



The GROUND SHEET

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF
THE WESTMINSTER REGIMENT ASSN.

104th — 47th — 131st — The Westminster Reg.:

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

Vol. 16, No. 8.

Box 854, New Westminster, B.C.

June, 1967.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER:

Many personal thanks to all those who attended the recent Melfa dinner. The numbers (some 250 or so) were gratifying but considering the large numbers of lower mainland residents who DID NOT attend the results were far from "100%". To all those who DID NOT ATTEND: What was your excuse? . . . Bouquets to Melfa Chairman Bas Morgan and his entire committee for the vast amount of work put into this year's events. Many thanks also to Col. Herb Hamm for parading the Regiment and providing that added spark for our Centennial year ceremonies. Best of the holiday season to you all and hope to meet with many more of you in the fall.

Ron Hurley.

THE MERRY MONTH OF MAY!

If ever the Association was busy, May was the month. With preparations for the Melfa Dinner, golf the same day, a few innovations just before the dinner and a change of locale to the Royal Towers, it was felt necessary to hold another meeting of the Executive to keep us all on the right track. We had set our course and from where we stood it looked like a busy time as there were many plans afoot. One of the first to consider, was to visit Victoria with our wives to be present when H.R.H. Princess Alexandra and her husband The

Hon. A. J. B. Ogilvy, would be at the new Centennial Stadium in Victoria for the presentation of the Guidon and the Colors to the British Columbia Dragoons and the Royal Westminster Regiment. This ceremony under the command of Lieutenant Colonel H. E. Hamm, C.D. of the Royal Westminster Regiment was performed smoothly and efficiently. There was much excitement at the arrival of the Princess. All in the stadium stood in an effort to see as the Princess and His Honour the Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia G. R. Pearkes, V.C. stepped from the car. Her wave of the hand in acknowledgement of the applause endeared her to all those watching. At about the time the ceremonies were to begin, three Voodoo aircraft of the R.C.A.F. stationed nearby, roared overhead at such speed that only those who happened to be looking in the direction from which they came had any chance to see them. The Royal Westminster Regiment Band, smartly turned out in their red tunics and white helmets played through-out the ceremonies under the direction of W.O.1 A. G. Morris, C.D. The Princess talked at length with the bandmaster following the inspection. On the field were the B.C.D.'s, the Westies and the 1st Battalion of the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, Princess Alexandra being their Colonel-in-Chief. Their March Past in quick time was something to see.

On leaving the area there were several pictures taken which may get into the Groundsheet. Arriving back at Victoria city we had something cool and felt refreshed. Later at the Armouries we were to meet the Princess for a short few minutes and found her to be a gracious person indeed. Col. Hamm presented Her

HAPPY HOLIDAYS - - -

See you all in the Fall!

THE GROUNDSHEET

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 Authorized as second class mail by the Post Office Department,
 Ottawa, and for payment of postage in cash.

Highness with gifts among them being our Regimental History. Ron Hurley can vouch for her promise to read it upon her return home. When the Princess had gone, we viewed the Guidon and the Regimental Colors with a great deal of pride.

The night seemed too short, for, after a few cocktails and a buffet supper the evening, with it's few precious moments, came to an end.

Bill Robson.

MELFA '67

This Melfa Dinner was one of the best ever held. Our total attendance was somewhere over two hundred and fifty. The food was wonderful, there were two bars (which were slightly overwhelmed). You couldn't possibly imagine the amount of chatter that was going on. There was no doubt about it, old friends were meeting here tonight. New friends too. Several members were there from the Regiment in uniform including the Band numbering around fifty. These younger men form our link with the future and it was a pleasure to see them there. The day started off early for those competing in the golf tournament, teeing off time was between seven and eight A.M. Twenty four turned up (nine last year). Ross Douglas turned up for the golf game and came to the dinner in the evening, this was his first time since the war ended. The foursomes were moving off all the time and it wasn't long until we were strung out along the course. As we pursued that little ball down the fairway there was much friendly banter and lots of laughs. It was two in the afternoon before all the players arrived back in the clubhouse, thirsty for a little quencher, eager to see the scores, and ready for a little rest. Later in New Westminster around six, we formed up for a parade from the Drill Hall to the Cenotaph, which for those who haven't been in New Westminster for a long time, is now in front of the City Hall just below the Drill Hall. The parade consisted of a smartly turned out company of

the Royal Westminster Regiment and their Band followed by members of the association. Scotty Clifford (from Trail) was Parade Marshall and at his command we all suddenly remembered those years of discipline and snapped to as one man. At the Cenotaph there were wreaths laid in memory of our dead, the short ceremony included prayer and the mournful notes of the bugle playing the Last Post. Following this we moved off. A march past, then, we dismissed in front of the Drill Hall. Arriving at the Royal Towers was something. The lobby was full of Westminsters. They were either paying their way in, looking up old friends, or checking out the bar. The Dining Room with the Head table on the right and the rest of the tables all endo to it was adequate. There was a large space at one end of the room in which were the two bars. It was here that most of the men assembled until time to eat. During this time Al Harvey another first timer and good friend from our Signal days could be seen chatting happily from friend to friend. Hugh McGivern with a motion picture camera and Jack Graham with the lights and working like Trojans, made a pictorial record of the whole proceedings. They were everywhere. This picture should make fine viewing at some later date. Ron Hurley our President introduced the guests at the Head table, among whom was Bert Hoskins the Principle Speaker. He was formally introduced by Walter Hogg and spoke on Unit Recognition, he gave us a short history of flags and standards, his humorous anecdotes kept us listening for more. Andy Hunter's words in his "toast to New Westminster" brought forth something we were mighty proud to feel. That New Westminster is a nice place to come home to.

Ian Douglas and Barney Jones shared the setting up of the golf tourney. Barney made the presentation of the prizes. Walt Tyler this year is the Champion. His name, the second to grace the Melfa Golf Tourney Cup is already in place. The small replica he will keep is already on his mantel. There were other prizes, three golf caps, a wallet (won by Ron Mantering for his low score) Bas Morgan, John Ford and Doug Donald won the caps. Kingsnorth and Robson won the golf balls. At least we'll have something to play with next year. Just imagine teeing up a wallet.

When the dinner was over, the toasts had all been made, and we had heard the last speaker, the bar was reopened, here we met and talked to our many friends. As the evening drew to a close the sgts. mess was opened

and the morning began as the evening had ended. From there parties at various places were going 'til sunup. A fitting greeting for the new day and a mighty satisfying conclusion to a night full of memories.

Bill Robson.

VIMY MEMORIAL

Ed: Archie Davies, M.M. was the 47th Bn. representative who placed the wreath at the Vimy Memorial on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of that time honored battle. Although this is somewhat delayed, it is with pride that we print a report of Archie's return to Vimy

Ste. 6 - 331 Agnes St.,
New Westminster, B.C.
May 13, 1967.

Mr. Ron Hurley,
Groundsheet.

Sir:

My thoughts were varied as I boarded the Air Canada plane at Vancouver airport, on the morning of Apr. 6, 1967. The plane was delayed due to a mechanical defect, for a half hour. In no time it seemed we were flying over the beautiful mountains, a sight, I will always remember. Arrived in Toronto, fifty minutes late, then onto another plane for Ottawa. This plane developed a feather in the motor, so we had to turn around and go back to Toronto. We finally arrived in Ottawa, at 8:40 p.m. instead of 6:20 p.m. Arriving at Upland airport, we were given a briefing, passport, etcetera.

April 7th. Breakfast at 6:30 a.m. Boarded R.C.A.F. plane leaving at 9:45 a.m., traveling as high as 54,000 ft. at a speed of 535 miles per hour. Around midnight we arrived at Orly airport, France. Took bus to Terminus Hotel, arriving at 3.30 a.m.

April 8th. Left Paris by private motor coach for Lille, an hour late arriving, due to communist labour demonstration. Alloted rooms at the Grand Terminus Hotel. After dinner we boarded the bus for Vimy, to be briefed in the procedure for the next day. As I was sitting in the bus, there was a knock on the window. Our son Fred, and his wife Mady, had finally caught up with me, after quite a search. Made an arrangement to meet him at the hotel when I got back. We did not spend too much time at Vimy that night,

as it was bitterly cold. "I wish I had the words to describe my first view of this beautiful monument. It is something to behold; the lights are illuminated all night." It was decided that we would be alloted our places the next day, as it was so cold. Back to the hotel, where I had a re-union with my son, who I had not seen for nearly two and a half years, and his bride of a little over four months. Had a nice visit, then to bed.

April 9th. Arrived at Vimy at 10:30 a.m. We were shown our places, also the lovely wreaths, inscribed on gold ribbon was 47th Battalion. The sun was trying to peep through the clouds, very windy and cold.

We were inspected by H.R.H. Prince Phillip, representing Her Majesty the Queen. English and Canadian Guard of Honor.

ORDER OF CEREMONY:

His Excellency Jules Léger, Canadian Ambassador to France will introduce

Hon. Léo Cadieux, P.C.M.P., Associate Minister of National Defence who brings

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA

An Address, by

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE PHILLIP,
DUKE OF EDINBURGH, K.G.

The Service is conducted by

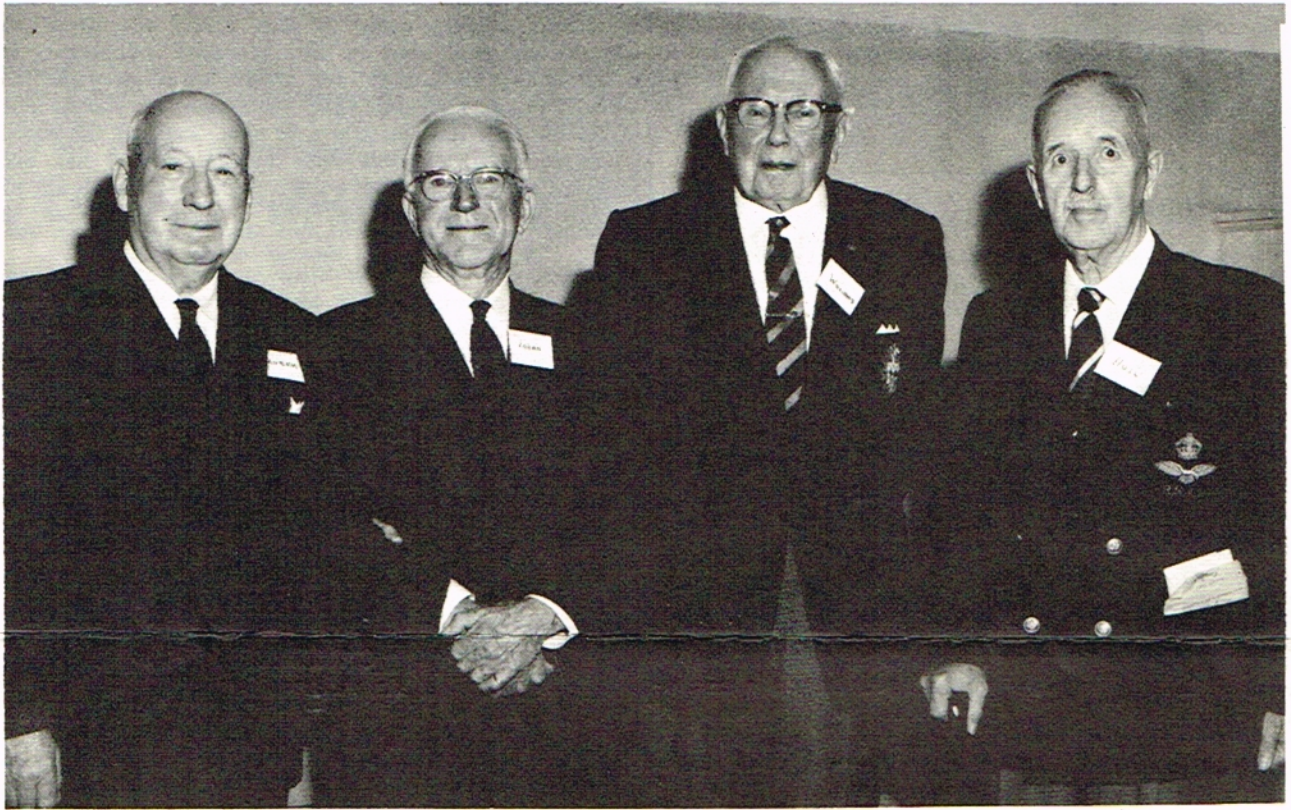
Brigadier the Right Reverend C.R.H. Charlebois,
Chaplain-Gen. (R.C.)

and

Colonel the Rev. Canon J. Cardy, M.C., Deputy
Chaplain-General (P)

A most impressive sight was the La Chorale des Orpheonistes d'Arras in their white blouses, and dark skirts, singing so beautifully, in spite of the cold. As the names of the survivors and the battalions were called, thirty-six men at a time stepped out to place the wreath at the cenotaph. Ceremony concluded, the survivors marched past position, saluting. A wonderful ovation from Fifteen Thousand French people who had come to pay their respects. We then boarded buses for Arras. The Mayor of Arras welcomed us to his chambers, where we were really WINED. A sumptuous luncheon was served at the Hotel del'Univers. It was my pleasure to have two English Officers sit beside me. They were talking of a Passchendale ceremony to be held in

(Cont'd on page Six)



Left to right — Lt. Gen. E. W. Sansom, C.B., D.S.O., Fredericton, N.B.; Lt. Col. H. T. Logan, Vancouver,

B.C.; Lt. Col. W. J. Williams, New Westminster, B.C.; A/C. Allan H. Hull, Vancouver, B.C.

ED.: Proud to see our old friend Lt. Col. (Big Bill) Williams with such esteemed company. Bill informs us that Lt. Gen Sansom still holds the "Westies" in good regard

Fifty years ago (March 1917) the Canadian Machine Gun Corps was formed linking the machine gun battalions of the four infantry divisions and the Canadian Motor Machine Gun Brigade. As a corps, the machine gunners played an important part in the events leading up to final victory in November, 1918.

Last Friday, May 5th, former MGC officers from Halifax to Vancouver, gathered in the officers' mess of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders of Canada (PL)

to celebrate this golden Jubilee and hold their annual reunion dinner under joint chairmanship of Col. J. A. McCamus of Toronto and Lt. Col. C. V. Grantham of Hamilton, (after the First World War, Col. Grantham commanded the 3rd Machine Gun Battalion of the local Militia before it was amalgamated with the Argylls).

The machine gunners were something fairly new in war when the 1914-1918 war commenced. They started out as platoons, one to each infantry battalion using at first the American Colt and later the much better British Vickers (one of each of these weapons in its tripod was on display at the dinner). Then, as the need for more machine guns in defence during trench warfare was evident machine gun companies were formed, one for each infantry brigade, incorporating the platoons.



Visitors to Victoria, B.C., attending the ceremonies of the presentation of the Colors to the Royal Westminster Regiment on May 19th, 1967. Left to right: President Ron Hurley, John Ford, Scotty Low, Jack Biggs, Art Miller, Walt Tyler, Bill (Jedge) Robson and Bas Morgan.



"O" GROUP FOR TWO, 1967
"Rendezvous at 0500, Bill." "Roger Bert, willco."

EXECUTIVE NOTES

The nineteenth of June, eighty degrees today, the evening taking a long time to cool down; Short sleeved open necked shirts, summer shoes, you may now have an inkling that this is our last meeting. The correspondence was read from a meagre supply of letters, which can be expected at this time of year. Barbecuing takes up most of the writing time now. Ed Lennie writes from St. Louis, Missouri. He is happy with the association, looks forward to the groundsheet and has many good

memories of Bert Hoskins tea parties. He writes that business responsibilities are keeping him away from our Melfa Dinners, but, he's hoping. We are too.

A point came up concerning next years travel project. The Westminster Regiment Association club members should have six months as a member prior to going. To ease your mind about any other points that may come up call Walter Lyle at 521-3265. There may be others who feel flighty who have not yet joined the club. The dollar membership includes the family.

The Melfa Dinner next year will be on May the Twenty-fifth at the Royal Canadian Legion (this of course is for those with long memories). The Melfa Dinner was discussed at great length, there were one or two small changes made, the golf prizes will be distributed at the golf club and the cup winner introduced at the Dinner. We will have our own bar. There is also a plan afoot to limit speech time. This was greeted with mixed feeling but most agreed to it. This would give us more speakers and less total speaking time. Our need is to enjoy the food, the talks and renewing old friendships. The meeting closed, and after a snack of meat pies and coffee we wished each other a happy Summer and the night was over except for a those who stayed behind to play a few hands. 'twill ever be so.

Bill Robson.

WELCOME VISITORS

Ed.: Space does not permit us to list all the names of those who attended the Melfa Dinner but here are a few of the Out of Town Guests who made it . . .

Jim Delaney, Montreal (Winner of most travelled member); Paul Ostafew, Vernon, B.C.; Chuch Hannah, Penticton, B.C.; Frank Seriani, Nanaimo, B.C.; A. De Anna, Kinnaird, B.C.; Angus Krieger, Victoria, B.C.; Gordon Smith, Port Hardy, B.C.; W. E. Hall, Penticton, B.C.; Len Bailey, Nanaimo, B.C.; Al Harvey, Quesnel, B.C.; Scotty Clifford, Trail, B.C.; Murray Hume, Williams Lake, B.C.; Claude Nicol, Oliver, B.C.; Billy Armour, Victoria, B.C.; Dan Nikiforuk, Alberta; Roy Trimble, Osoyoos, B.C.; Tommy Owen, Victoria.

and many others of course but I cant read their signatures in the guest book. It was a pleasure to have them all and many thanks to those who looked after the president and secretary in the after hours.

VIMY MEMORIAL (Cont'd)

England, Oct. 8th. They wondered if they could get the English government to invite the Canadian government to participate. Luncheon over we boarded bus for our tour of the "Unknown Soldier's" cemetery. This is very well looked after. On the drive, saw craters and shell holes, but didn't get a chance to get out of the bus.

April 10th. Vimy survivors made ready to return home. I had made plans to stay a few extra days to visit with our son. We drove back to Germany, where I spent three nights and two days, enjoying my visit very much. Visited the airbase in Zweibruchen and naturally the canteen. Was asked if I was a survivor of Vimy and when I replied, found out I could have as much liquid refreshment, on the house, as I could imbibe.

April 13th. Fred and Mady, and a young friend of theirs, drove me back to Paris.

April 14th. Arrived at Orly airport where I boarded the Air-France for Heath Rd. airport, London, to connect with the special R.C.A.F. flight 573, to Ottawa. Was surprised to learn that the new Governor-General of Canada, Mr. Michener, was on board. He came back and introduced himself, also shook hands with us. It was a very exciting experience. Arrived in Ottawa 10:00 p.m. staying overnight at the Lord Elgin hotel.

April 15th. Took flight for Toronto, arrived there to find I might have to spend the afternoon there. A very nice official managed to get me on a flight right away, arrived in Vancouver around 1:00 p.m.

At this time I wish to express my gratitude to all who made this wonderful trip possible. It is an experience I will never forget. Mr. E. C. Forrest of the D. V. A. Information Branch, proved to be an efficient leader, and was very patient.

I would like to say in closing, it took me over a week to catch up on my sleep. The wonderful dream is over and back to reality.

Sincerely Yours,

Archie N. Davis.

**SICK AND VISITING REPORT —
APRIL AND MAY, 1967**

These last few visits to the Hospitals have been on my own, as my side-kick Tommy Thomson has also been hospitalized.

Tommy went in to Shaughnessy several weeks ago, with heart trouble found out when he was under going

tests that he had a mild form of Diabetes also that his gall-bladder should really come out, so they have been trying to build him up for this operation, if necessary.

Aside from that Tommy is as chipper as ever, and when ever I see him is always screaming to get out.

Had a call some few weeks ago that Joe Duhig was in St. Pauls Hospital so dropped down to see him the following evening, phoned the Hospital the beginning of the week before Melfa Night and was surprised to hear that he was home, and was more surprised and pleased to see him Melfa Night.

Called on Harry Timlock senior on one of my regular calls, an old 47th member and a life member at that, at least he is expecting to have his card mailed any time now as he has applied for a life member card some time ago, how about it Col. Bill.

Called to see Ted Philbrook once again at Shaughnessy and he was either out or at a show, so left him the usual comforts and a note from the Association, the next time I called to see Ted, was informed that he had gone to George Derby, if still there hope to see him next Monday.

Sammy Field is still in the Pearson Clinic and is really doing very good. Hopes to be out in a few more months. This is one guy that you sure have to raise your hat to as when Sam was admitted he was a long way down without too much hope but he battled back and with the splendid care that you receive from Pearson's, here he is almost ready to come out and go back to work and normal living again, Sam always asks to be remembered to the many friends he has in the Association.

Missed one of the Shaw brothers, Art on one of my calls as he had left for home the day before I called, Saw him at the Melfa with his brother Bob, and he said that he may have to go in again soon for another operation.

Dan Corcoran is still at George Derby, and as usual he turned up at the Melfa, was sure pleased to see you there Dan and sure hoped that you enjoyed yourself.

Say wasn't the Melfa day a fine one, right from the beginning with the golf tournament at Hazlemere which was the first one that I have attended, and I can assure you will certainly not be the last one. Then the meeting at the armouries, inspection of the Colours and then the parading of the colours with about 130 old timers on parade and the march to the Cenotaph, and how it brought back the old days of 1939 struggling up those damned Westminster hills, and then that even-

ing one of the finest Melfa evenings we have ever had and so many of our old buddies that we so seldom see and the ones that I can remember so well from hospital visits, Harry Oliver, Gordie Smith, Buster Lynch, Jack Ardagh, Dan Corcoran, Joe Duhig, Bill Meek, Art Shaw and Bob Shaw, Ed Shannon and no doubt many more that I either didn't see or couldn't remember; but however it was sure fine to see each and every one of you there.

H. A. STEPHENS, Committee Chairman.

Ed: Since receiving Bert's report we are sad to relate that his helpmate of long standing, Tommy Thompson has passed on from his serious illness.

EUROPE '68

"Cimiteri Inglese Cassino" at the foot of Monte Cassino, contains a "CANADESE" sector with every head-stone emblazoned with the Maple Leaf.

There, on his visit to Europe in May, Harry Trueman noted the names of some of our comrades, whom many of us can remember with respect and affection, and who fell around the Melfa.

FRUNO . . . THOMPSON . . . MULLIN . . . NEIL . . . KETCHISON . . . DOSS . . . ELIASON . . . FINLAYSON . . . and there are of course many others whom he missed. (POP BECKER'S name comes immediately to my mind and no doubt our readers will recall other names which must certainly be there).

Other units too . . . STRATHS . . . SEAFORTH'S . . . BCD's . . . and the rest are, of course there, and the entire "Cimiteri" is very impressive both for it's beauty and for the care which is taken to preserve that beauty.

It is here, in Cassino that we propose to hold a "Melfa Dinner" in the Excelsior Hotel, on the 24 May, 1968.

As Harry pointed out to those at the meeting in the Sergeant's Mess on 29 May, the visit to the graves and also the MELFA-in-CASSINO dinner, will be something of a pilgrimage where a tear or two might be shed.

But while such as that gives real meaning to it, this will be, in essence a fun tour.

In order to avoid the "28 Countries-21 Days" type of rush, Harry has laid out a much more relaxing leisurely land tour visiting such places as Brussels, Amsterdam, Paris, Heidelberg, Venice, Florence, Rome etc.

By flying one way (between London and Rome), we will be able to spend more time in these places and see more.

We may even be able to visit again that beautiful stretch of bikini populated beaches (so populated now that is—not then) around Ravenna and Rimini.

However our itinerary is not yet finalized in detail and adjustments may be made.

Herewith the latest list of Club members. This represents 103 people intending to take Charter Flight to London and 66 of them intending to take the Continental tour.

"ANYONE for EUROPE" . . . THE COUPON'S below . . . We'll be happy to have you.

CLUB MEMBERS

Membership No.	Membership No.
1 E. Clare	27 Andrew Young
2 Marshall E. Currie	28 T. G. Clemas
3 Archie N. Davis	29 F. H. Day
4 E. E. Davies	30 M. G. Klinkhamer
5 A. A. Donald	31 F. C. Johnson
6 Ron Fleming	32 Tommy Oldale
7 Leslie German	33 Mrs. E. W. Hodges
8 Watson Hunter	34 Allan Coe
9 M. S. Low	35 Victor Wilson
10 Walter Lyle	36 C. O. Pook
11 Art Miller	37 Mrs. Hope Marshall
12 Stan Moorehouse	38 S. J. Burton
13 Miss Esther Pett	39 S. J. Hartridge
14 C. R. Richmond	40 Fred Church
15 E. Staton	41 G. Berry
16 Harry Trueman	42 J. E. Moorehouse
17 Jack Usher	43 George Hunt
18 B. I. Barton	44 George Gray
19 Doug Glenn	45 S. H. Axford
20 Ernie Day	46 R. J. McCarthy
21 Perry Bergman	47 W. E. Hall
22 R. A. Boulter	48 Bert Hall
23 Lawrence Hadley	49 G. E. Smith
24 John A. Neill	50 Colin Cameron
25 G. Douglas	51 Dr. Ken Tawse
26 J. V. McDonald	52 E. W. Pook

WALTER LYLE

614 Fourth Ave.

New Westminster, B. C.

- I enclose one dollar membership fee for 1967/68 in the Westminster Regiment Association Club.
- I am interested in the Europe '68 Travel Project.
- Charter flight to U.K. only.
- Charter flight and Continental Tour. for myself and the following members of my family:

NAME

Address

IMPORTANT SCHOLARSHIP NOTICE:

Applications for:- Westminster Regiment Association Scholarship and The McPhee-Eamer Scholarship must be forwarded to Box 854, New Westminster, B.C. not later than midnight JULY 31st, 1967. Please write to the above Box number if further information is required . . .

LEST WE FORGET

R. G. Bob Foster W.R.
 P. (Phil) Abbott W.R.
 J. W. Stobbart W.R.
 Tommy Thompson, 47th Bn.

From THE WESTMINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

P. O. Box 854, New Westminster, B.C.

W. E. TYLER,
 7533 - 14TH AVE.,
 BURNABY 3, B. C.