

## FALKIRK ARCHIVES

### Records of Organisations

#### 51st Highland Division Trust Fund finding aid

The 51<sup>st</sup> (Highland) Division was well renowned for its exploits during the First World War. From the Battle of Beaumont-Hamel, on the Somme, in November 1916, until the taking of Greenland Hill and the fighting from Iwuy to Famars in October 1918, its reputation was enhanced among the Allies. The Division was composed of entirely Highland territorials. Shortly after the outbreak of World War II, the 51<sup>st</sup> were sent to France and Belgium. They fought a series of rearguard actions against the German advance in 1940 but became isolated at St Valery and were forced to surrender before they could be evacuated. After St Valery the duplicate Division, the 9<sup>th</sup> (Highland), was re-designated as the 51<sup>st</sup> (Highland) Division and a few survivors from France joined. By 1942 the new Division had gained a formidable reputation in Egypt and North Africa and were great favourites with Montgomery. After North Africa the 51<sup>st</sup> returned to the United Kingdom to prepare for the landings in Normandy. From there they fought through France, Belgium, Holland and into Germany. In 1945 they ceased to exist as an individual unit, becoming part of the 51<sup>st</sup>/52<sup>nd</sup> Scottish Division. The 51<sup>st</sup> was revived as a separate Territorial Division in 1948 and survived as such until 1967, when it was re-designated as a Brigade of the Scottish Division.

<i>Reference No</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Description</i>
A319.002	(1942)	Pamphlet "51st Highland Division in North Africa and Sicily" printed in aid of the 51st Highland Division Trust Fund

51st Highland Division, Battle of Beaumont-Hamel, Famars, Iwuy, St Valery, Greenland Hill