

NEWSLETTER

CAPE BRETON HIGHLANDERS ASSOCIATION

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SYDNEY, N.S. B1P 6G7

JULY, 1993

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REMEMBERING RALPH DIDLOCK

Shortly after publishing the last newsletter we received word of Ralph's death. Although we were saddened by the news we were not surprised. He had been very sick for the last eighteen months or more, and he suffered much the last six. In his letters and phone calls he expressed his hope to get to one more reunion, "because," he said, "I know it will certainly be my last."

When he first came to us at Aldershot, England in 1942, we had a chip on our shoulder towards him as though he were an alien from another planet. But as time went by we learned to work with him and under him, and we discovered the man. He proved himself to be of high moral character, and faithful to his command and to his charge, and we trusted him and he never betrayed that trust and we learned to love him as a brother.



THIS IS THE OFFICIAL PHOTO OF RALPH TAKEN AT THE TIME HE RECEIVED THE MBE

DEATHS

Henry Cantwell	85	Baddeck,
Ralph N. Diplock	82	Montreal, Que.
Patrick (Pat) Eaglechild	71(?)	Scandoff, Alta
Cecil Ginter	77	New Waterford
Leonard Gosse	71	Glace Bay, N.S.
Michael B. (Red Mick) MacDonald	73	Sydney, N.S.
Joseph H. MacDougall	75	Washabuckt, C.B.
Neil T. (Terry) MacIntosh	71	Waterford, NS
James A. (Jimmy) MacKinnon	72	Halifax, N.S.
Alvin MacLellan	67	Sydney, N.S.
Peter MacSween	75	Donkin, C.B.
John F. (Jack) Pyke	74	London, Ont.
Elmer (Blondie) Ross	73	Baddeck, C.B.
Roderick (Roddie) Stevens	74	Eskasoni, C.B.
Douglas Stewart		Neeton, Ont.
John Kenneth Yeomans		Halifax, N.S.



Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 1 Peter 1:3-5



May these precious words from the Apostle Peter be a comfort to the bereaved and all who are mourning the passing of these dear ones.

THE BREED OF MANLY MEN THE HISTORY OF THE CAPE BRETON HIGHLANDERS

The Author, Mr. Alex Morrison, a native of Sydney is the Executive Director of the Canadian Institute of Strategic Studies. He began his military career with the 2459 Cape Breton Highlanders Cadet Corps in N. Sydney and later served in the CBH Reserve, and then in the



Canadian Army, retiring in 1990 with the rank of Lieut. Col. At present he is the Honourary L. Col. of the 2nd B t n . N . S . Highlanders. He is the author of "The Voice of Defence: the History of the Conference of Defence Associations" and the editor of many other books.



Co-Author, Mr. Ted Slaney, a native of Glace Bay, joined the CRH in 1941 and served with the unit in Italy and Europe and later with the Canadian Army Pacific Force. Later, in the Canadian Army (Regular), he rose to the rank of Chief Warrant Officer. He then accepted a Commission and retired in the rank of Captain. He is now the Hon. Col. of the N.S. Highlanders, having previously served as the Hon. Lieut. Col of 2 NSH (CB).

To be published in the autumn of 1994 under the title "THE BREED OF MANLY MEN - THE HISTORY OF THE CAPE BRETON HIGHLANDERS", the history will cover major and significant events which have taken place since the founding of the unit in the autumn of 1871, under the name of the Victoria Provisional Battalion of Infantry. Particular focus, and the bulk of the book, will be on the Cape Breton Highlanders from the establishment of the unit following the end of the First World War.

Told in detail, will be the exploits of the Cape Breton Highlanders in the Second World War as they fought their way victoriously through the Italian and European campaigns. The highland military traditions of Cape Breton and it's citizens will be followed and the links between the First World War and the Second World War personnel firmly outlined.

**NO. 1 PLT (SIGNALS) WAS WELL REPRESENTED AT
THE ANNUAL REUNION IN SYDNEY LAST SEPTEMBER**



Seated L-R: Wishie Donovan, Sandy Davis, (Plt Officer); Standing: Walter Burke, Bill Metcalfe, Johnny Buckley, Floyd McCollock, Ralph Halliday, Bob Rose. Missing when photo was taken: Stan Campbell.

Other former members of No. 1 Plt. who are still on our mailing list are:

George Burke, Lw L'Ardoise, C.B.
Chas. Campbell, Pt. Colborne, Ont.
Jerry J. Campbell, Digby, N.S.
Martin Cashin, Bras D'Or, C.B.
Doug K. Duguid, Lunenburg, N.S.
Daniel Hyde, Toronto, Ont
George B. MacAulay, Sydney, N.S.
Rev. Fr. John McGregor, Antigonish,
M. F. Tony MacLachlan, Vancouver, B.C.
Charles MacLellan, Glace Bay, N.S.

A. W. Meacham, London, Ont.
John Murrant, Sault St. Marie, Ont.
Gregory Doc Nash, Sydney, N.S.
Walter (Pottie) Pate Delta, B.C.
Reg H. Roy, Victoria, B.C.
Joe VanDonick, New Waterford, C.B.
Frank VanDonick, Forreestburg, Alta
Earl Wadden, Aberdeenshire, Scotland
Gilbert (Slats) Slattery Burnaby, B.C.

Sorry if we missed any.

THE HISTORY FUND

As you all know, in the winter of '91 we started a CBH History Fund which was originally designated to cover the cost of research for the book. At first we thought that research would be a very costly item, but it seems that we have been blessed (thanks to Alex) as it has only cost us \$1,040.00 to date.

It is estimated that the cost of research expenses, production, typesetting, and printing will be in the order of \$30,000. We have divided this sum into two parts: \$10,000. to be raised by the Association, and \$20,000. from businesses and the general public.

At our meeting held in Sydney on Feb. 28, the issue of having tag days for raising funds was again introduced by Hughie MacDougall. At that time a motion was put forth on the matter and it received a positive vote. It also named Hughie as Committee Chairman and Bob Kipping as his assistant.

The committee has since had a number of tag days. Those who took part wore their glens and blazers, and they were very well received by the public - so many who talked with them had family ties in the CBH.

So far the Committee has raised \$1500. At our last meeting, June 27, a vote of thanks was extended Hughie and Bob, in particular, and to all of those who worked with them for a job well done. So far they have worked in Sydney only; they have plans to continue their efforts out in the surrounding towns in the near future. We now have \$5,316. in the account.

The book itself will have some 350 pages, including 12 pages of photos. It will be a hard cover edition with a slip cover in two colours: scarlet and gold. Alex says it will be published in the fall of 1994 in time for the members to use them as Christmas gifts. Pre-publication rate for members is \$25.00 per copy.

You may send in your order at any time for the number of books you wish to purchase at the pre-publication rate, but you must include the money. All monies we receive will be deposited in the history account and our ledger and receipts will credit the purchases. It is very important that we know the total number of books the members will need before the Fall of '94.

If a member wishes to purchase more than one book, but only has enough for one at this time, then he must order one at this time, and order more as he has the money.

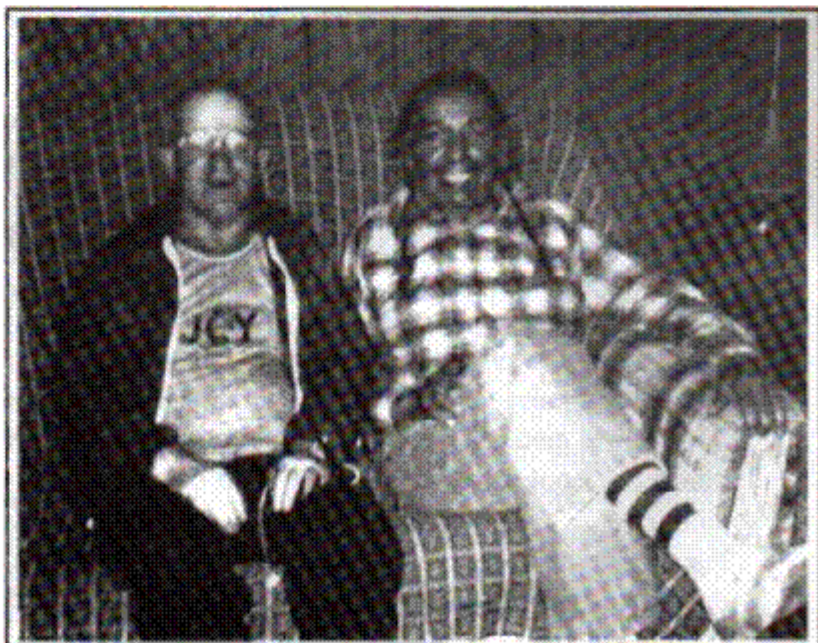


HE WAS A HIGHLANDER TOO

Patrick (Pat) Eaglechild was born to native parents on the Blood Reserve at Stand Off, in southern Alberta. Stand Off is located near a fork in the Belly River just south of Fort MacLeod. At what time he came with us we are not sure but we know that he served in Italy and Holland as a member of the Scout Plt. Those of us who knew him respected him as a good buddy and a front-line soldier. A greater fellowship existed between him and Paul MacEachern, who also served in the Scout Platoon.

Paul has visited many of our old buddies on his treks across Canada, and it is a joy to receive his reports concerning them. He gave me photos that he took during a visit to Pat's a few years back, two of which I have included here. He also told

me that while visiting the Reserve Council Chambers at Stand Off earlier this year he was surprised to see a plaque honoring Patrick for the years he had served as Band Chief at the Blood Reserve. There were others from the native block who served with us as well. There were the three Stevens brothers, Roddie, Bennie and Andrew from Eskasoni, C.B., and Leo Joe (Little Joe) from Membertou, C.B. There were others from out west, one of whom was a Rodeo Star having won several medals in the Calgary Stampede. They were all our friends in the struggle.



REUNION '93

Just to remind you, the reunion will be held at Whitney Pier Legion, Sydney on Friday and Saturday, September 17 and 18. Registration will commence at 1300 hrs. on Friday. Alex Morrison will be in attendance to bring us up to date on the history.

CALENDARS

We have published an Association Calendar featuring ten of Joe Oldford's poems as well as his regimental toast and a photo of the monument. It opens in October '93 with a picture of the monument and closes in September '94 with the regimental toast.

Another feature of the calendar is that special events between 1939 - 45, e.g. departure from Halifax, Coriano Ridge etc. are notated in the date blocks. We did not have all the dates when this one was printed, but if we make another calendar in the future it should be more complete.

We will be selling them for \$6.00 each at the reunion. If you wish to order one by mail (as long as they last) please send \$2.00 extra to cover the cost of the large envelope and mailing.

THE HIGHLANDERS ROOM

There is a restaurant on Charlotte St. in Sydney, N.S. that is named Joe's Warehouse. The proprietors are old pals of Alex Morrison's and together they came up with the idea to dedicate a beautiful dining room to the memory and honour of all those who served in Cape Breton's Highland Regiments and named it "THE HIGHLANDERS ROOM".

On the 13th of October, 1871, the Victoria Provisional Battalion of Infantry was organized with its headquarters in Baddeck. From that time until 1914 it underwent a number of name changes: (1879) Victoria Highland Provisional Battalion of Infantry, (1880) Victoria Provisional Battalion of Infantry, Argyle Highlanders, (1885) 94th Victoria Battalion of Infantry, Argyle Highlanders, (1900) 94th Victoria Regiment Argyle Highlanders. On 6 August 1914, the Regiment was placed on active service.

The Regiment was not called up for overseas service, but it did supply many members of the 85th and 185th Battalions of the Nova Scotia Highlanders Brigade. Following the end of the First World War, the Regiment was redesignated "The Cape Breton Highlanders."

On 1 September 1939, the Cape Breton Highlanders were called to active service and served with great distinction in Italy and North-West Europe. The unit returned to Canada in January of 1946 and carried on as a unit of the Canadian Army (Reserve).

On 15 September 1954, as a result of a reorganization The Cape Breton Highlanders became "2nd Battalion The Nova Scotia Highlanders." In June of the following year, (Cape Breton) was added, thus making the official name: 2nd Battalion The Nova Scotia Highlanders (Cape Breton). That change ensured that the honours and traditions of its predecessor units would be perpetuated.

"THE HIGHLANDERS ROOM" features historical artifacts from all eras of Cape Breton's military tradition.

"THE HIGHLANDERS ROOM" was opened by Major-general John A MacInnis, Commander, Land Force Atlantic Area on 17 April 1993.

