

NEWSLETTER

**CAPE BRETON HIGHLANDERS
ASSOCIATION**

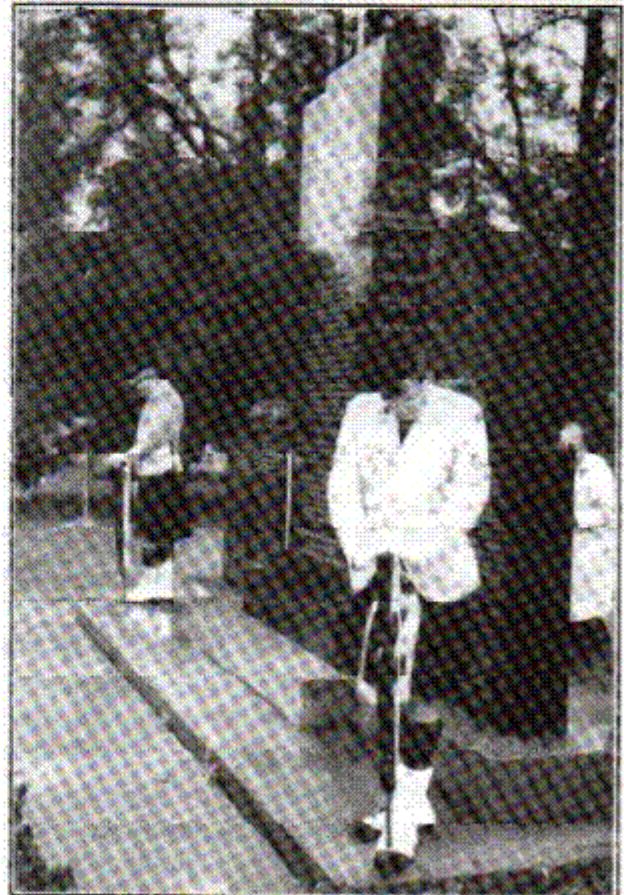
**RR#5, SITE 6, COMP. 10
SYDNEY, N.S. B1P 6G7**

December 15, 1994

**PH:902-564-9220
FAX:902-562-6131**

ON September 16-17, The Association celebrated the 25th Annual Reunion, and this time with the theme: "50th Anniversary Special commemorating the CBHI Capture of Coriano Ridge." This was in keeping with the Canada Remembers Programme.

At the monument on the 17th, a guard of honour was provided by Lt. Col. R.G.(Rick) Parsons, CD, CO 2nd Bn NSH (CB), including members of 2nd Bn. in their summer tan tunics and kilts along with other garrison troops in their summer tans. The scene was very captivating - what a contrast to our humble beginnings as an Association. The beautiful monument, a dream come true, stood as a strong fortress in the midst of the host that gathered to honour the fallen whose names are inscribed upon its bullwarks. Starting to the monument's right at the Canadian flag and reading clockwise: there were the pipes and drums, our own bugler Merv Stage, the four sentries, the two flagmen, the colour party, the guard of honour, visitors and family members, and the members of the



Association. Without question, everyone of us felt a surge of pride for having been privileged to be a part of the regiment that was victorious so long ago.

Mrs. Margaret Lecreux, from Glace Bay, escorted by Mack MacKenzie (PRI), placed the flowers at the monument. Mrs. Lecreux is a sister of Ivan R. Deering who died of wounds September 21, 1944, and was interred in Ancona War Cemetery in Italy.



The reunion committee chaired by Bob Kipping with Hughie MacDougall and assisted by the executive where needed, did an excellent job in making our 25th one of our best in recent years. We extend to them a hearty thank-you for a job well done.

There were 192 who registered, and these, along with the clergy and invited guests, put the count at over 200. There was a lot of excitement throughout the two days, and, no doubt, the book played a big part in it all.

During the Saturday evening banquet, Dorothy (John) MacQueen, at her own request, addressed the assembly. Her message was in the form of a tribute of praise to the Association - and it was excellent! As she spoke she was carried on a sentimental tide to a crest where she became speechless, and as she struggled to regain her composure, a hush fell upon the assembly as we all came under the influence of such tender feelings. Thankyou, Dorothy, for a job well done.

A VERY SOLUMN OCCASION

During the war, Piper Danny Gillis and Gordon MacDonald became bosom buddies. Before going to the front they had agreed that if one should die, the other would inherit his chanter. Gordon became our first fatal casualty of the war, so Danny inherited his chanter. At the banquet Danny presented Gordon's chanter to the 2nd Bu NSH (CB) and it was received by Col. Parsons, who declared that he would give it a place of honour with the other memorabilia at the officers mess. We remember Black Gordie as a peaceful and quiet spoken young man who certainly did not deserve to die so violently.

26TH ANNUAL REUNION

The 26th Annual Reunion will be held in Sydney, September 15 and 16, 1995. Once again the reunion headquarters will be The Royal Canadian Legion, Whitney Pier Br. 128. We are not anticipating any change in the admission fee at this time. 1995 will mark the 125 Anniversary of the regiment's birth, and the 50th anniversary of the end of the war - this could result in some special activities at the reunion.

UPDATE NEWS

The Annual meeting was held on Saturday, September 17, 1994 at Branch 128 Whitney Pier. The executive was returned in-tact except for Earl Bourgenis, Area Representative for Glace Bay, who declined, and Bob Kipping accepted the nomination. Since the reunion, Area Representative Ed Winstanley, North Sydney, passed on, and has been replaced by Joe Corkery.

Present Slate of Officers

President	C.R. (Sharkey) MacDonald 3155 Hinchey Ave. New Waterford, N.S. B1H 2L2
V. President	Paul MacEachern P.O. Box 757 Sydney, N.S. B1P 6J1
Secretary/Treasurer	W. F. (Bill) Metcalfe RR#5, Site 6, Comp. 10 Sydney, N.S. B1P 6G7
Area Representatives	
Glace Bay	Robert H. (Bob) Kipping 14 Athlone St. Glace Bay, N.S. B1A 1N3
New Waterford	Jake Ryan 1 James St. New Waterford, N.S. B1H 1B6
Sydney	Ted H. Slaney RR#1, East Bay, N.S. B0A 1H0
N. Sydney	Joseph (Joe) Corkery 3 Prince St. Sydney Mines, N.S. B1V 1Y8
P.E.I.	Mack MacKenzie Box 185 Montague, PEI C0A 1R0
N.B.	Leon Sautiere 1616 Colden Grove Rd. St. John, N.B. E2L 3W4

HIS LEAF ALSO SHALL NOT WITHER
THE BOOK: THE BREED OF MANLY MEN



BOOK SIGNING AT THE REUNION

The year was 1992, and we were all pushing 70 or over, and we had nothing for posterity except a war diary that was commonly referred to as a weather report. In January we were becoming weary of ever publishing a regimental history until, at our regular meeting on 26th, Ted Slaney announced that Alex Morrison would like to produce the history assisted by him. After some discussions on the matter a motion was tabled commissioning Alex and Ted to co-author the history: motion carried. This was followed by a second motion to send a special newsletter in February advising the members of this new business. At first Alex expected the book would be ready for publication early in 1995, but at a meeting held at Victoria Park in 1993, he announced that it could be ready by the Fall of 1994; he suggested that we give copies to our families for Christmas presents. When we think of the time and effort that these two, and especially Alex, put in to the production, how can we ever find a word sufficient to thank them.



An Ode To The Authors

Now that the egg has hatched;
You must avoid every tide of recession,
Keep yourselves busy each day
To prevent postpartum depression.

THE BOOK - WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING (condensed)



The Cape Breton Post - Horror of War Depicted. They've done a good job, for which future generations of Cape Bretoners will surely be grateful.

The book, which focuses mainly on the Second World War, makes for grim reading at times, pulling no punches as it describes the valour and the horror of the regiment's exploits in the Italian Campaign. During its march from Italy to Holland the CBH lost 201 men killed and over 700 wounded. As the

85th Bn in WW1, the unit suffered 610 killed and 2,639 wounded.

The statistics don't even begin to tell the story of the pain, suffering and grief experienced by these ordinary young Cape Bretoners, some of them in their teens. Some of the descriptions are enough to make the proverbial strong man cry, and there is no doubt some tears will be shed on these pages.

Certainly the graphic accounts of battles help our understanding of why war veterans generally are reluctant to talk about their experiences, except among themselves on rare occasions such as regimental reunions.

Some memories are obviously just too painful to bear, let alone share with people who were spared the experience of war and can only vaguely comprehend what these veterans have been through. Who can imagine the suffering of Pte. Norman (Toasty) MacIntyre, lying for four days among the bodies of his slain comrades in a gully in Italy that came to be known as the Valley of Death. The answer is - nobody. But his personal recollections of those four days are one of the most touching passages in a book filled with moving first person accounts of events only touched on in the cold pages of the official war diaries.

One fascinating aspect of a book like this, especially for younger readers, is the realization that so many local heroes have been part of everyday life in Cape Breton since the war ended in 1945. It's a shame that they haven't been known to succeeding generations and this book corrects that oversight, at least as far as the Cape Breton Highlanders are concerned.

The official and personal accounts of the battle of Coriano Ridge in mid-September, 1944, make for particularly grim reading. The CBH played a major role in the capture of the ridge but paid a horrific price. The final casualty toll was calculated at 25 percent, 22 killed and 67 wounded.

The authors make no bones about the fact that the men of the CBH never cared much for the humdrum side of soldiering or took kindly to the interminable drill and discipline. But they also make it clear that once blooded, the Cape Bretoners became the best of soldiers.



The Toronto Star - Looking Back at War, Lest We Forget. The Breed of Manly Men is a title translated from the Gaelic motto of the Cape Breton Highlanders (CBH). "Sìol na Fear Fearail." They were men from the pits, the steel plant, the forests and shops who didn't take kindly to officers who came not from their beloved Cape Breton, but "from away," and in 1942 they launched a short-lived strike in protest. Once army discipline had been restored they became fearsome warriors in Italy and Holland.

This tale of an island "family" gone to war is not overly polished, but it's an historical gem.

EXCERPTS FROM THE CAPE BRETONER MONTHLY THE HIGHLANDERS RISE AGAIN

The Breed of Manly Men is the story of the Cape Breton Highlanders, a regiment of the Canadian Army which served in Europe from 1942 until the end of the War. The boldly masculine title stems from the English translation of the Regiment's Gaelic motto: *Sìol Na Fear Fearail*.

Regimental histories are not everyone's cup of tea. Most are painfully dull, usually little more than verbatim accounts from logs and reports. The authors' principal accomplishment is in penning one which is accessible both for the casual reader, allowing the detail to enhance the story without overcoming it.

Weaving its way through the text of the history is the story of citizen soldiers on a collision course with the brutal, bloody reality of modern war. Underlying the early chapters is a naivete about the savagery the Regiment was about to encounter, resulting in the quote heard from the first serious engagement: "Sir, this is serious business!"

It is not the story of superman but citizen soldiers, those who Shakespeare called the "warriors for the working day". These were ordinary men made extraordinary by circumstance and history. It is the story of their transition from miners and farmers, to riflemen and machine-gunners.

In action the CBH fought in the "forgotten war" of central Italy. It was a campaign fought hill for hill, valley for valley, village for village against a battle-hardened and entrenched enemy. The Highlanders quickly learned what war was all about and acquitted themselves well in the shadow of the bloody slopes of Monte Cassino and tragedy of Corriano Ridge.

In 1945 it was off to the Netherlands and in fleeting months of the war the "Caps" chased and fought an enemy which at various times ran, fought viciously and surrendered in droves. Fighting to drive the German Army out of Holland the Highlanders bore witness to the death throes of the Nazi Reich. It was here that the Regiment accomplished two of its most unusual and remarkable feats, that of capturing almost twice its own number of prisoners and of attacking and seizing a German naval vessel.

The authors tell their story "warts and all", not over-glorifying or glossing over the negatives. They mention the shirkers as well as the heroes and this gives the work the power of honesty. Thus it speaks with authority when it points out the qualities of "the boys from Cape Breton" which hindered them early as a unit as well as their great courage and strength which steadies them on to the end. One quote is indicative of the straight forward pragmatism and good humour of the Cape Breton soldier which as much as anything, carried him through the horror of war. It was uttered by one young Highlander after a particularly vicious battle in the end run through Holland. He said simply: "It's over. We won."

***THE SHIP IS CROWDED, BUT WHO CARES?
WE'RE GOING HOME!***

DEATHS

Clarence W. Hunt	72	North Sydney
Jack Ormrod	73	Westville, N.S.
Francis (FX)MacNeil	82	Iona, C.B.
John D. Devison	74	Victoria, B.C.
Eugene McQuillan	70	Cornwall, PEI
Alex Yokubowski	73	St.Catherines, Ont
James (Giggie) Boutilier	74	N. Bay, Ont.
Thomas F. Gouthro	72	Brooklyn, Mass
Angus J. Currie	76	North York, Ont.
Edward S.(Ed) Winstanley	74	N. Sydney, N.S.
George Basil Attwood	70	Glace Bay, N.S.
Charles Ross MacLellan	89	Glace Bay, N.S.
Lawrence (Larry)Peterson	85	Yarmouth, N.S.
Arthur (Ab)Briand	84	Oak Park, N.S.
Joseph E. Barter	74	Stellarton, N.S.
Arthur (Buster) Ash		Toronto, Ont.
Austin F. Reid	74	N. Sydney, N.S.
Rav Hubley	72	New Germanv. N.S.
R.W. (Red) Anderson	74	Newport, N.S.
Don S. Adams	73	Summerside, PEI
G.E.(Cliff)Skilling (MC)		Fredericton, N.B.



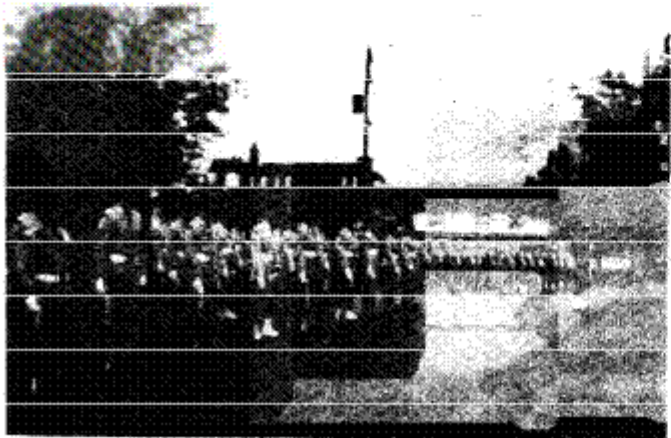
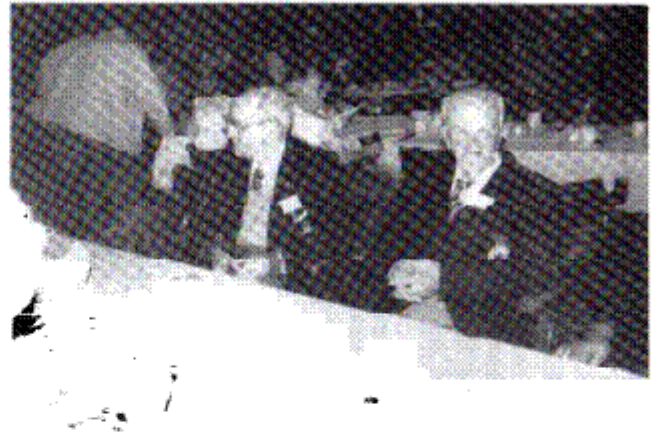
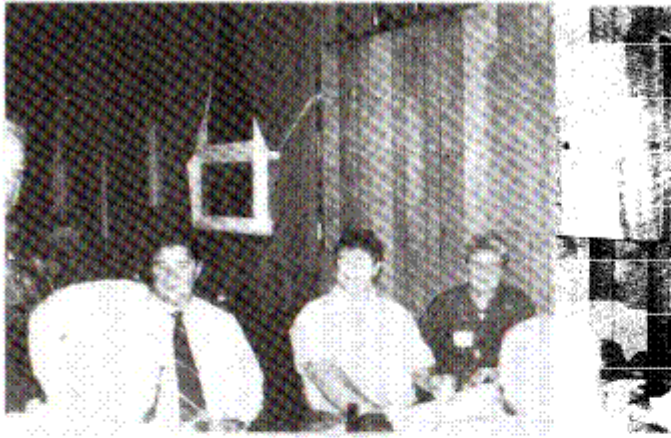
The turtle-dove and the swallow and the crane observe the time of their coming. Jeremiah 8:7

The miracle of migration is another evidence of the greatness of God. The Psalmist wrote. "Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised: and His greatness is unsearchable." God guides the birds by an instinct

which is in their very being. He leads them hundreds, even thousands of uncharted miles over land and water. The same wonderful God guides every human being, who is trusting in the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ at Calvary, by His indwelling Spirit. He is leading us faithfully through the days and years of our earthly sojourn to a land of pure delight which He is preparing for us.

*When my spirit, clothed immortal, wings its flight
to realms of day.
This my song through endless ages: "Jesus led me all
the way."*





1

2

3



**BILL METCALFE WITH
TOM & BETTY ROSE (1993)**



**DOUG & SHEILA DUGUID
(1993)**



**WHEN WE WERE YOUNG AND IN THE ARMY WE
WOULD BE ACCUSED OF SWINGING THE LEAD
BUT A MANS A MAN FOR ALL THAT
(1995)**