

# 971 RCAF Air MARSHAL SLEMON WING

## Air Force Association Newsletter May 2006



The 4-seat Polish 'Wilga' used by Canadian Air Cadets

### Social Calendar

- Mar 13-17 The 30 air cadets and sponsors of 205 Sqn, Nanaimo, BC, were a good bunch and seemed to enjoy the tour conducted by 971 Wing. They had a good system of ensuring all cadets were present. Each one was assigned a number from 1 to 30 and each time they boarded the bus they would call out their numbers in sequence thus immediately alerting the staff if anyone was missing.
- Apr 21 Fourteen Wing members attended the Regular Force mess dinner.
- Apr 29 At Roy and Margit Thompson's, 1923 Payton Circle. 574-4382
- May
- Jun At Carol and Art Nielsen's 730 Wuthering Heights, 488-8870
- Jul 01 Dominion/Canada Day. El Pomar Center by invitation.
- Jul 22 1500 at Charlene and Bill Champion's, 12612 Pommel Circle, Elbert. 495-0529
- Aug At Genie and Walter Kissinger's, 3118 North Road, Divide. 687-5648
- Sep Battle of Britain Ceremonies at the CFSU.

#### **ADDRESS CHANGE:**

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#### **NEW MEMBERS:**

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## The Editor's Corner

**FINALLY, SOME FEEDBACK WITH FACTS AND FIGURES:** Like all editors, I get both flak and praise, but not with facts and figures. This time, after my 75<sup>th</sup> newsletter, I did get an immediate well-worded 4-page attack that calls my "Give Hamas a Chance" article so one-sided and lacking in objectivity it should be dismissed. I welcome his criticism but not his insistence that I apologize to you all for even considering Hamas an organization worthy of negotiations. Views are for discussions, not apologies. Days later I got two favourable replies, also with facts, from Ontario. I admit I use the newsletter to promote the concept that the bravest thing a person can do is to think. Arguments help the process. One does need, however, to amass a mountain of facts - no easy task as too many "facts" have been compiled by biased male historians from the winning side.

Because I have started some discussions, and because the Irish in me enjoys a frontal attack (without shillalabs) I can compose, on pages 6-7, a very brief history of the Land of Canaan, known to some as Palestine, to others Israel. A brief summary of this convoluted history should take at least 25 pages. I can afford only a page and a bit. Perhaps I should state here that I was chastised for saying 91 British were murdered in the King David Hotel. Yes, there were only 28 British among the 91, but there were more among the 45 wounded and also among the other attacks throughout the area. I could add that this attack was ordered by David Ben Gurion, but carried out by Menachim Begin, both of whom were later respected (in the West) Israeli prime ministers. One explanation for the quarrelsome nature of Jews and Arabs in Palestine is that they are all Iraqis - descendant from Abraham of Ur.

**HISTORICAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL KNOWLEDGE AND THE LACK THEREOF:** None of us individually can ever acquire sufficient knowledge to always make correct decisions. The current mess in the world amplifies this lack among our leaders. On a smaller scale I was disappointed in the knowledge of Canadian history possessed by our visiting air cadets. They were a great bunch and, perhaps, a little on the young side to have amassed the facts and figures that I expected of my students at that age. When we all visited the Garden of the Gods Visitors' Center, we saw the film on the geological history of Colorado in which Zebulon Pike was mentioned several times as the explorer and army officer after whom Pike's Peak was named. Afterwards, I queried a number of cadets. None had previously heard of Zebulon, or knew that he was killed in the 1813 US invasion of Toronto (then called York).

**MITCHELL HIGH SCHOOL AND MODULAR SCHEDULING:** Perhaps, this would be a good time to express my gratitude. Mitchell hired me in 1970 when they were transferring to modular scheduling. Each teacher had about 7 classes with a maximum of 17 students in each. We met in 6-day cycles (A,B,C,D,E days) but on a Monday to Friday base. Each of my classes met individually, 3 times a cycle, in "small" groups and all my classes in one subject met once or twice a week in "large" groups in the auditorium for films or lectures. Each discipline had its own resource center as we went from single text books to multiple sources. In addition, the main library had an excellent array of books and magazines (including MacLean's). Each student had to come to class prepared for the day's activities as there was a lot of role-playing, debates, and discussions. An unprepared student would let down the entire class.. I had free reign to write the courses for my classes in Algebra, World History, US History, International Relations, Physical and Political Geography. There was lots of free time to meet individually with students and to get to know their parents. We had students, at 15 years of age, doing university work and doing it well. The quality of their term papers was amazing. I gave no multiple choice tests - all were essays which, of course, kept me up every night grading papers. I had access to a talented artist to illustrate the "units", articles, and skits I had to write. It took about 5 units to cover a year's activities with each day's requirement spelled out, giving students ample time to prepare. International Relations students would represent assigned countries at Model United Nations 2-day meets (Fridays and Saturdays) at universities in Pueblo, Denver, and Greeley, three to four times a year. They had to prepare, and argue for, resolutions on world problems in Bloc, Topic, and General Assembly settings.

As this system demanded dedication, and a great deal of work, on the part of both teachers and students, it was not popular with all. It required teachers to delve much more deeply into their subjects. It was also expensive because of the reams of paper it took, the large library and resource centers, the extra personnel to man them, and magazine subscriptions. Much of the summer would be devoted to writing the next year's units and have the initial ones all reproduced that first week of school before the students arrived.

While this system was great for those going on to university, the amount of time provided for research in the resource centers did give some students the opportunity to goof off, and failure rates increased. This was bad for public relations and there was pressure to lower standards, rejected by concerned teachers.

Sadly, over the objections of many teachers, the whole scheme was scrapped in 1981 and the school retreated to the less demanding "normal" approach with single textbooks. Some teachers gave up essays and went 100% to multiple choice tests that were graded by machine, thus eliminating much of their take-home work. Students could forget spelling and sentence writing. I stuck it out for another year, felt I was wasting my time, so retired. My reward continues as I keep hearing from grateful former students. They tell me "University was all down hill after your courses." This experience convinced me that we do not expect enough of our students. At 15 to 16 years of age they are capable of doing much more than we ask of them. So much talent goes undeveloped.

**YOU HAVE GOT TO ADMIRE** those individuals who are so dedicated to their work that they risk life and limb to bring us the news. Hundreds of reporters have died in the front lines of warfare around the world to satisfy our thirst for gory details. Now, we have a somewhat different type of bravery.

For his book Supernatural: Meetings with the Ancient Teachers of Mankind, the UK author Graham Hancock, who argues that all religions had their origins in hallucinogenic trances, subjected himself to the drugs and actions that cause such states.

He ate **psychedlic mushrooms**, took the African drug **Ibogaine**, drank **ayahuasca tea** 13 times, and smoked **DMT**. This resulted in him encountering "spirit beings" that have changed his outlook.

He contends that our normal experiences are only part of reality. He starts with the cave paintings in France and Spain dating back 40,000 years, and progresses through beliefs and religions to the modern alien abductions. He argues that religions start with altered states of consciousness. Then the bureaucrats step in, become the priesthood, impose themselves as the sole intermediaries, and eventually lose the original connection to the spiritual life.

Most hallucinogens are outlawed in Western nations which, he claims, is a form of repression. Hancock argues for their research use under conditions that do no harm to others. After visiting Canada to promote his book, he is off to Brazil, where **ayahuasca** is legal, to continue his research.

Graham Hancock retired as a contributor to *The Economist Magazine* to write bestselling books about lost civilizations which led him to his current research.

If any of you care to share your hallucinogenic visions we can publish them in this newsletter before the bureaucrats seize and transform them.

**DORIS LEVITT:** We finally have a photo of our new member, Doris, Darrell's mother. Doris was a member of the RCAF, 1941-45, and was stationed at Edmonton, Calgary, Rivers, and Winnipeg. She married Sgt Major Archie Levitt in 1946. They had 5 sons, two of whom joined the Canadian Forces and one the Reserves. Archie died in 1998. Doris resides in Camrose, Alberta.



**PRAIRIE DOG LANGUAGE:**

We are making progress on that universal translator I have been promoting. Con Slobodchikoff and his University of Northern Arizona students have been taping and analysing the warning calls of prairie dogs in the Gunnison, Colorado, area, revealing that they distinguish owls, hawks, eagles, badgers, coyotes, dogs,

and humans. Not only that, they get into details such as the colour of clothes worn by humans and whether or not they are armed. They describe the kind and danger-potential of dogs; they remember and use the same call to describe a human whose last visit was months ago, but they modify the call if the visitor has changed clothing or is carrying firearms.

More details can be found in a fascinating book on animal behaviour, Headless Males Make Great Lovers by Marty Grump, University of Chicago Press, 2005, 199 pages.

**OUR WONDERFUL BRITISH HERITAGE::**

Sometimes I think back to the nights on the squadron when ops were scrubbed just as we were about to take off and we would be trucked back to the mess too late to go into town. We would gather around the piano for hours of delightful tunes too bawdy to repeat in a newsletter of such high standards. There were a few, however, on the clean side permitting me to reflect on the humour of the times:

The king's horses, the king's men  
They march up the street  
And they march back again  
The king's horses and the king's men.  
They're not out to fight the foe.  
You might think so,  
But, oh dear, no.  
They're out because they've got to go  
To add a little colour to the Lord Mayor's show.  
It's their duty, now and then  
To march up the street and to march back again.  
The king's horses and the king's men.

And here is an extract from the last request of an RFC pilot shot down behind his own lines in France in 1917:

Take the cylinders out of my kidneys  
The connecting rod out of my brain.  
From the small of my back take the crankshaft  
And assemble the engine again.

I would like to print "Mad Dogs and Englishmen" but it is a little too long. I will just leave you as I sing (to myself) "North Atlantic Squadron".

**CANADA'S SPACE AGENCY:** Carole Lacombe has taken over as president from Marc Garneau who resigned to run for political office as a Liberal candidate in a Montreal riding. He lost to the Bloc Québécois incumbent.

Steve MacLean, now 52 whose last shuttle flight was in 1992 aboard Columbia, is scheduled to fly again 28 August which will include space walking and manipulating Canadarm 2

**DISTURB ME NOT:** We humans expend much time and resources to ward off unwanted aggression. Others come already equipped:

**Bombardier Beetles** have 2 side-by-side glands each with two chambers. One chamber contains hydrogen peroxide and hydroquinones while the other has catalase and peroxidase. When attacked the beetle can force the contents of the inner chamber into the outer chamber and shoot the scalding, explosive mix through a tubule rotatable through 270° from the base of its abdomen. The remaining 90° are accurately covered by directing the spray over its back where it can ricochet off two reflectors with amazing accuracy.

**Holy Cross Crucifix Toad, Australia:** When ants, or other predators, attack, this toad oozes out a secretion that instantly dries to the world's hardest glue. The trapped insects are left there until it is time to shed its skin when the frog eats the skin, insects, and all.

**Golden Poison Dart Frog, Colombia:** Any attacker, ignoring the warning of the vivid orange or yellow skin, dies instantly when touching the skin which contains enough toxins to kill 100 people.

### MISSING, BELIEVED HIDING:

Can any of you identify this 17-year-old air cadet? You can see he is dreaming of a flying career as the Chief T r a n s C a n a d a Airlines pilot presents him with the Top Air Cadet award at C a m p Borden. See p.7.

### NORTH WEST ONTARIO,

claiming neglect from far-away Toronto, is agitating to join Manitoba. Winnipeg is much closer. The area encompasses Thunder Bay (population 100,000), Kenora (11,000) and smaller Dryden. Due to declining demand for paper, 33 Canadian pulp and paper mills have closed or reduced operations. Three are in Thunder Bay, 2 in Kenora, and 1 in Dryden. Joining Manitoba would make them a bigger fish in a smaller pond (Manitoba has 1.2 million people, Ontario 12.6). Their 3 of 103 seats in the Ontario legislature would increase to 11 out of 68 in Manitoba.

**HMCS ONONDAGA**, a decommissioned submarine, has been sold for \$4 (plus sales tax) to the Musee de la Mer de Pointe-aux-Pères, near Rimouski. Roy, how could you miss out on a deal like that?

**CANADIAN WORTH:** Canada's net worth is \$4.5 trillion which is \$137,000 per individual. Net worth is the net worth of people, corporations, and government, including land. Over the past 10 years government debt has fallen from 90 to 50% of the Gross Domestic Product. Household debt is \$1.08 for every \$1 of disposable income.

**GOLAN HEIGHTS:** After 32 years, Canada has reduced its troop presence here from 191 to 2, handing over their responsibilities to India.

**NEW MEMBERS: Peter and Susan Dunda** have joined us. Pete was born in 1939, Susan in 1941. Pete was a USAF navigator, retiring in 1985 as a Lt.Col. He served with 409 Sqn, Comox, as an exchange officer, 1969-72 and was a member of their Call Shot and William Tell teams. He has a BSc degree in laser physics and was test director on airborne Laser Laboratory Program, 1976-82. He was commander of the IFF Joint Test Program, 1982-85.

Pete and Susan married in 1963, and have 3 children: Peter, Laura, and Andy.

Hobbies include: fly-fishing, skiing, golf, bowling, backpacking, dancing, and music. He is the leader of the Pete Dunda Polka/Variety Band.

**A MARI AD MARI AD MARI:** In 1906, when Canada adopted the motto from Sea to Sea, it ignored its longest coastline. Now there is growing pressure to amend *A Mari usque ad Mari* to include the Arctic where the coastlines, including islands, total 161,803 km compared to 40,064 for the Atlantic and 27,725 km for the Pacific. In her 6 years as Governor General, Adrienne Clarkson continuously promoted this change. Finally, with Global Warming, many others are backing a change.

### WWII GERMAN SPIES IN ARCTIC CANADA:

There were at least two of these, one of whom was human. Father Schultze lived among the Inuit carefully compiling weather and topographic data. Shortly after war broke out in September 1939 he simply disappeared. Evacuated by submarine?

The other spy, named Kurt, was an ahead-of-its-time electronic device. In October 1942, U-537 surfaced off Martin Bay on the northern tip of Labrador. Ferried ashore to erect on a 213-metre hill were 220 canisters and a 10-metre-tall antenna, powered by nickel-cadmium and dry cell batteries.

Weather data was converted to morse code to transmit in 3-minute bursts at 3-hour intervals.

U-867, carrying a 2<sup>nd</sup> weather station, was sunk by the RAF. The original station, long dead, was not discovered for 40 years when a German historian enlisted Canadian aid to find it. (Beaver Magazine).



AIR CADET VISIT  
(by Art Nielsen)

205 (Collishaw) Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron from Nanaimo, BC visited Colorado Springs 12-17 March, and 971 Wing served as the local area coordinator for their visit. It started out as a lot of hard work, mostly by Roy Thompson and Art Nielsen, but it ended up being a most joyous experience for us as we witnessed the cadets marvel at everything they saw. The Air Force Academy, Cheyenne Mountain, Air Force Space Command, NORAD Headquarters, Garden of the Gods, and so on ... These were experiences they will never forget. It was etched in their eyes as they visited these unique and wonderful institutions. It was truly a joy and a great personal satisfaction for me, as their tour guide, to have shared this experience with them.

It is an important mandate of the Air Force Association of Canada to support the Air Cadet League, and I believe we did a good deed on this occasion. I wish to thank all Wing members who participated in the planning and execution of this visit. Very well done!

**971 WING - OUR YEAR IN REVIEW**

Now that we are approaching a new fiscal year, starting 1 July, I would like to share with you my recollections of the past year. It was a busy period, and I believe we reached some significant milestones. Here are some highlights of the year:



- 1 We supported the CF with CANAM Golf Trophies, Community Service Awards, plus our annual Kuseler Fund donation.
- 2 We moved our Museum to a better location. We packed it up, moved it, rebuilt it, and we had a marvelous reopening in Feb 06.
- 3 We celebrated the "Year of the Veteran" in Aug 05 with a grand ceremony followed by an equally grand dinner. 12 of our 19 wartime veterans were present, and we honored each of them in turn.
- 4 We coordinated an Air Cadet Squadron visit to Colorado Springs in Mar 06. It was a great success by all accounts, and it may serve as a model for future visits.
- 5 We coordinated a Battle of Britain ceremony in Sep 05, and we hosted the CF to a BBQ afterwards.
- 6 We attended Memorial Day and Remembrance Day ceremonies and we laid wreaths on behalf of the Wing.
- 7 We sponsored a hockey team, the "971 Wingers", in the Canadian NORAD Hockey League.
- 8 We were pleased to enjoy the hospitality of the CF at the Canada Day celebration, at two mess dinners, and at the CF Christmas party.
- 9 We enjoyed an active social life, with Wing functions nearly every month.
- 10 Sadly, we witnessed the passing of two of our senior members, Bill Bradford in Oct 05 and Hal Wilson in Mar 06. We saluted them as they proceeded to their Final Postings.

Art Nielsen, President, 971 Wing

**HELPING THE RUSSIAN ECONOMY:** As of 01 Feb 06, ageing Canadian Hercules have made 130 cargo and passenger flights into Kandahar. In addition 88 Ilyushin II-76 flights have been chartered. Since then three Hercules and four II-76 flights arrive every two days. Our 40-year-old Hercules have been dying of old age, so now we have only 28 in flying condition.

## The Land of Canaan - A Land of Conflict

A mere 32,000 years ago, small Neanderthal families were enjoying life here when uppity Cro Magnons moved in and took over, gradually driving Neanderthals to extinction, setting off a long process. We can skip to 10,300 years ago when a group of mesolithic Caucasians came to settle, cultivate Emer wheat around Jericho, make beer, and multiply. They prospered until, during the Bronze Age around 3000 BC, Egyptians filtered in. They liked the land so, in 1850 BC, Sesostrius III brought his army to conquer the area, only to be ousted by a horde of Asiatic Hyksos in 1750 BC. Then came the Caucasian Hurrians. By 1500 BC the Egyptians were back, but bumped into the Hittites, pouring in from Asia Minor, so the Canaanites suffered more see-saw battles on their soil for generations with no one learning that population increases lead to wars which lead to more wars and misery ad infinitum.

About 1250 BC a multi-ethnic group of marauders, the Hapiru, the original Hebrews, led by Moses, who had died in Jordan, arrived. The later Israelis are one branch of this Hebrew group. The Hebrew invaders were opposed by the Canaanites, including Moabites, Midianites, and Ammonites. Those who claimed to know the will of Yahweh, the Hebrew god, argued this was the Promised Land, so it was quite proper to smote the Canaanites and take the land.

It was not easy. "Sea People", fleeing Mediterranean climate change, arrived to set up 5 city states. These Philistines (Palestines) clashed with the Jews who considered them inferior because they were not circumcised. David and Goliath were participants of this clash. The Philistines had the closely-guarded secret of smelting iron. The Israelis did not, but used their wiles to steal the knowledge, forcing many of the Philistines (Phoenicians) to flee and set up colonies from Cyprus to Spain. Many stayed, giving their name to the area. Then the oppressed Assyrians arose to conquer and become new oppressors in 722 BC, followed by the Babylonians in 586 BC, the Persians in 536, and Alexander the Great in 331 BC. In 167 BC, the Jews revolted, drove out the Seleucids (Alexander's heirs) and formed a kingdom with Jerusalem as capital. Rome protected this Maccabean kingdom until 61 BC when, to support King Herod, it sacked Jerusalem. After two Jewish revolts, the Romans evicted all those they could catch in 135 AD.

The Jews dispersed to all corners of the known world. Some welcomed, some tolerated, some persecuted. Then, in 632, the new religion of Islam prompted new aggression and Palestinians suffered more bloody battles until all were conquered and persuaded to convert to Islam by 720. In 1100, Crusaders restored Christianity until ousted in 1187. Frederick II restored Christianity in 1229 but, in 1244, Seljuk Turks, driven out of Asia by Genghis Khan and his Mongol horsemen, swept in to take Jerusalem and restore Islam. In the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries, Palestinian suffering continued including the Black Death. In 1516, Selim I began 400 years of Ottoman Turkish rule which fluctuated from good to bad and all points in between. The Palestinian capital alternated among Damascus, Sidon, and Acre. In 1831, the Egyptian, Mohammed Ali, an Ottoman provincial ruler, occupied Palestine. He opened the area to Western influences.

In Europe, Jews experienced a mixed bag. Disraeli got to the top of the greasy pole to become the UK prime minister. Christendom outlawed usury, leaving it to the Jews who then made fortunes in the banking business, so much so that they were able to finance the British victory over Napoleon. This made Baron Edmond de Rothschild a very rich man, so he financed the return of Jews to Palestine. He bought up housing complexes, evicted the Palestine tenants, and brought in Jews. By 1917 the Palestine population consisted of 8,500 Jews and 1 million "Arabs". These Jews, along with much larger contingents of Palestinians, helped the British and Australians free Palestine from Turkish Ottoman rule. (In 1918 General Allenby used the same route and tactics to capture Megiddo as the Egyptians used 4,000 years earlier). In short-sighted gratitude, the British promised both an independent homeland in tiny Palestine. The Jews had a big advantage, many coming from Europe and North America with financial backing and with experience in democratic governing. The Palestinians, under Turkish rule for 400 years, had none of this. To mounting Arab fears, Jews continued to arrive in Palestine. By 1930 the British declared there was no more land left but, with the rise of Hitler, 133,000 more Jews came, causing the 1937 Arab revolt that resulted in 5,000 Arab, 1,200 Jewish, and 500 British casualties. When WWII erupted in 1939, Jews were 30% of the population and frictions were increasing. While 1,200 Arabs enlisted in British forces, 27,000 Jews did and they were allowed to build a munitions industry ostensibly to aid the British who by 1942 uncovered a vast Jewish (Zionist) network to steal British arms. Meanwhile, in 21 extermination camps, the Nazis murdered 14 million people, 6 million of them Jews. The others were mainly Poles, Serbs, Russians, Gypsies, and Germans. Surviving Jews flocked to Palestine. By 1948 there were 600,000 Jews and 1.5 million Arabs. With the UK handing over its responsibilities to the UN in 1948, and the UN approving a partition plan, the Israelis declared their independent nation and were quickly attacked by Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria. Innocent Jews were also attacked in various Arab countries. All sides lacked unity, but the Israelis emerged victorious, gaining considerable land. In 1956 a UK-US-Israel force seized the Suez Canal after Egypt nationalized it. World pressure, with the Commonwealth leading, caused a withdrawal. In 1967 sabre rattling increased. Nobody wanted a war, but Israel, knowing it could not maintain mobilization, launched pre-emptive strikes. During its surprise attack on Egypt, Israeli aircraft and torpedo boats attacked the USS Liberty which was monitoring broadcasts. Out of a US crew of 275, 34 were killed and 75 wounded. Again the Israelis won and this time occupied Gaza, the West Bank, the Golan Heights, East Jerusalem, Northern Palestine, and the Sinai. They annexed 2/3rds of Gaza, Northern Palestine and about half the West Bank. They moved 400,000 settlers into the remaining Palestinian West Bank and 8,000 into the smaller Gaza, forming over 100 settlements throughout Palestinian land, effectively denying them the wherewithal to form a state.

In 1979 Israel, for peace with Egypt, returned the Sinai desert. Palestinian activists fled first to Jordan, their numbers causing Jordanian expulsion to Lebanon. Israel invaded Lebanon in 1982 to destroy them, but suffered its first defeat, withdrawing in 1985 except for a buffer zone which it held until 2000. In 2006 they evacuated all Gaza settlements, but retained control of its borders and trade. They also evacuated 4 isolated West Bank settlements.

Today, the Palestinians are a mixture of Canaanite, Philistine, Hebrew, Egyptian, Hyksos, Hittite, Persian, Greek, British, Australian, French, German, Turkish, and what-have-you genes. To call them "Arabs" is somewhat of a misnomer. The Jews are also a very complex and quarrelsome genetic mix. Their differences are cultural - trappings that, so often, are temporary, but still a good excuse for conflict. Since Israel has taken most of the land, the Palestinians have been left stateless, disorganized, over-crowded, mostly homeless, and poor (44% earn under \$2.30 per day) in a land that is 17% arable - the best of recipes for resentment and violence. The rest of the Arab world has left them festering in refugee camps in order to pressure the West to reduce the extent and power of Israel. With Western criticism, but no action, the Israelis continue to treat the Palestinians as we did the native Americans.

The Israelis do deserve credit for surviving, and building a viable and thriving state but have enjoyed considerable Western help and armaments, including German reparations. Obsessed with survival in a hostile environment, they accept billions of dollars in annual US aid, but decline US advice. They ignore scores of UN resolutions. They react to Palestinian insurrections with excessive force causing three times the Palestinian casualties as Israeli. Hamas was formed in 1987 in reaction to a corrupt and ineffective PLO that was unable to halt the increase in Jewish settlements. Palestinians, by destroying international aircraft on the ground, murdering Israeli athletes, and using suicide bombers, have not exactly endeared us to their cause, so we forget how desperate their plight is. They have a tiny degree of freedom, but Israel continues to control their travel, exports, and even jails. They used tanks to break into a Jericho jail this March to seize 6 Palestinians accused of doing to an Israeli leader what the Israelis had done to seven Hamas leaders. This was extreme humiliation to Palestinian moderates. This, of course, does not excuse Hamas from using its hard line for other than a starting bargaining position, but it appears they have no one to bargain with, even though the Israelis make the same claim to excuse their actions. To those who will not negotiate with those who used suicide bombers, realize they were amateurs compared to what our bombers did to win a war.

While sane and moderate heads are numerous, and while thousands of Israelis and Palestinians have worked together as equals, far too many extremists, clinging to religion, past prejudices, and greed, preclude progress in human rights. These extremists are all terrorists whether they use suicide bombers, helicopter gunships, or bulldozers.

If Nixon was the right man to send to China, Ismail Haniyeh could be the right man to deal with Ehud Olmert. Ismail wants all Palestinian land back; Ehud wants a secure Jewish state, but one that will leave many isolated and weak Palestinian "bantustans" under continued Israeli surveillance which can lead only to Intifada III.

We can never pacify the Middle East until Fair Play embraces Palestine. Jerusalem, we have a problem!

**ABDUL RAHMAN and a TRILLION TRILLIONTH OF A SECOND** have re-invigorated religious frictions. Abdul was arrested in a hostile Afghanistan that wants to behead him for the crime of converting from Islam to Christianity. This equates Afghanistan with pre-Enlightenment Europe. Scientists now tell us that our universe went from a speck of energy to its current 13.5 billion-light-year extent in a trillion trillionth of a second. This is even faster and further than Canada Post raises its rates. Creationists say this proves they are right. So does the other side.

When humans evolved brains that could wonder at, but not understand, the strange, and often frightening, vagaries of Nature and the certainty of individual death, they desperately sought security blankets that were soon provided by those who wanted power and influence. Spirits and gods were created, some good, some bad. Supporting the priesthods that grew up could help you to stay protected by the right spirits and gods.

Too many Humans cling so strongly to a belief that reason, tolerance, and doubt cannot be entertained. Surely, we do not have to wait for Death to release us from these chains. Can we not realize that our brains, still lilliputian, can, little by little, understand Life if only they remain open to, and respectful of, the reasoning of other brains.

**MISSING CADET:** Carla, the informant, tells us that the cadet depicted on page 4 is, in fact, Eric Findley. It is rumoured that he did succeed in carving out a successful flying career.

**A BILLION HERE AND THERE:** (Submitted by Peter Rallis)

When you hear politicians use the word "billion" in a casual manner, question their handling of your tax money. A billion is a difficult number to comprehend, but one advertising agency has put that figure into some perspective:

- a. A billion seconds ago it was 1959.
- b. A billion minutes ago Jesus was alive.
- c. A billion hours ago our ancestors were living in the Stone Age.
- d. A billion days ago no-one walked on the earth on two feet.
- e. A billion dollars ago was only 8 hours and 20 minutes ago, at the rate our government is spending money.

Let's take a look at New Orleans. Louisiana Senator Mary Landrieu is presently asking Congress for \$250 BILLION to rebuild New Orleans. Interesting number, but what does it mean? Well if you are one of the 484,674 residents of New Orleans, (every man, woman and child), you EACH get \$516,528.00!!!

Or, if you have one of the 188,251 homes in New Orleans, your home gets \$1,329,787.00!! Or, if you are a family of four, your family gets \$2,066,012.00!!

ATTENTION, WASHINGTON, ARE ALL OF YOUR CALCULATORS BROKEN?

Maybe everyone should just flood their homes, then we all could be on "big easy" street for the rest of our lives, and forget about working, paying taxes, and all that useless stuff!!

I don't know about you, but I think if I make the decision to live "below sea level", in an area that I know will flood if the dikes and dams fail, then I don't think I would expect hard working tax payers to bail me out. (US taxpayers will spend \$217 billion in 2006 just to pay the interest on the national debt. Ed.)

**OUR MONARCHY - A BARGAIN!** The Royal Family undertakes over 4,000 engagements per year. It costs each Canadian \$1.28 (plus 25 cents for the provincial lieutenant governors). By comparison the Canadian Senate costs each Canadian \$2.52.

UK taxpayers spend \$83 million annually to support the monarchy, but the Queen pays back \$388 million from Royal Estate revenues.

Last Post - 19 Wing Members have now flown on

**HAL WILSON** 24 Sep 1916 - 07 Mar 2006 (89). Hal was born in Lanark, Illinois. He joined the USAAC in 1942 and was a B-24 pilot in Italy. Downed over the Brenner Pass, his crew, with the help of the Italian Underground, got back to Allied lines. He then served at the Pentagon until 1948 when he flew F-80s from Japan. During the Korean War he flew F-51s. He then served at Long Island, NY, Maxwell AFB, Ent AFB, and Washington. In 1959 he became the first USAF exchange officer in St. Hubert, QC, serving there at the same time as Bob Wolff and George Sweanor. He then returned to Colorado Springs and did a tour at the Desert Test Center in Utah before retiring here in 1971.

Hal amassed over 6,000 flying hours and was awarded the Legion of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal, the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart.

Hal and Shirley joined 971 Wing in April 1984. He and his 1915 Model T adventures all the way to the Arctic coast in western Canada as well as to Labrador and Newfoundland were the topics of several articles in this newsletter. His "The Model T Works" off Tejon Street held a neat collection of parts and memorabilia. We held one of our Wing meetings there.

Hal and Shirley married in 1952 and they have one daughter, Jo Ann.



**DAN CORMIER** joined our Wing in March 1987 when he was here on a musical contract. He and his violin enlivened many of our meetings at Roy's. He left in June 1987 when he was offered a 5-year contract with RCA back in Canada.



**BRITISH COLUMBIA'S GIFT TO THE PLANET:** "The Great Bear Rain Forest" - 1,800,000 hectares on its NW coast is now protected from logging. The area would encompass three Prince Edward Islands.

**BRAGGING RIGHTS LOST:** The 1817 Rush-Bagot agreement, that prohibited armed vessels on the Great Lakes for 189 years, is now history. The US has armed its Great Lakes coast guard vessels with M240B machine guns. These 7.62 mm guns can fire 600 rounds per minute. A big step backwards.

**GOLF:** The Scots are reeling from the find of the *Dongzuan Records*, compiled 960-1279 AD, that reveal with illustrations that the Chinese invented golf well before the Scots were mastering the game.

**INTERNAL WATERS:** Forget *Northwest Passage* which is history. The new designation adds strength to Canada's determination to maintain environmental controls over shipping. It is hoped the Russians will be equally protective as their Arctic coastline will be open to year-round traffic before Canada's.

**JUST RECEIVED:** Don Johnston's 808 Wing, Nanaimo, Newsletter in which he thanks 971 Wing for providing 205 Sqn air cadets with "the trip of their lives". It was a pleasure, Don.

**DEADLINE** for the July issue in 15 June. Send inputs to [gsweanor@pcisys.net](mailto:gsweanor@pcisys.net).

"How these curiosities would be quite forgott, did not such idle fellowes as I am put them downe."

John Aubrey, (Life of Venetia Digby)