

---

Vol. 2025 / Issue 1

---

*"Dedicated to the ideals and comradeship we knew in  
wars and peace in our services both home and abroad."*



# *The* **GROUNDSHEET**

The Official Publication of

The Royal Westminster Regiment Association

*'Pro Rege et Patria'*

---

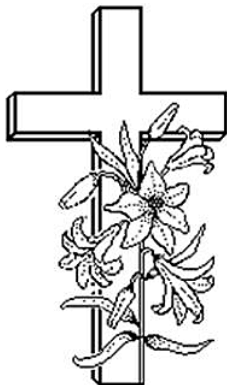
530 Queens Avenue, New Westminster, B.C.

<https://royal-westies-assn.ca/>

---



## *In Memoriam*



Roy Stuart McLeod, 1948-2025 Nanaimo BC, The Westminster Regiment.

Don Alexander 'Sandy' Purver, 1924-2005 Kamloops BC, The Westminster Regiment.

### Health and Welfare

We encourage all members of The Royal Westminster Regimental family to share news of births, marriages, and losses within our community. As our Regiment continues to grow, celebrating new beginnings and honoring those we've lost strengthens our bond. If you have any updates, please reach out so we can acknowledge and support one another. Your contributions help keep our Regimental family connected. Thank you for keeping us informed!

### Your Executive

President .....	Bill White .....	President@royal-westies-assn.ca
Vice President .....	Dennis Keeton	
Secretary .....	Mark Smith .....	Secretary@royal-westies-assn.ca
Treasurer .....	Greg Bell .....	Treasurer@royal-westies-assn.ca
Editor .....	Amteshwar Brar	

#### Directors

Doug Setter (Past President) .....	Troy Kimber .....	Neil Cole .....	Ben Pong
Erik Skrebsky .....	Michael Kelly .....	Chris Stier .....	Ernie Bodrogi .....
			Jessie Simpson

[Cover Page: The Royal Westminster Band performing during the Annual Soldiers Dinner 2024.

Photo by Cpl. Brandon Lin.]

**The Presidents Report ..... Bill White**

Hello all,

We have a new editor, namely Corporal Amteshwar Brar who has volunteered to take on this role. On behalf of the Board, I appreciate that she has stepped to take on this important work.

I would like to thank our previous editor, Linda Pickell for resurrecting the Groundsheet in 2021 and for her dedicated work both as Editor and Secretary over the last few years.

We had a very successful trip to Northwest Europe. We will have articles in the next edition of The Groundsheets to attend the tour in April 2025. We have a few places left should someone wish to join us on the tour.

I would like to pass on congratulations to those of the Battalion that received King's Coronation Medal as presented by the Commanding Officer, Lt Col Greg Chan on an evening parade at the Armoury on 05 February 2025.

As this will be my last report in The Groundsheet as President, I would like to thank all for your support of your Association, my best wishes for the future.

Regards,

Bill White, President,

**Editors Corner ..... Amteshwar Brar**

My name is Amteshwar and as the new editor, I'm thrilled to present you engaging and insightful content that keeps you informed and inspired. Whether it's the latest updates, in-depth features, or community highlights, my goal is to make this newsletter a valuable resource for you and a critical piece of history for all those involved at the Regiment. I'd love to hear your thoughts—feel free to share feedback, ideas, or topics you'd like us to cover (amteshwar\_brar@hotmail.com). Looking forward to this journey together!

Best,

Cpl. Brar (*she/her*)

Editor, *The Groundsheet*

**MELFA WEEKEND 23 – 25 May 2025****MELFA GOLF TOURNAMENT****Melfa Golf**

Date: Friday, 23 May 2025  
Location: Delta Golf Club  
Time: 0900 hrs  
Cost: \$100 - Payable by etransfer to [Treasurer@royal-westies-assn.ca](mailto:Treasurer@royal-westies-assn.ca)  
RSVP: no later than 12 May 2023 Greg Bell for reservation;  
Contact: Greg Bell for reservation at [Treasurer@royal-westies-assn.ca](mailto:Treasurer@royal-westies-assn.ca)

**MELFA DINNER**

*The President and Directors of The Royal Westminster Regiment Association request the pleasure of your company and partner at the Annual Melfa Dinner*

**Melfa Dinner**

Date: Saturday, 24 May 2025  
Location: The Armoury  
Cocktails: 1800-1900 hrs  
Dinner: 1900 hrs  
Retired Members Dress: Blazer (with ribbons) and tie  
Serving Members Dress: DEU  
Dress for Guests: Business Casual (no jeans, no t-shirts, no runners)  
Cost: \$80 - Payable by etransfer to [Treasurer@royal-westies-assn.ca](mailto:Treasurer@royal-westies-assn.ca)  
Unit Contact: Erik Skrebsky [skrebsky@hotmail.com](mailto:skrebsky@hotmail.com)  
Association Contact: [President@royal-westies-assn.ca](mailto:President@royal-westies-assn.ca)  
RSVP: No later than 12 May 2023

Please remember to bring cash as there will be a silent action.

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING****AGM**

Date: Sunday, 25 May 2025  
Location: Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess  
Time: 1000 hrs  
Dress: Business Casual

## Museum & The Last Post Fund .....Ted Usher

### Bringing History Home: Recovering the Lost Regimental Medal of S/Sgt D.A. Purver

In January 2025, while I was vacationing at my home in southern Utah, fellow Association member Ian Jackson sent me a link to eBay. Ian and I were army cadets in the late '60s and '70s, crossing paths during cadet and Regimental exercises. He was with the Abbotsford cadets. The link that Ian sent me was for a Canadian Forces Decoration being sold for \$60 with the name S/Sgt D.A. Purver of the Westminster Regiment.



As I did not recognize Purver's name from my lifelong association to the Regiment, I decided dig deeper and find his story. Though my initial thought was to simply find his story and why the CD was on eBay, I soon felt there was a need to return the medal back to the family or, at the very least, to the Regimental Museum. So, I made a bid on the CD. At the time of my bid, there were 5 days left, and I noticed 2 other people listed as 'watching' the bids. I contacted the seller to find out more information, discovering he had purchased the CD in a batch of medals and had no knowledge of how the medal came to be sold originally. I advised the seller of my intentions to buy the medal and return it to the family or donate it to the Regimental Museum. I was hoping the seller would see the importance of this gesture and sell me the medal directly, but he didn't. A few days later, the seller sent me a message asking if I was in fact the sole bidder, at which time he offered it to me directly - the cost being \$80 for the medal and postal tracking. I agreed, paid, and the seller removed the listing, promising to ship the medal immediately.

While all this was going on, I was trying to find out more about Sandy Purver and to locate any family. One of the items the seller had obtained as part of his research was a partial service record of Purver, which he sent to me. The documents were mostly about the awarding of the CD as well as an investigation into a traffic accident Purver was involved in as a passenger in the Mission area while riding in a Jeep.

PURVER, DON ALEXANDER	A/S/SGT	WESTMR REGT	K-468785
CANADIAN FORCES DECORATION	CAO 438	9-5-55	128-25

Donald Alexander 'Sandy' Purver was born 4 July 1924 in Vancouver but was raised on the family farm in Clayburn in the Matsqui area. Sandy would marry Joan, and they would have 4 daughters. Sandy joined The

Westminster Regiment 18 August 1942 and was with 'C' Coy in Abbotsford. It is not sure at this time that Sandy served overseas in WWII but indications that he didn't. Sandy would work his way up through the ranks and become an Acting Staff Sergeant and one document I found indicated his rank as Warrant Officer. I believe this was after his release and



because of the S/Sgt. rank being done away with and replaced with the WO rank. Sandy Purver served the Regiment until his release on 3 January 1956. He would receive his CD after he was released from the Army. In his later years, Sandy and his family lived in Barriere BC.



My research into locating family members had begun and though I have years of investigative experience and I've been a genealogist for many years, I was not having much success locating any of Sandy's 4 daughters until I decided to search on Facebook for any sites that were associated to Barriere, and I found two that could work. One was a marketplace site, and the other was a 'things happening' site in

the Barriere area. I posted a message on both sites and in a couple of hours I had a few messages from people offering names of the daughters etc. A few hours later, one of Sandy's daughters, Rose Purver, sent me a message asking what it was I was looking for. I explained to Rose what I was doing, and she seemed very surprised I would go to all this trouble. I advised her that once I receive the medal that I would send it to her. She told me that she was unaware of any medals her father received but she did tell me that he had his "hat pin" (hat badge) that he attached to a belt buckle and wore it every day until his passing.

S/Sgt. D.A. 'Sandy' Purver CD passed away 3 December 2005 in Kamloops BC and is buried in a marked grave at the Hazelwood Cemetery in Abbotsford. He was a lifelong member of the Masonic Lodge and Shriners.



### **A Family's Sacrifice: Oscar, Arthur & James Crandell of 104th Bn, Westminster Fusiliers**

In February 2025, I was in the Vancouver area serving as a volunteer for the Invictus Games and visited the Fraser Cemetery, where many of my family are buried. As I was walking around, I saw a Veteran headstone, not in the Veteran section, with the name Private Oscar Arthur Crandell on it, who died at age 18, on 8 June 1916. Because of all the research I had done so far with the Last Post Fund in finding Veterans buried in unmarked graves, I was curious how a soldier had a Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) headstone and he was only 18.



Many Veterans who served the CEF and died at home did receive a CWGC headstone but their ages would be older. The search began and here is what I found:

Oscar Arthur Crandell was born on 8 September 1866 in Wisconsin USA and later came to New Westminster where he would marry Jessie Baird in a ceremony in Cloverdale, 16 October 1893. Oscar would become a schoolteacher and in August of 1914, he attended an Instructors Course in Esquimalt and gained a certificate as a Lieutenant, Cadet Instructor. In New Westminster as well as the greater Vancouver area, cadet corps were very common as part of a Cadet Battalion



Oscar Arthur Crandell's certificate as a Lieutenant, Cadet Instructor in 1914 Esquimalt.

throughout the area. At the outbreak of WWI, Oscar would join the 104<sup>th</sup> Westminister Fusiliers as a Private and was issued service #1336. He would not be accepted to join the Canadian Expeditionary Force due to his age.

Oscar and Jessie had two sons who both joined the 104<sup>th</sup> and then the 131<sup>st</sup> CEF 29 April 1916 in New Westminster. Private Arthur Leslie Crandell (Service #790994) was born 15 August 1894 in Surrey BC. He joined the 104<sup>th</sup> and would serve with the 47<sup>th</sup> Bn CEF overseas where he was awarded the Military Medal for bravery while at Vimy Ridge as a stretcher bearer. Arthur would serve out his career during the war and returned to Canada and was discharged 4 July 1919. Arthur died in Vancouver 13 January 1967.

NAME	RANK	NUMBER	UNIT	HONOUR OR AWARD
CRANDALL, A.L.	Pte.	790994	48th Cn.Bn.	MILITARY MEDAL.
<p>RECEIPT: \$2.00          MEDAL FORGED          POLISH          NO. 10107 1-6-17</p>				
<p>On 9-10-11-12th April, 1917, in front of SOUCHES on VIMY RIDGE. While acting as a Stretcher Bearer he carried a wounded man on his back for a distance of several hundred yards under heavy fire and through mud hip-deep in places. He carried the man to a German dug-out and dressed his wounds. This man was recommended on a former occasion for gallantry.          (A.F.W.3121. 14-4-17.)</p>				

Document indicating Arthur Leslie Crandell's Medal for bravery while at Vimy Ridge.

CANADIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE		WAR SERVICE BADGE
DISCHARGE CERTIFICATE		No. 308865
THIS IS TO CERTIFY that No. 790994 (Rank) Pte		
Name (in full) CRANDALL, Arthur Leslie enlisted in the 131st Bde.		
CANADIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE at New Westminster Bn the 29th day of April 1916		
HE served in France with the 47th Bde.		
and is now discharged from the service by reason of Demobilization. Medical Unfitness.		
THE DESCRIPTION OF THIS SOLDIER on the Date below is as follows:		
Age	24 yrs 10 months	Marks or Scars
Height	5' 8"	
Complexion	Dark.	
Eyes	Blue.	
Hair	Brown.	
Signature of Soldier. A. L. Crandell		Issued on 15/5/17 awarded to him 15/5/17 authority London Gazette Issuing Officer. C. H. Roberts G.C. DISCHARGE STATION 112 Rank Date July 4 1919
Date of Discharge July 4 1919		

Discharge document for Arthur Leslie Crandell.



The other son, Private James Gordon Crandell (Service #790995) was born 28 April 1898 in New Westminster. He too joined the 104<sup>th</sup> on 29 April 1916 and would serve overseas in France with the 47<sup>th</sup> Bn CEF. Unfortunately, James would be Killed in Action 4 February 1917 and is buried in the Villers Station Cemetery, Villiers au Bois, near Vimy. He was 18 years old. Oscar died in June 1916, just after both sons joined the 104<sup>th</sup> – the upsetting truth is that he would not know that his son James would be killed in France during battle.

Form 100995. NAME: CRANDELL, J.G. 649 C. 8841. UNIT: 47th Batt. DATE OF DEATH: 4-2-17. CAUSE AND PLACE OF DEATH: Killed in Action. GRAVE NO.: A. 136. DATE OF BURIAL: 11/1/17. PLACE OF BURIAL: Villers au Bois Station Cemetery. DESCRIPTION OF GRAVE: Burial Report by G.R.C. 104th Bn CEF. Also RR 1541 D. 2. R. E. Also Photo of grave & cemetery.

Document indicating that James Crandell was killed in action on 4 February 1917.

My research indicates the CWGC has made an error on the father's, Oscar Arthur Crandell, headstone in Fraser Cemetery by indicating he died at age 18 on 8 June 1916 when in fact he was 50 years of age at the time of his death. I've sent an application to the CWGC to have the New Westminster headstone corrected to reflect the correct age of Oscar at the time of his death. Like my own family serving the Regiment, this is another example how members of the same family signed up at the time of war to serve their country where many paid the ultimate sacrifice.

VITAL STATISTICS ACT. SCHEDULE B—Deaths. Registered No. 28248. Full name: Oscar Arthur Crandell. Date of birth: 28 April 1866. Date of death: 8 June 1916. Cause of death: Cerebral Haemorrhage. Physician's Certificate of Cause of Death: Oscar Arthur Crandell died on 8 June 1916 at 12 o'clock A.M. and that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the cause of his death was as hereunder written.

Document indicating Oscar Arthur Crandell's death in June 1916.

131st OVERSEAS BATTALION. ATTESTATION-PAPER. No. 790995. CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE. QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION. 1. What is your surname? Crandell. 2. What is your present address? 331 Prince St. Vancouver B.C. 3. What is the name of your next of kin? Oscar A. Crandell. 4. What is the address of your next of kin? 331 Prince St. Vancouver B.C. 5. What is the date of your birth? 28 April 1898. 6. What is your Trade or Calling? App. Mechanic. 7. Are you married? No. 8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated and inoculated? Yes. 9. Do you now belong to the Active Militia? No. 10. Have you ever served in any Military Force? No. 11. Do you understand the nature and terms of your engagement? Yes. 12. Are you willing to be allotted to serve in the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force? Yes. DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION. I, James Gordon Crandell, do solemnly declare that the above answers are true and correct and that I am willing to fulfill the engagements by me now made, and I hereby engage and agree to serve in the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force, and to be attached to any arm of the service therein, for the term of one year, or during the war now existing between Great Britain and Germany should that war last longer than one year, and for six months after the termination of that war provided His Majesty should so long require my services, or until legally discharged. OATH TO BE TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION. I, James Gordon Crandell, do make Oath, that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs and Successors, and that I will as in duty bound honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, in Person, Crown and Dignity, against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, and of all the Generals and Officers set over me. So help me God. CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE. The Recruit above named was cautioned by me that if he made any false answer to any of the above questions he would be liable to punishment.

Document indicating James Crandell's joining to the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force in April 1916.



## Serving Battalion .....

### The Association led “Pancake Breakfast”

One of the greatest pleasures that the Association has is to serve the soldiers of the Battalion. On November 24, at ASU Chilliwack, the Association funded and prepared breakfast for approx. 70 soldiers coming in from the field. Chuck Mackinnon, Ben Pong, Greg Bell and Neil Cole (along with some serving members) hopped on the griddles to prepare pancakes, eggs and a mountain of bacon. The soldiers were very thankful. Afterwards, they were invited to listen in on the end-ex debrief. For those who have been out for a while, it was exciting to hear of the continued professionalism and effort put in by those who serve in the Royal Westminster Regiment.



### The Canadian Peacekeeping Veterans Association (CPVA) Publication “The Blue Beret”



The Canadian Peacekeeping Veterans Association (CPVA) has long been a leading advocate for veterans' rights, achieving significant milestones over its three-decade history. Among its key accomplishments are the establishment of the Veterans Bill of Rights, the Canadian Peacekeeping Service Medal, and the Veterans

Ombudsman. Central to the CPVA's efforts in fostering communication and unity among veterans is its official publication, The Blue Beret. Published biannually in May and November, this newsletter serves as a vital platform for sharing news, personal stories, and updates relevant to the peacekeeping community. Recent editions, such as the Fall 2024 and Fall 2023 issues, are available for download on the CPVA's website (<https://www.cpva.ca/publications>).

## Honors and Awards .....

### 2024-2025 FY

#### Promotion Private to Corporal

Cpl. Taylor Pervan  
 Cpl. Danielle Swanson  
 Cpl. Arjay Hachiles  
 Cpl. Morufu Dejonwo  
 Cpl. Mircea Oprea  
 Cpl. Nickolas Unkow  
 Cpl. Tiemen Vagvolgyi  
 Cpl. Ryan Sinclair

#### Promotion Corporal to Master Corporal

MCpl. Brooks Czajkowski  
 MCpl. Noah Charron  
 MCpl. Brendan Woods  
 MCpl. William P. Jones  
 MCpl. Gillian Cherris-Kelly  
 MCpl. Robin McRobert  
 MCpl. Simon Jorgensen  
 MCpl. Cole Johannessen  
 MCpl. Spencer Hilliard  
 MCpl. Zachary Teskey

#### Promotion Master Corporal to Sergeant

Sgt. William Whittier

Soldier of the Year - MCpl. William P. Jones

CO's Coin - Cpl. Brandon Lin

Top Marksman - Cpl. Dennis Cui

### 2025 Recipients of King Charles III's Coronation Medal - Serving Members

Lt Col. G Chan	Presented by Lt Governor of BC
Capt M Kelly	Presented by the Lt Col Chan
Capt. A Dhanjal	Presented by Ed Fast, Member of Parliament
Capt. W Li	Presented by Marc Dalton, Member of Parliament
Capt. P Savoie, CO 1838 RCACC	Presented by Marc Dalton, Member of Parliament
Lt. A Webber AdeC (CIC 1922 RCACC)	Presented by the Royal Canadian Legion
2Lt J Mulder	Presented by Mark Strahl, Member of Parliament
Sgt. P Kullar	Presented by Peter Julian, Member of Parliament
Sgt. T Whittier	Presented by the Lt Col Chan
Sgt. K Boston	Presented by the Lt Col Chan
Sgt. M Esaw	Presented by the Lt Col Chan
MCpl. W Jones	Presented by the Lt Col Chan

### 2025 Recipients of King Charles III's Coronation Medal - Retired Members

Former HCol. K Baker-Grotty	Presented by Peter Julian, Member of Parliament
Capt T Leith	Presented by the Royal Canadian Legion
2Lt. N Bourdignon	Presented by the RCMP
Cpl. J Syverson	Presented by Rick Glumac, MLA



*Capt. W Li receiving the King's Medal 19 February 25 from MP Marc Dalton.*



*Capt. Dhanjal receiving the King's Medal on 7 Feb 25 from Abbotsford MP, Ed Fast.*



*2Lt. (Retd) N Bourdignon receiving the King's Medal.*



*Capt. P Savoie CD receiving the King's Medal from Marc Dalton. MP*





*2Lt J Mulder CD receiving the King's Medal from Mark Strahl, MP.*



*Sgt. Paul Kullar receiving the King's Medal from Peter Julian, MP. (along with Sgt. A Kerekanich, Capt. Li, CO Lt Col. G Chan)*



*Battalion Members presented with the King's Medal on 05 Feb 2025 by the RSM & CO RSM Baron, MCpl. WP Jones, Sgt. T Whittier, Sgt. M Esaw, Capt. M Kelly, CO Lt Col Chan*



## Our Cadets .....

**Two Westie Corps from the Fraser valley competed on Sunday:**

**Different Corps, Same Westie Family**



### **The 2316 Groundsheet Report ..... WO Mikaela Payumo**

2316 “The Royal Westminster Regiment” Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps (RCACC) is part of the Canadian Cadet Organization where youth from 12 to 18 years of age across Canada develop their skills in citizenship, leadership, and physical fitness. Our Corps trains weekly on Thursday evenings. Cadets are instructed by CIC officers and our senior cadets who have committed their time and effort on topics and skills to develop their younger peers.

Outside of the Thursday night training, there are extracurricular teams where the cadets can hone specific skills such as marksmanship, drill, reconnaissance, first aid, physical fitness, and training for pre-parachutist selection. Throughout the year, cadets can drop in on marksmanship training nights to learn to safely and properly handle the Daisy air rifle and practice their firing techniques while having one-on-one coaching. Cadets who would like to improve their drill and learn more difficult drill commands than what is being taught on the regular training nights are instructed by



instructors who have a strong background and passion for drill. Reconnaissance (recce) is a set of more in-depth survival skills that can be used during field training weekends and expeditions. First aid team teaches cadets how to care for someone in a first aid emergency such as circulation emergencies, sprains and fractures,



diabetic and allergic reactions. Our physical fitness team looks at organized sports and games, and how to stay active and fit. Pre-parachutist selection, also known as pre-para, is a special opportunity only Army Cadets have, to prepare and condition their fitness and mental discipline. All these extra activities outside of the regular training nights give cadets skills and knowledge to help push themselves with their cadet careers and outside of the program.

Led by senior cadets, field training exercises FTXs give the cadets the chance to show off what they've learned on their weekly training nights. The Corps spend the weekend together in the wilderness learning about the environment they're in and how to make use of it, and at

the end of the day, fun games are played seniors to bring the field training exercise weekend to a close after three days of hard work. Our cadets in the Silver and Gold Star training levels have a chance to go on expeditions where they focus on trekking over long distances, canoeing, taking care of their equipment, and taking advantage of the environment.

Our part of the Westie Family has had its ups and downs over the past few years, but we went through it all together. From the moment you join, you grow with your peers. You will make unforgettable memories and connections with the people you meet, in and out of the Corps. We look out for each other and celebrate our accomplishments. Our family continues to grow bigger as each year passes by, even if you leave or age out of the program, you'll always be a part of our family. 2316 RCACC is a place where you learn skills you'll use as you navigate through life as the friends, experiences, lessons and skills you acquired will last a lifetime.

As we are halfway through the training year, as we still are re-building skills we've lost from the pandemic, we have accomplished so much in the last year. From gaining more recruits each year, participation in our teams has grown, such as our marksmanship, drill and first aid teams. Participating in ceremonies and parades in our communities, staffing area-directed activities around the lower mainland. Sending our cadets to staff and taking multiple different courses during the summer in and out of the provinces, to three cadets from our core being chosen to take part in the upcoming Euro trip with The Royal Westminster Regiment Association. As our seniors and staff continue to show their outstanding leadership,

we've slowly been making progress to bring back core traditions we've stopped due to the pandemic. Planning for a mess dinner is underway and is scheduled for Spring. We look forward to more activities and accomplishments from our fellow Westies as they continue to strive and another outstanding year.

### What Became of Kelly? .....

*(Help Us Reconnect with Former Members)*

Have you ever wondered what happened to the friends you served alongside? Reach out to your former comrades and encourage them to reconnect by joining the Association!