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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

APRIL, 1996

MELFA-96

1944 - 1996

JOIN US

EXECUTIVE

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Assistant Editor	Jerry Gangur	2015 Hyannis Drive, N. Vancouver, BC	V7H 2E5	929-5785

Editor's Corner

Few remarks from your editor this time as I know **Jerry Gangur** will have considerable information re Annual General Meeting and final notices re Melfa 96. Please attend in record numbers as I know your executive has worked long hours. A personal gratitude to **Barney Jones** of the hinterland for his visit with me a short time ago. He was down re some medical problems and he dropped in to see if this old croc was still operating. We chatted for four hours about things that two old vets have every right to do. It was nice to see him, but was saddened to learn that his dear wife had passed away recently, but Barney looks good and hopes to be at the Melfa this year.

Best wishes. See you at Melfa - 96.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MARCH 21, 1996

President's Report

This will be the last of three annual reports I have had the honor and pleasure to present to the association. A few months into my first term as president, it was clear that there were three areas that required special attention and that addressing them might take longer than one year. The membership at large gave me three years to perform the tasks, I'd quietly assigned to myself. May I summarize these points.

My predecessor, **Chuck Smithers**, left office with money in the bank, but the concern was that funds accumulated by one executive group could quickly be used up entirely by another executive group and then the drive to accumulate funds would have to be started all over again. How could our funds be accumulated and set aside for future decades? The solution was the establishment of our **Future Fund**. Money accumulated in this fund would be turned over to a third party administrator/manager and annually our association would receive a cheque based on the income earned in the fund. The fund administered by Vancouver Foundation is referred to as **The Royal Westminster Regiment Association Endowment Fund**. At the time of this report, we have approximately **\$50,000** deposited or pending deposit in the endowment fund. Every executive, from this date forward will receive an income, thanks to the generosity of our current members. Our goal was and is to raise \$100,000 for the fund and \$10,000 for the museum, which is now the responsibility of The Royal Westminster Regiment Historical Society. A second area of concern came to the surface when **Art Miller** phoned me just prior to Melfa 93, wanting to know a member's phone number. After calling a few local executive members and being informed that the telephone number for this member was unknown to them, the determination to collect
over

every members' home phone number was made. Today we have tel numbers recorded for more than 90% of our members. If you are one of the fellows that hasn't forwarded your tel number to us, do so today. The third task was to encourage active participation of the serving battalion and post WW2 members in the affairs of the association. The serving battalion was encouraged to prepare articles for publication in the Groundsheet and as you know from the last three issues, the members have come through in grand style. We have the commitment to receive articles for every future issue of the newsletter. Included in the drive for participation was the need to have past or current serving members serve as **directors**. We have succeeded and once again, you will see post WW2 members and current serving members on our board of directors. To all those who have agreed to serve as directors, I say welcome, congratulations and thank you for stepping forward.

Melfa 95 was a celebration marking the end of WW2. While we were marking this event here in New Westminster, some of our members journeyed to Holland and were fortunate to experience the emotional expression of a grateful nation giving thanks to Canada. While talking to the veterans on their return to New Westminster, it seems that they were all impressed with the genuine participation of the youth of Holland in these celebrations and their knowledge of the contribution made by Canada in the Liberation of Holland.

Future Fund. There is more to be done and would have been done, but for the energy and time required in planning and having the 50th anniversaries in 1994 (Battle Melfa) and 1995 (end of WW2). To those that inquired, let me assure you my determination to reach the goals set remains as firm as ever.

Governments throughout the world are wrestling with budgets and expenditures related to their armed forces. Canada is no different and in this light, we did receive some disturbing news regarding the future status of our regiment. What changes will be imposed and when they will be implemented remains to be seen. If you feel that Canada should continue to maintain a strong Reserve Army, than take the time to tell your member of parliament of you feelings. You may influence the course of future events.

In my concluding remarks, may I express a few personal remarks. First, I will recall with pride the years of service as your president, particularly since I was the first non WW2 veteran to serve in this office. This fact alone influenced me and kept me highly motivated during the last three years. As many of you know, command of the regiment was also an honor accorded me and as proud as I was of that appointment, it did not compare to the pride I felt on my first remembrance day parade when the veterans, after a brief discussion in front of the armoury, informed me that it was the president who would lead them in the march past. My back and shoulders ached for days after as I slowly recovered from the added exertion required on that occasion. To all, it must be said that without the help, cooperation and support of the members of the executive, nothing that has been achieved over the last three years would have been possible. To all outside the executive and board of directors who gave support, I say thanks and well done.

Finally, the nominating committee has done a magnificent job in presenting a slate of officers for the next executive and to them we wish good health and good fortune.

Respectfully submitted,



Jerry N Gangur

Election of Officers

Executive & Directors 1996-97

President - Fred West
Secretary - Nelson Scott

Vice President - Doug Glenn
Treasurer - Vernon Ardagh

Directors

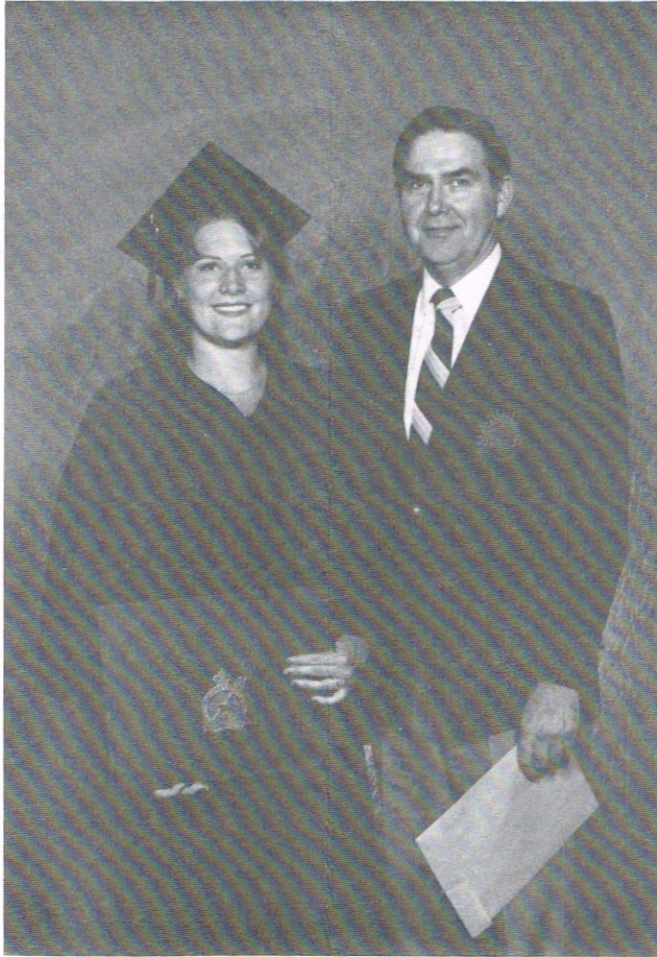
Gary Brooks
Herb Hamm
Mike Kelly
Chuck Smithers

Bruce Eaton
Pat Hyska
Chuck MacKinnon
Len Wolghmuth

Editor
Assistant Editor

Ron Hurley
Jerry Gangur

ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP



President Jerry Gangur congratulates Angela Haywood on being awarded The Royal Westminster Regiment Association- John Ford Memorial Bursary.

AGM -96 DECISION: AT THE AGM IT WAS DECIDED TO REQUEST FUNDS DEPOSITED WITH THE NEW WESTMINSTER SECONDARY SCHOOL BE RETURNED TO THE ASSOCIATION AND THAT ELIGIBILITY FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP/ BURSARY BE EXPANDED TO INCLUDE ALL MEMBERS OF THE REGIMENTAL FAMILY. COMMENCING IN ACADEMIC YEAR 1997, ELIGIBILITY WILL INCLUDE; ANY SERVING, FORMER SERVING MEMBER OR RELATIVE OF A SERVING MEMBER OR FORMER SERVING MEMBER. CADETS SERVING IN CORPS AFFILIATED WITH THE REGIMENT WILL ALSO BE ELIGIBLE.

ARMOURY 100 YEARS OLD

Yes, that building on Queens Avenue celebrated its' 100th birthday on March 27, 1996.

The Armoury has been the focal point, for the community of New Westminster over this period of time and has been used for many different events to assist and develop the entity of New Westminster. The Armoury has been a Refugee Centre, after the Great Fire of New Westminster in 1895, and again during the Fraser Valley Floods of 1948; The Armoury floor has also provided the needed space for the conduct of Special Dinners. This has included The Exhibition Dinner of 1929. The Armoury was used because The Exhibition Buildings had burned in a fire. The guest of honour was Sir Winston Churchill, who was in New Westminster at that time to open The 1929 Exhibition.; Being a Military building, the Armoury has also hosted important military men such as, Field Marshall Montgomery, Lcol Cecil Meritt, V.C. & our previous Chief of Defence Staff Gen deChastilien, to name but a few; The Armoury has also accommodated many local events, Red Cross Blood Drive, Amateur Radio Club Swap meets, Hyack Festival Tea, and the Large Potato Exhibit of 1930. The Armoury is the location where the first Basketball game took place in British Columbia. The lacrosse coach was using Basketball as a way to prepare and train his players for the game of Lacrosse; finally the Armoury has provided a location for the Militia to train and prepare for the defence of our Country.

As citizens pass the Armoury, and walk along the Westminster Quay, they might note the presence of cannon. The 24 pound brass howitzers along the Quay are from the days of The Seymour Artillery Battery. The large black 64 pound naval gun that sits on the lawn along Queens Avenue is from the days of the No. 1 Company Garrison Artillery. The gun room, which currently housed the Royal Westminster Regiment Museum has gun ports which still face south toward the Fraser River.

Facts About the Armoury

- Construction commenced 1863. Armoury occupied 1886.
- Wood A-Frame structure.
- Main floor consist of 3" x 10" planks laid on edge & covered by black top.
- Largest free-standing frame structure in B.C.
- 1930's basement dug out and cement foundations poured
- 1995 Received \$1,000,000.00 face lift

Submitted by **Chuck MacKinnon**

I Would Pick More Daisies



*If I had my life to live over, I'd dare to make more mistakes next time.
I'd relax. I'd limber up. I would be sillier than I've been this trip.
I would take fewer things seriously, take more chances, take more trips.
I'd climb more mountains, and swim more rivers. I would eat more
ice-cream and less beans.
I would perhaps have more actual troubles, but I'd have fewer
imaginary ones.*

*You see, I'm one of those people who lived seriously, sanely, hour after
hour, day after day.*

*Oh, I've had my moments, and if I had to do it over again, I'd have
more of them.*

*In fact, I'd try to have nothing else, just moments, one after the other,
instead of living so many years ahead of each day.*

*I've been one of those persons who never goes anywhere without a
thermometer, hot water bottle, a rain coat and a parachute.*

If I had to do it again, I would travel lighter this trip.

*If I had my life to live over, I would start going barefoot earlier in the
Spring.*

And stay that way until Fall.

I would go to more dances. I would ride merry-go-rounds.

I would pick more daisies.

Author Unknown



Melfa 96

May 17 - 19

May 17 Golf: Delta Golf Course

Tee off: 11 am Cost: \$35. Per golfer

Chairman: Chuck Smithers

Price includes refreshment & food on 19th hole.

May 18 Dinner: Royal Canadian Legion Branch No 83

5289 Grimmer, Burnaby Tel: 433-8010

(near Royal Oak & Kingsway)

Cocktails: 6pm Dinner: 7 pm

Cost: \$30.00 per person

Chairman: Chuck MacKinnon

May 19 Brunch: The Armoury, New Westminster

10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Admission Free

Chairman: Jerry Gangur

Cheques payable to The Royal Westminster Regt Assn

Let us know if you are attending. We would like to know by 6 May

If attending, send enclosed flyer along with your cheque

From the Post

Correspondence limited to date, but I acknowledge all that I have received from Association H.Q. I notice the membership is using the Orange return slips a great deal and they contain both dues and/or donations. Inasmuch as they contain no correspondence per se, will simply acknowledge by random list of names.

Vernon Ardagh, CJ Smithers, Herb Buckoll, Peter Buckoll, Peter Adlem, Ross Douglas, Fred Drummond, Mike Arendarski, CG Marshall, Les Griffiths, Art Belyea, Bill Thorarinson, Stan Hartridge, William Lenaghan, Colin Cameron, Anne Macey, GF McCourt, EC Lasher, Cliff Wetmore, Irene Dayton, Ethel Johnstone, WJ Barrett, Ruth Newitt, RA Breaks, Ruth Hume, NL Johnson, Maurice Fox, Pat Barrett, Al O'Brien, Gloria Ross, Steve Cowan, D Crossfield, Larry Durr, Gordon Corman, George Griffiths, M Flewwelling, James Walsh, May Shorter, Henry Hurford, RA Boultee, HRH Campbell, Wm Tyo, Roy Drury, Robert Moore, John Gach, Dave Gowler, Bert Woolverton, TG Clemas, Aubrey, Joe Strawson and Isabel Smith.

A nice letter from Glen Holling. I'm sure Nelson has updated your dues. As to your personal remarks to me that the Groundsheet might not have survived. High praise indeed Glen, albeit overstated...1997 marks the 50th anniversary of the association & I think it might be appropriate time to yield my position. Not to worry, Glen The Westies always stepped up to fill thinning ranks in wartime & there has been hordes pass through the Regiment since 1945. There must be a veritable pool of eager & talented resources waiting in the wings...Bill Robson sends warm greetings from the sun belt to our shirvering north...Thanks to Bob Boyd for the picture & kind remarks...Sincere thanks to Len Welch for notes on your Holland trip and the pictures of the graves at Holten...Thanks to Chuck Morwood for the poetry...A nice letter to the Assn from old time carrier driver of C Coy 9 Platoon, S. Rollo...Nice note from Bill McIntyre, association extends its' sincere appreciation for your report on attending George McDonald's funeral, replete with your beret and medals. You have done this many times by Just a phone call from me. It's a nice gesture and perhaps we can persuade more to do the same.

Ron Hurley

IN MEMORIAM

Gerry Enright The Royal Westminster Regiment
George McDonald Westminster Regiment (M) W.W. 2
Bill Patton Westminster Regiment (M) W.W. 2
Harold Williams Westminster Regiment (M) W.W.2

Information We Need

- MOVING? THEN MAKE SURE YOU TELL US IN WRITING.
- SICK & VISITING. IF YOU KNOW OF ONE OF OUR MEMBERS BEING HOSPITALIZED OR ILL, PICK UP THE PHONE AND PHONE SOMEONE ON THE EXECUTIVE. WE WILL REACT. PHONE NUMBERS OF SOME OF THE EXECUTIVE IS ALWAYS IN THE GOUNDSHEET.

FLASH!!!!!!!!!!

THE OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT EDITOR WAS BROKEN INTO AND THE NEW COMPUTER EQUIPMENT WAS TAKEN. MOST OF THE GOUNDSHEET HAD BEEN PREPARED FOR PRINTING. TWO PAGES WERE YET TO BE COMPLETED. THIS WILL EXPLAIN THE EMPTY SPACES ON SOME PAGES. WE CANNOT DELAY SENDING THE GOUNDSHEET TO THE PRINTERS BECAUSE OF THE LEAD TIME REQUIRED FOR YOU TO INFORM US OF YOUR ATTENDANCE AT MELFA-96.