in the area of Bralorne, BC conducting a combined adventure/survival exercise. It was one that **MCpl Jeff "Sink the Bismarck" Ingham** is unlikely to forget, as he became the proud owner of a slightly non-seaworthy canoe.

After finishing that glorious escapade (thefirst documented naval sinking by members of an AAP) we went back and reloaded at CFB Chilliwack, providing some much-needed maintenace assistance to 3PPCLI. **Pte Adrian "White Russian" Vershinin** was picked up for the bn hockey team, but also, his dreams of glory were short-lived as the 3PPCLI participation in EX STRONG CONTENDER was cancelled.

Deciding that the Lower Mainland boys of AAP should see that snow exists elsewhere than on a ski hill we disappeared to Wainwright in NO-Dec for the first part of Winter Indoctrination. Cpl Mike Procyk learned that stoves and tent liners don't mix, but all members of the platoon took their first steps towards becoming Arctic foxes.

After returning from sunny (and chilly) Wainwright AAP took part in the Men's Christmas Dinner and took some well-deserved leave. In the back of their minds was the knowledge that they would soon return to Wainwright to finish their Winter Warfare qualification.

In January TOW stepped off almost immediately, proceeding on the road move from hell (only to be equalled by the return trip) back to Wainwright. Leaving a trail of broken vehicles wherever they went AAP limped in to Wainwright to build field fortifications and live-fire machine guns. **WO Jim "Crash" Vigue** demonstrated the proper way to execute a parachute landing fall from a reversing snow machine and **Sgt Larry "Black Cloud" Thom** demonstrated the proper way to call recovery on the return road move.

What lies in the future for the AAP? With a bit of luck TOW will maintain their hectic schedule with the aim of turning all members into versatile, all-around soldiers. On the schedule lies a week-long ski school (Nordic and Alpine) and a demolitions, booby traps, and improvised explosive device course, all before EX COUGAR SALVO. So until next time...

NOVEMBER TANGO TANGO TANGO

(No Tank Too Tough)

Scholarship Revisited

Historical. Approximately some 25 years ago the association set aside funds for the purpose of providing a scholarship to some deserving student. Eligible candidates had to be a relative of a former serving or current serving member. A serving member was also eligible. Funds set aside for this purpose were administered by Trustees, who were members of the association. A scholarship selection committee was existed, also comprised of members of our association.

As time went by, it seemed that the number of applicants for the scholarship was diminishing and getting a scholarship committee together proved to be most difficult and there was the matter of administrating the funds. For these reasons, and possibly others, it was decided (about 10 years ago) that the funds sufficient to ensure an annual scholarship of approximately \$500. should be deposited with the New Westminster Secondary School. Selection of the candidate would be restricted to a student attending New Westminster Secondary School and the selection of the candidate would be the responsibility of the NWSS. The terms of reference currently do not require the recipient be a relative of a serving or former serving member of the regiment. It should be noted that NWSS is most cooperative and invites a member of our association to make the annual presentation.

Purpose. While sitting in the audience waiting to be called up to award the scholarship this past year, the president started to think about the original intent of the scholarship and the fact that only students attending the NWSS were eligible receive the award. Additionally, the president, this past year had to reply to three applicants who were relatives of former serving members and inform them that they were not eligible to apply for the scholarship. This matter was raised at an executive meeting and a committee was struck and asked to report back with recommendations.

Committee Recommendations.

1. A Scholarship sponsored by the Association should parallel the original terms of reference. That is eligible candidates are to be : **a) a relative of a serving or former serving member**
b) a serving member
2. Funds to administer the scholarship should be transferred to a third party. As **Vancouver Foundation** currently administers the funds accumulated in our Future Fund, this would be an appropriate third party administrator.
3. Scholarship Selection Committee. A scholarship committee comprised of association members and members of the regimental family be established. It is envisioned that individuals

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occupying positions in the Regimental family would serve as members. For example, the president of the association, the president of the Junior Ranks Club, the RSM, the president of the WO & Sen NCOs Mess, a representative from the cadet corps etc. The actual structure of a committee could be decided by the executive. What is important is that such a committee would have a constant source of members. **Changes, if made would commence in 1996-76 academic year.**

Annual General Meeting Item

You are advised that this topic will be raised at **AGM 96** and it is expected that a motion in support of the Committee recommendations will be proposed. We ask you to consider the view outlined and let us know your position. If a change is in the making, we need to know that our decision has the support of our members.



UNPROFOR VETERANS: Back in Canada and enjoying a moment in the JRC are right to left MCpl Stuart Karl, MCpl Robert McTavish, MCpl Chris Stier and MCpl Begwa Curtis. Nice to have them back unharmed.

Reports and things

Sick & Visiting - Doug Glenn

As of this month we have five members in The George Derby Centre, Burnaby. They are **Walter Jackson, Walter Lyle, Bill Thorarinson, Allison Russell and Maurice Spaner.**

I visit George Derby every Thursday as I am a volunteer there. I make my rounds and try to pay visit to each of the above.

The Derby is clean and comfortable and the boys have their own room. They have bingo games, happy hour every Wednesday and Saturday. It is not like home, but the closest you'll get anywhere in B. C.

We say hello to **Nelson Scott** and we are happy to hear of your successful operation. Nice to know that you can walk again without nagging pain.

I know there are other members in hospitals or confined to their homes that would appreciate a visit or a phone call, but I can only reach so far. If anyone out there could spend a few hours a month helping in visits or staying in touch with our members, help would be appreciated. Contact me.

Dues Billing Errors

Up to the end of December, we had no efficient way of tracking or recording **Life Members**. We are now highly computerized and all life members can be assured that they will not again receive a request for dues. The president apologizes to anyone who may have been upset by our request for dues. Not again!

Nominations for Officers

Some of your current officers and directors have requested a brief period of R & R. We need new blood and if you are able to serve as a director, call Chuck MacKinnon 271-1415, Bruce Eaton 943-3097 or Chuck Smithers 936-7328. Don't assume that the other guy will do it!

Letters, we get lots and lots of letters

1733 Southmere Crescent
 White Rock, BC V4A 7A8
 September 30, 1995

Ron Hurley,
 Editor, Groundsheet

Dear Ron:

I want to express the thanks of my family and myself to all the Association members who conceived and carried out the memorial service last Sunday for my brother Ian Douglas.

It was well done, and I felt almost overwhelmed at all the things that were said about him, and by the kindly sympathy that so many expressed to me after the service.

Thank you all.

Sincerely,

Ross Douglas

January 4, 1996
 The Armoury
 New Westminster, BC

President Jerry Gangur

Many thanks for printing the article on the Westies Airborne Platoon by MCpl McTavish (Oct 95). It was good to see some of our current activities being acknowledged in the Groundsheet. I appreciate that space is always a limitation, but the names of some Regular Support Staff who assisted us should be recognized. They are **WO Tom Hollard, now District RSM and WO Chris Robertson, now with L Edm R. Without these members, the down to earth, every day Airborne Procedures would never have happened!** Airborne!

I would also like to thank all those from the association who attend our Xmas party. Special thanks to Sgt Len Bailey, who came all the way from Vancouver Island to present the L/Sgt Len Bailey Shooting Trophy.

Respectfully Submitted,

MWO A. Day, RSM

President's Note: It is with good authority that I have been informed that MWO Arnie Day's name should be added to the list of those singled out for contribution to Airborne training & preparation.

From the Post

To **Ross Douglas** I regret the mix up re your letters re Ian's Memorial, but it was not intentional. We print only 3 times yearly and it was strictly a publication problem. I now have three letters from you, but I will print your letter of Sept 30/95, as you request. I would be remiss if I did not thank you for offering your thanks re Memoriam donations re your letter of 15 Nov 95. We have adopted this type of Memoriam purely on a personal basis & may so direct its purpose. As you stated Ian treasured the many friendships allow me to say it was a very mutual respect.... Sorry for the unseemingly delay, but trust my explanation is clear enough. From your ever loyal Assn supporter **John Terpenning** of Victoria, BC for your dues & those on behalf of Malcolm Flewwelling of Dartmouth, NS. Also for your kind donation.... A welcome letter from Tiny Robertson; the ever pleasant Tiny seems somewhat vexed re: "THE STUPID NAT DEFENCE DEPT REDUCING THE MILITIA IN BC TO TOW UNITS ONLY"I can assure you that ALL WESTIES share your concern.... A most sincere appreciation from long time friend Barney Jones, your remarks that my production of the Groundsheet improves with age like good wine...A very hearty compliment indeed especially when we have had such sad news to tell us. We are all deeply moved to learn of your dear wife's death last Oct and condolences from all thereto. Also to learn of your serious illness. As one who had the pleasure of spending so much time with you on the battlefields of Italy, I commend you on your upbeat spirit in such trying times. You had that it Italy if time has not bedimmed it....Thanks for your generous donation & get well soon.Sincere appreciation of Moose Jaw, Sask for informing us of her husband's death. Sincere condolences to you & your family Mrs Caswell....An interesting note from Gord McCourt of Sechelt; Delighted that you have discovered, as you say "You are a shirt tail relative of Ben Vaughan of Box 272 Gibsons BC, V0N 1V0 ... a new member always welcome....Sorry to learn of Don Mackenzie's ill health, but you should now have LM card courtesy ofThanks to former RCCS **Angus Wilson** who was attached to the Westies for over 2 years. Nice to hear that you are in good health....May of you chose to submit your dues/donations ect via the orange dues reminder sent you. As there is little correspondence on them, your considerations are most appreciated, so I will list your names in random order; **A.J Dobbs, A.F. Russell, Mike Lockert** (& thanks for the Lira, Mike), **B.E. Jones, Rob Paterson Burton, W.S. Hall, John E Wilson, Bill Griffin, Clarence Smith, HG Bonner, WS Westlund, Hugh Shannon**....Thanks to Mrs Greenhough for her greeting card and donation....Just received a beautiful card from Bonnie Mahony. Actually the card is in the form of a small booklet which features the history of George Cross and Victoria Cross holders. Sincere appreciation Bonnie for your interesting "Tribute Card." Thank you also for the photo of your daughters. Jack would have been most proud of a photo like this...

Ron Hurley

In Memoriam

Roy Caswell	.....	Westminster Regiment (M) W.W.2
Stan Drummond	.....	Westminster Regiment (M) W.W. 2
Roy Drury	.....	Westminster Regiment (M) W.W. 2
Harold Higginson	.....	Westminster Regiment (M) W.W. 2
Ernie Holland	.....	Westminster Regiment (M) W.W. 2
Dick Shannon	.....	Westminster Regiment (M), R.A. F. W.W.2

Editor's Note: Sincere appologies for omission of above obituarics in previous issues. As I do my work from home, there is a considerable transfer of paper work between Assn H.Q. To the families of Stan Drummond & Ernie Holland for the omission in previous obituarics, please accept my regrets for this over sight.

MELFA - 96

Date: 18 - 19 May 1996

Place: Royal Canadian Legion - Burnaby

Cost \$25..00 per person

Golf

Dinner

Brunch

The Melfa Committee reported that the location for the Dinner this year will be the Royal Canadian Legion in Burnaby. The report to your executive was rather thorough and by way of summary, the usual locations where we have previously held our dinner are not guaranteed to be available (The Armory, the Royal Towers and the Legion in New Westminster).

GOLFERS. We will have a golf tournament this year. If we are unable to get an 0900 hrs starting time on Saturday, the 18th, we will have the tournament on Friday, the 17th. Last year many golfers were disappointed that we did not have a tournament and many of you spoke to the president and explained that you would be prepared to golf the Friday before the dinner, This will be arranged. For now, you know there will be a tournament and confirmation of details will follow in the next issue of the Groundsheet.