

427 LION SQUADRON ASSOCIATION

PATRONS

G. CAPT. DUDLEY BURNSIDE DSO OBE DFC & BAR
L. GEN. (RET) DONALD MCNAUGHTON CMM CD
HON. COL. M. GEN. (RET) ROBERT CHISHOLM CMM CD

Newsletter

Vol. 1, No. 5

December 1998

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Many thanks to those who renewed their 1998 membership, especially those who chose to become Life Members. We are also grateful to you who have written to us during the past year. Your notes and stories are most interesting, and keep us all "in touch". Our editor is always looking for material for **ROAR**, so keep those letters coming.

427 Lion Squadron was well represented at the Battle of Britain Ceremony at Camp Borden and the City of Barrie on September 20. Yours truly was invited as the Reviewing Officer for the Parade at the Barrie Cenotaph. A most rewarding experience, I must say. On parade were serving members from Camp Borden, WW2 Veterans, and Air Cadets. Duncan McLeish, our Northern Ontario Representative, laid a wreath on behalf of the 427 Lion Squadron Association. Bob Middlemiss, a former CO of 427 (1962-1963), and Stan Miller, were also in attendance. To Col. D.B. Malloy, CO of 16 Wing Borden, and Capt. Martin Dufour, thanks for your support and guidance during the weekend. My reward is a handsome print of a WW1 scene with a Curtis JN in flight, which now hangs alongside an original JN propeller. Thanks also to the members of RCAF 441 (Huron) Wing in Barrie for their hospitality following the parade.

The yearly Gathering Of The Lions at CFB Petawawa took place November 6-7, celebrating the 56th anniversary of the formation of 427 Squadron, at Croft, Yorkshire, in 1942. More on that inside by our Petawawa reporter. Our next Gathering is scheduled for September 1999 at the Allied Air Forces Reunion, so look for your flyer in the mail next Spring—or sooner. Let us all celebrate together **THE 75th ANNIVERSARY OF THE RCAF**. Mark your calendars now for the '99 Labour Day weekend in Toronto. You will also see the biggest CNE Air Show ever!

In closing, we hope you have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

FERTE MANUS CERTAS

427 LION SQUADRON ASSOCIATION

427 Lion Squadron has a proud history. By organizing our members, past and present, into a formal Association in the Spring of 1996, the intent was to help to ensure that the achievements, traditions and memories of this famous squadron are maintained and perpetuated

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Cartoons by 'Muff' Mills and Graphics by Gord Maxfield

MEMBERSHIP NOTES

Since the last Newsletter, several Annual Members have become Life Members. There are now 150 Life Members and 82 Annual Members. There will be a review of membership early in the New Year, with reminders for renewals where they apply.

There have been address changes for some of you. Please send your new address to me so that the mailing list can be kept up to date. You may use my Fax, or email (see box above).

We welcome new membership applications from those who served, or are serving, on 427 Squadron from the bomber years right up to the present. Dunc McLeish has done a great job of tracking down Sabre Lions and we encourage all of you out there to do the same for your period on the squadron. Suggestions are most welcome.

In closing, I wish you all a Merry Festive Season, and a Happy New Year.

Stan Miller, Treasurer & Membership Chairman

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

UK	Len Pratt 3 Parkfield Road, Taunton, Somerset, England. TA1 4RL Tel: 01823 252343
Maritimes	<i>Open</i>
Quebec	J. Rocky Durocher 2155 Rue Nancy, Brossard, PQ. J4Y 1A5 Tel: (514) 678-8136
	Jim Moffat 810-49 th Ave., Lachine, PQ. H8T 2T2 Tel: (514) 637-7700
S. Ontario	Roy Inkster 6450 Gore St., Niagara Falls, ON. L2J 1Y1 Tel: (905) 358-5531
N. Ontario	Duncan (Dunc) McLeish 2 Redwood Ct., Barrie, ON. L4M 5G7 Tel: (705) 739-3567 (Fighter era)
Ottawa	Allan Todd 568 David St., Buckingham, PQ. J8L 2A7 Tel: (819) 986-5865
Manitoba	Ian C. Thomson 1027-1630 Henderson Hwy., Winnipeg, MB. R2G 2B9 Tel: (204) 339-6883 Fax: same
Saskatchewan	Weldon (Weldy) Moffatt 1112 College Ave., Regina, SK. S4P 1A8 Tel: (306) 522-9938 Fax (306) 757-5599
Alberta	Paul W. Benson 201-545 18 th Ave. S.W., Calgary, AB. T2S 0C6 Tel: (403) 244-3746
B.C.	Rev. Derek S. Salter P.O. Box 433, Okanagan Falls, BC. V0H 1R0 Tel: (604) 497-5172
USA	<i>Open</i>
Petawawa Liaison	Capt. Geoff Mackenzie WO Doug Harvey

PETAWAWA REPORT

Prepared by Captain Geoff Mackenzie, Public Information Officer and Griffon Pilot, 427 Squadron on Nov. 5, 1998.

Not long ago I was going to write about how things have been slowing down here of late, however the last two weeks have had us quite busy.

With the tragic loss of a Labrador out of Greenwood, NS and the subsequent grounding of the fleet, the Griffons were identified to be used as a stopgap measure until the problems could be sorted out. Crews were identified to support search and rescue (SAR) out of all the Lab bases across Canada. The requirement was stood down on the 30th of October.

This week 427 Squadron was identified as the unit to support the rescue efforts of Central America after the devastation left behind in the wake of Hurricane Mitch. As I write, we are in the planning stages to deploy aircraft and support personnel. The four aircraft will be pre-deployed to Corpus Christi, Texas tomorrow morning. The personnel identified to head to Honduras have all been through the immunization and briefing process with an anticipated departure Sunday. I will keep you informed as things progress, so that you have the most up-to-date information for your newsletter.

This summer past the Squadron participated in a joint exercise with the Navy known as MARCOT. 427 and elements of the 1st Battalion of the Royal Canadian Regiment successfully fended off an attack by the United States Marine Expeditionary Force. The Commander of 1 Wing, Col. Bouchard was on hand for part of the exercise, and in a letter he sent to the Squadron afterwards, he said he felt that 427 was very strong operationally. With that, we were declared operational without the requirement of an actual Operational Evaluation.

We are all quite proud of the Wing Commander's praise. The opinion here is that 427 is the jewel in 1 Wing's crown.

Editor's Note: Subsequent report from the Squadron (Nov. 16th) - 46 Lions and 4 Griffons are now deployed on relief work in Central America.



A DAY IN HISTORY

October 14, 1944 – Maximum effort by Canadian No. 6 RCAF Bomber Group which included 427 Squadron. A total of 501 Halifaxes and Lancasters attacked Duisburg in two raids within 16 hours.

We Shall Remember Them

*Joseph Edward Lloyd Crewson Harvey W. Raaflaub
Ernest Garfield Wanless*

November is Remembrance Month, and this being the 80th Anniversary of Armistice Day 1918, it is timely to pay tribute to our Fallen Comrades who served their country in the World Wars and Korea, and those who served in post-war Europe, and those who served in peace-keeping and humanitarian duties in far away places, and those in Search and Rescue operations on this continent.

The inscription at the RCAF Memorial Museum, Trenton seems appropriate to the occasion:

“AD ASTRA” (to the Stars)

“Let me pause here awhile where traditions, memories and old friends consecrate this happy place; and where with each passing day, younger wings now fly the skies above us with dedicated pride and grace.”

AD ASTRA STONES

On October 3, 1998, the third annual Ad Astra Dedication Ceremony was held in the Air Park at the RCAF Memorial Museum C.F.B. Trenton. At the time of the dedication there were more than 3200 stones registered.

Each stone bears the name, home town and province of a person who served, or is serving, in any of Canada's Air Forces. On the individual Ad Astra Stone, the year of birth and year of death are inscribed after the person's demise upon written request to the Museum. The words “AD ASTRA” appears on all stones.

GATHERING OF LIONS 1998

Organizers Captain Wade and Corporal Karen Tasar, assisted by a great team of volunteers made the 56th Anniversary celebration, held at CFB Petawawa, on the weekend of November 6 to 8 another "roaring" success.

At the squadron parade, Hon Col MGen(Ret) Bob Chisholm took the salute and, with the CO LCol Dan Guertin, inspected the "troops" and later presented a variety of awards and commendations to the worthy recipients. A Meet & Greet followed in the main hangar where Lions of all ages renewed friendships and established new ones. The MGM photo albums on display were popular along with a fine collection of airforce memorabilia and squadron regalia. On Saturday, we were guests of 438 Air Force Association of Canada Wing in Pembroke.

On Saturday evening a Dinner/Dance was held in Building Y-101 which sounds rather ordinary. In actual fact, Y-101 is the impressive, ultra modern headquarters of the Royal Canadian Regiment and a super setting for a party. There were no lengthy speeches, however in a few well chosen words LCol Guertin thanked the Gathering Organizers and the volunteers for their efforts. On behalf of the assembly the CO greeted the ladies and other special guests including former Squadron Commanders: Ray "Tappy" Carruthers (CF-104), Don "Doc" Payne (Sabre), Ed Gosden, Phil Campbell and Gerry Ireland (all three were Tac Hel CO's). The CO welcomed the WW11 Lions in attendance and expressed condolences to Al d'Eon who was unable to be present due to the sad loss of his wife Helen only a few days before.

The party was an unqualified success in every way. The food, drink and congenial atmosphere made for an enjoyable evening. The septuagenarians present had no difficulty hearing the music, and those of us of another generation marvel at the pep and vitality of young people who seem to run on high octane fuel.

It was a busy time for the Griffon crews and support staff preparing for deployment to hurricane-ravaged Central America. Our thanks to the Lions and their families for the friendly hospitality throughout the weekend, and especially to those who worked extended hours on our behalf to make the 56th Anniversary a gala Gathering.

For those who haven't visited 427 Tac Hel Squadron (at elevation 427 feet incidentally) for a while, they would be pleasantly surprised and impressed by the growth that has taken place in enlarged facilities and more personnel. This is to accommodate the new Griffons and to provide for the expanded role that the Lion Squadron has been assigned in today's Air Force.

LIONS WELL REPRESENTED AT SPAADS 98

Seventy-seven Lions and spouses (etc.) of 427 (F) Squadron, Zweibrucken (1953-1962) attended the SPAADS (RCAF Sabre Pilots Association of the Air Division Squadrons) biannual reunion held in Kingston, Ontario on 18-20 June 1998.

In addition to the extremely well organized registration process in the Holiday Inn, 'meet and greet' and an enjoyable dinner/dance held at RMC, S/L Bill Worth (Ret) and his host committee provided a memorabilia room, laid on pleasure cruises on the St. Lawrence river, golfing and a bus excursion to the RCAF Memorial Museum at CFB Trenton.

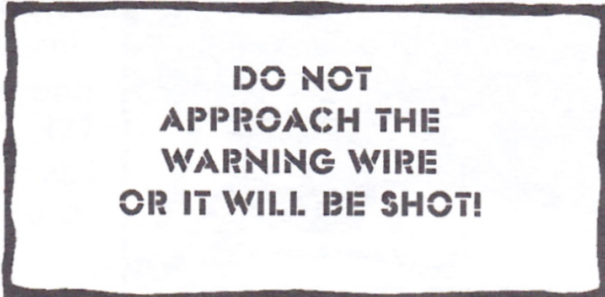
The visit to the museum was very special because it included the Sabre Pilots Memorial Dedication Ceremony held in the Air Park to honour the 107 RCAF pilots who lost their lives while flying the Sabre aircraft. Before the unveiling and dedication of the memorial, G/C Ron Russell (Ret) spoke to the gathering of approximately 600 persons, asking that we remember these 107 pilots and the hundreds more who gave their lives during the Cold War.

LGen Chester Hull (Ret) and Elizabeth Constantine carried out the unveiling of the monument. Rev. Syd Horne delivered the prayers of dedication. LGen Hull, a former Vice-CDS, was a Sabre pilot in the 1950's. He commanded 3 (F) Wing, RCAF (413, 427 and 434 (F) Sqns). Elizabeth Constantine lost her husband F/L Mark Constantine in a Sabre accident near Chatham, NB in 1967. Rev Syd Horne is the honorary Chaplain of 8 Wing Trenton. (For a comprehensive and meaningful report, see the article "Sabre Pilots Remembered" by Lyndon Jones in the Fall 1998 issue of Air Force.)

As with each SPAADS reunion, the 427 Squadron spirit proved to be alive and well. A 427 Squadron banner was displayed at the Saturday dinner. The banner was made away with by some squadron rivals, but it was returned later in an anonymous manner. On Friday evening, thanks to the efforts of Neil Lakins, 427 took over the dining rooms at Fort Henry for a squadron dinner. Throughout the reunion, a Lions Den was provided by Dale Horley and Dick Dunn in a suite at the Ramada Inn (Room 434!). It was well used, especially in the wee hours. That is squadron dedication!

Dunc McLeish

SIGN IN GERMAN POW CAMP



**DO NOT
APPROACH THE
WARNING WIRE
OR IT WILL BE SHOT!**

MORE ABOUT RAF WOODBRIDGE

Bill Stephen of Kingston, Ont. writes: "I was fascinated to read G/Capt Burnside's story of a "A Lucky Catch" at RAF Woodbridge, and that he had gone there from 427 to be C.O. Woodbridge was an exceptionally lucky find for my crew and me some 7-8 months later, and we were grateful for the length and width of the runway". Something Bill neglects to mention is that the emergency landing at Woodbridge was the final chapter in a gallant action which resulted in William M. Stephen being awarded the DSO. On being questioned about the incident, he replied that it was a "crew award", in the same way that Len Birchall "The Saviour of Ceylon" commended his Catalina crew. It is of interest that Bill Stephen and Len Birchall were contemporaries in the early days of WW11 and remain close friends.

A DAY IN HISTORY REVISITED

The following is an interesting bit of history from C.L. (Clary) Hughes of Bedfordshire, England.

Your two lines in newsletter No. 4 - A Day in History 28 Feb 43 - *three aircraft were detailed for daylight bombing, but this was scrubbed* - requires, I feel, a little more detail.

Our crew: Rodwell - Hughes - Carr - McDonald and Smith were founder members of 427 Squadron at Croft in 1942.

The raid in question was a suicidal daylight idea, reminiscent of WW1 and contrary to the 1940 decision of the RAF to discontinue daylight operation as too costly in lives. The three crews detailed, were the C.O. W/C Burnside, a Flight Commander, and our crew. At briefing, we were told we were to fly in cloud to Kiel or Wilhelmshaven (I forget which), break cloud, surprise the German Fleet by bombing it, before returning home in the cloud again.

Obviously a death and glory operation, but we were young and keen to finish the war. To the horror of our crew, a message than came through that only one aircraft should go, and the C.O. chose to go but with me as navigator. As a crew we would have preferred to die together, but the possibility of a posthumous Victoria Cross was a dazzling prospect for me so early in our tour.

Then common sense prevailed at high level (or did the cloud move) and the operation was cancelled, so the squadron returned to normal life again.



LEEMING MEMORIAL UPDATE

In June 1998, Al d'Eon received an update from W/C (Ret) P.J. Hirst regarding the status of the Leeming Memorial dedicated to those men and women who served at RAF Leeming during World War II, and especially those members of RCAF Squadrons numbered, 405, 408, 419, 427 and 429. The following is a portion of the report.

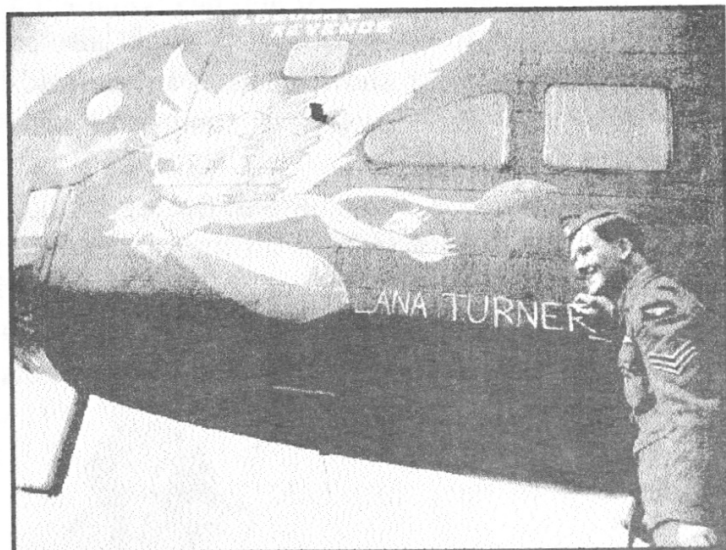
Margaret and I attended a church service at Leeming church last Sunday, and afterwards we were able to have a good look at the Leeming Memorial. It is in fine shape and it is well looked after. I inquired of the parish council secretary regarding funds for the upkeep of the Memorial. You may remember that following the dedication of the Memorial there was a sum of money left over. This was handed to the council for safekeeping and it was earmarked for any maintenance that may be necessary in the future. I am pleased to say that so far, none of the money has been used and as a result it has accumulated to a total of £2,405.

The Memorial is formally used once a year when the Act of Remembrance is performed and representatives from RAF Leeming and others are present. The Canadian maple tree which was planted at one corner is now well and truly established and a good ten feet high. I hope to send you some photographs of the Memorial in the near future.

427 Squadron members everywhere, and especially those who attended the dedication in June 1993, will be glad to know that the Memorial is in the hands of caring friends and that funding for future maintenance is assured.

LANA IS NUMBER ONE CHOICE

Sgt. Eric (Johnnie) Johnson chalks LANA TURNER on Halifax DK140 at Leeming in May 1943 at MGM adoption ceremony. Lana was the number one choice of 427 Squadron pilots and Johnnie drew the blonde beauty's name.



FROM SISKINS TO SNOWBIRDS

Canadian military formation aerobatic teams have played a distinguished part in our military history. Since the inception of the "Siskins" in the 1930's there have been many teams, all of whom have exemplified the skill and proficiency common to our Air Force pilots and ground crew.

Known to most Canadians as the *Snowbirds*, the aerobatic team whose members flew their first public performance in the summer of 1971. The Snowbirds were named after a popular song of that year by Anne Murray and they have entertained millions of North Americans ever since. Flying their Tutor jets in the distinctive red, white and blue, the Snowbirds have chalked up an amazing record for more than a quarter of a century. The aim of the team remains the same today as it was 27 years ago to demonstrate the skill, professionalism and teamwork of the Canadian forces.

In the years between the Siskins and the Snowbirds there were dozens of aerobatic teams but none more famous than the Golden Hawks formed to commemorate the 50th anniversary of powered flight in Canada. They were authorized to fly for only one season but due to their great popularity the Golden Hawks continued until 1964 when they were disbanded for budgetary reasons. Aviation enthusiasts of that era will instantly recall the gold colour scheme with red and white flash along the fuselage culminating in the hawk's head. A famous photo at the time was one of the Golden Hawks in a vertical climb over the Horseshoe Falls at Niagara.

Several 427 Squadron pilots who had served, or would later serve, in the Air Division in Germany were members of the Golden Hawks. The names of such prominent Lions as Ralph Annis, Lloyd Hubbard and Jack Frazer appear on the Golden Hawk roster. In 1961 the commentator who described the flying routines to the multitudes gazing skyward was none other than F/O Bob Dobson. The latter was appointed Commanding Officer of 427 Tactical Helicopter Squadron in 1976 and has remained a great friend and supporter of the squadron to this very day. It might also be noted that Jack Frazer got initiated into the air show business in the mid-fifties, participating in air shows all over Europe while a member of the Fireballs, the Air Division demonstration team.

Jack resides on beautiful Salt Spring Island. After 36 years in the Air Force, Jack served a term in Parliament as Defence and Veteran's Affairs Critic and was all set to have some leisure time. In late 1997 he was asked to serve on the Veteran's Review and Appeal Board. He agreed to a three-year term since he felt he owed it to veterans to be involved.



THE BROTHERS TURNBULL

John Turnbull is widely known in Air Force circles as a result of his leadership in Allied Air Forces Reunions, the Bomber Harris Trust and the Halifax Aircraft Association to name a few.

A few weeks ago, John Turnbull attended the Gathering of Lions at CFB Petawawa and was a welcome guest. Although his tour of operations as a bomber pilot was with 419 and 424 Squadrons, he is a Life Member of the 427 Squadron Association, and for a very good reason - his brother Robert S. Turnbull was the second Commanding Officer of 427 Squadron, succeeding Dudley Burnside in September 1943. Bob had a meteoric rise having advanced from Sergeant Pilot to Wing Commander in less than a year. He led the Lion Squadron throughout the autumn and winter of 43/44 completing his second tour. Bob was promoted to Group Captain and appointed Station Commander elsewhere in 6 Group. His decorations include the DFC, AFC, and DFM. Bob Turnbull remained in the RCAF and had a successful post-war career.

A third brother, Walter, also completed an operational tour in 6 Group as a navigator and like his brother John, was decorated with the DFC. And so, the Turnbull brothers of Govan, Saskatchewan had a unique record. As far as is known, they were the only three brothers in the RCAF who completed one or more operational tours and all survived. Sadly, Bob and Walter Turnbull have passed on, but John continues to be a leader in promoting and advancing Air Force causes.

THE LIONS ROAR, ZWEIBRUCKEN '69

by W/C (Ret'd) R.E. Carruthers ('Tappy')

During the latter stages of #1 Air Division and with non-compatible roles of Strike/Attack and Recce, squadrons focussed their competitiveness around upstaging each other and publicity. At one point the CO of 441 Recce squadron, LCol Sam Firth, a former member of 427, thought he had the Lions by the tail because 441 had received a letter of appreciation from the local community. He sent a copy to 427 with a "got ya" comment.

However, unbeknownst to him some intrepid Lions had been skiing in the Alps at the same resort as Bridget Bardot. One night Bridget was involved in a photo-op for a ski-doo company. As they were prone to, the Lions decided to assist the organizers and decorated the front of the ski-doo with a lion decal. The photo ended up on the front cover of *PARIS MATCH* magazine, in full colour, decal and all.

Suffice to say a copy of the cover was relayed to 441 and a challenge issued on the relative merits of the publicity. The response was not long in coming – hand delivered – the CO had cut up the cover to form letters and pasted them on paper spelling out – *YOU BASTARD*. Just another victory and successful mission by the Lions.

6 (RCAF) GROUP BOMBER COMMAND ASSOCIATION

In addition to the many Reunions and special 75th RCAF Anniversary events taking place in Canada in 1999, we are reminded by Ken Cothliff writing from Yorkshire, that 6 Group Bomber Command Association are planning a big Reunion over the weekend of June 12/13, 1999. The event is centred around York Minster where it is expected that a plaque will be installed in the fabric of the Minster (donations are solicited from both sides of the Atlantic). Side trips to the Yorkshire Air Museum and Stonefall Cemetery, Harrogate are also planned. Organizers are of the opinion that this may be the last "big one" so if any readers have plans to travel to Britain next year, it would be a great opportunity to visit old haunts and take in the reunion. For more information please contact Kenneth B. Cothliff, 25 Church Crescent, Yeadon, Leeds, LS19 7SD.

Ken is a great friend of 6 Group and has done much to develop and promote the Yorkshire Air Museum and to support and encourage 6 Group memorial projects throughout the area.



IN LIGHTER VEIN

A few years ago, a Toronto lawyer was representing a client on a fairly minor charge before a judge. The judge had served overseas in WW 11 and was proud of his contribution to international freedom.

After entering a guilty plea on behalf of his client, counsel made a short pitch pretty much as follows: *"My client is married, and employed. He's never been in trouble before, your Honour, and he served his country valiantly in North Africa, Italy and on the beaches of Normandy. He was wounded on D-Day and decorated for valour in the field."* Then the lawyer sat down.

The judge, noting the defendant's "excellent" war record, decorated him again – with an absolute discharge.

At the sound of the verdict, the defendant jumped to his feet, and in a deep, guttural voice exclaimed, *:"Danke schon!"*.

CLASSIFIED AD

Illiterate? For help please write

RAMBLINGS OF A RIGGER

Life Member Murray Bain of Lion's Head, Ontario was a rigger at Croft and Leeming. Here are his recollections of those days in Yorkshire.

I remember Croft. It was certainly an isolated drome. Nissen huts, pot-bellied stoves and all. Quite a different life than most of us farm and small-town boys were used to.

I was part of a crew removing a Halifax that had belly-landed because of a faulty undercarriage. The pilot was Bill Schmitt. He made a perfect belly landing but of course the bomb bays and underside suffered considerably, and it broke the props. We had a fairly "green" guy on the crew and he went to throw a cable over one of the props. Well you can imagine Smitty's reaction "*Don't hook her there buddy – that's what keeps Smitty in the air.*"

The RCAF air crew and ground crew worked hard and long and "wet" at their jobs but we have a lot of good memories too. We even got to the Willow Tree Inn once in a while. I have fond memories of Al Fair, Smitty, Bill Mackenzie, Gus Perreault, Bus Howatt, Reg Saunders, Roy Foss and Jerry Cunningham.

I would love to get to Trenton to see the Hally, I hope you enjoy my ramblings.

Editor's Note: The props kept Bill Schmitt in the air when it mattered most and his crew was the first to complete a tour on 427 Squadron

COMPLAINTS FROM U.S. MILITARY PILOTSAND THE REPLIES FROM MAINTENANCE CREWS

Problem: Number three engine missing.

Solution: *After a brief search, number three engine found on right wing.*

Problem: Friction locks cause throttles to stick

Solution: *That's what they're there for.*

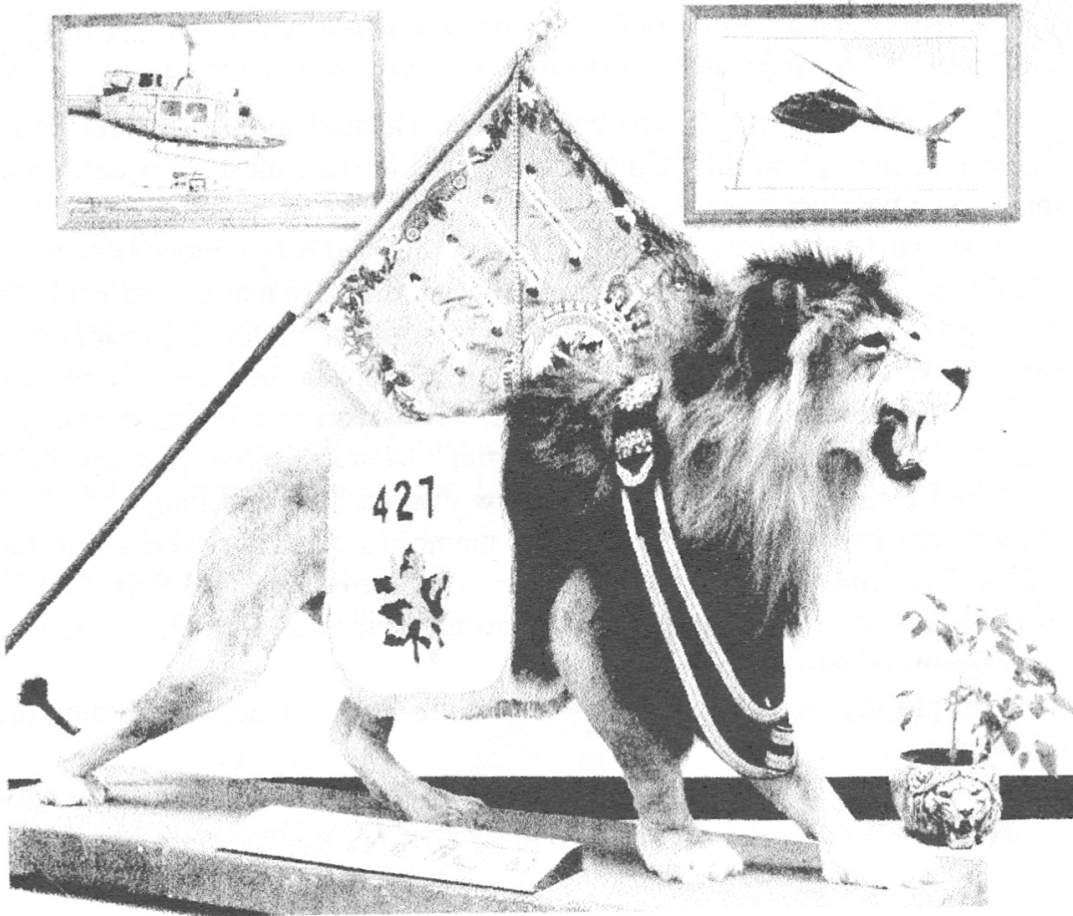
Problem: Dead bugs on windshield.

Solution: *Live bugs on order.*

WHOPPERS

"My dog is so lazy he won't even bark when a rabbit runs by. He waits until the neighbour's dog barks, then he just nods his head".

"My wife has such cold feet that when she takes off her shoes the furnace goes on. When she gets under the electric blanket, the street lights dim".



MARETH is a full-size lion whose den is the Museum at CFB
Petawawa.

The story of his acquisition is a tale of humour and intrigue

DISPERSAL SITE

On the bomber squadrons, ground crews often worked long hours in all kinds of weather preparing the aircraft for the next operation. Then, as now, they were great scroungers and knew how to make the best of a bad situation. At the dispersal site for 427 Squadron "R" Roger at Leeming, the shack was a masterpiece of ingenuity and inscribed on the door were the words:

"DAMN SELDOM INN".

THE FIRST HALLY BAG

(from Earl Mayo)

I was in England recently trying to find some family roots and came across an item in a library in Bicester, as follows:

In October 1939 a prototype heavy bomber designated as the HP57 (L7244) was transported by road from Handley Page factory at Cricklewood. The aircraft was reassembled at RAF Bicester and made its historic first flight piloted by Maj. J.L. Cordes from Bicester on 25 October 1939. It later became known as the Halifax, after christening at Radley by Lord Halifax. This was in a book about RAF Station Bicester and I thought you might be interested in it as a possible "Day in History" item.



ALLIED AIR FORCES REUNION TORONTO ROYAL YORK HOTEL SEPTEMBER 1-6, 1999

**Canada's largest Allied Air Forces Reunion
invites all ranks and trades
to attend our celebration of the
75th Anniversary
ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE**

- Bus trip to RCAF Memorial Museum (Trenton)
- Bus trip to CWH Museum & Air Show (Mount Hope).
- Showings of rare wartime films.
- Hospitality suites. Dancing to the big band sound.
- Memorial Parade.
- Reserved seats at CNE Air Show September 4-5-6.
- Large exhibit and display area.

SPECIAL GATHERING OF LIONS

**ALLIED AIR FORCES REUNION
PO BOX 524, STATION Q, TORONTO, ON M4T 2M5
Phone/Fax: (416) 962-7314 OR contact any of the following:
Al D'Eon, Stan Miller, Vern White**



A LOVE POEM
 LAST NIGHT I HELD A LOVELY HAND
 A HAND SO SOFT AND NEAT
 I THOUGHT MY HEART WOULD BURST WITH JOY
 SO WILDLY DID IT BEAT
 NO OTHER HAND UNTO MY HEART
 COULD GREATER SOLACE BRING
 THAN THAT DEAR HAND I HELD LAST NIGHT
 FOUR ACES AND A KING