

971 RCAF Air MARSHAL SLEMON WING

Air

Force Association Newsletter May 2007



15 elk using their overpass - Calgary - Banff. Soon after it was built for them, the animals realized this was their exclusive crossing. Submitted by Don Swift and Diana DeLuca.

Social Calendar

- Mar 04 Gary Thompson scored two goals to help the 971 Wingers to another victory, and a few of us joined him for dinner at the Overtime Sports Bar and Grill. A good season, but our team lost out in the playoffs.
- Apr 13 7 retired members of the Wing attended and enjoyed the Regular Force mess dinner.
- Apr 14 Jim Berwick again hosted a delightful party in a delightful setting.
- May 28 Memorial Day: 1100 at Memorial Park. For easy parking get there by 1030. Dress: blazers with medals, Wing stetsons (if you have one). If you do not have a blazer, casual business dress will suffice. Just be there!
- Monday Inclement weather: Retired Enlisted Club on Emory Circle, east off Murray, by UPS
- Jun 30 1730 at Pat and Buzz Wilder's, 16 Lake Avenue, 80906. 633-9121
- Jul At Nancy and Peter Rallis's, 4355 Winding Circle, 80917. 597-7825. TBA
- Aug 18 1500 at Charlene and Bill Champion's, 12612 Pommel Circle, Elbert, 80106, 495-0529

Next newsletter deadline: 15 June. Send inputs to gsweanor@pcisys.net.

MEMBER NEWS

BUDZYNA: Janet and Tom, we wish you well in your new position in Schinnen, Netherlands, as Public Affairs Specialist with the US Army Garrison.

HOOVESTOLS: Koren and Mark are in the Ukraine with the hope to adopt an orphan or two.

WAKEFIELD: Susan and Doug, now in Ottawa, will retire from the Service this summer, having reached the ripe young age of 60. They have a house in Ladysmith, BC, and a hangar for their plane at Cassidy airport, Nanaimo. They have joined the active flying club that started there in 1947.

McMILLAN: Miles and Mary spent much of February and March in Texas and Arizona. Miles spent a week in hospital with pneumonia, but recovered in time to attend his granddaughter's wedding.

SWEANOR: Your scribe plans to spend the last week in May in Ontario while accompanying his daughter, Linda, to her talk on cougars at Trent University, Peterborough.

THOMPSON: Margit and Roy (who also survived a bout with pneumonia) will spend 10 days in Ontario in April including helping to set up our museum display in Borden.

The Editor's Corner

Wither Now?: The United States is persuading the UK, Kuwait, Poland, and the Czech Republic to allow the US taxpayer to scatter billions of dollars around their communities while building and operating missile silos, ostensibly to counter launches from rogue (uncompliant?) states, whomever they may be. This annoys people like Vladimir Putin who feels that, to protect Russian interests, he must match the \$90 billion the US has spent so far on missile defence and, in the process, to become much more totalitarian. And the average Russian is basking in belated foreign respect.

Following the examples of, among others, the Egyptians, Hittites, Persians, Greeks, Romans, Huns, Vandals, Visigoths, Incas, Aztecs, Seljuk and Ottoman Turks, Mongols, Austro-Hungarians, Spanish, French, Germans, Italians, Japanese, and British, the American Empire, currently with from 700 to 1,000 bases around the world, is following the path that led all the others to ruin. To man, supply, and protect so many bases and fight two wars with a volunteer army dictates the recruitment, as Andy Rooney argues, of far too many poor advertisements for the country. There is also a \$600 billion obligation to care for the wounded of Afghanistan and Iraq.

When coupled with a \$8.8 trillion debt, increasing at \$1.8 billion a day, an \$850 billion annual deficit, and 78 million pensioners on social security and medicare, all while decreasing taxes, it does not take high school math to predict disaster just ahead. Spending the most of any industrial nation on health care, the US has the highest percentage of its people (46.6 million) lacking coverage. Then climate change (or loss?) will create billions of refugees to care for. A drawback of democracies is that politicians find it safer to pass on problems to grandchildren rather than face grim realities and take corrective measures they know are essential. Over the past 12 months the US has run a trade deficit of \$836 billion, followed by the UK with \$155, and Spain with \$112 billion. Countries with surpluses include Germany with \$206 billion, China with \$183, Saudi Arabia with \$165, Russia with \$140, Japan with \$81, Norway with \$56, and Canada with \$47 billion. The US, however, still ranks fifth among the top five countries for new businesses to raise money, after Hong Kong, Singapore, the UK, and Canada.

While serving selfish interests of permitting empire builders to enjoy, at first, more than their share of world resources, empires have also brought law, order, and trade to vast areas. Eventually they become more trouble and expense than they are worth. Over-extended, they can collapse, allowing their former subjects to extract, rightfully or wrongfully, cruel revenge. This is happening today in countries whose oil we have monopolized, even though our addiction has made local potentates rich and powerful.

After much slaughter to establish peaceful and prosperous colonies from Britain to Syria, the over-extended Romans imploded, setting off a thousand years of so-called Dark Ages. Arriving late on the empire-building stage, Bismark sought a place in the sun for Deutschland. The ensuing German empire in Polynesia was a model of good rule, the German colonies in Africa were not. German profits, however, were much greater in trade with areas that never saw German troops or warships. A small island nation with a tiny army, a dedicated and well-educated civil service, and a strong navy that swept pirates from the seas, brought peace, unity, and human rights to 25% of the world, but, after two brutal world wars, the UK could no longer afford the luxury. The only profits were from India. The UK did leave the Gold Coast (Ghana) and Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) as models of enlightened imperialism, but they went downhill when on their own. India, left with UK institutions, language, and the best railway system in Asia, like Singapore and Malaysia, has prospered. Yet, no matter how good or beneficial a super power can be, it will always be resented by those who are made to feel inferior. We in the Western World are so intoxicated with the good we can do for others that we fail to see that the good is not being fairly distributed as we harness an excessive amount of the world's resources to our bloated life styles, and we allow far too much of our donations to fall into the pockets of local rulers who care less for their own people than we do. Is there an answer?

Not really - until we reduce populations from locust to human. Wars have never succeeded. Plagues have. These are inhumane methods. Family planning, the only answer, is met with religious and economic opposition, but there is no other way that the affluent of this world can raise billions of people from below to above the poverty line, remembering that there are millions in our own countries well below this line. Those we help must never be made dependents but helped only to the stage where they can take over and improve their own lots. Admittedly, this is difficult in many deprived areas. The British taxpayer is still supporting several former colonies, as are the French. As the lot of the under-privileged is improved, they, of course, will demand more of a fair share of the world's resources, cutting into what we have enjoyed, so the fewer of them, and us, the better. It should be a crime to bring into this world new individuals destined to lives of poverty, hardships, pain, and suffering beyond what Nature herself imposes.

As we build towards an utopian world we will continue to be hampered by far too many human parasites whose ambitions we will need to foil. Imposing military bases has seldom worked for long. As Kipling warned us, *Single men in barracks don't grow into plaster saints*. Military force often backfires. Ponder our reactions if Iran were to manoeuvre 15 warships and 100 aircraft in the Gulf of St. Lawrence or the Gulf of Mexico as we are doing to them.

The success of the European Union, compared to the ever-changing military alliances that preceded it, along with its declining population, may be a model to study.

HAMSTER POWER: The UK magazine *New Scientist* poses problems to readers and pays £25 for each solution published. Recently, it asked "Could hamsters running on wheels be an answer to the energy crisis?"

Five solutions were published and here are some of the computations:

It would take 6,500 billion hamsters to supply the world's energy needs. Feeding these hamsters would require 36 billion tonnes of wheat, 60 times the current world output. As the average life span of a hamster is 2.5 years we would have billions of tonnes of depleted hamsters requiring funeral services, not to mention the enormous increase needed in animal-rights lawyers.

One reader suggested substituting humans on treadmills which would also solve the obesity problem.

WE OLD TIMERS ARE NOT SO DUMB: The people of Alacahoyuk, Turkey, neglected farming because the area was mainly a swamp. Along came some archaeologists looking for Hittite sites. They uncovered a dam built of stone and clay in 1240 BC that was complete with a purifying pool and irrigation channels. They restored it and now farming is again a local occupation - after 3,247 years!

THE ANTIKYTHERA MECHANISM: A hundred years ago a sponge diver found a large ship that had gone down off the Greek Island of Antikythera over 2,000 years ago. Among the finds was a highly-corroded mechanical device that is only now being deciphered by means of 8-ton imaging devices designed to examine aircraft turbine blades. 3-D scans are revealing 30 gears each with from 15 to 223 triangular teeth as well as 2,160 Greek characters that give instructions on how to use the mechanism. It incorporates Babylonian astronomy and can predict eclipses. This instrument, 1,400 years ahead of its time, is being reconstructed by a Greek-UK-US team.

TOURIST ATTRACTIONS: The biggest busts are in the UK with Denmark taking second place. Italy is well down on the list.

DOROTHY ROBSON, BOMBING INSTRUCTRESS:

Vern White, editor of the 427 Sqn Association newsletter and a fellow POW, tells me the sad end we had not known until now as we were both shot down before the event. She would be 87 now, but we will always remember her fondly as:

A beautiful, young lady who went from squadron to squadron throughout Bomber Command. She would crawl with each of us individually into the noses of our aircraft to explain the intricacies of the new Mark XIV bomb sight. We were all slow learners forcing her to remain as long as possible with us in the cramped space.

Dorothy, a physics graduate from Leeds University, had helped to develop the Mark XIV. A week before her 24th birthday, she was at Holme-on-Spalding Moor, visiting 76

Squadron. She went on an air test with a new Halifax that was to make its first bombing operation that night. It was a misty November 1943 morning and the aircraft crashed into high ground near Market Weighton. Grievously injured, Dorothy lived for one day, then joined the rest of the crew in death. Her ashes, as she requested, were scattered over the countryside from a Halifax.

DRESDEN: Brian Walley in Perth, Australia, and George Mitchell, 441 Wing, who has sent us many excellent Battle of Britain summaries, have now offered a 3-page defence of the bombing of Dresden.

Arguing that a full evaluation of the raid was not possible until after the collapse of the USSR in 1989, the article shows that Dresden housed 127 factories including the Zeiss-Ikon Lens plant that employed 10,000, the Goehle Works, and 5,000 troops. A key railroad centre, employing 128,000 workers, saw 28 troop trains per day, and at Yalta in Feb 44, Stalin asked us to bomb it.

George Mitchell explains in detail the 800 Bomber Command aircraft that were detailed to hit different sections of the city with accurate Pathfinder assistance from 9 Mosquitos. 20,204 were killed and the damage was such that there was no need for the USAAF raid that followed in daylight. He claims the much-higher death toll of 40,000 was Goebels' exaggeration.

This scribe who, just before the raid, spent hours in a box car in the main Dresden rail station while our old and feeble engine was being repaired, saw lots of people, but they were all women, children, and old men. I did not see a single soldier. The air was thick with the smell of despondency, fear, and hopelessness. The war was lost. Nothing could stop the merciless Soviet steamroller that was only days away. Our Luftwaffe doctor lamented, "*There is no salvation for us - we must fight to the last man.*" To me, this emphasized the folly of our Unconditional Surrender terms. Too many of my friends were lost in the final, needless days of the war.

In any war, each man, horse, cow, weapon, and building is important, yet we sacrifice them with reckless abandon, giving little regard for the post-war needs of both friend and foe. The war in eastern Europe was fought with sickening brutality on both side. Millions were slaughtered needlessly and there were few women who escaped being raped many times, so what is one more city? But, I was there. I saw hundreds who, moments later, would die horrible deaths. No matter what proponents or detractors say, I remain a mental casualty of Dresden, as well as Liverpool, Southampton, Coventry, London, and Nürnberg.

This raid came too late in the war to make much of a difference other than to impress the Soviets with our power and, hopefully, to limit their gobbling up of Europe. Had I lingered a little longer in Dresden you would have been spared all these newsletters.

SOLFERINO, 1859: I am sure you remember that this battle was still headline news when Canadian newspapers celebrated Confederation Day 1 July 1867. Editorials abounded on how blessed Canada was to escape the never-ending wars of Europe and the United States, and the slaughter of Solferino was used as a prime example of the horrors of war.

Napoleon III was no Napoleon Bonaparte but he felt he had to emulate his famous uncle. His observation balloons did detect Austrian movements but he downplayed the intelligence. French élan was irresistible! Italy was a patchwork of 27 million people in independent states. Nationalism was stirring over the desire to oust the occupying Austrians. Conte di Cavour, prime minister of Piedmont-Sardinia, sought the aid of Napoleon III, hoping to unite Italy under King Victor Emmanuel II. Napoleon's price would be Savoy and Nice. Austria got wind of this and demanded that Piedmont-Sardinia demobilize. Cavour was pleased to reject this, knowing it would lead to war. Austria sent 107,000 men and 364 guns to take Torino from the 60,000 defenders. The French, 100,000 strong, arrived by sea and by rail. King Victor Emmanuel could not resist getting into the thick of the action. Emperor Franz Josef took personal command of the Austrian army - the last time European monarchs led troops in warfare.

The French lost 11,000 men, the Piemontese 5,000, and the Austrians 22,000, not counting the thousands lost in the battles preceding Solferino. Napoleon was sickened at the slaughter and vomited at the stench and the sight of hundred of wounded men crammed into a barn with surgeons tossing amputated limbs onto a huge pile.

He met personally with Franz Josef to arrange a truce. Only Cavour got what he wanted - the beginning of a united Italy.

A Swiss banker, Henri Dumont, had a romantic vision of war and was delighted to find he had a ring-side view of the battle. He was quickly disillusioned and plunged in to assist the wounded and dying. Back in Geneva he wrote *A Memory of Solferino*, and with 4 friends formed what became the ancestor of the **Red Cross**. Napoleon supported him, but Dunant went bankrupt building his organization. In 1895 a reporter found him destitute. He was awarded a share of the first Nobel prize in 1901 and died in 1910.

Today, there are 185 Red Cross and Red Crescent societies throughout the world.

MORE FEEDBACK: Adding to our March article on good deeds, Vernon White of Oakville, Ontario, has added:

There are zillions of kind, decent and generous people out there trying to make the world a better place. I think of the late Murray Dryden who, with his wife Margaret, founded "**Sleeping Children Around the World**"(SCAW) in 1970. His charitable organization based in Etobicoke, Ontario, has placed about 750,000 bed

kits for children in some 30 undeveloped and underdeveloped countries around the world. SCAW receives wonderful support from a host of volunteers in Canada and overseas and especially from Rotary Clubs. One of the unique features of SCAW is that not one nickel of a donors' \$30 contribution per kit is used for administration. SCAW is one of those great organizations that spreads goodwill in a very practical way in the towns and villages in far away countries. An added benefit, wherever possible, the articles, (ground sheets, mattress, sheets, pillows, pyjamas, towel, mosquito netting, toilet articles, and school supplies) are manufactured or procured in the recipient countries to provide local employment. There is much more but you get the idea.

GENERAL WESLEY CLARK, who argues that military force should be used only as a very last resort, has a web site www.stopIranWar.com warning that plans to attack Iran are well advanced and that support is being given to terrorist groups inside Iran. The site invites comments. One blogger wrote: "War is money. No need to analyse it further. The boys at the top are having the time of their lives. The boys at the bottom are giving theirs."

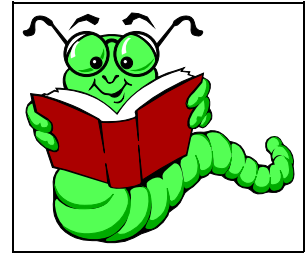
WORLD INFLUENCE: The BBC, assisted by the University of Maryland, polled 28,000 people in 27 countries, including 6 Muslim, asking them to rate 12 selected countries as to their perceived positive or negative influence on the world. Countries getting a positive rating were in order: Canada, Japan, France, UK, China, India. Venezuela broke even. The negative countries were Russia, N. Korea, USA, Iran, and Israel.

With your deep knowledge of world affairs, how would you rate them?

BIT BY BIT THE STORY BUILDS: It started at a party when Barry Simpson mentioned that his grandfather was a pioneer of the Churchill Railway in WWI and asked if I had any additional data. My research uncovered Major MacLachlan's memoirs which I published in the January newsletter. On reading this, Bill Carr in Stittsville added his comments on the route which were published in the March newsletter. On reading these, Moe Gates in Trenton and Keith Greenaway in Ottawa advise that the route was known as *The Crimson Route* when it was augmented in WWII with airfields to transport wounded back from Europe. I flew this route in the 1950s without remembering anyone using this name.

ARCTIC CRUISES: The 122-passenger Lyubov Orlova (named for an actress) has been leased for 3 years by the Inuit Makivik Corporation to conduct tours, mainly in the Baffin Island area. The Russian-Inuit crew also serves as entertainers. Naturalists, geologists, biologists, geologists, and historians complete the crew.

Book Reviews



PALESTINE PEACE NOT APARTHEID by Jimmy Carter, Simon & Schuster, NY, 2006, 265 pages

Having always considered Jimmy Carter to be a likeable, intelligent, honest, hard-working, caring, and effective individual, I was somewhat annoyed to read full-page ads in magazines by *Flame*, the pro-Israel organization, condemning him as the least effective of US presidents and as malevolently anti-Jew. I was also dismayed at some Democrats distancing themselves from Carter because of his book. Of course, all this made me buy the book.

The book starts out with 3 maps and a 10-page review of Middle East history from 1900 BC to August 2006, followed by details of consultations with, and impressions of, leaders and people throughout the Middle East. Jimmy and Rosalynn made an incredible number of visits there before, during, and after his 1977-81 presidency. As his views parallel those I have expressed many times in these newsletters, I find little to criticize. It is the story of two honest brokers doing their best to bring peace, equal rights, and well-being to all factions.

While describing life-long friendships with leaders like Anwar Sadat and Ezer Weizman and their wives, Jehan and Reuma, Jimmy emphasizes the problems of extremism among all parties, especially in Israel towards returning conquered Palestinian and Syrian land and in conferring equal rights to non-Jews.

During numerous visits with Palestinian families, the Carters saw numerous and continuous violations of human rights. A Gaza hospital was unable to use donated ambulances because Israel refused to issue licenses claiming the vehicles were a few inches too long. Jimmy tried to intercede in Jerusalem but was brushed off. The Israeli Human Rights organization, B'Tselem, admits an average of 12 innocent Palestinian homes are destroyed for every one guilty of an offense against Israeli occupation. There were several cases of farmers losing most of their annual fruit crops when they were held up at border crossings long enough to let the fruit rot. He describes Israeli interference in all aspects of Palestinian life and describes the Security Wall as an Imprisonment Wall dividing Palestine in small, segregated enclaves increasing poverty, isolation, and ill will towards the US, Israel's supporter.

In numerous meetings with politicians and commoners, Carter reveals that the majority of Palestinians and Israelis want peace, a 2-state solution, and a return to 1967 borders with adherence to UN Resolution 242. He blames elements in Israel and Washington's reluctance to censure Israel for continuing to sabotage all peace efforts.

He includes maps throughout the book and appends UN Resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973), 465 (1980), the Camp Davis Accord (1978), the Egypt-Israeli Peace Accord (1978), the Arab Peace Proposal (2002), and Israel's Response to the Road Map (2003).

Although the media has published it over the years, the majority of people in North America remain unaware of the plight of Palestinians. This book deserves wide circulation.

WHY THE GERMANS LOSE AT WAR Kenneth Macksey, Barnes & Noble, 2006, 240 pages

This book provides an initial assessment of 72 German military leaders and photographs of 27 of them. Three chain-of-command charts and 4 double-page maps are also given. Macksey starts out with the 1946 "Götterdämmerung at Nürnberg", then goes back to 1801 when Gerhard Scharnhorst joined the Prussian Army, its defeat by Napoleon at Jena and Auerstadt in 1806, and the rebuilding under Scharnhorst and Augustus Wilhelm von Gneisenau. He also dips back to the Battle of Grunwald in 1410 when the Knights of the Teutonic Order overstretched themselves with aggressive arrogance and met defeat. This theme, plus infighting and a neglect of analysing history, continues to the end of WWII. While bringing to light little-known incidents of personal ambitions, the struggle to adequately fund the less glamorous components of a military force, and the divide-and-conquer tactics of Hitler and several generals, Macksey actually highlights the shortcomings of all political and military organizations, and the folly of trying to predict, once it starts, the course that any war will follow. He does give a frightening survey of the brutality of both Germans and Soviets, how decent generals were trapped into following the orders of a Hitler they detested, and how easy it was to find replacements, usually less qualified, for those who resigned or committed suicide. Many generals, brave and innovative in battle, became mush when confronting Hitler.

LUFTWAFFE RESTRAINT, submitted simultaneously by Barry Simpson and by Brian Walley, Australia:

Charlie Brown had a problem. Piloting a B-17, severely damaged by flak and fighters, his evasive action caused him to lose his formation. With dead and wounded crew he tried to hobble back to his 379 Bomber Group base at Kimbolton, England, but his compass and other navigational aids no longer functioned. Not realizing he was headed east, he stumbled over a Luftwaffe fighter base where Franz Steigler was ordered to take off and shoot him down.

Approaching the B-17, Franz was amazed to see the wreck that could still fly. He pitied Charlie's plight. Waving to the scared Charlie Brown he ordered him to turn about, then escorted him to the channel, pointed the way to England, saluted, and returned to base to report that he had shot down the B-17 over the sea.

Charlie described the incident at debriefing, but was ordered never to repeat this example of Luftwaffe kindness.

Some 40 years later, Charlie began a search trying to find the pilot who had saved him and his wounded crew. It took years, but finally he learned that Franz had emigrated to Canada and was living in Vancouver. Charlie was living in Seattle, so had Franz join him at a 379 Bomber Group reunion.

WEARING UNIFORMS AFTER RELEASE, by Darrell Levitt

Several times I have been asked if it is permissible to wear my Canadian Forces uniform after I have retired or have been released from the Canadian Forces. After some research the short answer is NO and sometimes YES.

The following has been taken from the Department of National Defence Website and answers the above question.

“According to Queen's Regulations and Orders 15.09(7): if you are a former CF officer or non-commissioned member (NCM) who was honourably released or whose name appeared on the now defunct Retired Lists, you may wear your uniform only when and where the Chief of the Defence (CDS) Staff allows.” So the CDS has final authority, except:

QR&O 15.09(7) is expanded upon by QR&O 17.06(3): If you were a member of the Regular Force or the Reserve Force and were released for a reason other than misconduct, you may wear your uniform—as authorized by a Commander of a Command or his/her designated authority, or by other officers designated by the CDS—at military entertainments or ceremonies where the wearing of a uniform is appropriate. Only the CDS may authorize the wearing of uniforms at other kinds of events or on other occasions.

So by the authority of the CDS and Commanders of Commands and their designated authorities, you may wear your uniform to appropriate events.

Contrary to what many CF members believe, Mess Kit is a uniform just like all the others. It, too, should be worn only with specific permission. Often, if an event is DND and/or CF hosted/sponsored/related, event specific instructions for retired members dress are included.

It was never intended that former CF personnel would routinely don service dress in retirement. You should never wear your uniform “For old times sake.”

There you have it the answer is not a simple “NO” but it is also not a simple “YES”. You may wear your headdress and hat badge with no special permission required if you are participating in an official or sanctioned day or ceremony of commemoration such as Remembrance Day, Battle of the Atlantic Sunday or Battle of Britain Sunday etc.

I hope that this has cleared the air on the wearing of Canadian military uniforms after retirement. Or perhaps it has clouded the issue. In short “NORMALLY” retired members may NOT wear the uniform other than the Mess Kit after retirement without special permission.

2006 CENSUS: The Canadian population is 31,612,897 distributed: Ontario 12,160,282, Quebec 7,546,131, British Columbia 4,113,487, Alberta 3,290,350, Manitoba 1,148,401, Saskatchewan 968,157, Nova Scotia 913,462, New Brunswick 729,997, Newfoundland & Labrador 505,469, Prince Edward Island 135,851, Northwest Territories 41,464, Yukon 30,372, Nunavut 29,474. The increase over 5 years is 5.4% compared to 5% in the US. US women average 2.0 babies compared to 1.5 for Canadian. Canada's increase was 66% due to immigration, the US 50%.

To make a total of 33, six more cities rose over the 100,000 mark: Barrie, Guelph, Brantford, Peterborough, all in Ontario, Moncton, NB, and Kelowna, BC.

ANNUAL DUES ARE NOW OVERDUE!!

If you haven't paid your annual dues yet, they are now overdue. Please remit them soonest to Bill Schick, 3610 Greenville Court, Colorado Springs, CO, 80920. Make your cheques (or checks) payable to “RCAFA 971 Wing”. We plan to make the Wing submission to Ottawa by 1 June. Dues received after that date will be subject to a \$5 administrative surcharge.

Charles Roy Slemon 1904-1992

Your scribe received a request from Pam, younger daughter of Marion and Roy Slemon, saying they had a beautiful shadow box of her Dad's medals and would like to know what each stood for. I asked Darrell Levitt if he could help. He spent a full day delving into the London Gazette on the internet and came up with:

Commander, Order of the British Empire (British)	King George VI Coronation Medal - 1937
Companion, Order of the Bath (British)	Queen Elizabeth II Coronation Medal - 1953
1939-1945 Star (Canadian)	Canadian Decoration with 2 clasps
Canadian Defence Medal	Officer of the Legion of Merit - United States
Canadian Volunteer Service Medal	Chevalier of the Legion of Honour - France
1939-1945 War Medal with Mention in Dispatches	Croix de Guerre avec Palm - France

In addition to the decorations listed above, Air Marshal Slemon was awarded an additional two Mentions in Dispatches. As the last Slemon article in a 971 Wing newsletter was in the November 2002 issue, a full-page summary entitled *Marion Slemon and the Slemon Legacy*, it is time for a reminder. Darrell went on to submit:

Roy Slemon was born in Winnipeg 07 Nov 1904. He earned a degree in engineering at the University of Manitoba, then the lure of the Royal Flying Corps captivated him. He graduated as a pilot in 1924 with the Service number 971 which we adopted for our Wing.

From 1924 to 1942 he held a variety of positions across Canada. From 1939 to 1941 he was Director of Air Defence for Western Air Command. He was sent to the UK in 1942 to help organize the Canadian 6 Group of Bomber Command that included 15 Wellington, Halifax, and Lancaster squadrons.

As a group captain he was awarded a Mention-in-Dispatches 01 Jun 1943, and, on 02 Jun 1943, King George VI appointed him to the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire in the grade of Commander (CBE). As an Air Vice Marshal he earned a second Mention-in-Dispatches 01 Jan 1945.

With the war in Europe winding down, He was chosen to head the RCAF deployment to the Pacific with Lancastrian bombers. Hiroshima and Nagasaki terminated this role.

On 01 Jan 1946 King George VI appointed him to the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, followed by a third Mention-in-Dispatches 29 Mar 1946. On 17 June 1946 he was awarded the US Legion of Merit.

On 12 Sep 1947 France awarded him the Chevalier of the Legion of Honour and the Croix de Guerre with Palm.

He was Air Officer Commanding, Training Command, from 01 Sep 1949 to Jan 1953 when he became Chief of the Air Staff. In 1957 he became Deputy Commander-in-Chief, NORAD, a position he held until his retirement in 1964. He remained in Colorado Springs until his death, 12 Feb 1992.

WHY I AM SO MIXED UP - and - LES FILLES DU ROI: Some of you out there claim that I am all mixed up - and you are so right! After decades of genealogical research and finding 62 different surnames in my family tree (plus another 45 for Joan) and realizing that this is only a tiny fraction of all those who have had, for want of a better description, a hand in my genetic mix, I admit I am confused. I am not among the 16 million who are descendent from Genghis Khan, and the closest I have come to royalty in to find a Fille du Roi as a grandmother with 7 greats thrown in. So, let me praise those courageous girls, and salute my Françoise Favereau:

In 1663 Louis XIV was worried. Nouvelle France was too much of a commercial colony with a population of only 2,500, mostly men, whereas the adjacent British colonies had swollen to 100,000 and were intruding on French territory. He inaugurated a scheme that, between 1663 and 1673, recruited 774 girls of child-bearing age. They became known as Daughters of the King. A few came from cities, 11% from orphanages, but the majority from farms as farm girls were preferred because of their hardiness and work ethics. Louis spent an average, in today's dollars, of \$1,425 per girl in recruiting, outfitting, transporting, and establishing them in New France. Each girl, some as young as 13, was a volunteer, vouched for by a priest or magistrate. Each was given cash, a sewing kit, and new clothing but inadequate for Quebec winters. The crossing took up to 3 months in crowded ships with poor sanitation. All docked at Quebec City with 566 staying there, 133 going on to Montreal and 75 to Trois-Rivières. On arrival the girls became wards of convents for a few weeks of indoctrination, then allowed to interview suitors and make their choices. Each girl received a dowry of 50 livres and each new couple chickens, pigs, an ox, a cow, and 2 barrels of salted meat. Then a yearly pension of 300 livres was given to each family with 10 children and 400 for families of 12 or more. By 1673, when the plan ceased, the population of New France had increased to 6,700. The Intendant, Jean Talon, advised Louis that the colony could now rely on natural increases.

May 2007

AL GORE AND HISTORY: As we all know, Al is an expert on global warming. But, alas, his knowledge of history leaves much to be desired - along with numerous other politicians. While addressing an audience in the UK in March he praised Britain (overlooking Northern Ireland) for having stood alone against fascism for over two years until the United States arrived. Britain deserves our gratitude but it was hardly alone. It does take poor eyesight to overlook the hundreds of thousands of Australians, Canadians, Chinese, Czechs, Irish, Free French, Poles, New Zealanders, Rhodesians, South Africans, and others who were fighting and dying long before Pearl Harbor. The Finns were also fighting great odds if you want to include Soviet aggression. The substantial contributions of so many are so quickly forgotten by the major powers. It was much the same after WWI. Then they wonder why it is so difficult to find support for their policies today.

THE NATIONAL WAR MUSEUM, OTTAWA: The Canadian Legion is urging a boycott of the new museum over the refusal of the executive to remove, or amend, the offending plaque with its accompanying pictures that, to Bomber Command veterans, imply that they were war criminals and that their bombing campaign had little effect on the outcome of the war. This scribe who, over a period of 3 years, was on both the giving and the receiving end of aerial bombing was compelled to write several articles and letters on the subject. The letter to Bev Oda, Heritage Minister, after a 3-month delay, was finally answered with a form letter stating my comments had been passed on to "the appropriate" department (waste basket?). The one to the museum was never answered.

To me, the museum stand is an outright lie and an insult to all those who served in Bomber Command, especially to the 73,741 casualties it suffered. Why would intelligent people take such a stand?

Somehow, we take in our stride boiling oil, showers of arrows, cannon salvos, trench warfare, torpedoes, and the like, but, ever since a few bombs were dropped from balloons in the Franco-Prussian war and Zeppelins bombed Britain in WWI, there has been a special terror reserved for aerial bombing.

Yes, we should question our choice of weapons, tactics, and strategies, but for those who were not there to debase those who were is somewhat unfair. Yes, we in Bomber Command killed 600,000 of the 50-plus millions who perished in WWII. Heavy emphasis is placed on our destruction of cities, passing over the brutal fact that this was our only weapon that could counter Guernica, Warsaw, Rotterdam, and so many other victims of aggression. The daylight "precision" USAAF bombing is praised over Bomber Command's night efforts. Having been thoroughly frightened by Luftwaffe, Bomber Command, and USAAF bombing raids plus friendly fire, plus fighter strafings, I can vouch that, with the notable exceptions of Peenemunde (RAF/RCAF), Copenhagen (RAAF/RNZAF), Ploesti (USAAF) and the like, all were indiscriminate and inaccurate. Yet, highly effective in damaging their enemy's war efforts.

We recoil at attacking civilians, but what is a soldier other than a civilian handed a uniform and a gun? Most are boys, drafted out of school with no choice as to the role they must play. Theirs is but to do or die.

War museums need to teach us history, show us tactics and weapons, relate the sacrifices demanded of all and, above all else, infuse us with a will to relegate wars to the past and to make us intolerant of what we still see in Sarajevo, Srebrenica, Grozny, Beirut, Rwanda, Darfur, the Congo, Somalia, Gaza, Afghanistan, and Iraq.

Your scribe left this item to last, hoping it would fall off the last page, but, perhaps, he should also fade away as you have suffered these newsletters since 1986.

TIME TO CHANGE THE GUARD ...

By this coming July, I will have served for eight consecutive years on the 971 Wing Executive, two years as Vice President, followed by six years as President. That is a long commitment by any standard, and it is now high time to change the guard. I have tried on several occasions in the past to fade into the background, but without much success. There were always some members urging me to stay on. This year will be different.

I hereby announce that I will step down as Wing President this summer, preferably as early as July, but certainly no later than September. There are good reasons why many organizations have term limits for their officers, and those reasons are equally valid for 971 Wing. The importance of infusing new energy, vision and direction to organizations from time to time is well recognized.

As for my replacement, it appears that the field may be wide open, so I appeal to all likely candidates (and you know who you are) to pick up the gauntlet and move the Wing forward. It has been an honor and a privilege for me to serve the Wing.

Per Ardua Ad Astra ... Art Nielsen

I used to know a man whose family was German aristocracy prior to World War Two. They owned a number of large industries and estates. I asked him how many German people were true Nazis, and the answer he gave has stuck with me and guided my attitude toward fanaticism ever since.

"Very few people were true Nazis," he said, "but many enjoyed the return of German pride, and many more were too busy to care. I was one of those who just thought the Nazis were a bunch of fools. So, the majority just sat back and let it all happen. Then, before we knew it, they owned us, and we had lost control, and the end of the world had come. My family lost everything, I ended up in a concentration camp and the Allies destroyed my factories."

We are told again and again by "experts" and "talking heads" that Islam is the religion of peace, and that the vast majority of Muslims just want to live in peace.

Although this unqualified assertion may be true, it is entirely irrelevant. It is meaningless fluff, meant to make us feel better, and meant to somehow diminish the specter of fanatics rampaging across the globe in the name of Islam. The fact is that the fanatics rule Islam at this moment in history.

It is the fanatics who march. It is the fanatics who wage any one of 50 shooting wars worldwide. It is the fanatics who systematically slaughter Christian or tribal groups throughout Africa and are gradually taking over the entire continent in an Islamic wave. It is the fanatics who bomb, behead, murder, or honor kill. It is the fanatics who take over mosque after mosque. It is the fanatics who zealously spread the stoning and hanging of rape victims and homosexuals. The hard quantifiable fact is that the "peaceful majority" is the "silent majority" and it is cowed and extraneous.

Communist Russia comprised Russians who just wanted to live in peace, yet the Russian Communists were responsible for the murder of about 20 million people. The peaceful majority were irrelevant. China's huge population was peaceful as well, but Chinese Communists managed to kill a staggering 70 million people.

The average Japanese individual prior to World War Two was not a warmongering sadist. Yet, Japan murdered and slaughtered its way across South East Asia in an orgy of killing that included the systematic murder of 12 million Chinese civilians; most killed by sword, shovel, and bayonet. And, who can forget Rwanda, which collapsed into butchery. Could it not be said that the majority of Rwandans were "peace loving"?

History lessons are often incredibly simple and blunt, yet for all our powers of reason we often miss the most basic and uncomplicated of points: Peace-loving Muslims have been made irrelevant by their silence.

Peace-loving Muslims will become our enemy if they don't speak up, because like my friend from Germany, they will awaken one day and find that the fanatics own them, and the end of their world will have begun.

Peace-loving Germans, Japanese, Chinese, Russians, Rwandans, Serbs, Afghans, Iraqis, Palestinians, Somalis, Nigerians, Algerians, and many others have died because the peaceful majority did not speak up until it was too late.

As for us who watch it all unfold; we must pay attention to the only group that counts; the fanatics who threaten our way of life.

Lastly, I wish to add: at the risk of offending someone, I sincerely think that anyone who rejects this as just another political rant, or doubts the seriousness of this issue or just deletes it without sending it on, is part of the problem. Let's quit laughing at and forwarding the jokes and cartoons which denigrate and ridicule our leaders in this war against terror. They are trying to protect the interests and well-being of the US and its citizens. Best we support them.