



Vol 3. No.2 Spring 2015

427 Squadron Association - ROAR

No. 427 (Lion) Squadron was formed at Croft, England, on 7 November 1942, flying the Wellington, Halifax and Lancaster bombers. The squadron flew under No. 4 Group, R.A.F. Bomber Command until 31 December 1942. On 1 January 1943, No. 427 Squadron became part of the newly formed No. 6 (RCAF) Group. On 5 May 1943, the

England, which became No. 63 (RCAF) Base. On 27 May 1943, a special presentation was made, when the Canadian unit was adopted by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios, Hollywood, California, USA. For this event, Mr. Samuel Eckman, Jr. Managing Director of M.G.M. (England), attended, and the 427 Commanding Officer, WComd Dudley Burnside (RAF) accepted MGM's kind offer to adopt the Lion Squadron. For the event a Halifax B. Mk. V. serial DK186, ZL-L, was painted with Nose Art featuring the M.G.M. (Winged) Lion flying while holding a bomb between its paws. The bomber was named "London's Revenge" and after the adoption ceremony the squadron artist Sgt. E. A. Johnson chalk-marked the name "Lana Turner", [L for Lana]. This area was later painted in white with the name "Lana".



The Willow Tree

427 Squadron
Second World War, and descendants, may recognize "The Willow Tree" pub, pictured above. Anna Marie Willey opened up her father's war-time kitbags recently, to discover a bevy of artefacts he had collected before returning home from overseas, in 1946. Read more of the story inside.



The adoption by MGM of No. 427 Squadron inspired the following article. We have reproduced the article here because it mentions correspondence from many movie stars, and this correspondence features in a follow-on story about a long-lost kitbag.

RCAF Lions Squadron Gets Kick Out of Mail from Movie Stars

by A.W. O'Brien
(Standard War Correspondent)

During 525 night sorties over Germany and Italy since last November, Canada's crack "Lions Squadron" of R.C.A.F. Overseas have seen a lot of stars. But that's business, the stars of Hollywood have their hearts. As adopted sons of moviedom's most glamorous personages, these "Lions" bask in the glory of bright green envy from the sky-sharp eyes of aircrew throughout England's fabled Bomber Command. It all started as a gag but zoned into one of the grandest morale boosters of the current war. A comparative kid just back from a spot of hell danced like a schoolboy at finding a deliciously feminine envelope from Hollywood waiting for him in the mail rack... and, gee whiz, it was from Hedy Lamarr!

"I cannot tell you how happy you made me by calling your bomber, Hedy Lamarr," she wrote, "and I wish that I might be there to see how she looked and how she flew, and, of course, most importantly, to meet each one of you and to thank you in person for the honor and to tell you how very much I appreciate being in your thoughts. I hope



On August 11, 1942, U.S. Patent 2,292,387 was granted to George Antheil and Hedy Kiesler Markey, Lamarr's married name at the time. The frequency-hopping idea conceived by Lamarr is acknowledged today as the basis upon which WiFi technology works.

that some day we will be able to talk with each other and to say the many things there are to be said...your health and victory always (signed) Hedy Lamarr." The Lions have seen a lot of action and several aircraft are still classed as "missing". This tie-up with the film capital brings tangible dividends. All members of the Lions are receiving a medallion that will permit them to enter any M-G-M theatre throughout the world absolutely free of charge for life. In the event of their becoming a casualty, the medallion goes to the next of kin. At present, Lions are guests of the M-G-M Empire Theatre on Leicester Square any time and as often as they are in London. Cigarettes, chocolates and fruit juices are understood to be en route from Hollywood. Actor George Murphy cabled ten pounds for a dinner "on him" in London. A beautiful antique bronze lion weighing about 30 pounds was sent as mascot and now adorns the fireplace mantel in the Mess. The "idea man" behind the scenes is a Flight Lieutenant Joe Chasanoff, former Winnipeg lawyer and now one of the most popular and experienced adjutants overseas. He had nine months in that capacity with Fighter Command and has been the last nine months in Bomber Command. "Chasy" thought it would be a good way to get the boys' minds off their strenuous work and the idea met such a terrific response in Hollywood that he now confesses it's a problem to keep the boys' minds on their bombing.



RCAF Lions Squadron Gets Kick Out of Mail from Movie Stars

by A.W. O'Brien
(Standard War Correspondent)
(Continued)

SCREWBALL UNIT

But the Lions generally admit to being the most thoroughly "screwball" squadron of the Bomber Command. Everything seems to happen to them. A pilot recently parachuted out and plunked straight on a cow's back in a field. Flying Officer Don Arnot, of Toronto, scampered off on his first "op" and, after ditching his load on the target, came home like "a bat out of hell" with nine enemy fighters on his tail.

Another night not so long ago saw a plane return gaily without realizing that its 2,000-lb. blockbuster was still clinging to the belly - something had gone wrong with the release gear. When the bomber hit the runway the blockbuster plopped off onto the cement and bounced merrily to a serene halt on the grass while everybody dived for shelter.

Squadron Leader Maurice Janin, administration officer of the squadron and formerly of Montreal, said that Lana Turner is the squadron "tops" with Greer Garson two votes behind. Lana, by the way, wrote a delightfully warm letter recently. It read in part: "I hope that Lady Luck will continue to be very much in love with you. Remember that so many people are thinking of you - your mothers, fathers, sweethearts, families - and that I consider it a wonderful privilege to be numbered among them."

Greer Garson enclosed a little St. Christopher medallion for "her" plane and it goes on all "ops" with the proud crew. "You've left me a bit breathless," she wrote, "since, in a way, it makes me a member of the Royal Canadian Air Force. I only wish I could thank you personally. I wonder where your homes are - I've travelled through a good portion of Canada and very possibly I've actually visited them. It's a beautiful country. I'll be thinking of you, each of you, often, and hoping that every mission will find you returning safely with another victory chalked up to the credit of - if you'll permit me to say it - our bomber. Wishing you good gremlins only and happy landings."

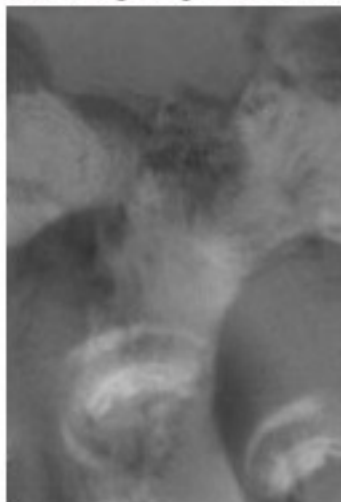
Judy Garland has an aircraft named after her, too. She wrote "It's too bad there isn't some way we could get better acquainted - seeing as how we're sort of in the same plane together."

ADOPTS "YEHUDI"

Laraine Day adopted the "Yehudi" plane - a veteran of 13 bombing raids and mine-laying sorties. It was recently in a lot of trouble - running into three clashes with Nazi fighters in-

side of five minutes. They downed one. As in the case of the other stars, Laraine wrote in long hand on her personal stationery. Her letter read: "It is the nicest thing that ever happened to me - I want to know how Laraine behaved, if she was a proper lady and did her job without complaint, how she treated you fellows - and a hundred other questions."

These movie stars had a profound impact on the men working in No. 427 Squadron. The connections they made, and the gifts they shared, for many these lasted a life-time. In closing, we wish to draw your attention to one of those men. He never spoke about his war experiences, and died comparatively early in life. Years later his daughter would build up the courage to break the locks on two kitbags he had hidden away in the basement, for almost 70 years. What she found in her father's kitbags brings us back to the events



reflected in O'Brien's newspaper story. Here is Anna Marie Willey's story:

A Father's Kitbags An Aviator's Troubles

As the daughter of a Canadian veteran, Anne Marie Willey found herself in the rarest of situations in late 2013. She explains she "had a life-changing experience unpacking her father's kit bags from his service with the RCAF in World War II." He was posted to Leeming, England with No. 427 Squadron in 1943. After the war he returned to Saskatchewan. Sadly, he passed away in 1987, never having spoken a word about his wartime experiences.

Through the years John Paul Winnichuk's kit bags remained tightly clasped shut, hidden away in the family basement. Anne Marie

explains "Most of us would think they might contain old uniforms - little did I know their true time capsule essence. In 2013, I unpacked the kit bags and tried to learn as much as possible by talking with friends about what I was discovering. Most shared the same void - knowing someone who had been in WWII, but never hearing about that experience. I felt it important to tell this story in a broader way because if not, the important acts of bravery could be lost forever."

PHOTO: DEAN BLACK



In musical format, she wrote lyrics for six songs with help from her brother, and one of the songs was the project of her niece. Today, these seven professionally-produced songs tell the story of veterans, like her Dad, from the time of receiving their enlistment letter, to the time of returning home and beginning his post-war life. She combined the songs with images from the kit bags and historical video. Since its launch in September, 2014, she has made the 25-minute presentation of *The Willow Tree* six times to different audiences. The response has been inspirational. She recently presented to the Canadian Aviation Historical Society, in Hamilton, during their annual meeting.



She has great plans for the presentation. "I propose moving this presentation to a provincial or national scale as a tribute to our veterans. I would like to reach out to communities to

host community discussions and engage youth to enhance Canadians' awareness, knowledge and understanding of WWII and the significance it played in the shaping of Canada, its identities and institutions."

As for the contents of the kitbags, some of the MGM movie stars had sent autographed glossy photos as a means of boosting the spirits of the young men in 427 Squadron waging war overseas. Amongst the photos found were:

- Ann Southern - autographed (3)
- George Murphy - autographed (5)
- Abbott and Castello - autographed (2)
- Eleanor Powell, 1943 - autographed (2)
- Eleanor Powell
- Irene Dunne - autographed
- Ingrid Bergman
- Ingrid Bergman - with detail on back of photo, Myrna Loy, Myrna Loy - autographed, Myrna Loy - with detail on back of photo, Joan Crofford - autographed (2), Myrna Loy (2), Mickey Rooney, Brian Donlevy, Hedy Lamarr, Robert Young, June Allyson, Ronald Colma - autographed, Esther Williams - autographed, Virginia O'Brien, Gloria DeHaven - autographed??, Van Heflin - autographed (2), Walter Pidgeon - autographed (2), Lana Turner - autographed, Lorraine Day, Rochester - (Eddie Anderson) autographed (2), Spencer Tracy, Spencer Tracy - autographed (2), Ava Gardner (2), Mickey Rooney - autographed ??, Hedy Lamarr - autographed 1 - plus another, Brian Ahzone (?) - autographed ?, Greer Garson - autographed, Edward Arnold, William Powell, Irene Dunne (autographed)



Bomber Command Memorial, Green Park, London, UK, June 2012



PHOTO: DEAN BLACK

Dean Black attended the Ottawa Chapter Meeting Professionals International (MPI) Annual Charity Auction & Dinner, earlier this year, and successfully bid on a painting donated by a young Colonel By High School grade 12 student from Ottawa, named Ciara Pereira. Proceeds from the auction of Ciara's painting, and all of the other donated items benefit the Ottawa Network for Education, School Breakfast Program. Ciara's beautiful painting of a majestic-looking Lion was presented to the Commanding Officer Lieutenant-Colonel Jeffrey Orr, and Deputy Commanding Officer Major Gary Fleming of the 427 "Lion" Squadron Royal Canadian Air Force, Petawawa, Ontario, in appreciation for their support of the RCAF Association, and for the outstanding service of the men and women working in the squadron. The RCAF Association expresses its gratitude to Ciara, for her talents, and to all ranks 427 "Lion" Squadron for their service to Canada.

If you would like to learn more about 427 Squadron's Edward Carter-Edwards, and incarceration at the Buchenwald Concentration Camp, consider picking up a copy of *The Forgotten*. Author Nathan Greenfield is shown with Carter-Edwards in Ottawa in 2014. The Squadron plans to meet up with Carter-Edwards at the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum in Hamilton, ON on 24 August, to present Ed with his squadron coin, and to congratulate him on a life of achievement.

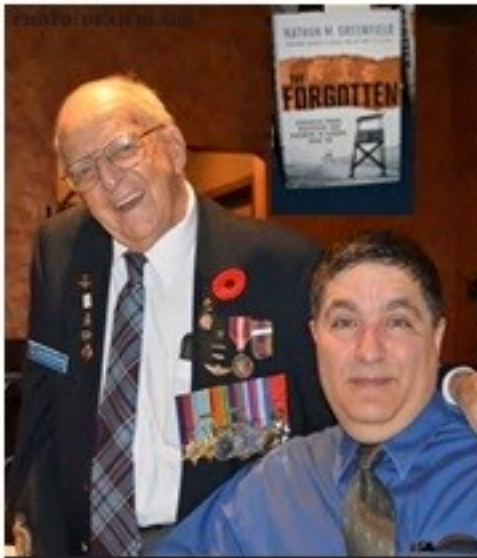


PHOTO: DEAN BLACK

For our Sabre-era members, the Golden Hawks Sabre mounted in Sarnia, ON was recently fully refurbished and rededicated on 31 May 2015. The 403 Wing of the RCAF Association worked closely with their COPA partners. It was a very soggy day, but Chris Hadfield and Dan Dempsey were present, among others including Fern Villeneuve, to mark a special dedication.

Last Postings



Mary Gertrude "Mollie" Broadfoot, aged 99; John Faull, aged 88; Captain F. Clare Haynes; aged 80; Douglas James Head, aged 90; Francis Graham "Buster" Kincaid, aged 80, Rev. Russell Quantz, aged 96; John Shute, aged 78; Albert Smitten, aged 99; Enid White, aged 90.

Lieutenant-General Charlie Bouchard



Pictured at left: the Kiowa Light Observation Helicopter Flight, 427 Squadron circa 1977, with a very much younger Lieutenant Charlie Bouchard in the white shirt. The Commanding Officer LCol Dobson is kneeling in the second row at left.

This year's (delayed) Gathering of the Lions saw the return of a long-standing member of the Lions, Lieutenant-General Charlie Bouchard. Bouchard was the guest speaker at the mess dinner, and his presentation was riveting. The subject of his speech concerned his command of the operation to protect the citizens of Libya from their dictator, Ghaddafi - a man who had announced his intentions to kill his own people. This article reflects some of his comments made during the Mess Dinner, as well as during a luncheon in February 2012 at the Chateau Laurier in Ottawa.

Bouchard oversaw 26,000 sorties of which 9,600 were strike missions leading to the destruction of approximately 5,900 military targets. In a luncheon address to officials attending a recent Conference of Defence Associations meeting in Ottawa, Bouchard shared some lessons he drew from personal experiences while managing the campaign. His reflections also identified many who deserve to be labelled the fathers of this success. Beyond the statistics, however, there is widespread agreement the Libyan campaign delivered much more than precisely-targeted bombs. Quite interesting was Bouchard's response to the question, "What kept you awake at night?" Bouchard cited three things: the fear of collateral damage especially involving civilian casualties; the risk chemical weapons could make an appearance somewhere in NATO countries well after Libyan hostilities had subsided, and the need to make sure the follow-on Libyan authorities would still

have (infra-) structures and (government) capabilities. Khadafy buried one of his most important senior personnel and operations bunkers and then tried to protect it by constructing a children's theme park and a drive-in movie theatre over top of the bunker. Consequently, a very judicious approach was taken to its destruction. When it was absolutely certain all of the children had abandoned their air-filled "bouncy-castle" one night, and only when the drive-in movie had clearly been vacated, NATO assets were cleared to destroy the bunker. Targeting was thus a very demanding task; Bouchard and his team were meticulous and disciplined. Their attention to detail was also aimed at ensuring the next generation of Libyan leaders would not be disadvantaged by the accidental or wanton destruction of government facilities and capabilities. Bouchard's generation of military and political leaders know all too well "if you destroy it you have to rebuild it" especially if it is important to the success of the next government. Where damage could not be avoided, it was therefore minimized as much as physically possible. Every possible effort was also made to ensure the means of stopping chemical weapon smugglers were in place. Bouchard did not relish the possibility Libyan weapons of mass destruction might find their way to London and show up as part of the Olympics. That work is ongoing. The recent discovery of weapons and explosives spirited into Libyan embassies around the world, inside diplomatic bags, has sickened many in the West, as well as a new generation of Libyan officials now filling those embassies following the rout of Khadafy's "bandits" from their ambassadorial posts. Nevertheless, throughout the air campaign, Bouchard and NATO authorities remained ever cognisant of the greater

see p.11

To learn more about the 427 Squadron Association please visit 427squadron.com

Our objective is to ensure that the accomplishments and sacrifices made by squadron members are known to all. We achieve our objective in part by: coordinating activities with the active squadron; maintaining and fostering a sense of pride we feel with this famous and historic unit; providing a forum for exchange of military history and genealogical information; providing support for military activities; participating in and supporting commemorative events; contributing to qualified institutions; publishing a Newsletter; maintaining a Web Site; and participating in the annual "Gathering of the Lions".



If you would like to join your joining fee is tax-deductible. Donations may be made to the RCAF Association Trust Fund - "427 Squadron Association". All donations in support of ROAR and the WEB SITE qualify as a tax-deductible charitable donation. The mandate of the RCAF Association's Trust Fund is to inform new generations of Canadians of the importance and richness of their country's air force history. That's precisely what ROAR and the WEB SITE are all about! Please help us achieve our mission by making your cheque payable to "RCAF Assn Trust Fund" (any amount exceeding \$25.00) and in the "Memo" section of your cheque write: 427 Lion Sqn Assn. Address your

envelope to the RCAF Association, PO Box 2460 Stn "D", Ottawa, ON, K1P 5W6. The RCAF Association will send a Tax Receipt to you, and then issue a cheque for the same amount to our Treasurer of the 427 Lion Squadron Association, crediting you with the donation. Donations of \$50 or more qualify for a lifetime membership in the association. The annual fee is \$10.



PER ATROCITEM AD ASTRA

by Dean Black



I first met Flight Lieutenant (Ret) James [Jim] Stewart, ONB, DFC, (RAF) in 2000. He was serving as the Honorary Colonel 403 Squadron, Canadian Forces Base Gagetown, Oromocto, New Brunswick. Jim flew for the Royal Air Force, during the Second World War. He came to Canada soon thereafter, and has remained ever since. At first, the RAF had him flying Hurricane fighters from the decks of Merchant ships. [I] pause for a moment to permit the reader a moment to think about that. A talented artist named Barry Weekley captured in a painting the moment F/O J.A. Stewart attacked an FW200 Condor, far out to sea, in aid of the ship from which he had catapulted the Empire Darwin on 28 July 1943. That is correct; his Hurricane fighter would be mounted to a catapult. The aircraft had no undercarriage, since there would be no place to land out in the middle of the North Atlantic. His mission was to protect the ship from enemy aircraft attack, and like all Hurricane-catapult fighter pilots, he would only get one chance, really. Afterwards, it would just be a matter of ditching, and hoping for the best.

I was blessed with the privilege of meeting him. It turns out he survived Hurricanes, only to be sent on Typhoons, with 609 (RAF) Squadron. He was shot down on 13 May 1944. After some weeks on the run, he was betrayed and captured by the Gestapo who incarcerated him in the notorious hellhole known as Buchenwald. Buchenwald was a transit camp for distributing slave labour. Our avid readers will recall the imprisonment of aircrew at a Gestapo-run prison contravened the Geneva Convention. As many as 168 allied aircrew met a similar fate, and all of them were facing execution, according to records that had their demise dates planned ahead of time. You will find a photograph of Jim, above. He is the one

on the right, photographed with Edward Carter-Edwards, a Wireless Air Gunner with 427 Squadron who met the same fate as Jim, after being shot down in June 1944. Carter-Edwards and Stewart found themselves in a nightmare, in the weeks and months following D-Day. From the many ways one can gain a sense of how bad it was, in Buchenwald, the views of some of the Reserve Force guards who came to work there, at the time, are uniquely critical of the group that really ran things. One guard named Stefan Pauler wrote to his wife describing the SS as a "club of sadists", referring, again, to his own countrymen! Another guard named Hugo Behnke perhaps more calmly explained his SS colleagues were "at times very unpleasant". Most remarkable, perhaps, is the reality these men and their Nazi colleagues were only complaining about themselves. They in fact had become entirely uncaring about those around them. Pauler once wrote to his mother, in January 1945, "one becomes completely apathetic here with all these figures of human misery". To be sure, this correspondence merely confirms the historical record - in Buchenwald and other camps like it, the system "did not require a vast army of political soldiers...a small band of Gestapo [Camp SS veterans], deeply committed to violence, was enough to sweep along a much larger group of ordinary men and women". As Nikolaus Wachsmann, author of *KL: A History of the Nazi Concentration Camps*, explains, "the terror continued even as the SS presence diminished". During the Summer of 1944, prisoners would be awoken at 3:20 AM, for the first roll call. By 5:30 AM they would board trains and be taken to the worksites. There, they would toil for thirteen hours, until 7:00 PM, often underground on the V2 rocket propulsion projects. Conditions were dirty, drafty and depraved. By the time they returned to the camp, at most five hours' rest might be all there was, before the next roll call. The average life span for prisoners forced into labour was a mere eight weeks. British secret service agents at Bletchley Park cracked one of the enigma codes in late 1940 that revealed much of the daily operational details for the SS working at various concentration camps. Through these efforts the allies were able to learn about the shift toward slave labour for industries near Auschwitz and Buchenwald.

Captured allied airmen faced daunting conditions, but what took place before their arrival surely led to stories that kept them on the edge. German authorities had long since regarded typhus as a grave threat to troops and citizens alike. Medical staff at Buchenwald found themselves assigned responsibility for vaccination trials through 1943. Two SS doctors (Ding-Schuler and Hoven) have been described, respectively, as inept and incompetent. Between 1942 and 1944 "well over 1,500 prisoners had been the subject of experimental vaccines...[and] more than 200 did not survive the Buchenwald typhus research station". The allied airmen managed to sneak word out of Buchenwald to the Luftwaffe. They apparently believed if the Luftwaffe discovered them, that they might then be moved to another camp. It was a bold attempt that worked. Hannes Trautloft, one of the more respected senior Luftwaffe officers, paid a visit to the camp in early Fall 1944. Within days orders were issued moving all of the

airmen to Stalag Luft III. Stewart and many others moved in October, but Edward Carter-Edwards and others who were too sick to move, had to mend before they were permitted to go. Carter-Edwards was so ill he was in danger of being murdered as an invalid. Some of the other prisoners acknowledged his chances for escape, so they moved him from bed-to-bed in the infirmary so the SS would not encounter the same sick man in the same sick bed two days in a row. Otherwise, death by murder would be the result. One of his fellow prisoners - a French University Professor - finally buried a syringe deep into Carter-Edwards' lungs, right through his back, and drew out all the fluids possible, thus aiding his recovery from pneumonia and pleurisy. A fellow Dutch prisoner added Carter-Edwards' name to the death list, thus fooling the guards into believing he had died. Meanwhile, he continued to slip in and out of the shadows deep in the centre of the camp, until the Luftwaffe returned and made a concerted effort to find him, and remove him to Stalag Luft III. Jim Stewart shared the following message, on the 71st anniversary of the day he had been shot down: "The end of the war took away the purpose that for many years had united young men of a dozen different countries in friendship and mutual loyalty. Flying together and fighting together, it had been a way of life and fulfillment that few would experience again, even if for so many it had been a way of death." These were the words of one of Jim's many squadron mates - the late F/Lt Frank Ziegler, 609 (WR) Typhoon Squadron Intelligence Officer. The message is as profound for its lament for comradeship, as it is for its glorification of an early yet violent death. It is also a powerful message for anyone who today believes in the need for co-operation, collaboration, comradeship, affiliation and meaning.

Ours was a just war. Hitler's not so much. Between 1921 and 1925, Hitler concluded Germany required Lebensraum (living space) in order to survive. Only from Russia, did Hitler believe he could acquire the land needed. His was an unjust and offensive war. Ours was entirely just and defensive. It was also about restoration of rights - rights that had been stolen by a lunatic. Is it any wonder, men like Ziegler, Stewart and Carter-Edwards acquired such a profound and everlasting purpose in life, in their earliest days - a purpose that would sustain them, through violence, and, in the case of our two Buchenwald survivors, the depravity and distress of a concentration camp whose Waffen SS guards' purpose was to work such men to their deaths.

It is perhaps the unparalleled purpose and meaning acquired so early that created in men like Stewart and Carter-Edwards the power not just to survive life, but to create for themselves, their families, their friends and all who have come to know them, a life so incredibly meaningful and positive. Jim Stewart and Edward Carter-Edwards, along with Chasten Bowen - three of the 168 allied airmen - have only just returned from the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Buchenwald. The RCAF Association wishes to extend its sincere gratitude to CBC for covering the story of Edward Carter-Edwards' return to Buchenwald so admirably. We watched as Edward became emotionally overwhelmed as he peered into the

window of the very infirmary in which he had been moved from bed-to-bed, so many decades ago. His tearful collapse caught on camera was clearly a message of gratitude, for a life well lived, as much as it was also a message of revenge, of sorts. "I'm still here", he said, through his tears. "You're all gone, now, but I'm still here". We match Edward's lament, with joy of our own; joy for our lives having been so enriched for having come to know Jim Stewart and Edward Carter-Edwards.



R. Weldon Moffatt, 427 Squadron, cockpit visit, en route to London, UK, June 2012



Jim Moffatt, 427 Squadron, at the Runnymede Memorial, UK, in June 2012



Ed Carter-Edwards, 427 Squadron, Buchenwald Concentration Camp, April 2014



Dear Fellow Lions,

An organization's brand is not easily attained. People prepared to stand behind a brand work very hard to establish the organization's legitimacy and reputation; after all, these attributes are the essence of that brand. Establishment of a new brand also signals an end to any brand that came before. Generations of aviators stand behind 427 Squadron's new brand as Canada's only Special Operations Aviation Squadron. I would like to be amongst the first and the many who wish to pay the utmost respect to each and every aviator, squadron member, and staff member who contributed to the successful evolution of this very proud "special ops" squadron. From the earliest army aviation-inspired "Tac Hel" days to the squadron's current "special ops" mission, we know we have your support and we are proud to represent you and the work you have done over many decades. In fact, squadron personnel would like to acknowledge the many supportive messages received, following recent deployments across Canada, throughout the United States and in the Caribbean and in East Africa.

The evolution of 427 Special Operations Aviation Squadron is now reflected in a relatively new operational colour scheme; one that builds on symbols and marks from the "Tac Hel" era, while striking a co-

lour balance inspired by those used during the Second World War and during the Cold War, when the squadron operated Sabres and Starfighters. If you are interested in purchasing from our line of black and red apparel we will be happy to serve you. If you would like to drop by and see us, please consider joining us on Family Day 26-27 September, here at the Lions' Den on the Mattawa Plain, CFB Petawawa. As members of our extended family, you are always welcome.

I would like to take the opportunity to welcome our new Honorary Colonel, Del Lippert. Del is an accomplished businessman, with global connections. We know he will be a tremendous representative during important outreach activities involving our stakeholders everywhere. The annual posting season is upon us. We have already bid farewell to our Engineering Officer, Major Yuri Audy and our Operations Officer Major Jeremy Fountain. Our loss is their new unit's gain; for each and every Lion who moves on, benefits from the opportunities ahead, to share what they have learned while serving with the Lion Squadron. In turn, we are preparing to welcome a number of new personnel, to the Lions' Den, and some returning Lions. Welcome aboard, all of you. I am hopeful that everyone will get a chance to acquaint themselves at the next Gathering of the Lions, which is now in the planning stages.

To all Lions, everywhere, enjoy the summer weather. We look forward to offering our next bit of news in "ROAR" in the Fall.

Ferte Manus Certas

Jeffrey Orr, LCOL



threat involving chemical weapons. Finally, Lieutenant-General Bouchard left us with a very simple but effective message. He shared three key principles that he felt were helpful. Bouchard described them as typical rules one might find posted on the notice board of a kindergarten classroom. "When working within a complex alliance," Bouchard said, "it's important to 'play nice with all the others in the playground, share your toys and...'; well, I'll leave the third rule to my closing remarks. Suffice to say, the first two summed up an approach to operations at which NATO is getting quite good. NATO has endured criticism in recent years. Most complaints reflect the need for change. In *NATO After 2000: The Future of the Euro-Atlantic Alliance*, authors John Borawski and Thomas-Durell Young explain the greatest achievement will involve "the transformation of NATO from an alliance focused on static defense...to a security and political organization projecting its values and capabilities in the interests of the whole of Europe..." Ivo H. Daalder and James G. Stavridis seem to believe success has been achieved. In "NATO's Victory in Libya: The Right Way to Run an Intervention" (*Foreign Affairs* magazine March/April 2012) the authors argue "...political cohesion and shared capabilities..." were key to success. Clearly, Bouchard's emphasis on "getting along with others and sharing one's toys" was therefore precisely on target, just like the work of all the aviators, technicians and ground support personnel on his extraordinary NATO team. In closing, I will share Bouchard's 3rd principle. He simply explained "how beneficial an afternoon nap can be." There you have it: three principles underscoring life (in kindergarten, anyway). The first two are easily mapped to any complex enterprise, even NATO. The third simply reveals that even during an extraordinary period of heightened attentiveness and prosecuting the air campaign over Libya, pacing oneself is equally important. After a remarkable 37 years in uniform, Lieutenant-General Charlie Bouchard will have retired by the time this issue hits your mailbox, but we have already taken the time to remind him that a proud nation thanks him for his service, and that every member of the air force community including our association joins every Canadian in extending best wishes and congratulations on a job well done!

Lieutenant-General Charles Bouchard has been a member of the Air Force Association of Canada since 1979. Lieutenant-General Bouchard enrolled in the Canadian Forces in 1974 under the Officer Candidate Training Plan. He underwent pilot training, graduating in 1976 as a helicopter pilot. Lieutenant-General Bouchard has served at Air Command Headquarters as Senior Staff Of-

ficer Tactical Helicopters and Deputy Chief of Staff Personnel. He completed a tour of duty as Deputy Commander of the Continental US North American Aerospace Defense Command Region at Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida. He served as Commander 1 Canadian Air Division, Canadian North American Aerospace Defence Region and Combined Forces Air Component Commander. Lieutenant-General Bouchard was Combined Joint Task Force commander of Operation UNIFIED PROTECTOR, while retaining his appointment as Deputy Commander Joint Force Command Naples. Lieutenant-General Bouchard is a graduate of the Canadian Forces Staff School, the Canadian Land Forces Command and Staff College, the Canadian Forces Command and Staff College, the National Strategic Studies Course, the Combined Forces Air Component Commander Course, Maxwell Air Force Base, and the Senior Executives' National and International Security Program at Harvard University. He holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Studies from the University of Manitoba. He was promoted to his present rank in July 2007. He was appointed as an officer of the Order of Military Merit, promoted to the rank of Commander within the Order in 2006. He has received the Order of Canada and the Meritorious Service Cross. Lieutenant-General Bouchard is an officer of the United States Legion of Merit.





The silk-map shown above was removed from the body of P/O Lou Warren Somers, of 427 Squadron in 1967, by Netherland authorities after finding the crash site almost 25 years after the aircraft had been shot down. A letter generated by Canadian authorities who received the map identified the aircraft as DK135 (Halifax) and the date of the action as 24 June 1943. These details do not reflect other sources. For example, in *They Shall Grow Not Old*, Somers is identified as the pilot of DK180, and the date of their crash as 25 June. The publication *Royal Air Force Bomber Command Losses of the Second World War* (Chorney) identifies the aircraft as DK135, and the night of 24-25 June. It further explains two crewmembers were found immediately, and buried nearby, with two more crewmembers discovered in 1967. Two others ended up as prisoners-of-war, including Vern White, while one crewmember (Ashby) was never found. We request a short advert in the next issue of the ROAR and on the Sqn Assn website showing the attached pictures accompanied by request for any information/recollections (confirmed or unconfirmed). Any information can be relayed directly to Capt Andy Lee, Adjt 427 SOAS at andy.lee@forces.gc.ca.



This photograph was found amongst John Paul Winnichuk's kitbag belongings. We can see Flt Lt Ganderton's name along the bottom. Ganderton would rise to the rank of WComd and would play a senior leadership role at Rivers, MB after the war. Underneath the crest there appears to be two "Sherlocks". P/O R. Rushton and P/O J. Smith are top left. S/L Mackay's name is just above the crown. In the top right is C.J. Cribb. Cribb identifies himself as a W/C and O.C. Lion Squadron. If this is the case, then this photograph dates from 14 June to 27 August 1944, the period Cribb was in command. The name Bryson can be seen just above that of Ganderton. This may be the E.M. Bryson who took over from Cribb. And, Ganderton took over from Bryson. Other names include Williamson, Bourdon, Adams, Gray, Gouchy and more. It would appear all of these men survived the war.



**NEW
HONORARY
COLONEL
DEL LIPPERT**

Mr Delbert Lippert was appointed as Honorary Colonel of 427 Special Operations Aviation Squadron, located at Petawawa ON in May 2015. Born in Kitchener ON, Honorary Colonel Lippert enrolled in the Canadian Army under the Apprentice Training Program Artillery in Shilo MB in 1958. Upon completing training he transferred to 4 Royal Canadian Horse Artillery in Petawawa as a technical assistant. After his terms in the Army he joined Pan American Airways Guided Missile Range Division as a Radar technician and operator. Continuing the five year cycle, he moved to Digital Equipment Corp as a computer technician and quickly progressed to become District Manager in Anaheim California. Moving to the East Coast, he was promoted to Corporate Manager for Educational Services at the office in Maynard Massachusetts, soon becoming VP for the Division and remaining with DEC for 18 years. Looking for new challenges, Honorary Colonel Lippert became President and COO of a fledgling cellular phone company and remained in that post for five years. He then was recruited by Computervision to become the president of Asia Pacific where he remained for three years of constant travel before becoming a private investor. Following a five year break, Honorary Colonel Lippert was recruited by Raytheon Marine in New Hampshire eventually becoming President of the Commercial Group of companies before returning to Canada upon retirement. Honorary Colonel Lippert's retirement was short-lived upon being approached to consult with BTI in Chalk River and then Med-Eng working on Electronic Countermeasures equipment to serve the soldiers in Afghanistan to defeat roadside explosive devices. It was a highly successful development that led to a significant growth for the company. Med-Eng also developed and produces Explosive Ordnance Disposal suits now worn by forces and organizations around the world. In his most recent state of semi-retirement he served as a board member with International Datacasting Corporation, a satellite equipment producer and operator of the Canadian Forces Radio Television Network before fully retiring in January 2014.

A Message from Karl Kjarsgaard - and the Nanton, Alberta Bomber Command Museum

The RCAF lost 10,000+ airmen in bombers in the UK and 4,300 of them were in RCAF 6 Group in Yorkshire. This would suggest a substantial number of the remainder probably operated from airbases in Lincolnshire. If (the Nanton Bomber Command Museum) did NOT share its collection of photos, biographies, RCAF awards and honours on to the International Bomber Command Memorial and Interpretation Centre now, the likelihood the Canadian contribution to bomber command would be overlooked would be high. □

The RCAF Association joins Karl in encouraging anyone and everyone with information relevant to Canada's contribution to the strategic bombing campaign to share your information with the International Bomber Command Memorial and Interpretation Centre. The spire of the memorial is set to be unveiled in October. Please join us in our support for this important project.



The International Bomber Command Memorial and Interpretation Centre, under construction near Lincoln, UK, auctioned off a flight for two in our Canadian Lancaster bomber, recently, with proceeds going to the Memorial as a charitable donation. The winning bid (exceeding \$70,000 CA) was placed by two business



men from Lincoln, brothers Dominik and Cameron Jackson. The pair arrived in Canada in time for Fathers' Day, and the 'fly-in airshow' at the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum. They were met by the RCAF Association Executive Director Dean Black. Part of their visit included meeting Edward Carter-Edwards, a veteran of 427 Lion Squadron who was shot down in June 1944 and incarcerated in the notorious Buchenwald Concentration Camp near Weimar, Germany. Bomber crewmen were labeled 'terrorfliers' by the gestapo, and were set to be executed, but the Luftwaffe saved Ed from certain death. The RCAF Association extends its sincere gratitude to Dominik and Cameron for their unflagging support of and genuine interest in the veterans of the Second World War who won today's freedom. Pictured: Lois Carter-Edwards, Dominik, Cameron and Ed Carter-Edwards.



REUNION OF GIANTS - The Official Lancaster UK Tour Trailer

A film was made to cover the coming together of the Canadian and British Lancasters in the UK, in 2014, showing "Just Jane" taxiing out to greet "VErA" and its Canadian crew. The film can be found on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5O12rem6d3g>. Additionally, photographs of the recent Bomber Command Memorial Day can be found here: <https://photos/australianwarmemorial/sets/72157653891235895>



Robert Bradley, bomber command veteran and member of the RCAF Association 410 Wing (Ottawa) shows off the Lancaster print he purchased as a memento after witnessing that very Lancaster drop over 80,000 poppies on assembled guests present to witness the unveiling by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II of the Bomber Command Memorial on 27 June 2012 in London, UK. Robert was one of 43 veterans who traveled from Canada to witness the event.



The tradition lives - in October 1943 Mr. Sam Eckman traveled to 427 "Lion" Squadron's location, to meet W/C Dudley Burnside and officially announce Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's adoption of the squadron. Part of the event involved presentation of a bronze lion statue, seen on the table above, and which today continues to be protected and escorted with great care.



PHOTO: DEAN BLACK

PHOTO: DEAN BLACK



PHOTO: DEAN BLACK



PHOTO: DEAN BLACK



PHOTO: DEAN BLACK



From top left, clockwise: Wayne MacLellan attended the Gathering of the Lions' Mess Dinner in February, with Sask Wilford, Dean Black, and Charlie Bouchard, LGen (Ret); MGen Chris Coates, Mrs. Coates, guests and LGen Charlie Bouchard; LCol Jeff Orr accepts the Halifax bomber model from Shawn Coyle; Weldon Moffatt and Paul Korpan prepared to embark from Ottawa for the 70th anniversary of the Liberation of the Netherlands; Sask Wilford and Mike Cziatzu; and former National President RCAF Association Ted Mahood and Donny Pearce attended the Gathering of the Lions "Meet & Greet".



An excerpt from the Bomber Command Association (Australia) Newsletter

**INTERNATIONAL BOMBER COMMAND
MEMORIAL AND
INTERPRETATION
CENTRE**

Many members at this year's Bomber Command Memorial Day in Canberra will have met Nicky Barr and Tony Worth of the IBCC who are presently conducting a tour to raise interest in the Centre, plus money, plus artefacts. The IBCC is not trying to be a museum. It is to be a resource centre available to the families of the world who had Grandfathers, Grandmothers, Fathers, Mothers, Uncles and Aunts in RAF Bomber Command. They wish to hold everything in digi-

escape scarves, letters, orders etc. If you have items available for scanning please do contact the IBCC team and find out more information by visiting www.internationalbcc.co.uk or facebook on Lincolnshire Bomber Command Memorial More will continue to come out now that their spire is erected on Canwick Hill in sight of Lincoln Cathedral. Tony Worth, IBCC Chairman, has passed on his thanks for the hospitality, friendship and support to everyone he and Nicky (a Director) met on their brief visit to Australia. The project really is an international one and finding such an enthusiastic welcome from Australians has been very encouraging. Special thanks to Richard Munro of 460 Sqn who coordinated the entire visit.

For our bomber command veterans in Canada, Tony Worth, IBCC Chairman may be coming to Canada later this year, to drum up support for this important project. The RCAF Association adopted the project as its major charitable activity, in 2014-2015. Anyone wishing to make a donation may do so through the RCAF Association Trust Fund. Visit rcafassociation.ca today and click on the Donate Now button.



**Bomber Command Memorial
Australia**