

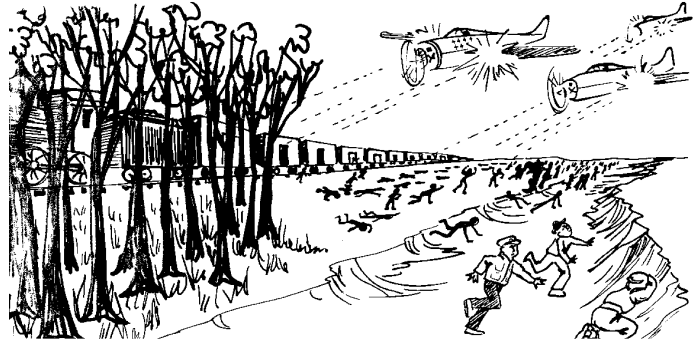
971 RCAF AIR MARSHAL SLEMON WING

AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION OF CANADA NEWSLETTER

July 2011

www.971WingAFAC.com

Colorado Springs, Colorado



Unfriendly Friendly Fire - See page 7

Social Calendar

- May 21 50 of us took advantage of another great party hosted by Jim Berwick and this time co-hosted by Donna and Darrell Levitt.
- 30 Memorial Day. It is sad that we can easily get 50 of our members to appear at a wine and dine social but only 13 to bestir themselves to remember our fallen comrades. And most of the 13 are the same reliable-but-ageing group. For penance let us forego the booze at the next party.
- Jun 04 Martha Brown and Jane Sumner hosted a most pleasant evening for 34 of us in Martha's spacious and lovely home that gave us all needed exercise climbing up that driveway. Martha has now joined our Wing. Welcome aboard!
- Jul 01 Dominion Day to us mature types, Canada Day to the kids: By invitation from the Regular Force 1300 to 1500 at the El Pomar Center. But these 144 years we commemorate are recent stuff. There were French/British settlements 406 years ago, Viking 1,011 and perhaps 1,300 years ago, Asiatic at least 12,000 years ago, life forms 575 million years ago and the first land to solidify 3.825 billion years ago. It is really ancient real estate.
- Jul 23 In spite of Bill's illness, Charlene still plans on hosting their annual feast for us starting at 1500.
- Aug 21 Sunday 1600-2000 at the Club House at Banning Lewis Ranch, sponsored by Brenda and Bradley MacAskill. Details TBA

DUES ARE OVERDUE and I need to produce an updated Membership List, hopefully with no losses. \$60 per local couple and \$45 for all of you out of commuting distance to our social functions. Canadian or US cheques quite acceptable. Send to Larry Best, 370 Scrub Oak Circle, Monument, CO., 80132.

The Editor's Corner

THOSE PRE-1967 UN-GRANTED-ISRAEL-BORDERS

It is gratifying that, unlike Harper and Netanyahu, Obama, European leaders, and King Abdullah II agree with my long-time stance that Israel will only know peace if it withdraws to its original borders or gives up equally-valuable land to keep a few of its West Bank illegal settlements. And Jerusalem, that has changed hands 18 times and is sacred to 3 religions, must be an open city. Otherwise the Middle East will repeat what it has known for 5,000 years - endless military takeovers and, by association, destroy US interests in the area. Netanyahu's militarily-defensible borders are indefensible by military means.

To understand, if that is possible, the current problem we need some history, but whose? So much has been fabricated. Even archaeology, normally quite honest, has been slanted by Syria, Iraq, Israel, and Palestine to prove prior ownership. Archaeologists admit they have yet to find proof of the existence of Abraham, David, and Solomon so the Israelis are actively digging and in areas sacred to Palestinians who object. The Qur'an does state that no one has any permanent ownership because the entire Earth belongs to God. We do know that the ancestors of most of the current inhabitants of the area all emigrated, with female gods, in groups over centuries from Arabia. By 3000 BC the first had taken Canaan from previous owners. The name "Palestine" also existed then and came to refer to Jews, Philistines, and Syrians. Hebrews were one of the later groups and Israelis an offshoot and they smote the Canaanites to grab their "Promised Land". One Hebrew tribe adopted and spread the Aryan male god, Yahweh, who ordered the destruction of all other gods and the elimination of the goddess Ashtoreth (she had many names). This was not without strong opposition just as in 632 AD it was a bloody fight when Islam moved in.

Anyway, over the centuries, scores of city states took turns in prospering, attaining dominance, and grabbing more land from neighbours which eventually led to all of their downfalls, some to rise again later, and to fall again, never learning that wars create more wars. During all this, the Jews, who were just as guilty of massacres as all the rest, faced expulsions from Egyptians, Babylonians, Romans, Turks, and Crusaders, but we need to jump to 1831 when the Palestine Ottoman ruler opened the area to Western interests. This permitted Baron Edmond de Rothschild, a Jew who made a fortune financing British victories over Napoleon, to buy up housing complexes from landlords, evict the Palestinians, and import Jews who had a big advantage over the natives as they had western skills, money, and backing while the Palestinians were emerging from 400 years of Ottoman-Turk rule with little outside assistance.

For considerable help from the Semitic Arabs and some from the Semitic Jews in defeating the Ottoman Empire in WWI, the UK promised both a homeland and tried to allot the 12%-arable-land fairly. As Jewish refugees grew with the rise of Hitler so did frictions which erupted in 1937 when 500 British, 1,200 Jews, and 5,000 Palestinians were killed. Jewish terrorists led by Menachem Begin massacred some 91 more British in 1946 in their King David Hotel headquarters, then went on to massacre 250 Palestinians in Deir Yassim in 1948 using their terrorists groups Irgun and the Stern Gang.

Due to this terror, streams of Jewish refugees, and sympathy over the holocaust, we kept our promise only to the Jews. With more Jews in North America than Palestine, and far more room, we declined to offer them Nova Scotia or California for a state but put the whole burden on Palestine, ousting 800,000 to make room in a tiny area where the Jews have done an amazingly good job, albeit with much help in money, weapons, and people from other nations. Understandably, they wanted, and took, more, all at the expense of the Palestinians whose protests went unheeded, causing the creation of Hamas and Hezbollah whose terror tactics we deplore while tolerating much larger Israeli crimes. Hamas ineffective use of rockets and "terror" tactics brought massive, bloody retaliations that the Jews learned from the Nazis.

Fair play has been in short supply in the Middle East. The Arab Spring is long overdue and we do need to support it with all the help we can give. Careful and studied help as criminals lurk in both camps.

Had the Germans entered the Ukraine as liberators, not oppressors, they might have won WWII. The Israelis have the talent, wealth, and backing to be the spark that can change their area, starting with Palestine and Lebanon, into a bastion of tolerance, equality, and dignity for all. Plus an economic common market. Please, Netanyahu, do not blow it again. And, insulting boorish behaviour towards your benefactor, the President of the United States in his home, is no way to ensure your future, or any respect.

MILITARY BUDGETS do not seem to reflect either current dangers or affordability. Lobbyists for the arms industry are too successful in convincing us that all times are perilous, so preclude ever skimping on defence.

The Canadian tab for 2011 will be \$22.3 billion which is the world's 13th highest and 6th highest among NATO's 28 members. Equipment will take 18% of this but, in selecting, need often takes a back seat to deals for industry that can be made with firms such as Boeing, General Dynamics, Lockheed Martin.

Currently, dissent reigns over the selection of the Joint Strike Fighter (F-35) to replace the Hornet. It has a price tag that keeps climbing above the \$70-million-each mark. Critics argue it is much inferior to the F22A, the Russian T50, and the Chinese J20, and never to be needed by Canada. Competing drones include:

Global Hawk, Northrop Gruman, 11.6 tons, 650 km/hr, 20,000 metres ceiling, endurance 42 hours, cost \$37 million. Active.

Predator 3, General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, 4.5 tons, 129 km/hr, 15,200 metres ceiling, \$4 million each, Active.

UCAV (Unmanned Combat Air Vehicle), 6.8 tons, 1041 km/hr, 13,300 metres ceiling, \$40 million each. Prototype.

Spending more than the rest of the world combined, the US has a much greater problem and proposed cuts are woefully inadequate to dent the debt. Are 11 carrier groups, 50 attack submarines, the F-35, over 900 bases, and 900 generals essential to maintain the US Empire and is an empire anything more than a costly albatross? Does Europe still need the 80,000 US troops there? Enemies do abound, and come in many forms but currently few, if any, are hostile nations bent on war and destruction.

AETHELFLAED, daughter of King Alfred, philosopher and one of the best kings to ever rule mankind, was born to conflict. Marauding Danes were attacking, and occupying, much of England. Even as she was riding to her wedding she had to fight off attacking Danes intent on preventing a Princess of Wessex from uniting with Prince Ethelred of Mercia.

She came from a long line of powerful women and assisted her father in uniting Angles (Mercia) with Saxons (Wessex) against the Vikings, creating the Royal Navy, and

promoting education for all and the use of the English language in the new Anglo-Saxon England. Alfred died in 899 and Ethelred was killed in battle with the Danes in 911. Aethelflaed then ruled alone until her death in 918.

She chose the Stratford-Warwick-Tamworth area as her headquarters but roamed from Wales to the Scottish border, shrewdly selecting locations for forts and trade centres that could flourish. She captured Derry from the Danes and advanced on Leicester whose Danes, fearing her military expertise, surrendered without a fight. She then led her army to the Viking stronghold of York, forcing its capitulation. Victorious, she suddenly died of the plague. Her brother, Edward, took over all the new lands Aethelflaed had united under the name England. Edward was a capable ruler but could not match his sister's drive and flair. She created the England we know today.

GOOGLE and WATERLOO-KITCHENER:

Google is even smarter than I thought. It seized on a great opportunity for location and talent by opening its most important hub outside the USA in this Ontario area now considered the world's most prolific producer of young engineering talent. Google has 170 engineers at its new 34,000 sq ft, \$30 million plant near the University of Waterloo and has made numerous grants to it including \$1 million to discover how best to separate information from noise on social networks like Facebook and Twitter.

PETER PENASHUE of Sheshatshiu, Labrador, joins the serving Minister of Health, **LEONA AGGLUKAQ** of Nunavut, as the second Inuit in the federal cabinet. As a youth, Peter took to drink after sexual abuse from a priest. At 26, realizing what a failure he was to his wife and four children, he begged to be sent to Ontario for treatment. Helped by his wife, Mary Ann, he made great progress and embarked on a career of promoting Inuit rights with a powerful, but soft and persuasive voice. Insisting on a strong Inuit voice to issues like the Voisey's Bay Nickel mine negotiations, the NATO low-level training flights, and the plight of the residents of Davis Inlet, he became the first Conservative to be elected in Labrador. Stephen Harper brought him into Cabinet as Minister for Intergovernmental Affairs and President of the Queen's Privy Council.

OUR GRACIOUS QUEEN in her visit to Eire apologized for all the wrongs Britain had committed in Ireland. She did the same when she visited the USA. Great! Apologies are needed.

But I am still waiting for the other sides to own up to the fact that they have just as many, if not more, sins to repent.

While the Irish may be likeable (I am one of them) they are a quarrelsome lot and have never been united. They had a habit of raiding Britain and it was an Irish king who invited England's Norman conquerors in to permit him to defeat a rival Irish king. The Normans, then English, stayed just as the Angles, Saxons, and Jutes who came to help the Britons oust the Romans stayed.

The revolt of 13 of Britain's 29 American colonies was due more to outrage over Britain's kindness to the defeated French Canadians in safeguarding for them their lands and culture than it was to such issues as taxes which amounted to sixpence per household to help pay for the regiments Britain could ill afford to guard them from the anger of the natives. Confessions are good for the soul.

ALL HUMANS ARE ACCOMMODATING: Whether we like them all or not, every human has trillions of appreciative friends, even the Taliban. Each of us starts out with 100% human cells. We all die with 90% microbial cells. Each of us provides a home for 100 trillion. They particularly like the comforts and free food in our guts. By no means are they freeloaders. They digest much of our food so we can extract what we need. They help build and train our immune system. They recognize and fight our enemies. Tiny as they are, they add almost 3 pounds (1.2 kg) to our body weight, and come in about 1,000 different species. While we share many, each of us has a different assortment.

We house some 3.5 million different microbial genes, outnumbering human genes 150 to 1. They perform many thousands of biochemical functions for us. When they are slow to fight off harmful invaders we treat them with anti-biotics, killing millions who have benefited us. They do recover after some weeks but their composition is changed.

Most of us have yet to realize that our world demands understanding and co-operation.

CANADA - PROUD TO BE BRITISH: Kathie Reece, in going through her Dad's possessions came across a song which she sent to me. It recalls several similar songs I knew as a boy growing up in Ontario. The five verses of this song each end with the boast "Proud to be born in Canada beneath the British flag."

While Canadians have never been noted for flag waving and do find US shows of patriotism quite excessive there have been deep-rooted passions. Regardless of ethnic origins the feeling of being "British" was widespread in Ontario. Not so in Quebec which we thought ungrateful for, had it not been for British governors protecting French language and culture, Quebec would have been swallowed by US opportunists eager to swarm in with their Protestant churches.

This satisfaction with considering ourselves British had many sources: Britain was a good trading partner, it was a balance to a smothering US influence, and when we could not agree on divisive issues it was a relief to dump the problem with the UK parliament. But, for me, of Irish and French descent, it was all those boys' magazines.

Arriving weekly by boat from London faster than they now do by air, about eight different boys and girls magazines, sold for five cents per copy. Each contained some eight well-written stories, based around the world but with emphasis on the Commonwealth. They taught me a great deal of history, geography, and cultures. Pen-Pal columns were included to which you could add your name and address. I found lasting pen pals in six different countries. My German pen pal told me of his adventures in the Hitler Jugend while I told him of mine with the Boy Scouts. Only my Malayan friend survived WWII.

This feeling of British Commonwealth was strengthened in WWII in being forever among aircrew from all over it as well as from occupied Europe and the US all of whom we considered "British". In our POW camps our senior officer was known as the SBO (Senior British Officer) regardless of his real nationality. It was a feeling of a family of equals. The British got to share not only their king and queen but also their name which actually goes back to pre-Roman times.

Something precious has been lost today as countries drift apart.

Book



Review

OUR LAST BEST CHANCE - The Pursuit of Peace in a Time of Peril

by King Abdullah II of Jordan, Viking, (Penguin, London,) 2011, 346 pages

Like his father, King Hussein who ruled 1952-99, King Abdullah is a voice of moderation with the ability to get along with almost everyone. His book is very informative and readable, highly recommended by such as Bill Clinton, Warren Buffet, Gen. Tommy Franks, Prince Charles, and this scribe. Like his father and grandfather, King Abdullah I, he survived the gruelling test of Sandhurst to become an officer in the British Army. UK military schools allow no perks for royalty. His brother, Feisal, topped his pilot's course at Cranwell and now leads the Jordanian Air Force, the first in the Middle East to have female pilots. His sister, Aisha, a paratrooper, a general, and the first Middle East woman to graduate from Sandhurst is now military attaché in Washington. Other family members, also attended Sandhurst.

Excluded from the line of succession so he could lead a normal life, although sent to top schools in the UK and US, he worked his own way up the military ladder amid harsh competition. He was frequently detailed by his father to act as bodyguard during visits to foreign leaders and with duties that just happened to assign responsibilities that would permit him to get to know these rulers and their families. It was not until Hussein was on his death bed that he revealed his true intention of making Abdullah his successor.

Abdullah devotes 11 pages to "My Islam" emphasizing its peaceful intent and blasting fringe groups such as Takfiris that arose in the 1970s, gave rise to Al Qaeda and bin Laden, promises heaven for martyrdom and misuses jihad, that had meant a struggle to improve oneself. He quotes instructions given by the first caliph to the army: "Kill no women, children, or elderly. Never mutilate. Do not betray or carry grudges or harm those in any monastery. Do not destroy beehives, fruit trees, or livestock."

High in praise for the several schools he attended in the UK and US he remains especially attached to Deerfield, Massachusetts, where students had to think, wait on tables, and develop close bonds. On becoming king he raised the funds to build a duplicate co-ed high school in Jordan, hiring a Deerfield teacher as principal. This school's graduates have gone on to universities in Canada, the UK, the US, and other countries.

Like his father he has struggled tirelessly for peace, democracy, and equality. Modernizing his army into a model of efficiency that has foiled numerous Al Qaeda plots, he turned to his civil service, finding it harder to vitalize, but he did create free trade zones creating high-tech jobs for both sexes. He has travelled widely even to North Korea for which he has some harsh words. He finds Iran a complex society full of admirable people but with a regime that fails its people. He found a few good points in Saddam who would listen to his pleas for moderation and he made numerous trips to Washington, liking Clinton and Obama and finding George Bush to be sincere and likeable but badly misled by the likes of Wolfowitz, Feith, Abrahms, and Perle who were intent on invading Iraq and would not listen to arguments that it would open a Pandora's Box and consume the US for decades when the area's dominant problem was the Arab-Israeli dispute. The progress made by Clinton, Barak, and Arafat was allowed to die with the Bush administration hands-off support of Sharon. A large part of the 800,000 Palestinians evicted to make room for Israel ended up in Jordan, creating enormous problems. Nevertheless Jordan made peace with Israel but deplores its continued expansion, its theft of all of Jerusalem, and the intransigence of Netanyahu. Throughout his book he implores the West to pay attention to the horrible plight of the Palestinians. He claims that people who do understand, like Colin Powell, Tommy Franks, George Tenet, William Burns, Prince Charles, Barack Obama, and European leaders continue to be ignored by Israel and by too many in the USA. Netanyahu's intransigence will, he fears, lead to the destruction of Israel and a huge loss of influence for the U.S. Action is needed now! Obama, you are the world's Last Best Chance.

DARRELL'S PAGE

CANADIANS IN VIETNAM

Although Canada officially remained impartial during the Vietnam War, and was a member of the International Control Commission (ICC) until 1973 when it withdrew from the commission.

While Canada as a nation remained impartial, many thousands of Canadian citizens crossed the border into the US to join and subsequently serve in Vietnam. Many of whom rising to distinction. The number of Canadians who served with the US forces in South East Asia is unknown but estimates range from 12,000 to 40,000.

This personal partnership between Canada and the United States is not a new concept, in fact since the start of the American Civil War, over 80,000 Canadians have served in the U.S. military with 59 being awarded the Medal Of Honor. There were in fact during the Spanish American War, two brothers from Nova Scotia, Willard and Harry Miller who won the medal for conspicuous bravery above and beyond the call of duty. There is also the story of a Canadian born American, Peter Lemon who, during the Vietnam War also was awarded the Medal of Honor and in fact resides here in Colorado Springs. Over 60,000 US citizens have served in Canadian Forces. In WWII, 8,864 served in the RCAF which they called The Royal Confederate Air Force. Over 800 of these were killed. Most joined during the 27 months the US was neutral.

It is believed that during the Vietnam War at a time when the Canadian forces were being reduced, the Vietnam War afforded some Canadian youth an opportunity to join the US forces and to acquire skills harder to obtain in Canada, such as learning to fly or repair helicopters. Although some joined to fight communism in Vietnam, a larger number joined for personal reasons, adventure, and some merely because of nothing better to do.



Located in Assumption Park, in Windsor, Ontario, is a memorial known as "The North Wall". Facing the Detroit River, the wall honours the 103 Canadians who were killed in Vietnam, as well as the 7 who are missing in action. The monument is made of black granite, and measures eleven feet tall by fourteen feet wide. The wall was the work of three American Vietnam veterans from Michigan, who wanted to honour the Canadians who fought alongside them. Because the war was considered illegal in Canada and immoral by many in the U.S., veterans were treated poorly and their plight ignored by both countries. Many branches of the Canadian Legion refused to grant them participation in Remembrance Day ceremonies. It was not until 1986 that the Canadian Vietnam Veterans Coalition was formed.

DEBBIE AND LARRY BEST IN EUROPE - AND A CONNECTION -

In April of 1960 Debbie and I, along with Denise, our first of six children and just 19 days old, boarded the luxury liner, "Saxonia" and sailed to Le Havre, France, en route to 422 (F) Sqn, ("the everybody loves us squadron") Baden Sollingen, Germany. We were compelled to travel by sea (first class) because we had elected to take our new white 1960 Pontiac to Europe and the RCAF way was to send us along with our car on the ship -- such a hardship!

Debbie's parents were from Poland and had fled to Canada during the Bolshevik revolution and had homesteaded in a small German community near Minitonas, ten miles from Swan River in northern Manitoba; many of their relatives, however, remained in Europe, some in Germany, others in the Slavic countries to the east. One such relative was a brother to Debbie's mother who fathered a son, Irvin Zellmer (Debbie's cousin), who grew up in Neuburg am Donau, near München (Munich). Before the war, as a young man, Irvin became a railway engineer. As soon as war broke out in 1939 he was pressed into service to drive troop trains throughout Europe.

After combat ready training in the Sabre VI, I was allowed to take a few days off. We decided to look up some of Debbie's relatives and located 'Family Zellmer'. We arrived on a Friday afternoon before Irvin got home from work and were warmly welcomed in good Deutsch tradition by Irvin's wife. He came home around six and to our surprise the first thing through the door was an artificial leg (he always had a spare along with him), and a handshake revealed only a small part of what used to be a right hand. After brief introductions all in German we soon developed a warm rapport. The weekend was simply marvellous. I learned German and Irvin learned English. I was introduced to local schnapps and Irvin met Herr V.O. Seagram's -- That night I slept but Irvin made several calls to the big white telephone. Morning arrived all too early and we both hurt, and to add insult to injury Sunday morning was no better than Saturday morning -- a wonderful experience, nonetheless, and the beginning of a lasting friendship. Before departing Sunday afternoon Irvin took me out to a quarry where he had worked since post-war years as a heavy equipment operator. He paced off about 30 steps from an old tree in the direction of another old tree and then he began to dig -- after a while I spelled him off and then we took turns. I had no idea what we were digging for but I was soon to find out. We must have gone down four or five feet or so and then he found it. Carefully wrapped in leather and obviously buried for a long time was this grim reminder of a sinister era, long past but not forgotten. It was a silver and bronze swastika, approximately 12 inches by 15 inches. With tears in his eyes, he gave it to me.

Some facts of interest. As the tides of war began to turn more and more against Germany in 1944, it was a daily occurrence for Allied fighter bombers to sweep across the German countryside seeking out targets of opportunity. Troop trains were especially good targets. Initially, in gentlemanly fashion, the fighters would make a recce pass over the train, Irvin would stop the train, everybody would jump off and run for cover, and then the fighters would swoop down and blow up the train. Irvin would then make it back to München and pick up another train. He lost several trains in this manner but escaped serious personal injury -- escaped that is until late 1944 when a section of RAF fighters made a pass over his train. As before Irvin stopped the train and everybody ran for cover. This time, however, on the next pass the fighters ignored the train; instead, they just mowed down the troops in the field beside the tracks, Irvin included; then they blew up the train. Irvin took hits in his back which passed through his lungs, blew his left leg right off just above the knee, and lost most of his right hand -- miracle he lived. At the end of the war all swastikas and other articles representative of the Third Reich were gathered up and destroyed. Irvin captured the top of a German flagpole, wrapped it in leather and buried it in the quarry. To be caught with such an artifact as this in the days immediately following the end of the war was life threatening, but Irvin wanted to preserve something tangible to show to future generations. For 25 years, however, he was too frightened to retrieve it, and then I came along and, ironically, he passed it on to me, a fighter pilot from Canada, a country which, along with the other Allied nations, fought with great resolve against Germany in WWII. So now we have it for safe-keeping, and this we shall do, lest we forget.

POSTSCRIPT: Your scribe may have known Irvin. In fleeing the Soviet advance I had walked many miles in snow but I was also transported by box car, getting to talk, on 3 different trains, to three drivers, all tired, cold, hungry, and despondent, facing unending danger and a bleak future. One had lost his entire family in Dresden to our bombing. Yet, he was still civil to us “Luftgangsters”.

I was fortunate in surviving bombing and strafing by Bomber Command while locked in a boxcar in the München rail yards while a low-flying Mosquito demolished our engine, then, on 03 April 1945, my train driver also was from München and the circumstances are so similar to Irvin’s. Again, I was packed in one of many crowded box cars, clearly marked with Red Crosses, this time en route from Nürnberg to Moosburg. Near Regensburg a swarm of Liberators escorted by Thunderbolts appeared. Our train führer stopped the train by some trees adjacent to farmland. Our guards unlocked our boxcar doors and we raced across the field seeking ditches as nine Thunderbolts peeled off in three groups of three to swoop on us, all guns firing. They made no identification pass. The passes they made lasted an eternity as 50 calibre slugs ploughed holes on both sides of my prone body and hit the Australian next to me. Not a pretty sight. We survivors catered to the dead and dying then were herded back into the box cars; the holed engine was patched up, as was the train engineer, and we struggled on to Moosburg across the Danube on the one remaining railroad bridge. One USAAF survivor, slightly wounded and a former Thunderbolt pilot, had recognized the squadron letters on the Thunderbolts. He was furious at them ignoring Red Crosses and the weird assortment of non-military clothing we long-time prisoners were wearing. He kept repeating: “I know those trigger-happy bastards and I will have them all crucified!” It was a squadron based in Italy.

A few wars do have to be fought but they still leave participants with life-long pain and a sense of shame at belonging to the human species.

419 SQUADRON REUNION: Barbara Trendos sent me details. She took her father, Al Wallace of Toronto, my friend of 419 Sqn and POW days, to the recent reunion in Kamloops, BC, where only three WWII survivors were able this time to attend. Our 419 Squadron flew 4,002 operations and suffered 1,407 casualties, the highest of the 15 RCAF bomber squadrons. It has a special affiliation with Kamloops as the original CO, “Moose” Fulton, was from there. Moose was a dynamic leader continually urged by HQ to refrain from going on so many operations so he went on several under an assumed name. In 1942 he finished the required 30, under his own name, for a tour, then decided to do “just one more”. He and his crew were shot down into the North Sea and perished. At dawn the Squadron mounted an extensive search of the area as the wireless officer was able to dispatch a message while they were under attack by night fighters. No dinghies or debris were found. The cruel and indifferent North Sea owns them.

SAINT PATRICK’S DRIVING THE SNAKES OUT OF IRELAND: When we were all agricultural we had female gods. On building city states, raising armies, and embarking on eternal wars, we needed to invent more aggressive male gods. Snakes, close to the earth, were associated with female wisdom and considered good. So, Patrick in converting the Irish Celts with their female gods and associated snakes to Christianity, he had to first paint snakes as evil and harmful - and drive them out.

CANADIAN REGULAR FORCE SOCIAL ACTIVITIES IN COLORADO SPRINGS are now much more numerous and organized than in my day in the 1960s when we were moving from the downtown Ent Air Force Base into Cheyenne Mountain. Their well-illustrated newsletter describes their Bicycle Club, Book Club, Flying Club, Hiking Club, Motorcycle Club, Riding Club, Family Outings, et al. Their Family Resource Centre organizes many activities for the youth.

YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED that, now and then, I include the odd opinion in these newsletters. I do believe that, as an editor and a veteran, that is my responsibility. Of course I expect some arguments, backed up by facts, but I seldom get any. Your failure to satisfy my desire for discussion is dangerous as it could make me believe you all agree with me, so how can I learn anything? Do your duty and force me to delve more deeply in the search for Truth, whatever that is.

And do summon the energy to send inputs to: georgesweanor@comcast.net

