

## **Donald Smith – 100-Year-Old Seaforth Highlander**

We are sad to report that Donald Smith, our 100-year-old Seaforth Highlanders veteran passed away peacefully at home on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March.

Donald was born in Glasgow on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1920 and shortly afterwards moved with his family to Leeds. Having served 2 years in the Royal Artillery T.A. from 1937-39, he enlisted into the Seaforth Highlanders on 30<sup>th</sup> January 1939. He completed his training at Fort George before being posted to 2<sup>nd</sup> Seaforth, which was stationed in Maryhill Barracks, Glasgow.

When war broke out in 1939, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Seaforth mobilised and moved to France with the British Expeditionary Force. In March 1940, 2<sup>nd</sup> Seaforth became part of the now strengthened 51<sup>st</sup> Highland Division. On 12<sup>th</sup> of June 1940 2<sup>nd</sup> Seaforth, after a determined resistance, the Division was forced to surrender to German forces at Saint-Valery-en-Caux in Normandy.

Donald spent the remainder of the war as a prisoner of war camp. He was part of the forced westward “Death March” of prisoners in 1945 to avoid the advancing Soviet forces. He eventually returned home and was discharged on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1946.

On 27<sup>th</sup> July 1957 Donald married Helen and they went on to have three children, two grandchildren and three great grandchildren. The couple eventually settled in Forres.

In civilian life Donald worked as an engineer and later for the Macrae & Dick car dealership as a handyman before retiring in 1985.

Donald’s funeral will take place on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March. His final journey will start just after 11.30am from the Andrew Smith Funeral Directors Rest Rooms, Tytler Street, Forres to the Inverness Crematorium. All wishing to pay their respects are asked to line the route wearing glengarries, tartan and medals. All covid-19 restrictions are to be observed and people must not arrive on the route too early . Council boundaries must not to be crossed.