



October 1982

495 Westmount Rd.
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The Cape Breton Highlanders Association

P. O. BOX 248. GLACE BAY. N. S.

1982 --- FALL NEWSLETTER --- 1982

"REGIMENTAL TOAST"

"We have the proud honor of having served with a Battalion that in my opinion, was BORN and SEASONED on the same day.

When this Battalion went into Action on the 17th of January, 1944, it marked the first time in history that a Battalion from Cape Breton Island, faced an enemy on 'Foreign Soil': "The Birth of a Battalion!"

When that day was over, I think we hitched up our belts, pulled back our shoulders, stood a little taller and set out with grim determination to finish a job. - "The Seasoning of a Battalion!"

From that day onward, this Battalion, having been given a task, never failed to take it's objective; and, having taken it's objective, never ever gave up an inch of ground. A feat, Ladies and Gentlemen, that few Battalions in the history of any Nation can claim.

When our 'Motto' was chosen in 1915 by Col. Murray, (at that time Premier of Nova Scotia), he chose it well - "SIOL NA FEAR FEARAID" - "THE BREED OF MANLY MEN."

I ask you now to rise and charge your glasses and drink with me, a Toast to the Battalion that you men made famous
=== "THE CAPE BRETON HIGHLANDERS" ===

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Editor's note:

The above toast was composed by Joe Oldford, (DCM) and is given by Joe at each Reunion during the annual Saturday evening Banquet. It is repeated here so that you who have not had the opportunity of joining with us at our get-togethers, may share the pride that is ours.

"A good time was had by all". ---- In his Press release following the 13th Reunion, Chairman Joe Campbell outlined to the Cape Breton Post the events that made up our two-day visit with the folks in 'The Pier'. Our hosts, Branch 128 Royal Canadian Legion opened their spacious building and their terrific facilities for our enjoyment. Joe and his co-chairman Lawrence Hartigan were ably assisted by Branch President Howie Burt and the members of his Executive. Two Hundred and Twenty-five Members and Wives enjoyed the fellowship and the meals catered by the Ladies Auxillary got the ocha and sahs of everyone. The Salmon Plate on Friday evening, hosted by National Sea Products was out of this world and the City of Sydney was host to the Saturday evening Banquet.

At the Annual Meeting the following Executive were re-elected for another term:-

PresidentEarl Bourgeois; V.Prec.Jake Ryan
SecretaryRon E. McDonald Treas.Angus McLeod, (MM)
Area Reps.Sydney - Major John R. Johnson
 N.Sydney- Joe Viva
 Glace Bay - Bob Kipping
 New Waterford - Charlie 'Sharkey' MacDonald
 P.E.I.-New Brunswick - Mike Campbell

Note:- Earl's phone # is 849-6824 (Glace Bay)
 Ron's is 849-9595 " "

The meeting heard a report from the Committee formed in 1981 to look into the possibility of having the Unit's History compiled and published (Judge Leo and Judge Joe MacIntyre and Bill Butler). Some progress has been made and the committee will continue to function.

Two invitations were received to host the 1983 Reunion, Glace Bay and Sydney Mines. After a spirited discussion regarding the site, Glace Bay withdrew it's application and it was moved by Bernie Bowne, Seconded by John Rose that the 1983 Reunion be held at Legion Branch 8 in SYDNEY MINES and the motion carried.

Treasurer Angus D. MacLeod (MM) gave the financial report which indicated that we are in a sound financial position, being able to meet all our current obligations with a bank balance on hand for any unforeseen emergency. This is a tribute to those of you who are so generous with your 'Kitty' donations along with your regular dues payments.

One of the more difficult tasks of my office in the Assoc., is keeping the Membership Roll up to date and it grieves me to make the necessary deletions when death takes one of us. I have to report, in this issue, the following who have passed on since our last Newsletter:-

Allie Wood (MM)	Charles Nicholson	Harold Watters
Jack Serroul	Tony Marinelli	Tommy Campbell
Alf Bonnar	Malcolm 'Mockie' MacLeod	

Allie and I were neighbors growing up and both were introduced to a uniform in Frank Christie's Bugle Band, then into the Militia(CBH) and Highlanders from day one. I know that each of the above held a special place in the heart of at least one you as we say a silent prayer for the repose of their souls. May they rest in peace.

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Good news is the order of the day from the following;

Lt.Col. Angus Norman and Helen MacDonald celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary this past summer and both are well. Speaking of the 'Quarter Stores' RQMS Henry Cantwell was in touch with me by phone. Henry is wellbut his wife laid up for a time. His famous laugh is still hale & hearty. Dan Palliase is a regular at our Reunions and as a former quite famous marathoner, he has had a Marathon named in his honoe. RSM Ralph Diplock's health continues to improve and chances are good that we'll see him in Sydney Mines next summer. Pete Leclair from P.E.I. tells me his ulcer was acting up this summer, no doubt brought on from the many toasts at the wedding in the family??? Had a nice note from Mel Silver along with his 1983 duce. Jim Clancy now resides in Kelowna, B.C. and wonders if threare any CBH'ers about. I must thank Ron Hawkins for the interesting letter and the enclosed photos of some of his paintings. Showed them at the last meeting Ron and the members were very impressed. Redvers Campbell was in town in October (from B.C.) attending his Father's 100th bithday. I'm sad to report that the elderly gentleman died a couple of weeks ago. Bernie Shaw's wife, (War Bride) passed away a week ago. Please accept our condolences Redvers and Bernie. 'Stocks' MacDonald wrote me in May to advise that he was in hospital, (cancer in one lung) nowever Ray MacDougall contacted him on his return from a visit with me and reports that Stocks has improved quite a bit. We are pleased and our hope is for continued improvement. Ray, by the way flew in from Ottawa to take a very active part in the dedication of a MacDougall Clan Cairn at Broad Cove. He bragged in a letter about his Nephew winning a TORY seat in the Federal By-election in Northern Ont. Joe Briffitt was at death's door awhile back but met him at the Sterling Mall and he says he figures to be around for quite a time yet.

The photos in our Newsletter are courtesy of Bill Urquhart, the very able Inspector of the Sydney Police. 'Black' Mick MacDonald is a S/Sgt with the same Dept. The Late Charlie Nicholson was the third CBH'er on the staff.

Cape Breton Highlanders Hold Reunion

GLACE BAY — "We who have survived a war will never forget it and we will never forget the men we fought with," Bill Butler said in an address at the 13th annual reunion held by the Cape Breton Highlanders Association.

Butler, now the District Manager with the Department of Development, Sydney, was the youngest member of the outfit to be promoted sergeant in the line. "We cherish the memory of having belonged to a group of manly men . . . the CBH. In fact the motto inscribed in Gaelic on our hat badge was 'Sìol Na Fear Fearail', meaning 'Breed Of Manly Men'."

Butler said their unit saw some of the heaviest fighting of the last war. "We were moulded in the crucible of war. We became a close group, so close to each other as only men who fought together can be. We saw many of our pals severely wounded and we also saw close friends die."

If those who were not there asked each of us what they remembered vividly about the war, we would seldom mention the death and dying, but rather the bonds formed between men at war . . . bonds formed by danger and hardship.

Mr. Butler read the following

passage from "The Maple Leaf", the Canadian Armed Forces Paper, published in Italy, September 26, 1944: "Cape Breton Lads Crack Ridge Line":

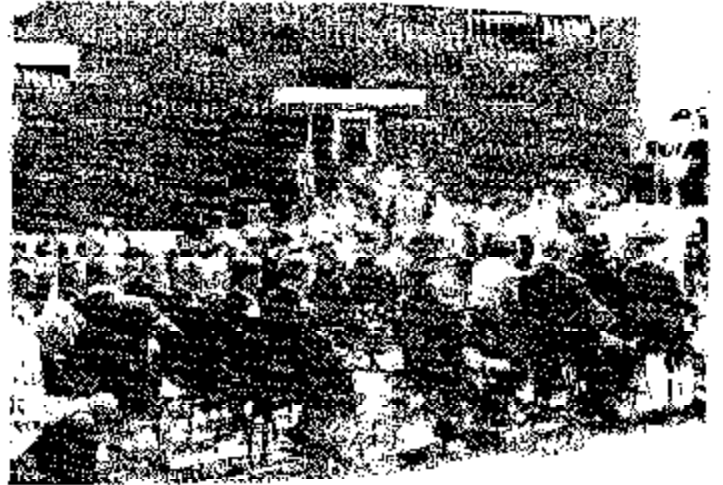
Highland Unit, prominent in Coriano fracas, overcomes rough opposition to push hung from Hills, South of Rimini. They were dog-tired, dirty, battle worn but mighty proud. No guardsman stepped with smarter tread than these Cape Breton Highlanders as their added pipe band piped them out of battle the night of September 14.

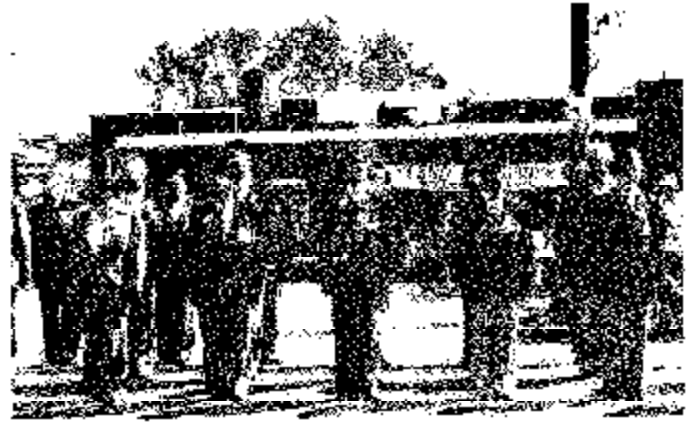
They had reason to be proud. They had battled for seventeen days from Moody Hill 120, their first objective to the tough German Gothic Line . . . to the graveyard feature of St. Andrea, and their final success a major role in the storming and capturing the Coriano sector on the Canadian right flank. It was this feat that helped pave the way for the Marano River crossing and the driving of German forces from Fortunato ridge.

Few men of the unit will forget the storming of Coriano in the Misty Black hour of 1:30 a.m. September 13. Incidents were both grim and humorous. Through intense mortar and artillery fire, com-

pany after company worked their way up the right slope towards Coriano as an Ontario regiment went up on the left.

This article, Mr. Butler said helped to convey in written form a report on one of our major victories in battle.





The Cape Breton Highlanders Association

