



The GROUND SHEET

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF
THE ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

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

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

Vol, 26 No. 2

BOX 854, NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C. V3L 4Z8

APRIL - MAY, 1977

Melfa - 33rd Anniversary SATURDAY, MAY 28th - SUNDAY, MAY 29th

SATURDAY, MAY 28th—

8:30 a.m.—Melfa Golf Tournament

Maple Ridge Golf Course

Call your entries to:

Ted Hammersley — 588-7227

Ian Douglas — 522-3415

Ron Mannering — 521-8325

Come early to make up your foursomes.

**2:30 p.m. onwards — Registration, Armoury.
Museum Open.**

5:20 p.m.—Fall In for Cenotaph Service

6:30 p.m.—Cocktails, Armoury

7:15 p.m.—Annual Melfa Dinner

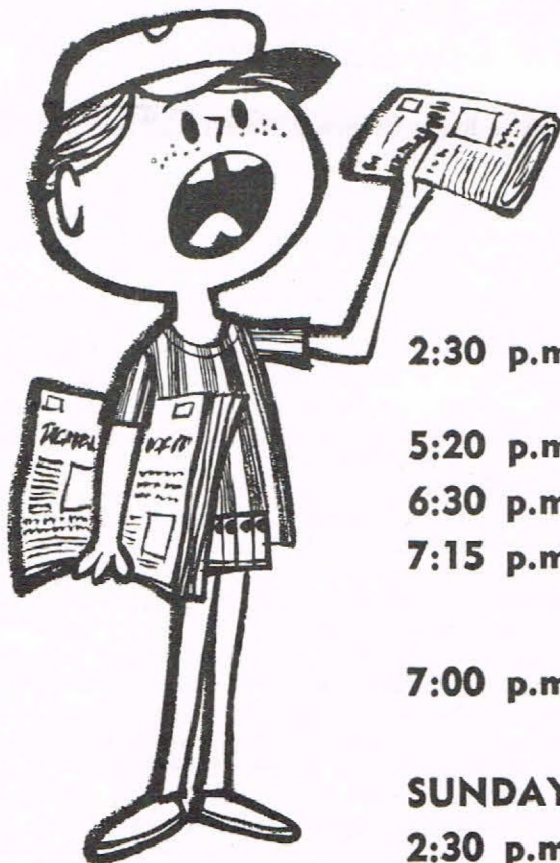
Tickets at the door — \$6.00

**7:00 p.m.—Ladies' Dutch Treat Dinner
King Neptune Restaurant**

SUNDAY, MAY 29th—

**2:30 p.m.—Reception and Tea for all Members and
Ladies in the Officers' Mess, Armoury**

The Museum will be open for the afternoon



THE GROUND SHEET

President STAN MOORHOUSE
704-700 Hamilton Street, New Westminster—522-3507

Editor ALLAN COE
908 Tsawwassen Beach, Delta, B.C. V4M 2J3 — 943-3895

Secretary DOUG GLEN
6666 Walker Avenue, Burnaby, B.C. — 522-0890

MAIL BAG

Much of our mail is still concerned with compliments and plaudits to Ian Douglas and Ron Hurley for their fine booklet, *Retorno in Italia*. It seems that 99 and 44/100th percent of our members were very appreciative of receiving it. Bill Smith of Victoria liked it and hopes to be at the Melfa Dinner. N. G. M. Loughheed of Crescent Beach writes that his association with the Regiment goes back to the days of the 104th Regiment. He says he joined up in 1912 to get a free holiday at Sydney, B.C. School boys didn't have much pocket money in those days, so a holiday with free meals and a bed was welcome. They were to be paid a stipend but were told that all payments went into the Regimental Fund. Thanks for the donation, Mr. Loughheed, we are almost at the break even point on the *Retorno* printing now. Of course there is always the other side . . . one member writes: "I think you people have a hell of a nerve sending out booklets without asking and then dunning us for the lousy \$2.00" . . . ah me! All I can say is if you can afford the dues and the \$2.00 for *Retorno* . . . please pay . . . if you cannot afford it please be assured that no member is taken off the rolls for non-payment. We are not dunning those of you who are on hard times, far from it. The ones we are trying to get to are the \$20,000 to \$30,000 a year fellows who haven't paid a dollar in dues in the past five years.

We were glad to hear from I. W. Tipping, who has retired and now resides at Lakeshore Drive, Clarenceville, Quebec, where he tells us all he hears is separatism. He hopes to get out to the Calgary Stampede this year and promises to visit us if he makes it.

Paul Ostafew from Vernon says: "Keep up the good work with *The Groundsheet*, has shown it to fellows from other outfits and they all wish their old Regiments kept in touch with each other like we do . . . looking forward to the next episode of A Personal History . . . brings back lots of memories." Pat McCarthy, President of the Toronto Chapter, sends a most welcome letter: "Seeing as you only had about 100 out for last year's Melfa, I did my best to see if I could round up two or three along with myself to come out to this year's Dinner. Failing in that regard, my wife (Margaret) and I are coming out to say 'Hello' on the night of the 19th of May and will be staying until after the dinner and reception. We are having our (Toronto) Melfa Dinner on Saturday, May 14th at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 344, 49 Elm Street, Toronto. Dinner is about 7:00 p.m. and dancing follows. Any of you who are going to be in the Toronto area at that time, please join us."

Thanks for your note, George Bayne. George had written asking if we knew where he could get a copy of the company photo taken of C Company in Aldershot in 1942. We found the name of the original photographer and George has written

to see if a print is available. We'll let you know.

We were glad to finally locate Ken Harrison. We received a letter telling us that he now lives on Gabriola Island, having retired from the Vancouver police. Ken says he is working harder now than he has for years. He has largely built his own home and is now landscaping a flower and vegetable garden. From the description of the location it sounds like a beautiful spot. He says: "From where I live I look over Gabriola Pass and watch the birds and other fishermen trying their luck." Ken, tie up a couple of good spring salmon for me and I'll be over this summer to pull them out.

Jim Oldfield drops a note to say how much he enjoyed *Retorno*. He sympathized with Ron's description of the Italian traffic. As a matter of fact he said that he felt safer during his earlier visit (1944) than he did this time when he and his wife visited Rome in 1970.

Robert J. Franks writes asking for a copy of the winners in our Annual Draw. Several people have asked for a similar list and it puzzles me a little when the winners are always published in the issue following the Draw. This year's prize list appeared on page 6 of the January-February *Groundsheet*. Nelson Scott also sends out a printed prize list to most of the sellers.

At a recent executive meeting it was suggested that we plan on a program of updating our mailing list. We will get busy on this project with the next copy of *The Groundsheet*. Watch for it.

LtCOL J. N. GANGUR NEW COMMANDING OFFICER

On March 1st, 1977, change of command of The Royal Westminister Regiment passed from LtCol M. H. H. Steede to LtCol J. N. Gangur.

As the new Commanding Officer, I am grateful for having this opportunity, through the Regimental Association, to communicate with former serving members of the Regiment. I would like to thank the many who have contacted me offering their congratulations and support. It is heart-warming and most encouraging to receive these unsolicited words of praise. My predecessor, Mike Steede, performed admirably during his almost four years as Commanding Officer of the Regiment. He is a very able and likable soldier and his absence will be felt by the Unit. The Regiment wishes him good health and prosperity in the years to come.

The Unit has been reorganized and most personnel have received new duties. In order to ensure the maximum attendance and benefit from our summer concentration at Fort Lewis this year, all training, for the balance of the training year has been assigned to A Company. Major J. M. Lamb will command this company at Fort Lewis.

There is much that I would like to say about what the Regiment is doing but I will wait for the next issue of *The Groundsheet*. Don't forget our Annual Inspection on 14 May, 1977 at 1400 hours. It would be nice to see you in the crowd.

In conclusion, let me say that it is an honour to be Commanding Officer of your Regiment. To those who have served with the Regiment in past years, I invite you to come and see what the unit is doing now. We train Tuesday evenings and all day Saturday. You will always be welcome.

LtCOL J. N. GANGUR, *Commanding Officer*

MELFA WEEKEND LOOKS GREAT!

As reported in the last issue of *The Groundsheet*, this year's Melfa celebration will take the form of a Melfa Weekend on May 28th and 29th. Plans are well in hand to make this a memorable occasion and reservations are coming in from all over the country. As reported elsewhere in this issue Pat McCarthy and his wife and possibly some others from the Toronto Chapter plan on being with us this year. We are looking forward to welcoming a rather large contingent from the Okanagan this year and to date almost 90 members have made their reservations to attend. If you haven't sent in your reservation card yet, please do it now to give us an idea of how much food to cater for. Naturally if you decide at the last minute to attend, please do so, but our planning is made much easier if we have an idea of how many are coming in advance. This year the dinner is to be first rate and we will be providing some refreshments and wine for the dinner. Tickets are only \$6.00 each with your Association picking up the extra. We decided to keep the price at a minimum to ensure that no one would find it too expensive. I am sure you all know how prices have gone up in the past year or so, but we promise you that you won't find a dinner of this quality at twice the price at any restaurant. Why not make a special effort this time and come out to see all your old buddies and have an evening of memories.

The Program this year is as follows:

SATURDAY, MAY 28th

Registration — Armoury, 1430 hrs., May 28th —
Museum Open

Fall In for Cenotaph Service — 1720 hrs.

Cocktails, 1830 hrs. — Armoury

Dinner, 1915 hrs. — Armoury

Ladies' Dutch Treat Dinner, King Neptune Restaurant

SUNDAY, MAY 29th — 1900 hrs.

Reception and Tea, Members and Ladies — Officers' Mess, Armoury, 1430 hrs. This is made possible by the kind permission of the Commanding Officer, LtCol J. N. Gangur. The Museum will be open during the afternoon.

Be sure to join in with us and make this a year to remember.

W.W. 1 UNIFORM DONATED

A member of the Association, Peter Adlem, placed a request for a World War I uniform in the *Tattoo*, a Victoria paper published by the Pro Pat Legion. A reply was received from Mr. E. B. Little, who resides in the James Bay district of Victoria. The brothers Adlem called on the Littles on Sunday, February 20th, 1977. Mr. Little produced a complete private's uniform of the 15th Battalion, the 48th Highlanders. He had treasured it from the days when he had worn it some 60 years ago. It consists of a khaki tunic complete with ribbons, a Davidson tartan kilt, balmoral, glengarry, shorts, Highland socks, red garter tabs, khaki apron, web belt, haversack, kit bag, housewife, and a bayonet for a Ross rifle. Mr. Little also included some papers and a Crown and Anchor game which he had carried with him throughout the War. He also added two

souvenirs in the form of a World War I German fatigue cap and a water bottle. The Museum Committee would like to thank Peter for putting the request in the *Tattoo*, and a special thank you to Mr. E. B. Little for his response.

122 ATTEND MUSEUM FOUNDING MEMBERS TEA

An enthusiastic gathering of more than 122 attended the Founding Members Tea held in the Armoury on Sunday, March 27th. The affair was designed to show those who had supported the founding of the Museum, what had been accomplished over the past few years. Highlight of the afternoon was a duo of presentations, the first was by Mrs. Nevard who is a great granddaughter of Sgt Major McMurphy, one of the original Royal Engineers stationed in New Westminster. Sgt Major McMurphy was one of the Engineers who, after their tour of duty was completed, chose to stay in British Columbia. He was one of the first members of the Militia unit formed in those early days for protection of the area. Incidentally that unit was the beginning of our present Regiment. Mrs. Nevard presented to our Museum the sword of her great grandfather as a memento of our heritage.

The second presentation was by Ron Mannering and Dave Leedham, who as a result of visits back to Holland, had been sent the town flag of the village of Roden by the Burgomeister. Roden was one of the Dutch towns where the Regiment spent several months after the liberation and the end of the war. Naturally many friends were made there and visitors from the Westminsters are most welcome.

Both the sword and the flag are now on display in the Museum. With additions such as these we will continue to grow and maintain our status as one of the finest Regimental Museums in Canada.

After brief talks by Bert Hoskin, Gordon Shrum and the donors, refreshments were served by the wives of the Museum Committee.

MELFA GOLF TOURNAMENT

The 1977 Melfa Open will be held at the world-renowned Maple Ridge Golf Club located in beautiful downtown Maple Ridge. If any of you have not been to this course here are complete instructions on how to find your way: Proceed out of town on the Lougheed Highway as far as the Maple Ridge Beer Parlour BUT DO NOT STOP! Turn right (south) and follow on about 1/2 a mile on that road to Golf Lane. Here you will see a sign on the left hand side of the road directing you to the club house. Simple, isn't it!

Tee off time is at 8:30 a.m. Please come early to assist us in arranging foursomes or better still organize your own and call any one of the following for tee off times:

Ted Hammersly, 588-7227 — Ian Douglas, 522-3415 — Ron Mannering, 521-8325.

Please leave your phone number so we can confirm your times. Refreshments will be on hand at the 19th hole and there are lots of prizes so turn out for this big event!!!

Any non-players who would be willing to assist in getting the groups away would be most welcome. Please call Ted or Ian to offer your help.

Remember Maple Ridge Golf Course, 8:30 a.m., Saturday, May 28th. See you.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING The Royal Westminster Regiment Assoc. MARCH 17th, 1977

Opened by President Stan Moorhouse at 8:10 p.m. with an attendance of 25. One minute silence was observed for our Fallen Comrades. The minutes of the previous Annual Meeting were adopted as circulated on motion of Adlem/Lyle.

President Stan welcomed all, especially the new members. We had a full year with two church parades with the Regiment and a Christening at which we presented eight Bibles to the little ones. A good fellowship has been made with the American Legion Post #7, Vancouver, as well as our Melfa Celebration, and our Draw which provides our main funds.

Committee Reports:

Ron Mannering reported on the Melfa Golf Tournament, 41 members attended at Abbotford with Scotty Low, a member of the club hosting us and assisting with the Prize Draw. Bert Stephens won the Melfa Trophy with Low Net, and George McGregor won the Chuck Marshall Trophy for Low Gross. Twelve other prizes were won.

Ron also reported on Sick and Visiting for Bill Robson who is on holidays. Bill does an outstanding job of this work with the help of some members contributing pocketbooks, especially Allan Coe. Bill cheers the old Vets with gifts of these books, cigarettes, cookies and candies. Those visited through the year were Sam Fraser, Grant, John Munn, Scotty Brown, A. Dixon, Weir, Ed Greame, Freddie Wiggins and Jim Wilson. Deceased recently were Bert Keam, John Shepperd, Wally Magill, Frank Fellingham and T. G. Norris. It was reported that Ron Hurley was in St. Pauls where he had a disc operation and is now recovering at home.

Ron Mannering reporting for the Secretary's office, said how much he enjoyed the notes along with the dues, showing the greater interest in the Association as we get older.

Ed Shannon reported verbally on the '76 Smoker. One hundred and forty-one attended, had a good time and a most successful evening.

Walter Lyle gave the Awards Committee Report. There were nine applications for scholarships received in 1976, one a serving member of the Regiment. This was better than the two applications in 1975. The standard of applicants was exceptionally high. Winners were: Peter Francis, grandson of Capt C. Corbould, 47th Btn. Peter intends to be a lawyer, with interest in politics; Joseph Rolandi, son of Pte Ray Rolandi, Westminster Regt. Joseph will seek a career in medicine. We have been unable to have the two \$100.00 achievement awards this year because of lack of funds.

The Museum Committee Report was given by Ian Douglas in the absence of Chairman Bert Hoskin.

MUSEUM REPORT

This is a report of the eighth year of operation of this museum. It will be given in two parts — The Financial Report will be given by Dave Adlem, Treasurer of the Museum Committee, and this part — of general activities — by the Acting Secretary, undersigned.

These members served for the year under report: Bert Hoskin, Mike Steede, Bas Morgan, Gerry Gangur, Ernie Holland, Dick Shannon, Dave Adlem, Glenn Gates, Ian Douglas, John Rosso, George Hughes, Walt Tyler, Vern Ardagh, Walt Hogg.

Doreen Cull has been employed part-time. Some changes in Committee appointments will result, first, from the loss of Chairman and, second from the change in Regimental Command; the Museum Committee must deal with its establishment at the next meeting.

We have attempted this year to have the Museum open at regular and advertised times. We have been open 9 to 3 Monday; 1 to 3 Wednesday and Friday; 7:30 to 9:30 Tuesday; other times quite readily by appointment. We would like to continue that program as long as attendants are available. We have been open, of course, on Association occasions and special Regimental occasions. We have not attracted many visitors during the day, but those who do appear have been worth our time. Signatures in our Visitors' Book indicate only a fraction of actual visits, for people don't sign unless we shove the book under their noses. It is interesting to look back over the book, for many visitors come a long way. We have had a group of U.S. Marine Cadets, and are expecting a class from Zeballos Public School and on March 29th, a history class from Douglas College. One Sunday an international gathering of Gyros visited after breakfast in the Mess. You may have seen a program of CKVU in February, produced by the "Vancouver" staff. The Museum staff (Walter Hogg) performed very well on camera — a competent critic states — but the professional MC was amateurish. It is also to be noted that the CBC show taped for 11 November 75 was repeated 11 November 76.

We shall have many more visitors this month, for on Saturday the Museum will be open for visitors at the Change of Command Parade. Then a most important event for the Museum, the Founding Members Tea. Two hundred and nineteen invitations have been sent to our F.M. to have tea here Sunday, March 27th. We are honoring those people and hoping to demonstrate some progress since the Official Opening, 15 April, 73. No doubt, renewed interest in the Museum will be encouraged.

The physical dimensions of the Museum, alas, have not increased in the last year, and no enlargement or change in our premises can be foreseen. We are therefore at the limit of our accommodation of display items. All that we can do is rotate items where we have stored items available. One physical property that can be improved is the lighting, which is dependent on a pretty old installation.

Additions to our collection arrive steadily, in spite of no advertisements by us. Peter Adlem knew that we need a WW1 uniform and made an ad in a Vancouver Island publication. The result is an excellent uniform of a 48th Highlander Cdn — kilt and all. We can't display it in our "family album" but the donor knows we would like to trade. Since our last meeting we have assessed, catalogued and put away over 200 acquisitions, with quite a number of items awaiting process. We haven't yet acquired a Ross rifle (we have two Ross bayonets) and we have really no signal artifacts — although there is hope for the latter.

Our Membership in the OMMC will produce sig. equipment. Last summer Bas Morgan and Walt Tyler attended the annual meeting of the OMMC at Kingston. Like the one Bert attended at Calgary, it was profitable in several ways. One was a promise from the Sig HQ at Kingston to send us surplus equipment, items of which our delegates enumerated. The OMMC Annual Meeting is an event that we should always attend, if possible; in 1977 it occurs at Halifax.

After the Change of Command on Saturday, another event, quite unusual in fact, will follow — Sunday and Monday in the vicinity of Chilliwack. It will be the filming of a re-enactment of the crossing of the Melfa. The Museum will lend some material for the show.

Later this coming season we shall see tangible progress in the building of the vehicle diorama. Vern Ardagh has assurances from the model builders that work is well underway.

We also expect progress in the writing of a definitive history of the Regiment, which task is in the hands of Walt Tyler.
—I. F. DOUGLAS, *Acting-Secretary*

GROUNDSHEET REPORT

The format of *The Groundsheet* seems to have settled down to four issues a year. In 1976 we published that number with three issues of eight pages and one of four pages. It may well be that with increasing costs in both printing and mailing that we will have to reduce our size to four pages for each issue if we hope to maintain a minimum of four issues each year.

Response has been gratifying and we have received many letters from members who have never written before. It seems that there is a reawakening of interest in the Association, particularly from the out-of-town members. Much of the credit for this renewal of interest must be given to the co-authors of the booklet *Ritorno in Italia*.

Dues are the life blood of our Association, for they and the proceeds from the Annual Draw are our only source of revenue, as they decrease, so does our ability to continue such expenditures as *The Groundsheet*. Our estimate is that it costs in the neighbourhood of \$2.00 a year to mail every member his issues of *The Groundsheet* including printing and postage.

I would like to thank all of the membership for their fine co-operation in the past year.

ALLAN COE, *Editor, The Groundsheet*

FINANCIAL STATEMENT (Museum) For Fiscal Year Ended Dec. 31st, 1976

Cash at Bank, January 1st, 1976
Current Account O/D \$ 205.22
Savings Account 245.82

Donations

Sgt R. J. Grinsted	\$ 2.00	
Gyro Club, New Westminster	100.00	
Miss Evelyn Simpson	10.00	
Donation Box	16.87	
Sgt Reibin	10.00	
Mrs. M. L. Hunter	50.00	
Anonymous	700.00	888.87
The Royal Westminster Regiment Association		1000.00
D.N.D. Museum Grant		1800.00
Interest Revenue (Savings Account)		43.39
Petty Cash (on hand Dec. 31, 1976)		50.00
		<u>\$3822.86</u>

Disbursements

Bank Charges and Interest	\$ 81.52	
Two Display Cases	721.70	
Petty Cash Expense	172.08	
Stationery	107.10	
Advertising	142.00	
War Diary (3 copies)	15.00	
B.C. Museums Association	20.00	
Wages, Asst. Curator	2177.36	
Receiver General of Canada (P/R deductions)	312.03	
Canadian War Museums Association	15.00	<u>\$3763.79</u>
Cash on hand and at the Bank Dec. 31, 1976		\$ 59.07

Cash Reconciliation

Current Account	\$ 1.76
Savings Account	7.31
Petty Cash	50.00
	<u>\$ 59.07</u>

TREASURER'S REPORT

In the absence of Vern Ardagh, the Secretary read his report.

BALANCE SHEET — 31 DECEMBER, 1976

Assets		Liabilities	
Bank Balance —			
Current	\$1060.15	Draw	\$4113.36
Savings	1.21	Hospital — Trust	150.00
Petty Cash	185.00	Sick and Visiting	220.06
Inventory	1326.20	Golf Trophy	73.00
Awards	271.00	Deficit	(1712.86)
	<u>\$2843.56</u>		<u>\$2843.56</u>

Receipts and Expenditures

Receipts	\$7509.00
Disbursements	6995.00
Reduction in Deficit \$	514.00

Treasurer's Report adopted as presented, on motion by Dave Adlem, seconded by Bas. Morgan, carried.

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT

President Stan introduced the new C.O. of the Regiment, Lt/Col Jerry Gangur to the Meeting. Col Gangur reported taking over the unit for Lt/Col Mike Steede 1 March, so would report briefly and give an honest appraisal as of today. Last June we had 157 members, that is establishment strength, this year just prior to March 1st, we had less than 70. We are now back to 87 with a recruiting drive on. Some of the problems were with instructors, officers not able to put in the time for training, and accommodations.

The Band has no Director of Music, and needs help in that direction. (Note: every Annual Meeting they pick the same evening for practice, outside our meeting room door, and it is very difficult to pick up the verbal reports on tape over the very good music.)

The soldiers of the Regiment have opportunities like never before to train with the regular force, their equipment and facilities. They will take our people for as little as one week at a time, not the 6 month periods formerly required to sign on for.

Mr. Gibb, an officer of the Unit, and a film student at Simon Fraser University, is currently making a film of the Melfa Crossing, which will be screened by the Regiment and Association before showing.

The Cadet Corps locally under Capt Ted Usher, has a strength of 45 and building. Abbotsford and Surrey/Delta are down and have problems.

DRAW REPORT

Draw Committee Report by Nelson Scott:

It is my privilege to report that the Christmas Draw of 1976 was up to standard; the funds raised by this means, grossed \$7072.20. I don't know how the 20 cents got in there as all tickets sold for the uniform price of fifty cents. I hope you realize that the above figure represents fourteen thousand, one hundred and forty-four contacts made by our Association members, all of whom have faith and confidence in the conduct of the Draw. After prizes and expenses, the net figure available for budget purposes, is \$4113.36 as reported to that Committee. However, there is an additional \$100.00 now available due to late returns.

For the first time, I have retained in the Trust Account, sufficient funds to cover the application for a permit for 1977, the request for said permit has already been filed with the Attorney General's Department, Victoria.

Of the gross figure of \$7072.20, sales through the Regiment accounted for \$1733.00 with the balance being handled through the mail to our Membership within the areas prescribed by the terms of our Lottery Permit. The area is from Hope to the Coast and Vancouver Island.

The Draw's success is due to Membership participation, and to those who did participate, my sincere thanks. I only wish we could find a way to encourage greater participation by all members on our mailing list, but I have been on this kick before so all I can do is hope for the best in the years to come.

Of course the recommendation to the incoming Board will be to continue the Draw and to prosecute every avenue to increase the volume of sales as revenue demands are up.

To make all of this possible requires able assistance from several people — Bert and Blanche Stephens start the ball rolling, then Nora and I do the write-ups and mailing, from then on its clear sailing until the night of the Draw when many hands make light work. Scotty Low, Doug Glenn, Vern Ardagh, John Hou are names that come immediately to mind. A special Thank You to Capt Holling who did a great job with the Regiment sales.

Unfinished Business:

Re question of adopting Notice of Motion last year. It was moved by Basil Morgan, seconded by Norm McAskill that "New Life Membership Dues be \$5.00 per year"; carried with one dissenter noted.

New Business:

A Resolution re "Scholarships and Awards," was put forward by a Committee of the Executive, so that we would have something in our By-Laws pertaining to this worthwhile project. After much discussion it was moved by Walter Hogg, seconded by Nelson Scott, that this resolution be referred back to the Executive for further consideration, carried. (At next Executive, a committee of eight chaired by Nelson Scott was appointed to

study and bring back recommendations for a proper addition to our By-Laws.)

Correspondence:

Bert Hoskin's letter of resignation, at least for the current year on account of pressing business and personal reasons was accepted with regrets. Bert's place as Chairman of the Museum, and member of Scholarship and Awards Committee will have to be taken care of. Sorry to lose you, Bert, but will look forward to your participation again.

The Secretary, Ron Mannering, displayed a group of large photos of World War II taken in North Holland. These were sent to us by Klaas von der Laan of Appingedam, an Historian of Canadian Artifacts and very interested in our Museum. We will hear more from him, also Bernie Neary sent in a packet of items. Thanks to both.

EXECUTIVE 1977

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE:

After the Nominating Committee gave its report, the following were elected and appointed for the year:

President: STAN MOORHOUSE — 704-700 Hamilton St., New Westminster, B.C. — 522-3507

Vice President: BAS MORGAN — 1547-54th St., Delta, B.C. — 943-4177

Treasurer: VERN ARDAGH — c/o Bank of Montreal, 6th Ave. at 6th St., New Westminster, B.C. — 525-1621

Editor: ALLAN COE — 908 Tsawwassen Beach, Delta, B.C. — 943-3895

Secretary (appointed April 4, 1977): DOUG GLENN — 6666 Walker Ave., Burnaby, B.C. — 522-0890

Executive Elected:

TED USHER — 303-610 Hamilton St., New Westminster, B.C. — 526-6175

JOHN FORD — 3757 West 35th Ave., Vancouver, B.C. — 263-3682

GERRY CHURLEY — 221-220 7th St., New Westminster, B.C. — 521-7751

NELSON SCOTT — 335 Churchill St., New Westminster, B.C. — 521-3294

ED SHANNON — 940 Dixon, Richmond, B.C. — 277-6525.

BILL ROBSON — 2335 Wall St., Vancouver, B.C. — 254-2876

JOHN ROSSO — 627 Cumberland, New Westminster, B.C. — 525-2910

WALTER LYLE — 614-4th Ave., New Westminster, B.C. — 521-3265

Appointed:

NORM McASKILL — 7828 Canada Way, Burnaby, B.C. — 521-4280

FRED BASS — 2-6609 Fraser St., Vancouver, B.C. — 325-0456

RED WILLIAMS — 9132-120 St., Surrey, B.C. — 594-4621

RON MANNERING — 7290 11th Ave., Burnaby, B.C. 521-8325

Representing Jr. Ranks: KIM GREENIZAN, 7557-129 A St., Surrey, B.C. — 294-4144

CO's Rep., GLEN HOLLING — 11392 Alpen Place, Surrey, B.C. — 588-5887

Meeting was adjourned for refreshments at 10:30 p.m.

RON MANNERING, *Secretary*

A PERSONAL HISTORY OF THE WAR

The following consists of excerpts from a personal diary written by one of our members during his war service 1939-1945.

We won't identify him at this point, but as the series continues you may be able to identify the author.

(Continued)

DECEMBER 7th — We left Camp Devon 4, Afrigola, at 0700 hrs. this morning on our way to join the 8th Army. I managed to get a White scout car, which are a lovely vehicle to handle. Our route was mostly east, and led through the mountains on a road surprisingly good. As we passed through each little town, the children lined the streets and shouted, yelled, laughed and gave us every greeting from the fascist salute to the two-fingered "V" sign. At noon we got some white grapes and onions from an old lad for a tomato-can full of petrol, and they helped make the "bully" and bread more palatable. We passed many signs of German demolition jobs, mostly bridges blown out, but these were either detoured or had new temporary structures in place. When we reached the eastern coastal plain the view was very reminiscent of Alberta's foothills, with some very large farms in evidence.

At 1700 hrs. we pulled into harbor at an olive grove, refueled and dined luxuriously on "bully," hardtack, jam, and tea that seemed to be mostly chloride of lime. What a beating a soldier's tummy takes!

We totalled 160 miles today, and expect to arrive at our destination tomorrow afternoon. Reveille is at 0430 hrs., a most inhuman hour at which to roll out. There were many break-downs, mostly minor ones, on the road today, and the fitters and M.M.s won't get much sleep tonight. Neither will I unless I retire soon.

Vee's Xmas card has been keeping me company while I write this, but it has come to an end, so enough for today.

P.S. Its a gorgeous warm moon-lit night, and many sad and many sweet memories are stirred by the moon-magic. As Lieut Ketchison said. "I've wasted more moons like this in the Army than I ever thought possible."

DECEMBER 8th — Finished our emigration yesterday, arriving here in Matera around 1630 hrs., after a trip of 88 miles since morning. The old White purred like a kitten the entire journey, which was very gratifying. Most of journey yesterday was through fairly flat country, with very stony ridges, barren of any growth. The only fertile spots were in the valleys and they were pretty scarce. The towns seem cleaner and older looking down here than in the Naples area. The one we're in seems not too bad, but we haven't had a chance to look around it yet.

Our vehicles are parked on a hill near an old castle about ten minutes walk away from our quarters which are in a fairly new elementary school building. We aren't crowded too badly, but light and washing facilities aren't all they might be. There is electric lights in a few rooms, so we'll have to scrounge some wire, a socket and a bulb and get Pit to work installing them.

The usual rule applies here, as it seems to all over Italy, for Div. Curfew at 1800 hrs., so considering we're on duty till 1630 hrs., it doesn't leave much time to see the town.

Apparently they don't give the Canadians credit for being able to look after themselves but must lead them around by the hand at all times. I wonder if that will apply when there is any fighting to do.

DECEMBER 11th — Got rolled out at 2300 hrs. night before last to stand double guard. By the excitement prevailing one would think the whole German army was on our very doorstep. But it was all caused by three of our own lads, who got "vino-ed" and came back a little late. Their intention probably was to go over the wall, but when Benny, who was on guard, went toward them to tell them to look slippy, as the R.M.P. Sgt was in the near vicinity. they skipped around the corner into an alley, Benny stepped to the corner to see where they had gone, and one stepped out of the shade and clouted poor old Benny across the nose with a club, grabbed his tommy-gun and scrambled. So we did double guard to insure that they wouldn't clean up the battalion. The gun was found near the cook-house, so they got in somehow. They had been recognized, so now they are in the brig pending F.G.C.M.

Roy and I got a pass yesterday afternoon and went out to look over the town, but we succeeded in getting pretty high on vermouth and some "Dago red," so we didn't see many points of interest. I've a head today like a smithy, due, no doubt to this doped-up wine. A man is really a chump to drink the stuff, but anything for a little relaxation.

Doing guard again today, 24 hour tour, two on and four off. Tomorrow the usual church-parade comes off, in the afternoon now, so that a man will have less time to himself. Our new padre said C.P.s would be voluntary, as he didn't believe in compulsory church-going. Apparently he doesn't carry much weight for you still go whether you are inclined to or not. Its odd to think that for centuries our forefathers fought for freedom to worship when, where and how they liked, and even left their homes and ventured into unknown lands so they could be free of religious tyranny. Now our army, that most un-democratic institution, says you will worship when you are ordered to, willy willy, thus directly contradicting the very principles we are supposed to be fighting for.

Once again the dear old blanco has made its appearance, for come hell or high water, this war simply cannot be won unless that web is kept spotless. A lot of web, which, if it had been treated as the manufacturer specified, would still be quite serviceable, has been rendered limp, frayed, and impossible to keep in its buckles, mostly through incessant scrubbing and soaking. One of my greatest regrets is that I have no shares in Blanco, Inc., for the lads who mix up that clay and glue, and sell it to the army, must have reaped an immeasurable fortune out of this war.

DECEMBER 12th — Church parade came off according to schedule, being a Bde. affair. We fell in at 13.10 hrs., anklets and belts nicely blancoed and proceeded to stand there until 1345 hrs. Finally we moved off to the stadium, about ¾ of a mile, where a "drum-head" service was held. Afterwards we did a "march past" for the Brig., which was most impressive. The rest of the day was unimpressive and Obie, Gooch, Bill Norris and I whiled away the long evening hours with a game of bridge. Incidentally, Bill and I took quite a beating, but we may get our revenge tonight (December 13). We have light in our domicile now, for we scrounged some wire, a socket and a bulb, and installed them. Its slightly brighter than a candle, but better than none at all

(To Be Continued)

Lest We Forget



A. E. ANDERSON, Fort St. John, B.C.
 Royal Westminster Regiment W.W. 2
 THOS. A. CHRISTIE, Vancouver, B.C.
 47th Btn., W.W. 1
 BOB CHEALE, New Westminster, B.C.
 Royal Westminster Regiment W.W. 2
 FRANK FELLINGHAM, Lumby, B.C.
 Royal Westminster Regiment W.W. 2
 SAM FRASER, New Westminster, B.C.
 47th Btn., W.W. 1
 JAMES McMARTIN, Brampton, Ont.
 47th Btn., W.W. 1
 WALLY MCGILL, Surrey, B.C.
 Royal Westminster Regiment W.W. 2
 D. H. NORMANDIN, Wallaceburg, Ont.
 47th Btn., W.W. 1
 W. A. NORRIS, New Westminster, B.C.
 Royal Westminster Regiment W.W. 2
 HENRY ROYCE, Trail, B.C.
 47th Btn., W.W. 1

WHAT BECAME OF KELLY?

JULES BERESH
 11 Grace Street
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 4852 Patrick Place
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H. C. COOKE
 361 Sherbrooke Street
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R. McLEOD
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A. FLOOD
 103 Lindon Avenue
 Scarborough, Ontario

Lt J. GRIERSON
 1980 Lemox Avenue
 Coquitlam, B.C.

P. L. POWER
 211-10th Avenue
 South Port Alberni, B.C.

CORRECTION!!!

Last issue we reported an item to do with the Canadian Legion's "Operation Service" where the Legion offers to assist any veteran regardless of whether he is a Legion member or not, with any claim for Veteran's benefits. We had reported that it was planned to phase this service out this year . . . not true. Our source was in error. The Legion will continue to assist all veterans as always. Please take note and contact your local Legion if there is any assistance you need in this regard.

FLOOD PICTURES WANTED

It seems that we have no pictures or other documents in our Museum pertaining to the Regiment's participation in the 1948 flood crisis in the Fraser Valley. When we think of our "peace time" service the flood was the first event after the war where many of the members of the Regiment answered the call for help from the civil authorities. For those of you who remember, many people spent many hours on the sandbag patrol along the dikes and riverbanks of South Westminster. If any of you have souvenir photos or newspaper clippings, I am sure the Museum Committee would be pleased to get them.

RETURN
 REQUESTED

THE ROYAL WESTMINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION
 P.O. Box 854, New Westminster, B.C. V3L 4Z8



J. GANGE 2015 HYANNIS DR

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