

A veteran's experience at Downing Street

~ Reflections on the Medals Campaign ~

by Bernard Jackson, CABP Director

Back home in Canada and finally warm again, I can firmly declare that the culmination of our consortium's Medals Campaign in London in December was a huge success.

I was impressed with the support the campaign received from Champollion, our communications consultancy. From the time I met her a few days before the presentation of *Broken Faith* (our book of British veterans who have thought about returning our service medals to protest our frozen pensions), consultant Annie Bruzzone was continuously on her cell phone connecting John Markham and me directly with reporters for interviews. This continued in the days before and after the presentation, including an interview with BBC's *Live at Five* which I recorded for broadcast on Christmas Eve.

We spent 90 freezing minutes with a *Daily Mail* photographer at the Cenotaph and outside the House of Commons – coats off, in biting winds, to get the shots he wanted! However it was worth it. It resulted in a large half-page feature in the *Money Mail* and an editorial entitled *Shameful treatment of heroes* by editor Tony Hazell.

To enable Pensions Minister Steve Webb to participate in the presentation, the date was suddenly changed from December 17 to 16, which as fate would have it turned out to be the day that WikiLeaks' Julian Assange's court appearance diverted media attention from almost everything else that was happening.

However, the BBC filmed us walking to No 10 with the Minister, and the official handover of *Broken Faith*. And, thanks again to Champollion, media coverage through the next week was excellent in spite of this unexpected setback.

My admiration for John Markham is unbounded. He seems to know all the right people and follows up on Champollion constantly. There is so much to be done right now as pressure reaches unprecedented levels in the UK regarding frozen pensions, we need a doppelganger of him.

It was a privilege and honour to represent my fellow ex-servicemen and women at Downing Street. Sincere thanks to Jim Tilley (British Pensions in Australia) for a wonderful job producing the Medals Campaign and *Broken Faith*, and to Tony Bockman and all others who also put great effort into the campaign and into supporting the December 16 event. It even got my London cabbie talking about retiring to Colombia (a frozen country): he said he would join CABP.



Local Heroes

UK veterans in Canada who participated in the Medals Campaign

Anthony Balch	Grand Valley, ON	Membership #21322
Bill Bange	Nanaimo, BC	
David Barrett	Hamilton, ON	Membership #27430
Cyril Brooker	Winnipeg, MB	Membership #14935
Peg Buchanan	Delta, BC	Membership #7163
Thomas Canning	Agassiz, BC	Membership #9363
Kathy Cargnelli	North Vancouver, BC	Membership #9242
Dennis Conroy	Surrey, BC	[Deceased]
Eric Cozens	Oshawa, ON	Membership #15934
William (Bill) Dobbie	Nanaimo, BC	
William Duffield	Hamilton, ON	Membership #25055
Kenneth Hedges	Washago, ON	Membership #22979
Peter Hutchins	Halifax, NS	Membership #0471
Bernard Jackson	Vancouver, BC	Membership #10027
Frank James	Newmarket, ON??	[Deceased]
James Lodge	Victoria, BC	Membership #30263
Francis Marrett	Orillia, ON	Membership #11684
Alan May	Cobble Hill, BC	Membership #10000
Vernon Millsom	Peterborough, ON	Membership #26290
Edward Moren	Kingston, ON	Membership #2053
Eric and Peggy Muir	Abbotsford, BC	Membership #6070
John Murphy	St Catharines, ON	Membership #22739
Peter Oldham	London, ON	
John Pettitt	Etobicoke, ON	Membership #13625
John Scott	North Bay, ON	Membership #7696
John Tozer	Peterborough, ON	Membership #20574
John Trantom	Oakville, ON	Membership #6007
Rodney Travers-Griffen	Toronto, ON	Membership #0948
Robert Williams	Lantzville, BC	Membership #9079
Victor Williams	Mississauga, ON	Membership #23799