

## **The Highlanders' Museum-Title.**

The Trustees and The Museum Board understand the depth of feeling about the title of the Museum as the majority of us were Queen's Own Highlanders during all or part of our military service.

We issue this explanatory note to explain why the Museum is called 'The Highlanders Museum' and why we believe it is the right name.

The Museum collection is not just that of the Queen's Own **Highlanders** but that of the following Regiments whose soldiers it also commemorates:

The Seaforth **Highlanders**  
The Queen's Own Cameron **Highlanders**  
The **Highlanders**  
The Lovat Scouts

The majority name here is **Highlanders** and it was because of this that the current official title –**The Highlanders' Museum** -was agreed by the Trustees and the Museum Board. It is not titled 'The Highlanders Regimental Museum'.

Remember too that the Commanding Officer addressed the Battalion as 'Highlanders!' and that is what we shouted on the touchlines!

Since 1994 the museum has been regarded by the MOD as the official museum of The Highlanders and has thus received more MOD funding than The Gordon Highlanders' Museum in Aberdeen. To lose that funding would have serious financial implications for the Museum's operational budget.

The original Highland Heritage Appeal was for 'The Military Museum of The Highlanders'. The current Appeal is for 'The Highlanders' Museum'. To change the title back to The Queen's Own Highlanders Museum would have to be cleared with all our major donors-and they might well not approve that as they have donated on the basis of what we are creating in the Redevelopment Project: an upgraded 'Highlanders' Museum'. It might also put off future donors.

'The Highlanders' Museum' is now becoming much better known largely as a result of the fundraising campaign for the Project. It is establishing a 'brand' which we will promote along with Historic Scotland as we jointly try to increase the number of visitors to the Fort which we must do to ensure the long term financial sustainability of the Museum.

'The Highlanders' Museum' appears to the non-military visitor as a generic name for 'Highlanders' and not merely a regimental museum with perhaps less appeal. The new Museum will place more emphasis on our links with the clans and local communities and will trace the Highland Warrior from pre Culloden which should also encourage more visitors.

There will be more about the Queen's Own Highlanders in the upgraded Museum than there was in the old Museum. In addition the dining room and ante room on the top floor will be named the 'Blue Hackle Rooms' at the Museum and in all publicity literature.

There will also be a new Highlanders' Room to cover the Regiment, and now the Battalion, since 1994 and on into the future.

In summary, it is felt that the title 'The Highlanders' Museum' is the right one for all of the Regiments represented at the Fort: past, present and future. It is the official title agreed by the Trustees, the Museum Board and recognised as such by the MOD. It is what has been supported by donors and what should attract more visitors and thus make the Museum financially sustainable in the future.

Let us consider another way of commemorating the Queen's Own Highlanders-our superb Regiment and Battalion.