



## Monthly Article

March 2013

*As I have said many times in the past, it was my good fortune to be born both a Cape Bretoner and a Canadian. One of the greatest satisfactions of my life has been that I had the honour to serve in the second world war as a member of the Cape Breton Highlanders, known affectionately to us all as the CBH. Everyone cherishes a desire to belong to some group that instills a pride in one's heart.*

*Our Unit saw some of the heaviest fighting in the last war. We were moulded in the crucible of war. We became a close group; as 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.*

*But if those who were not there asked each of us what they remembered vividly about the war, we would seldom mention the death and the dying. What we remember were the bonds formed between men at war – bonds formed by danger and hardship.*

*I do not want to romanticize war because there is nothing romantic about it. But I am sure, you will agree, there is no denying the power of having experienced the many days of battle. You will recall that your emotions ran from the terror of battle to the emotional high of knowing you lived through the experience of the Second World War.*

*We who have survived a war will never forget it, and we will never forget the men we fought with.*

*We may have joined up to be patriotic but in the end I think we were fighting for our buddies.*

*We slept together, ate together, drank together, and we were there when they died.*

*That's comradeship; that's what never is forgotten.*

*When we remember the men we joined up with, we don't remember them dead – we remember them alive and laughing, on leave in London, Manchester, Brighton, Edinburgh, Glasgow – drinking in the pubs, stealing pigs and chickens in Italy, frying up a feed of "ovas and potats", drinking vino on route marches, and of course the occasional fight.*

*For some of us there is no forgetting the horrors. The war returns on sleepless nights, in jarring nightmares.*

*We cherish the memory of having belonged to "The Breed of Manly Men".*

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