



PROJECT BLUE PUTTEES REPORT

MEMORIAL PLAQUE HONOURING 48TH HIGHLANDERS INSTALLED IN ORTONA'S CANADIAN HEROES SQUARE



On Christmas Eve, December 24, 2021, the city of Ortona, Italy installed a memorial plaque to those 48th Highlanders who served in the Battle for the Liberation of Ortona, during December 1943. The 48th plaque was sponsored by the Highlanders Foundation, created at the invitation of Leo Castiglione, the mayor of Ortona. There are two other 48th Highlander plaques located within Ortona: One in the City Hall Council Chambers, and the other as part of the Canadian exhibit in the Muba 43 Museo, "The Little Stalingrad Museum". The new plaque was installed opposite the First Nations of Canada memorial plaque on the base of the Price of Peace monument in Ortona's Canadian Heroes Square. This base was partially constructed from rubble recovered from buildings destroyed during the battle for Ortona's freedom. On December 28, which is celebrated as the day the German Army withdrew from occupying Ortona Mayor Leo Castiglione laid a wreath at the memorial in a ceremony of remembrance. This is the most recent plaque commemorating the 48th Highlanders to be placed in Italy and accompanies others installed in Florence, Rome, Palermo, Assoro and Pachino.

photo credits Angela Arrone
layout and design Linda Prosh and Jean Miso

Project Blue Puttees was established in the summer of 2012 by 48th Highlanders Old Comrades Association, Life Members Jim Cassie (Chairman) Tommy Thompson, John Dunn, Gord Smith, and John Newman to facilitate the participation of the Old Comrades Association in certain projects in conjunction with 2013 initiative marking the 70th Anniversary of OP HUSKY (the allied invasion in Sicily) created by Steve Gregory and supported by Blake Goldring and Canada Company. Blue Puttees most important participation in this project was the establishment and creation of the Canadian display in the military museum in Catania and the installation of 48th Memorial plaques in the town of Assoro Council Chambers, the English Church in Palermo and the former Nazi headquarters, now the high school, in Pachino. JBN

