

NEWSLETTER

CAPE BRETON HIGHLANDERS ASSOCIATION

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

JUNE, 1994

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ITALY REVISITED

During the month of May, the Department of Veterans Affairs provided passage on a tour through Sicily and Italy for one person from each of the many units of the 1st Canadian Corps that fought in the Italian Campaign. The Association chose Robert 'Bob' Kipping to represent the CBH for the event.

Bob gave a brief account of the trip at the meeting held on May 29. He expressed his pleasure with the Tour, and thanked the members for giving him the opportunity to be part of it. (I guess it is one thing to read the names on the Monument in Sydney - but it is something else to stand beside the actual graves).

This photograph was taken of Bob standing by the cenotaph in Gradara War Cemetery located near the shores of the Adriatic Sea and about 5 kms. from Cattolica. Among the 1195 Commonwealth headstones are 369 Canadian, twelve of which mark the places of brave warriors of the Cape Breton Highlanders.





HISTORY OF CBH

Ted Slaney tells us that the materials for the history are now all compiled, and that he and Alex will be meeting in Sydney in early July to have the manuscript proof-read. As soon as the work is approved it will be given to the publisher for printing. The good news is: **THE BREED OF MANLY MEN** will be on sale in September, and will be available at the reunion.

We have a lot of prepaid orders that will need to be delivered. Those of you who plan to be at the reunion can pick up your orders then. A group of members have volunteered to make deliveries locally, all other orders will be mailed out. The \$25.00 per book will be continued for members, and families of members deceased, for the time being. If you have not as yet responded for your prepaid copy(es) we would urge you to do so at once. The CBH History Fund now stands at \$40,000.00 (forty thousand) dollars approximately.

TRUST FUND

We now have over \$2,000.00 in the CBH TRUST FUND for the perpetual upkeep of the monument and we will continue to add at least \$1,000.00 each year until we reach our projected goal of \$5,000.00. We would advise the members that this fund is not for the upkeep of the grounds - that is in the hands of the County of Cape Breton. It is for the maintenance of the monument and flag poles. When the book is completed we can once again return to making our donations to the Monument Trust Fund.

CONCERNING CHEQUES

Some of you tend to write a cheque for each item such as dues, monument, badges etc. In some cases we may receive up to four separate cheques in one envelope. We would again advise you that this is not necessary. One cheque will be sufficient, but you must state how you want the money distributed. All monies will be receipted and entered in the ledger according to your wishes. We would like to take this opportunity to extend a word of thanks to all of you who have faithfully paid your dues down through the years and for your very generous support of our many projects.



Our Vice President, Paul MacEachern, is having a hard time of it. He has been in and out of the hospital on many occasions over the past year or so. If any of you who were close friends with Paul would like to drop him a line his address is: Paul MacEachern, P.O. Box 757, Sydney, N.S. B1P 6J1.

25TH ANNUAL REUNION

The 25th Annual Reunion will be held in Sydney on Friday and Saturday, the 16th and 17th of September respectively. The reunion headquarters will be at the Royal Canadian Legion, Whitney Pier Br. 128. Registration will commence at 1300 hrs. on Friday, and will continue throughout the day. Cost to register will be \$25.00 per person. A dance band will be in place for both evenings.

You will receive a printed program as you register. The Registrars will receive registrations, dues, donations, and sell badges, crests and pins. The registrations will be recorded in the Members Register and will not be receipted otherwise: all other items will be receipted. If you are writing cheques then take your time at the desk and pay for everything with one cheque: The registrar will give you a receipt for all other items.

Available Items for sale:

CBH Cap Badges	\$20.00 each
CBH Blazer Crest	22.00 "
CBH Association B.H. Pins	2.00 "

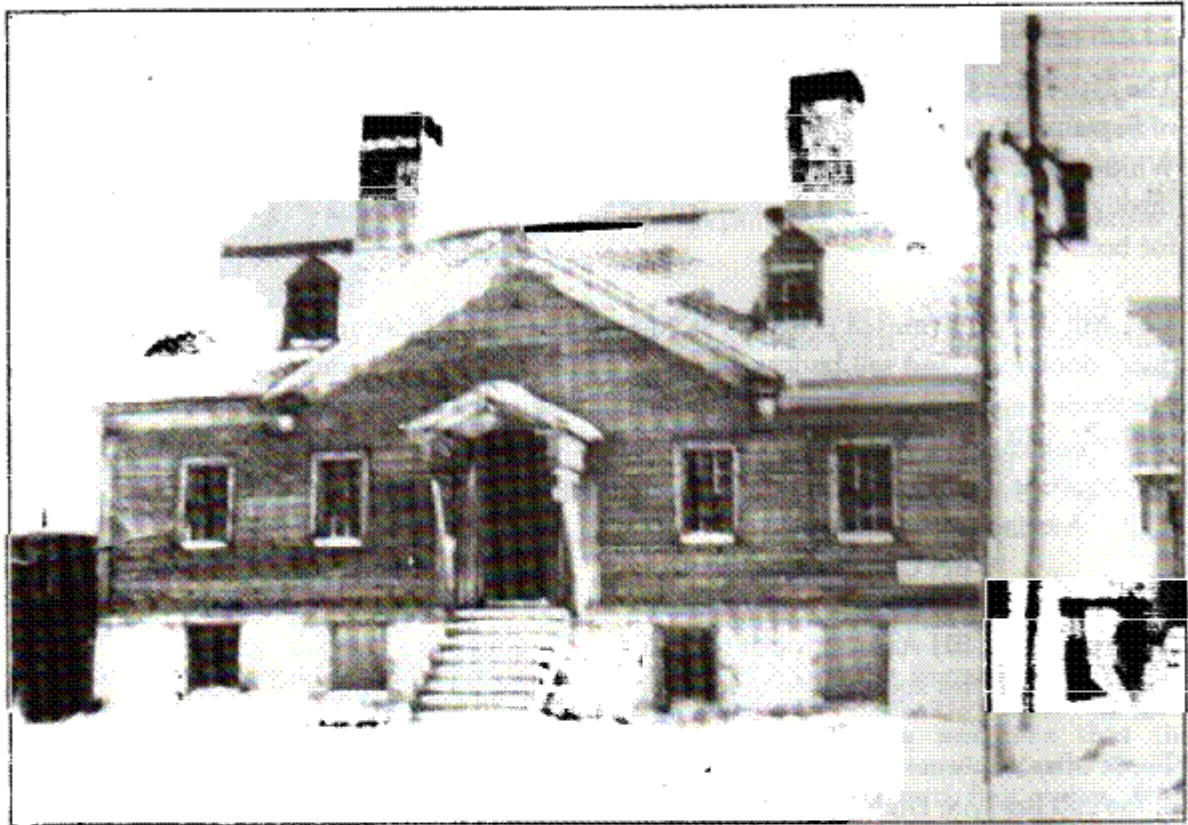
Glengarries are not available.

Those of us who were present at last year's reunion remember the large turn-out of infanters of the 2nd Bn. N.S. Highlanders (CB) for the Saturday morning Memorial Service at the CBH War Monument. At that time they were in full battle attire. L. Col. Parsons had purposely brought them in from a weekend scheme to witness the ceremony. It certainly was nice to have them along - even as a reminder of the days of our youth so long ago. Many thanks to L. Col. Parsons, his staff, and all for this, and all of the other support that they provided for the Memorial and the march at Whitney Pier.

CORIANO DAY

Canada Remembers had been created by the Government of Canada to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the major events leading to the end of WW II and to honour and remember the wartime sacrifice made by Canadians overseas and at home. The main force of the Program was centered around the D Day invasion. But for the CBH, September will mark the 50th anniversary of the penetration of the Gothic Line which culminated in our great victory at Coriano Ridge on the 13th. A co-ordinating committee including representatives from DVA, RCL and militia has already met to plan the CORIANO DAY Ceremony honouring the Island's famous regiment. The planned event is scheduled for Saturday, 17th. We are not ourselves involved but Ted Slaney tells me that L. Col. Parsons will have his souldiers present for our annual memorial, in their kilts.

FROM VICTORIA PARK SYDNEY



The above photo was taken at Victoria Park in 1927 and it shows the centre unit of three remaining barracks that were built in the 1800's. The pre war CBH militia used it as an armoury and HQ building. Shortly after the outbreak of WW II this building was refurbished (the other two had been removed.) At about the same time a building was erected at the corner of Esplanade and Desbarres Streets and it was used as a home for the Garrison Commander who was then Col. Dobie (Dobbie?). That building is still standing and is now used for the officers' mess. The building in the photo was torn down in 1947.

In those early days personnel were mostly drawn from HQ coy for duties which included sentries, buglers and signalmen. One of our main buglers at that time was Faush Pickup (now deceased). The on-duty signaller would record all communications, and was responsible for raising and lowering the flag at Reveille and Last Post. At reveille the flagman and bugler would be alone while all on-duty personnel would be present for a little ceremony at the Last Post. By the Spring of 1940 the ceremony became more elaborate, and was attracting an audience from the city.

DEATHS

Burton Brown	75	Sydney, N.S.
John D. MacDonald	74	Aspy Bay, C.B.
Kenneth V. White	74	Halifax, N.S.
Wm. Bill Butler	70	Sydney, N.S.
Stephen McGuigan	80	Sydney Mines, N.S.
Roderick J. Murphy	70	MacKinnon Harbour, C.B.
Brian (Spud) Thompson	71	Sydney, N.S.
John Wm. McIntosh	74	Sherbrook, N.S.
Albert E. Lancaster	92	Glace Bay, N.S.
John Earl Tobin	69	Sydney Mines, N.S.
Stanley Albert Green	74	Pugwash, N.S.
James (Jim) Donovan	80	Dominion, N.S.
Joseph C. Falkenham	74	Two Islands, N.S.
John A. Campbell	83	Port Caledonia, C.B.
George F. (Pinky) McNeil	75	New Victoria, C.B.



When the weary ones we love
Enter on their rest above,
When their words of love and cheer
Fall no longer on our ear,
Hush! be every murmur dumb,
It is only "Till He come!"
Clouds and darkness round us press;
Would we have one sorrow less?
All the sharpness of the cross,
All that tells the world is loss,
Death and darkness, and the tomb,
Pain us only "Till He come!"

THE CAPE BRETON HIGHLANDERS ASSOCIATION
CONSTITUTION

- 1: The Association shall be called, "The Cape Breton Highlanders Association"
- 2: The Association is composed of those who served, in whole or in part, in the Cape Breton Highlanders active service battalion during wartime, 1939 to 1945.
- 3: Time in service, whether in Canada, England or in a theatre of war has no effect on membership.
- 4: A member's spouse may join with him for certain activities during a Reunion function, but has no rights of membership in the Association.
- 5: Should a member die his spouse may attend the next reunion after his death, and then ceases to have access to any activities of the Association.
- 6: Personnel with militia service either during pre war (1939 - 1945), or post war (1939-1945), or with 2nd. Bn., C.B.H. are not qualified for membership in the Association on the basis of that service.
- 7: On the death of its last member the Cape Breton Highlanders Association will cease to exist.
- 8: The affairs of the Cape Breton Highlanders Association will be under the direction of its duly elected officers, as follows, a President, Vice President, a Secretary and a Treasurer. Elections, to fill these positions, shall be held each year at the Annual Meeting of the Association.
- 9: Area Representatives, for areas with a large concentration of former members of the Cape Breton Highlanders, may also be chosen each year at the annual Reunion of the Association and these, with the duly elected officers, mentioned in Article 8, shall comprise the Executive of the Cape Breton Highlanders Association.
- 10: Ten Executive meetings will be held each year at the call of the President.
- 11: A Reunion of members of the Cape Breton Highlanders Association will be held each year at the time of the Annual Meeting.
- 12: A group of not more than four nor less than three members will be appointed by the local meeting to act as Trustees and their duties will be as follows:
 - I. To control, and approve expenditure of, the \$5,000.00 (five thousand) dollars Cape Breton Highlanders Associations' Investment Fund.
 - II. To be responsible for the permanent care fund for the Associations' War Memorial, with the inscribed list of casualties, located adjacent to the old Court House in the City of Sydney. Donations from members of the Association are to be directed to this task. Presently a Trust Fund is being established through the office of the Solicitor for the County of Cape Breton, in an amount not to exceed \$5,000.00 (Five Thousand) dollars. At this time there is a credit balance in this proposed fund of \$2,000.00 (Two Thousand) dollars. The remaining \$3,000.00 (Three Thousand) dollars is to be in place by 1998.

AND THE BAND PLAYED ON

A NON-ANGELIC DIALOGUE

Sometime during the Spring of 1940, I was transferred from D Coy to the Signal Pl in HQ Coy. At that time HQ Coy was billeted in what was once a United Church on George Street in Sydney. The main auditorium was divided by a partition and one pl occupied the floor space directly below the choir balcony which had been sealed off with some thin sheets of construction board and was occupied by the Pipe Band.

This is the gist of an event that took place one pav-dav evening after "lights-out". Suddenly a loud commotion and hoistering on the balcony woke everybody up. We could hear the voice of RSM Toms through the din of the scuffle. "Woodman! MacQuarrie! you fellows break it up and get into your bunks before I get the duty detail to lock you both in the guardhouse."

This was followed with many compliments for "Mr. Toms" from both, and the most unbelievable pleas for clemency from MacQuarrie.

As Toms was leaving the room MacQuarrie asked, "You're not going to put us on the peg are you Mr. Toms?" To which Toms retorted, "Get to bed MacQuarrie." Again MacQuarrie posed the question as Thoms was closing the door. Uncertain of the effect of his many pleas MacQuarrie undauntedly called with a loud voice, "Then peg and be damned to you!"

BIG BAD JOHN?

When it came to manners, no one could accuse piper George Sutherland from Soldiers' Cove in Richmond County of bearing any semblance to Big Bad John. However, when it came to physical proportions, George fit the image to a T. He had the arms and shoulders of a glauk, and he wore the kilt of a bantam weight (broad at the shoulders and narry at the hips!).

Playing on his good nature, Bunny O'Connell and myself would often tease him, while keeping our distance, to just about his breaking point. In his chagrin he would cry out "Now look here you fellows (naming us) if you are not careful I will fire you up in a tree!"

On one such occasion I looked at the handiest tree which was about one hundred yards away, then at George's shoulders, and back at my buddy, and I cried, "Let's get out of here Bunny," - and we took off at the high port. Some years after the war, while driving by Soldiers' Cove I was pleased to note the absence of bodies in the trees - "All's quiet on the Richmond front" I thought!



The picture at the top of the page was taken on November 25, 1939, at New Waterford. It clearly depicts the sad shortage of uniforms at that time in our history. This situation continued into January 1940, when we began to get the new uniforms - the battle dress and the Balmoral tam. At bottom left is a picture of Ikey Gillis (New Waterford) taken at Aldershot, N.S. in 1938. Ikey was an exceptionally good boxer and his achievements were many. However, it all came to a sorry end in Italy when he received a shrapnel wound to the spine. Ikey never walked again. After much sorrow and suffering his life came to an end some years ago. The bottom right is a picture of George Burke from Lr. L'ardoise, C.B. George was in the signal pl. There were a number of us who took the Atlas Course while at Aldershot, England, but when the muscles came there was only enough for George - FAMILIAR STORY?

