



# THE FALCON

ISSUE NO. 15

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE 48TH HIGHLANDERS OF CANADA REGIMENTAL FAMILY

FALL 2008

## SICILY AND ITALY - 65 YEARS ON

### PACHINO DAY 2008

By Luke Hendry

The Intelligencer (Belleville); 12 July 2008

Luke Hendry's grandfather, Pte. A.T. (Bert) Hendry, served with the 48th after joining in 1939. Luke would like to hear from anyone who knew his grandfather. He can be reached at 613-962-9171 x 222 or lhendry@intelligencer.ca

It is a part of history forgotten by many but never by those who were there.

Veterans of the Second World War's Italian campaign gathered Tuesday morning at the Belleville Armoury to mark the 65th anniversary of their sea borne invasion of Sicily (officially known as Operation Husky) near the town of Pachino on the islands southeastern tip.



"I never go any day without thinking about what we did in Italy," said Bill DeHarte, a Hamilton resident and spry veteran of Toronto's 48th Highlanders infantry regiment who said he is "only 93."

Still bound by their common service, veterans gather every July 10, known as Landing in Sicily Day or Pachino Day. Together

...CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



Frank Currie, Herb Pike, George Stock, John Allen, Gord Outhwaite, Tommy Thompson.

### ITALIAN CAMPAIGN DISPLAY OPENED AT JUNO BEACH MUSEUM IN NORMANDY

By HCol Geordie Beal

On May 17 this spring I was honoured to participate in the opening of a display at the Juno Beach Museum in Normandy, France featuring the Canadian efforts in the Italy in the Second World War. The display, planned to be at the museum from May this year through September 2009, is entitled "The Canadians in Italy". A visitor brochure states:

*The Story of the Sicily and Italy Campaigns with the 1st and 5th Canadian Divisions from 1943 to 1945*

*To mark the 65th Anniversary of the landings in Sicily, and to honour*

...CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

### IRON TALON - I & II

In a series of Exercises called IRON TALON I, and IRON TALON II, soldiers from 32 Canadian Brigade Group deployed to CFB Borden and LFCA TC Meaford as part of a Battle Group Exercise. The Battle Group was led by Lieutenant-Colonel Andrew Paterson, CO of the 48th Highlanders. The artillery, engineers, reconnaissance and logistical troops were prepositioned in LFCATC Meaford, while the infantry companies were dispatched from CFB Borden to missions in the training area



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## A MESSAGE FROM THE CO

It is with some sadness that I write this article, as it will be the last time I make a submission to *The Falcon* as the Commanding Officer. On Friday October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2008, I will be handing over command of Canada's finest Regiment.

Despite being warned that my term as Commanding Officer would fly by, I have to admit to still being caught off guard how fast three and half years have passed. Commanding the 48<sup>th</sup> Highlanders of Canada has been privilege that I will keep with me for my whole life.

Over the last few years, the Regiment has demonstrated, both by the actions of individual Highlanders and as a unit, that it is second to none. Although I can't possibly acknowledge all the successes, I would like to mention a few of them.

Individually, we have had a number of Highlanders who have served or are serving overseas in the last three years, all of whom have brought credit to the Regiment through their professionalism and bravery. Corporal Adrian Markowski, who was recently presented with the Medal of Bravery for his actions while in Afghanistan, is an example. Two others are Captains Ron Alkema (then a Chief Warrant Officer), and Allan Best. Each of them were awarded a Commander's Commendation for their outstanding professionalism while on deployment - the Chief of the Defence Staff (CDS) Commendation and the Canadian Expeditionary Forces Command (CEFCOM) Commander's Commendation respectively.

As a unit, the Regiment has also demonstrated its skill and proficiency. For the last two years, the active battalion has organized and led an advanced urban operations training exercise in Fort Drum, New York. And last year, in that location, we became the first and only unit in 32 Brigade Group to have our soldiers conduct live fire training, with 'four man stacks' in an urban environment. The

success of the battalion's performance has not gone unrecognized. As I mentioned in the last issue of *The Falcon*, during the past year the Regiment was selected, not only to lead a training Battle Group (BG A), but also to command the composite Brigade Battle Group (BG 32) for the exercises that mark the culmination of the Brigade's training year. This was the first and only time that one unit was selected to lead both of these Battle Groups at the same time. It is because of the dedicated efforts of the entire Regiment, that we have been able to achieve these successes.

The achievements of these individual Highlanders and of our soldiers serving together as a Unit have made me both proud and honoured to command the Regiment throughout the past three years.

*DILEAS GU BRATH*

*ANDREW DC PATERSON, CD  
LIEUTENANT COLONEL  
COMMANDING OFFICER. 🇨🇦*

## OUR 48<sup>TH</sup> CURRENTLY SERVING IN AFGHANISTAN

<b>Sgt Doyle</b>	<b>Cpl Hum</b>
<b>Cpl Bradley</b>	<b>Cpl Jaskiewicz</b>
<b>Cpl David</b>	<b>Cpl Kowalenko</b>
<b>Cpl Dominique</b>	<b>Cpl Alban</b>
<b>Cpl Frank</b>	<b>Capt Martinis</b>

If you would like to contribute to future issues, please e-mail your stories and pictures to:

**falcon\_newsletter@hotmail.com**

*Thank you to all those who made submissions to this issue.*

This issue of the Falcon published by:

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**www.adambernard.ca**



## A MESSAGE FROM THE RSM

Since the last issue of the Falcon, several key events have occurred. I was pleased to see that 180 members of Regiment and their friends attended the Regimental Ball. These numbers assure us a place at the King Edward again next year, hopefully in the famed Crystal Ballroom.

This past spring, the Active Battalion planned and conducted the highly praised 'Iron Talon' series of exercises. Their efforts were so effective that they were praised for the great results that they achieved by all other units in the Brigade. I would say that this was a feather in our cap, however superior professional results are consistently expected from the 48<sup>th</sup> and, as always, we delivered on time and on target, as a matter of course.

The launch of operation "Highlander Home Front," for the troops deploying on Task Force Afghanistan 03-08, took place in June. It was well attended and raised approximately \$800 for 'care' packages to be sent to our soldiers overseas. Events such as this are vital in the support of our troops. Their success illustrate the definition of 'Dileas.'

Due to changes in regulations, the Turner Shoot cannot be run anymore but has evolved into 'Exercise Highland Stryker.' Several members of the CSA and OCA got to demonstrate their untarnished skill with the new weapons at a range day in CFB Borden. They were invaluable to me in illustrating the character-building value of military service to several civilian employers in attendance.

The Regimental Picnic and annual warrior days parade were great successes for unit.

I hope to see everyone at our Regimental events this fall.

*DILEAS GU BRATH*

*P.W.G. McINTYRE, CD  
CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER  
REGIMENTAL SERGEANT MAJOR. 🇨🇦*

# HONOURS & AWARDS 2008



## BGen Young - US Legion of Merit<sup>1</sup>

### Pentagon Honours For a Former Commanding Officer

On June 24th, 2008 at The Pentagon in Washington DC, Brigadier-General Gregory Young OMM, CD was decorated by the US Government for “exceptionally meritorious service” in Afghanistan. BGen Young is a former Commanding Officer of The Regiment (1989-1992); former Commander of 32 CBG (1997-2001) and of LFCA (2005) and while on tour he served as The Deputy Commanding General of Combined Security Transition Command – Afghanistan US CENTCOM. Headquartered in Kabul, BGen Young’s ANSF Police Directorate operated in every Region and Province of Afghanistan.

The presentation ceremony was held at The Pentagon and presided over by The Secretary of The Army, Mr Geren and Under Secretary of Defense, Mr McHale in the presence of numerous Pentagon Officials, representatives from the Canadian Embassy and a number of US Army Officers and NCOs who had served with BGen Young in Afghanistan.

By Act of Congress, the President may award The Legion of Merit to personnel of friendly foreign nations who have distinguished themselves by exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service”. In terms of precedence, The Legion of Merit is between the Silver and Bronze Stars.

The abbreviated citation for BGen Young’s award reads as follows:

“The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, has awarded The Legion of Merit (Degree of Officer) to Brigadier-General Gregory. A. Young, Canadian Army, for exceptionally meritorious service while serving as Deputy Commanding General, Combined Security Transition Command- Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom from November 2006 to June 2007. General Young worked tirelessly with the Afghan National Security Forces to establish a legitimate, loyal, and fully capable National Police Force, which was essential to establishing the rule of law, extending the Government of Afghanistan’s legitimacy, and transitioning the nation to a viable democracy. Brigadier-General Young’s performance of duty in a combat zone reflects great credit upon himself, Combined Security Transition Command- Afghanistan, The United States Central Command, the Canadian Army and his country.”

Brigadier-General Young retired from the Canadian Forces in August 2007 after 43 years service.

## Colonel GR Elms (Geordie) - Meritorious Service Medal<sup>2</sup>

The Meritorious Service Medal (military division) recognizes a military deed or activity that has been performed in a highly professional manner or of a very high standard that brings benefit or honour to the Canadian Forces.

Colonel Elms is presently serving in Israel and will therefore have to return home for the presentation ceremony by the Governor General.

## Capt (former CWO) Ron Alkema - Chief Of The Defence Staff Commendation<sup>3</sup>

HAS BEEN AWARDED THE CDS COMMENDATION FOR LEADERSHIP AND PROFESSIONALISM AS A MILITARY ADVISOR IN TASK FORCE FREETOWN, SIERRA LEONE, DEC 06 TO JUN 07

DETAILS OF THE AWARD

CFAO 18-17 -- CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE STAFF COMMENDATION

GENERAL

1. The Chief of the Defence Staff (CDS) Commendation may be awarded to any member of the Canadian Forces (CF) who has performed a deed or activity that is considered beyond the demands of normal duty. It may also be awarded to a member of the armed forces of a country other than Canada for an achievement or for meritorious service that is of benefit to Canada or the CF.

DESCRIPTION

2. The CDS Commendation is a framed, gold-embossed scroll, inscribed with the member’s name and an appropriate citation, and signed by the CDS.

INSIGNIA

3. The insignia for the CDS Commendation is a gold bar with three conjoined maple leaves, derived from the device in the base of the Arms of Canada. The insignia is worn on the uniform in accordance with A-AD-265-000/AG-001, CF Dress Instructions.

## Capt Best - Canadian Expeditionary Force Command Citation (CEFCOM)

“Captain Allan Best deployed to Afghanistan with the 2nd Battalion, the Royal Canadian Regiment Battle Group as the Information Operations Officer from January to August 2007. Building on intelligence tools used in other theatres of operation, he adapted and integrated the use of wireless text messaging to expand the employment of Information Operations within the Canadian Battle Group and coalition forces. His dedication and success with innovative methods for message delivery have enhanced the effectiveness of the Canadian Forces operation in Joint Task Force Afghanistan.”

Sgt Dewar, C.R - CD<sup>4</sup>

Cpl Avdagic - CD

Lt Graves - CD

Maj McEwen - CD

Pte Sajgalik - CD

Capt Tsuchiya - CD



**PACHINO DAY 2008 ...CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

they celebrate the achievements and remember the loss of life of an often ignored, forgotten, or simply unknown campaign.

Three Canadian units the local Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment, the 48th, and the Royal Canadian Regiment (RCR) were part of the multi-national invasion.

Veterans from all three regiments were at Tuesday's service at the Armoury cenotaph, though only the Hasty P and 48th contingents had veterans of the actual landing among them.

"All those troops that were in Sicily and Italy were nearly forgotten. Even now when things come up, nothing happens," said Wellington's George Stock, a Toronto native who also served with the 48th.

"They called us the D-Day Dodgers," Stock said.

The veterans and their families, however, make a point every July 10 of gathering to remember those who died and to revive the



camaraderie of those days.

Stock recalled long years of training in the United Kingdom. When the 48th boarded a troop ship in Scotland, he said, "we still didn't know where we were going."

The unit did a practice landing on the Scottish coast, then re-boarded the ship. It wasn't until they were nearly at their final destination that they were told where they would be landing.

"They seemed to be pretty happy," Stock said. "You know, when you spend all that time in England doing nothing. You feel a little bit uncomfortable, not that much, but you wonder what's going to happen."

Many of the Canadians had never before seen combat, and wouldn't get much relief from it until two years later, when the Allies defeated the Axis powers of Germany, Italy and Japan.

The Operation Husky soldiers would eventually fight their way northward through



**Mid morning of the landing at Pachino, 10 July 1943.**

LCI's (Landing Craft Infantry) remain ground on sandbars as smaller craft begin to transfer supplies after the 1st Brigade moved inland. On the beach are an anti-tank gun, trucks, a bull and one of the few personnel carriers offloaded before the ships dispersed under an air attack, taking with them the regiment's equipment and personal kitbags. Through the entire Sicilian campaign, the 48th who took pride in their uniforms and had been nicknamed the "Glamour Boys" by the other battalions in the brigade, fought in what they wore and without their carriers. Their kit caught up on 6 August.

much of western Europe.

But for now, some of the few remaining veterans keep marching.

For many years they had gathered in Orillia, Ont. for the annual D-Day Dodgers Parade. The final parade was held earlier this summer; 48th veteran John Allan said too few of his peers remain to carry on the tradition.

During Thursday's service, Padre Sid

Horne paid tribute to Canadian veterans of all conflicts and told them their service and their fallen friends will not be forgotten.

He added, however, that the fight continues.

"We pray to almighty God that there will eventually be a true peace," said Horne.

Veteran DeHarte said he and others can't forget their fight through Italy. "Nobody does who's been through that." 🇨🇦



*A Highlander Vet at the Kincardine Fair (submitted by Laurie and Doug Bradshaw of Port Hope Ontario) This is 91 year old Phil Ward of Toronto, standing beside a carrier just like the one he drove through Sicily and Italy during World War II as a 48th Highlander. It was displayed as part of the Kincardine Fair on the August long weekend. There were two military history buffs who listened intently as Phil described what it was like to operate one of these vehicles. He spoke about removing the metal seats and replacing them with sand bags. "To make it more comfortable", he was asked. "Hell no," he said, "to keep from getting your a\_\_ blown off by a landmine!" He was also ready to take it for a spin around the field. He said he didn't need a key as there was an auxiliary start switch under the seat.*

# REGIMENTAL ACTIVITIES PHOTO GALLERY 2008



06/01/2007 10:11

Photos by  
Sgt Vienneau



**CHURCH PARADE, 1 JUNE 2008**



06/01/2007 09:08



Lt Zang 'Asia Pl Com'



Wo Kwok 'Asia Pl Com'



Tac Shooting



# EXERCISE HIGHLAND STRYKER BORDEN, 7 JUNE 2008

Photos by  
Sgt Vienneau



06/07/2007 13:44



Cpl Lewis



06/07/2007 19:02



Mcpl Corea



Sgt Westrop



Mcpl Corea



Lt Fisher



Cpl Moore



"LCol Patterson (R) and RSM McIntyre (L) welcome a group of civilian employers to Langemark Range on June 7th--as well as a rogues gallery of 1980's-90's vets from Charlie Company and Support Company. The old folks were awed by the excellence of modern Canadian kit and weapons, the delicious self-heating rations, and the skill and professionalism of our troops on the rappelling tower."



06/07/2007 17:24



Cpl Kwan

06/07/2007 20:50



06/07/2007 20:55

Cpl Miaco



06/08/2007 06:08

South Africa winners



# THE REGIMENTAL FAMILY PICNIC ACTON, 26 JULY 2008





at Meaford.

Soldiers of each company (A, B, and C Coy) took part in searches for weapons caches, and attacks against local insurgent elements at bridges and in villages. Over 500 personnel were in the Battle Group and overall almost 800 personnel were deployed as part of the training. 🐾

## WHY WE FIGHT:

By Cpl. Andrew Grenon  
(Contributed by Sgt Frank McKay)

I've often asked myself why we are here. Why my government actually agreed to send troops to this God-forsaken place.

There are no natural resources. No oil, gold, or silver. Just people.

People who have been at war for the last 40 plus years. People who want nothing more than their children to be safe. People who will do anything for money; even give their own life.

I look into the eyes of these people. I see hate, destruction and depression. I see love, warmth, kindness and appreciation.

Why do we fight? For in this country, there are monsters. Monsters we could easily fight on a different battlefield, at a different time. Monsters that could easily take the fight to us.

Surrounding these mud walls and huts is a country in turmoil. A country that is unable to rebuild itself. A country that cannot guarantee a bright future for its youth.

Why do we fight? Because, if we don't fight today, on THIS battlefield, then our children will be forced to face these monsters on our own battlefield.

I fight because I'm a soldier.

I fight because I'm ordered.

I fight, so my children won't have to.

CPL. ANDREW GRENON  
2 PPCLI  
KILLED IN ACTION NEAR  
KANDAHAR, AFGHANISTAN  
SEPTEMBER 3, 2008  
AGED 23

## 48TH HIGHLANDERS MUSEUM SURPLUS BOOK LIST

THESE BOOKS ARE FOR SALE, PLEASE CONTACT THE MUSEUM WEDNESDAYS OR THURSDAYS AT 416-596-1386 FOR INFORMATION.

64 Uniforms and Organization of the Imperial German Army 1900 - 1918  
Author - Stephans & Maddocks Price - \$ 25.00

692 The Great War in Europe, Vol. 3 Author - Cana  
Price - \$ 25.00

693 The Great War in Europe, Vol. 4 Author - Cana  
Price - \$ 25.00

694 The Great War in Europe, Vol. 5 Author - Cana  
Price - \$ 25.00

695 The Great War in Europe, Vol. 6 Author - Cana  
Price - \$ 25.00

1600 The Great War in Europe, Vol. 2 Author - Cana  
Price - \$ 25.00

1206 The Times History of the War Vol. 2  
Price - \$ 10.00

1207 The Times History of the War Vol. 6  
Price - \$ 10.00

1207 The Times History of the War Vol. 7  
Price - \$ 10.00

1225 The War Illustrated Vol. 1 Edited by J. A. Hammertol  
Price - \$ 10.00

1226 The War Illustrated Vol. 5 Edited by J. A. Hammertol  
Price - \$ 10.00

1227 The War Illustrated Vol. 4 Edited by J. A. Hammertol  
Price - \$ 10.00

1377 Canadian Expeditionary Force 1914 - 1919  
Author G. W. L. Nicholson Price - \$125.00

### THE ITALIAN CAMPAIGN

254 Sicily, Who's Victory - Author Martin Blumenson  
Price - \$ 10.00

1387 Sicily, Who's Victory - Author Martin Blumenson  
Price - \$ 10.00

### WORLD WAR TWO - GERMAN REFERENCE

1213 Weapons # 30, Hitler's Bodyguard SS Leibstandarte - Author Alan Wykes  
Price - \$ 10.00

687 Germany in Defeat - Author Count Chas De Souza  
Price - \$ 25.00

711 Blitzkrieg - Author F. O. Miksche Price - \$ 20.00

1129 Herman Goring, from Regiment to Fallschirmpanzerkorps - Authors R.S. Bender & G. A. Peterson  
Price - \$ 30.00

720 Hitler's Spies - Author David Khan  
Price - \$ 40.00

727 Rise and Fall of The Third Reich - Author W. L. Shirer  
Price - \$ 15.00

12 Waffen SS the Asphalt Soldiers - Author John Keegan  
Price - \$ 5.00

### WORLD WAR TWO - ALLIED REFERENCE

118 The Tools of War 1939/45 and a Chronology of Important Events - By Reader's Digest  
Price - \$ 10.00

165 Badges & Insignia of World War 2 Air Force - Naval - Marine, Author Guido Rosignoli  
Price - \$ 15.00

207 The Sands of Dunkirk - Author Richard Collier  
Price - \$ 15.00

324 A Few Excerpts from the Text of Return Via Dunkirk - Author Gun Buster  
Price - \$ 15.00

447 D Day - Author Brigadier Peter Young  
Price - \$ 20.00

1290 Europe Land Battles 1939 - 1943 Vol. 1  
Price - \$ 10.00

1291 Europe Land Battles 1939 - 1943 Vol. 2  
Price - \$ 10.00

1274 The Second Great War, A Standard History  
Price - \$ 10.00

1378 Dieppe 1942, Echos of Disaster - Author William Whitehead  
Price - \$ 20.00

1379 The Tools of War 1939/45 - Author Reader's Digest  
Price - \$ 10.00

1133 Mountbatten, Hero of Our Time, Author Richard Hough  
Price - \$ 15.00

1135 The Blast of War, Author Harold MacMillan  
Price - \$ 15.00

808 Tools of War 1939/45 Chronology - Reader's Digest  
Price - \$ 10.00

542 Montgomery, Author Alan Moorehead  
Price - \$ 15.00

545 Monty, His part in My Victory - Author Spike Milligan  
Price - \$ 15.00

543 Monty, A Life in Photographs - Author Brian Montgomery  
Price - \$ 15.00

546 Mountbatten - Author Philip Ziegler  
Price - \$ 15.00

728 The Sixth of June - Author Lionel Shapiro  
Price - \$ 15.00

the Canadians who served in the Italian Campaign, this exhibit presents a narrative in word and image of a lesser known part of Canada's war.

It describes five of the major battles in which the Canadians fought while showing the human experience of the war in Italy. It aims to impress upon the viewer the challenges faced by the Allies in Italy as they confronted a formidable enemy in a landscaped dominated by mountainous terrain and an infinity of rivers.

The Juno Beach Centre is a permanent museum on the beaches of Normandy telling the story of the Canadian landings on D-Day in France. Garth Webb, Chair of the museum and a veteran who landed on D-Day, believed that it was important for visitors, both Canadians and those from other countries, to know that Canada's contribution to the Second World War was more than just the D-Day landings and the battles in Normandy of 1944 and 1945. Mounted on the walls of the room for temporary exhibits



ABOVE: Terrain panel featuring battle tactics. Regalbuto is featured on the main panel. Assoro is on the side panel.

LEFT: Opening panel for 48th Highlander Display. A short history of 48th Highlanders with emphasis on the Italian campaign is on the right. On the left are newspaper articles from Toronto papers in 1943. In the background is a life size photo of Major Don Banton leading his company across the high plains in Sicily.

BELOW: HCol Geordie Beal prepares to cut the ribbon opening the Italian Campaign display. From left to right – Garth Webb, Mayor M. Frederic Pouille, HCol Beal, Mme Natalie Worthington.

the 48th participation central and iconic to the entire Italian campaign. Pictures accompanying this article in *The Falcon* clearly show the impact of the display.

At the opening ceremonies on May 17 I was honoured again, being asked both to make a few remarks to the dignitaries, guests and visitors, and to cut the ribbon to the exhibit. My remarks were simple. After

recognizing Garth Webb, Mme Worthington – Director of the Museum, and the Mayor of Couseulles-sur-Mer and introducing myself I began:

“It is an honour to represent not only my regiment but all those Canadians who served in the cause of democracy, of freedom and of the rights of the individual.

The 48th Highlanders are an infantry

are panels of copy, maps and photographs chronicling the Italian campaign. The visitor follows counterclockwise around the room beginning with the landings at Pachino in Sicily and ending with the river battles of the north.

As the visitor enters the first thing they see is a large self-standing exhibit in the middle of the floor explaining the lessons from the Sicilian campaign – the challenges of mountainous terrain and tropical heat – that would be faced by Canadian troops in the Italian mainland battles to follow. I had been asked to design this Sicilian lessons display by Eric McGeer, a history master at St. Clements School who was responsible for the balance of the Italian exhibit and by Colonel Fotheringham of 32 Brigade who had been appointed by Garth Webb to oversee the entire development. I was encouraged to feature the 48th Highlanders as Eric deemed





regiment. Since our formation in 1891 we have been a militia (or reserve) regiment, citizen soldiers if you will, who volunteer to serve our country and the Canadian values we hold dear. In 1939, just as in 1914, we were with the first Canadians to volunteer and with the first Canadians to come overseas. The 48th were in the 1st Brigade, one of three infantry brigades comprising the 1st Canadian Division, each made up from two reserve battalions and one regular force battalion.

For the 48th Highlanders, the Italian campaign was our campaign, from the landing in Sicily, through the battle for Ortona, the fortified defences of the Hitler line, the Gothic line and the Rimini line, to the river battles in the north. The 48th Highlanders were awarded 27 battle honours during the Second World War, 25 of these for

the Italian Campaign, the remaining two for the final liberation of The Netherlands.

The magnificent exhibit we are opening today has great depth on the Italian Campaign. It would be foolish of me to attempt to add to this. Rather, my comments will be personal, at the soldier level and at the family level. For I believe that it is the individual who makes history and it is the



individual to whom we can relate best.

My father was a Company Commander in Italy and The Netherlands with the 48th Highlanders. He went overseas when I was just 6 weeks old. He returned when I was 5 years and 2 weeks old. For these five long years he never returned home. But he kept close to home by writing, some 1058 letters. I know that there are 1058 letters as my mother gave them to me just a couple of

years ago, each carefully numbered by her in pencil. In one of these letters he talked about their long time apart. Let me read you a small portion:

*Don't take this as a sad letter because it isn't meant to be. I just wanted you to know how I feel about my two darlings and to let you know just one reason I am here and the main one. I hated to leave you when you needed me most but something drove me on and now it is beginning to come clear.*

*It is hard to put into words how one feels but some day we all have to leave this earth for a better world and when that day comes and we meet all that have gone before us and my ancestors ask me if I had carried on the fight for right I want to be able to say, "Yes I did" and take my rightful place with them. And some long, long day ahead my son will arrive and I want him to be able to say "Thanks dad, you made the world a better place for me to live in." If I didn't do my duty he might just look at me and walk away. Because my love if we don't win my son and you will have no peace or happiness on earth. I love my family and my freedom and my right to do as I want.*

And so, today as you go through the exhibit, look at the pictures of the soldiers. See how young they were. See how vital they were. See how committed they were to the values we treasure today. And say a silent "thank you" to each and every one of them as I do to my father.

Then go home to Canada or to whatever country you call home and look around at the young soldiers in today's armed forces. See how young they are. See how vital they are. See how committed they are to the values that were passed on by our fathers. And say a loud and a public "thank you" to each and every one of them that you meet."

As I made these remarks I would stop at the end of each paragraph, so that the French translator they had provided (my French not being up to the challenge) could repeat the paragraph in French. This went well until I read the excerpt from my father's letter. The translator began but soon stopped. I turned to see why. He had reached into his pocket for a large handkerchief and was wiping tears from his eyes. The impact in the audience was just as profound. My dad would have been proud that his beliefs held such meaning to such an audience, 64 years after he had written them. 🇨🇦

TOP: Climate and First Aid panel. In the background of the main panel Pipe Major Andy Anderson leads troops through a dusty village. In the side panel Lt.Col. Ian Johnston checks his map.

MIDDLE: Artifact display case for Climate Panel. This case was designed to represent 303 Enfield ammo boxes.

BOTTOM: display case for Terrain Panel. The case was designed to represent a stack of bren gun chests. It copies the original in the 48th museum.



## FROM THE 48TH ARCHIVES EVENTS IN AUTUMNS PAST

By HCol Geordie Beal

**105 Years Ago** – On 30 September 1903, ordered by Ottawa to Sault Ste Marie to deal with a riot by workers at the Consolidated Lake Superior Company, soldiers of Militia District 2 boarded two trains in Toronto. Three militia units, the 48th Highlanders, the Queen's Own Rifles and the 10th Royal Grenadiers, sent 70 men and three officers each. A platoon from the 2nd RCRI and 30 mounted Dragoons from the regular army rounded out the force. Dressed in "Greatcoats folded over the left shoulder, leaving sidearms bared" and with low impact "gallery" ammunition in addition to regular rounds, they were prepared to face 3500 angry workers and another 600 rumoured to be coming by train. Disembarking in Sault Ste Marie they were assigned to guard the workshops, the jail holding arrested rioters and company-owned properties. Either the presence of soldiers cooled tempers or the threat had been inflated by local authorities as the contingent returned to Toronto just two days later.

**90 Years Ago** – As the summer of 1918 reached its mid-point the Canadian Corps were called from their stand to, in which they had been resting and preparing since late March. Designated as shock troops they were to spearhead the autumn attacks now that the Germans had been stopped. The 15th Battalion would be in the thick of the advance, supported by tanks and fighting for the first time away from the mind-numbing, body-punishing life of trench warfare. Speed would become their standard as the soldiers revelled in taking greater initiative and decisions on the ground.

**. Amiens: 8-9 August** – In the pre-dawn darkness of August 8 three Canadian Divisions, flanked by the French and the Australians, prepared an assault at Amiens. They had assembled in total secrecy, moving at night and hiding by day. As British planes circled above, masking the sound of tanks moving into final position, the 3rd Brigade stood at the point of the wedge with the 15th Battalion in close support behind their centre. At 0420 hours they were off, closed up to a thundering barrage. As positions fell the 15th Battalion cleaned out bypassed pockets of Germans then moved independently to assist lead battalions whenever they bogged down. By 0830 the Brigade was on objective, 5000 metres from the start line. There they watched the last cavalry battle of the war as thousands

swept in squadrons after a retreating enemy. Day two saw a rapid advance up the Luce Valley, driving a beaten enemy before them. By night the Canadian Corps had captured 180 square kilometers, penetrated 23 kilometres, defeated over 11 German divisions and taken 9131 prisoners.

**. Drocourt-Queant Line: 1 September** – The D-Q line, the last major German trench defence, was protected by The Crow's Nest, a promontory shaped like Gibraltar that gave the Germans incomparable fields of fire over the approaches. The 15th Battalion was charged to take The Crow's Nest before the Division attack on the D-Q Line the next day. They advanced alone in complete darkness, following a rolling barrage that crashed into the night. Their two-company front swept the hill clear and follow-up platoons set a flank defence just as dawn rose. Their success had another dimension. Throughout the war most battles were at brigade, division or even corps level. Normally individual battalions were just part of the greater whole. The Crow's Nest was unique. It was the 15th Battalion's alone and it set the stage for the fall of the D-Q line. Flushed by their success the night before, the 15th Battalion rejoined to attack with the rest of the 3rd Brigade, as battalion leapfrogged battalion to race 1000 metres beyond the flanking brigades for a total advance of 6000 metres.

**. Canal du Nord: 27 September** – The last great advance was a Canadian Corps attack. The corps was funneled first into a mere 2400 metres bottleneck as they crossed the canal on improvised bridging. The challenge then was to spread out across an imposing 13,000 metre front. The 15th Battalion, as the third leapfrog for their Brigade, jumped off at 0820 hours. As the battalion progressed, strong German positions, by-passed by the speed of the corps advance, attacked them from two sides. Confusion reigned as German reinforcements arrived so the 15th wheeled and dealt with them without assistance. Then, infiltrating the town of Sains-les-Marquion through fields of wire enfiladed by machine guns, they arrived – but at their start line, supposedly clear of enemy. Clearing the town, the 15th grimly advanced beyond the town, staying in open order until they had cleaned out every opposition hole by hole and gully by gully to consolidate on their final agreed objective.

**. Armistice: November 11** – The end of the war was announced to the 15th Battalion at their station in the town of Somain. The CO, Lt. Col. Girvan, read out the order at 0930 hours – no speeches, just: "Hostilities will cease at 11 hours today."

As their contribution to the war the 48th Highlanders had raised and trained close to 5000 soldiers: 3 full battalions– 15th, 92nd and 134th and, the equivalent of a fourth as reinforcements for other battalions including the 92nd, 19th, 58th, 74th and 73rd.

The war time establishment of the 15th Battalion was 1170 men. 48th Highlanders killed in action totaled 1467 - 61 Officers and 1406 Other Ranks.

**65 Years Ago** – After driving the Germans out of Sicily in the summer of 1943, the 1st Canadian Division moved on 3 September across the Straits of Messina to land at Reggio. With the Germans retreating at maximum speed, blowing up bridges and mountain-side roads as their rear-guard tactic, Able Company of the 48th Highlanders and the armour of the Princess Louise Dragoon Guards joined as a newly invented formation dubbed the "Jock Column". They were sent to race after the Germans, ranging far forward on their own initiative in bold, long-range patrols in force. Finally, at the end of the month, General Kesselring stopped the German retreat and set his 20 Divisions to fight from prepared positions stretching on a line south of Rome between the Tyrrhenian and the Adriatic Seas. In the Italian campaign that year the 48th earned 7 more battle honours.

**. Campobasso: 3 October** – As the rains of winter began, the 1st Brigade began the advance to Campobasso. Tactics learned in Sicily came to the fore with companies looping around German positions or secretly occupying dominant ground. Fighting was described as "sharp". It was here that the 48th established a trademark in the Brigade, that of 48th companies taking objectives on time and on plan. Even platoons operated independently. Closing on Campobasso, Lt. Blair Eby and his Charlie Company platoon destroyed a rear German position with a rapid in and out raid under long range cover fire of Sherman tanks. Their attack, timed to an assault by the rest of the Battalion well to the south, left eight times the dead and injured of the enemy. Eby won the Military Cross.

By the end of October the Official Historian recorded: "Most depleted of the infantry battalions was the 48th Highlanders, which had lost 26 killed and 70 wounded, striking evidence of the exacting nature of the routine infantry task."

**. The Gully: 18 December** – Following the successful crossing of the Moro river on 8 December to capture a ridge between La Torre and San Leonardo in which the 48th led as part of a two battalion attack then for a four day period operated as company units simultaneously attacking, defending and

supporting as the Brigade consolidated, the 48th were called on again. Four attempts by the Division to cross a ravine dubbed "The Gully" had failed. The 48th, followed by the RCR, were to swing behind the division around the end of the ravine and strike northeast, opening the way to Ortona. Behind the Brigade's first set-piece battle of the war and a rolling barrage the 48th attacked. Their formation was two-up, one back with the Commanding Officer, Lt. Col. Ian Johnston, perched on his jeep in the open behind the three lead companies. Johnston's intent was to "read the battle" to bring force to bear when and where needed. Personal exposure was merely the necessary result. The forth company followed closely. Closed up tight to the rolling barrage the troops moved in total control, using only hand signals in the din. So swift was their advance that the rear company faced German formations rising intact from their trenches, stunned by the barrage while the lead companies passed. The battalion consolidated on time and in place. Colonel Johnston was awarded the DSO, which he accepted as recognition of his men.

Tragically, an attempt by the Brigade to repeat the success that afternoon with the RCR met disaster. Unable to pre-site artillery, and using obsolete Italian maps, the barrage fell fully on the RCR. Killed were their CO, 2IC, two company commanders and all but a dozen men in each of the two lead companies.

**. Cemetery Hill: 23 to 28 December**  
– With the 2nd Brigade locked in a building-by-building struggle for Ortona the 48th were called to create a threat to the north-west to pressure the Germans into pulling out. The CO chose to infiltrate a full 1200 metres behind the German lines. They did it alone, at night, in single file, each man holding the hand of the next, on a goat path, bypassing or silently taking German positions. By the morning of 24 December they were dug in facing enemy on all four sides. For two days they beat off assaults as supplies, ammunition and batteries ran low. Then, 5 minutes before midnight of Christmas day, led by Capt. George Beal of the 48th, came a relief column of 150 Saskatchewan Light Infantry bearing supplies. They had repeated the single file trek along the goat path to deliver a Christmas present. They were sent back with thanks. The 26th saw the Germans attack again in strength. In response the 48th had the artillery follow them in, with final shelling by one gun right on the 48th trenches. Hand to hand combat drove the Germans back. Just as the 48th were preparing their defences for a repeat in the afternoon their IO, Lt. John Clarkson, who had boldly, and alone, returned along the goat path in full daylight, reappeared with three Shermans. The

CO immediately decided to go on the offensive to demoralize the Germans. Their improvised tactics were simple – Shermans first, shooting up the enemy, then drawing aside for a 48th charge. Casualties by the end of the day were: Germans killed or captured over one hundred and twenty; 48th Highlanders, eight.

During the night of 27-28 December the Germans withdrew from Ortona. Since crossing the Moro the 48th had suffered 248 battle casualties. 🇺🇸

## PIPES AND DRUMS

Pipe Major Iain Lang, CD

This summer was busy for the Pipes and Drums after a relatively quiet winter of training.

Over the winter we had three pipers complete their recruit training (BMQ). Two of them were students from the teaching nights held every Friday evening. After completing their BMQ Piper Colin Grattan also attained his QL 3 and 4 in piping at the School of Music at CFB Borden this summer. Jennifer McNabney also completed her SQ in August.

In March we hosted an Army Reserve Pipe Band conference that saw in attendance Pipe Majors, Drum Majors and other representatives from all but two authorized pipe bands from across Canada. The conference over the Easter weekend was a huge success and an excellent opportunity for the different band leaders to socialize and exchange ideas and information.

During first week of May the 48th Highlanders of Holland Pipes and Drums visited Canada for the first time. They have hosted our veterans and the bands several times during pilgrimages back to Holland. Everyone had an excellent night with them and they performed with us and visited our Messes during a practice night. Later, they also at the Dutch Days event, held at the Royal Botanical Gardens in Burlington, the sister city of Apeldoorn, and also visited Ottawa and played in several locations including the War Museum and the Dutch Embassy. It was great for many of us to be with them again and we hope to see them soon. Gaps of five to ten years are far too long.

In June we were asked to be one of three groups entertaining at the Sunny Brook Hospital Veterans Wing rededication with Prince Edward in attendance. The following evening, we performed after the premier of the critically acclaimed play titled "Black Watch" as part of the opening night of Toronto's Luminato festival. Following the end of the

play, we paraded the audience members from Varsity arena along Bloor Street to the ROM where the Luminato festival was hosting people from various other events that were part of the festival. The play is about the members of the Black Watch in Iraq. It was a hit and an event well worth the admission

In July, the Toronto Blue Jays had a Scottish Heritage game. Prior to the start of the baseball game, the 48th Military Band and Pipe Band provided music for Scottish country dancers and highland dancers. The short 15 minute performance was well received, especially by the Blue Jay organization, who said we were the most rehearsed and organized group to perform at any of the ethnic evenings they had so far held.

As has become a tradition, the Royal Regiment Band and our Pipes and Drums provided a combined show for the Fergus Scottish Festival Tattoo on the Friday evening of the festival weekend.

The following week we were in rehearsals from Wednesday to Saturday for the CNE Sunset Ceremony on Warriors Day (A total of seven rehearsals for a one hour show). Warriors Day was a long one for us. We performed in the Parade and then the finale with the QOR, 7th Toronto RCA and Royal Regiment Bands. That afternoon we rehearsed the sunset ceremony and then performed it in the evening. The show went well and organizers hope to see it become a regular feature of the CNE.

In September, we had representatives perform for the Toronto International Film Festival's opening night presentation of the Canadian war epic "Passchendaele" written, produced and starring Canadian actor Paul Gross. Two pipers performed at Roy Thompson Hall with the Royal Regiment Band prior to the showing of the film. Later, four pipers also performed on the Red Carpet at the Liberty Grand for the gala reception.

The coming fall months look to be equally as busy with our regular line-up of engagements: The Maple Leaf's home opener, RCMI Concert Oct 26, November 11th activities, the St Andrews Ball, and a the Regimental Change of Command on October 24th.

The band is also growing. We have several new members who started to come out to practice in September. Several of them are transferring in from other Regiments. We are also still teaching on Friday evenings and privately tutoring several students who may one day play with the band. The Pipes and Drums are strong and growing. 🇺🇸

## A TRIBUTE TO OUR PIPES AND DRUMS FROM THE GORDON HIGHLANDERS:

# MEMBERS OF 48TH PIPES AND DRUMS TO PLAY IN GORDON HIGHLANDER INTERNATIONAL BEATING RETREAT



*"The Military Band concludes a public performance at Black Creek Pioneer Village on 31 August"*

During the period July 29 – August 2, 2009 the Gordon Highlanders, in concert with the City of Aberdeen and the Aberdeenshire Council, will hold an International Beating Retreat. Five members of the 48th Highlanders Pipes and Drums will join a Pipe Band of 100 for the four day celebrations. The International Beating Retreat is Aberdeen's contribution to **Homecoming Scotland 2009** which celebrates the 250th anniversary of Robert Burns' birth with a year-long programme of events across Scotland.

The International Beating Retreat, being organized by the Gordon Highlander Museum, will celebrate the global footprint of one of the most famous Scottish regiments in British history. The Pipe Band consisting of Pipe Majors, Drum Majors, Pipers and Drummers will perform together under the direction of Captain (PM) Stuart Samson MBE and Capt (PM) Jim Stout MBE at four venues. Both Samson and Stout were Highlanders, Queen's Pipers and in charge of the Army School of Bagpipe Music. The Gordons hope to have 5 representatives from each of the Battalion Pipe Bands (Pipers and Drummers) of their affiliated regiments in Canada, Australia, South Africa, Germany and the Netherlands. The remaining 70 musicians will come from the Gordon's Regimental Family in the UK and Germany. This will be the first international reunion of its kind in the north of Scotland.

### ABERDEENSHIRE PROGRAM

Hundreds of thousands of visitors are expected to attend two major regional events – the Aboyne Highland Games and Tartan Day.

**THE ABOYNE HIGHLAND GAMES** will provide an exceptional context for the Gordons International Pipe Band with members of the Clan Gordon travelling from around the world to attend the games.

**TARTAN DAY** in Aberdeen will see the pipe band as the focal point of the town's program.

In addition, band members will participate in Huntly and at a Royal event at the Gordon Highlanders museum.

### DATES FOR THE BAND'S PROGRAM ARE:

July 30, 2009	Huntly (Aberdeenshire)
July 31, 2009	Gordon Highlanders Museum Royal event (Aberdeen)
August 1, 2009	Aboyne Gathering (Gordon Clan, Aberdeenshire)
August 2, 2009	Tartan Day (Aberdeen)

The Gordon Highlander Regimental Family, in its broadest sense, spans the globe and the six key nations represented at the International Beating Retreat will appeal to the international Gordon community. The Regiment has affiliated and associated organizations, clubs and pipe bands across the globe - formed by members of the regiment since its formation in 1794. These organizations and clubs are being encouraged to promote and attend the north-east of Scotland event.

The Gordon Highlanders served in every major theatre of war throughout its 200-year history and its legacy currently lives on through the current serving 4th Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland.

### A VACATION OPPORTUNITY OF A LIFE TIME

For all members of the 48th Highlanders Regimental family, and those of Scottish ancestry, Homecoming Scotland offers a once in a life-time opportunity. Organizations all over Scotland are planning Homecoming activities. From Orkney to Aberdeen, from Oban to the Scottish Borders, there will be a packed calendar of events from which to choose. Aberdeen and the Gordon Highlanders International Beating Retreat should be at the centre of the plans of all 48th Highlanders and members of the Clan Gordon.

For more information on Homecoming Scotland 2009 visit their web site at:

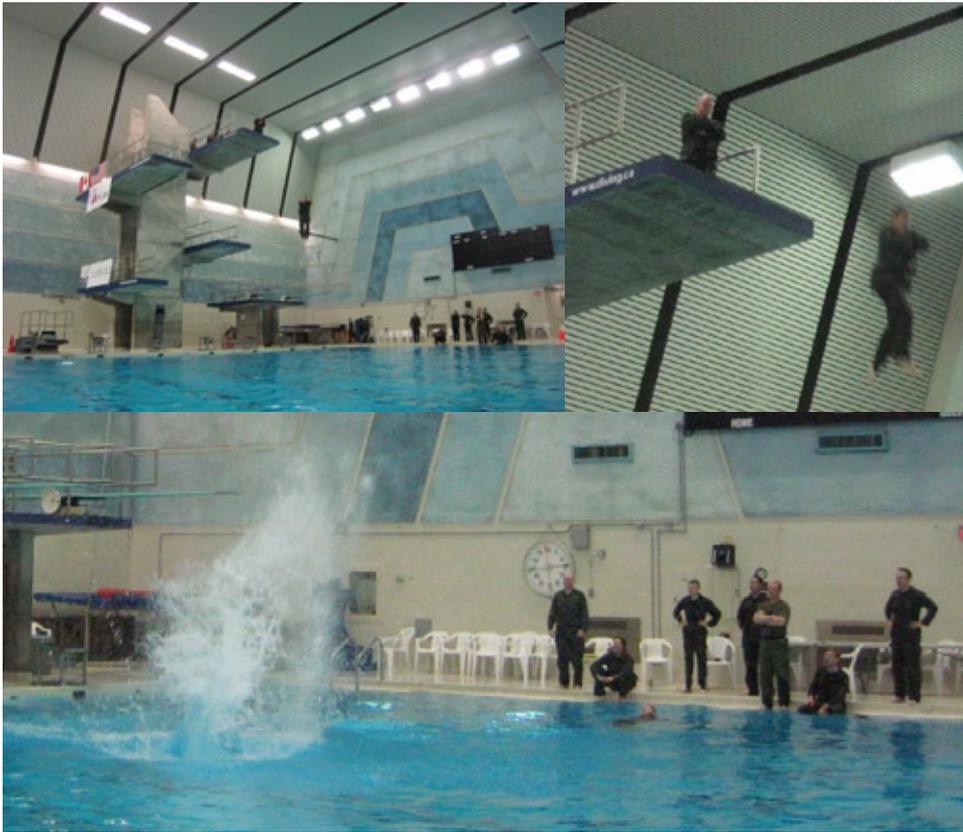
<http://www.homecomingscotland2009.com/>

Details on the Gordon Highlanders Beating Retreat will be on their museum web site once plans have been published by the Aberdeenshire Council.

<http://www.gordonhighlanders.com/> 

## LFC SWIM TEST – MAY 2008

Current members completing their LFC Swim Test in Etobicoke. This test is to ensure the soldiers can take care of themselves in the water before conducting operations in and around waterways.



## IODE FUND RAISER 48TH HIGHLANDERS CHAPTER IODE

By Regent Karen Barker

The 48th Highlanders IODE is actively raising funds to support our troops in Afghanistan. Through working with other parts of the Regimental family, we will be sending parcels overseas to our soldiers. IODE Canada is also very interested in ensuring all Canadian troops are remembered and supported through providing parcels etc. The National Chapter has commissioned a calendar honouring Canadian troops in combat and peacekeeping arenas. To support our troops, the 48th IODE is selling these calendars with the funds going towards parcels for our troops. These calendars are available, at a cost of \$10 each, through the chapter by emailing [karenbarker4@sympatico.ca](mailto:karenbarker4@sympatico.ca). We look forward to more announcements of upcoming events hosted by the chapter in support of our Regiment. 🇨🇦

### ALL HIGHLANDERS Past, Present And Future

A picture is to be taken of the Regiment on parade.  
Sunday 9 November 2008 @ Queens Park  
Before 10:00 hours



#### PACKAGES INCLUDE:

One Regiment picture (8x10) OR  
2 Personal photo's (5x7)  
(taken at MPA after the parade)

AND

CD of pictures of the day

**COST \$20**

Order & pay anytime before or on 9 November 2008  
Any questions contact **Sgt Hanson (aka Sgt Vienneau)** A Coy  
@ Home 416-488-8175

## WANTED!

### VOLUNTEERS FOR THE 48TH HIGHLANDERS MUSEUM.

This is a good way to meet people and learn about the history of this great Regiment.

Wednesdays or Thursdays.

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## SCHEDULE of the 48th Highlanders of Canada REGIMENTAL FAMILY

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	DRESS
17-19 Oct 08	Ex Aggressive Viper I	TBA	Cbts
24 Oct 08	Change of Command	MPA	Full Dress
7-9 Nov 08	Remembrance Weekend	MPA	Appropriate attire
21-23 Nov 08	DRT FIX	TBA	Cbts
12 Dec 08	Christmas Dinner	MPA	DEU
10 Jan 09	Ex Guiding Light	TBA	Cbts
16-18 Jan 09	Ex Aggressive Viper II	TBA	Cbts

## LAST POST

The following Highlanders passed away recently:

GILLHAM, Glenn Joseph	July 3, 2008	Newmarket	Ont.
CARNEGIE, Thomas John	July 23, 2008	Houston	Texas
LEEK, Bob	August 10, 2008	Toronto	Ont.
VIRAG, Wendel	August 25, 2008	Cobourg	Ont.
MACFARLANE, John Ibbotson Buchanan	August 30, 2008	Montreal	Ont.
PICKERING, John "Jack" Everett	September 4, 2008	Cobourg	Ont.



Friday, 24 October 2008  
Guests seated for 2000

## CHANGE OF COMMAND PARADE

The 48th Highlanders of Canada will be celebrating a change of Command Parade on Friday, 24 October 2008. Messes will be open after the Parade. Parking will be available to the rear of the building and along Queen St.

**48th Highlanders of Canada**

**Moss Park Armoury  
130 Queen St. East  
Toronto, Ontario**

**Battalion Orderly Room  
416-635-4440 ext 4931**

## IN MEMORIAM



*SGT BOB LEEK, 1953-2008  
Toronto Fire Service District Chief Bob Leek (former 48th Sgt) died Sunday August 10th, he was found without vital signs near the site of the massive propane explosion in northwest Toronto.*

## CONFINED TO BARRACKS

### 1) SUNNYBROOK HOSPITAL

#### — VETERANS WING

- John Jack Follett - K3W Room 88
- Nelson Liston - K3E Room 21
- Jim McCallen - K2E Room 33
- Bill Waterson - K1W Room 21

### 2) BAYCREST HOSPITAL

#### — 3560 BATHURST STREET

- Lloyd Tucker - 7th floor

### 3) SPECIAL CARE UNITS

- BILLINGS - Henry David,
- CARTER - Clifford W.,
- JACKSON - Keith (KC),
- McCRON - Don,
- WALKER - George
- BYATT, Syd

### 4) CONFINED AT HOME

#### — PROBLEMS GETTING AROUND

- COLTON - G.E.,
- FOREST - Ed,
- McKENNA - Jack,
- SOPER - Kenneth.

For addresses and/or telephone numbers of above Highlanders, please contact OCA President John Dunne at 905-839-6487 or john063@webtv.net

These Highlanders will be pleased to hear from you. Give them a call or better still, pay them a visit. Don't forget, they are Dileas, as are we.

