

Press Release Photo Opportunities

Issued: 4th June 2010

Title: Highlanders take on the Caledonian Canal for Charity

Embargo: None

Synopsis: 8 Soldiers both serving and veterans are set to make an epic trip by Canoe up the Caledonian Canal for a services charity based at Fort George.

Release: 2 serving soldiers from 4SCOTS The Highlanders, Royal Regiment of Scotland, and 6 veterans of the Queens Own Highlanders are going to take on a gruelling mission to navigate the entire length of the Caledonian Canal, in a Bellboat.

The trip will take 2 days of blister inducing paddling, and will cover 60 miles from Fort William to Inverness. The Team are set to arrive back in Inverness on the 19th of June. The journey will include 4 of Scotland's largest Lochs, including Loch Ness, Loch Lochy, Loch Oich and Loch Dochfour.

The men are undertaking the challenge in support of the Highlanders' Museum at Fort George, who have embarked on a major fundraising campaign to upgrade their Museum, which tells the story of the Region's Army Regiments for the last 230 years including the present Battalion's recent operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The 8 Highland Laddies are being led by Inverness man, John Yarrick, who served for 22 years with the Queens Own Highlanders and 1 Highlanders, he said "We do a fundraising challenge every year for a charity which we all believe in. Two years ago it was the Red Cross when we mountain biked down the Great Glen. This year when we heard that our Museum needed our help we all decided to make them the beneficiary. We hope to make over £2,000 for the Museum's upgrade appeal. As soldiers, the water is not our natural environment, so we are very grateful to Mark Grant of the Sea Scouts who lent us the equipment and training we needed."

One member of the Team, Des Irvine, who works for local firm Lifescan Scotland, may benefit from their policy of encouraging their employees to support local charities by match funding donations raised for local good causes.

Anyone wishing to spur the Team on by making a donation can do so through the Highlanders Museum website www.thehighlandersmuseum.com .

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For further information or to arrange an interview, please contact: Peter Guthrie, Development Director, The Highlanders' Museum, Fort George, Near Inverness, 01667 460 466 www.thehighlandersmuseum.com

The Highlanders' Museum tells the history of the Highlanders Regiments for the last 230 years until the present day. It is home to the largest Regimental collection outside of London and attracts over 55,000 visitors per year.

Notes to Editor: **Photo opportunity – Friday 4th June, 19:00, Muirton Basin, Inverness, the Team will be together for a training session and are available for a photo by request.**