



ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION

783 (CALGARY) WING

FALL 2011 NEWSLETTER



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As elected at the Annual General Meeting held June 27, 2011.

Non-elected positions are signified by prefix (eg. ^N Past Presidents Chair)

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WING REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

President's Report

Welcome back to all Wing members!

Again congratulations to our new Executive and I look forward to working with everyone.

Many of our Wing Members attended Air Cadet Annual Ceremonial Review at various squadrons in and around Calgary. As in past years cheques were presented to the 4 City Squadrons and this year we presented cheques to all the Air, Army & Sea Cadet Corps and Squadrons in Southern Alberta.

783 hosted our Annual Stampede Breakfast July 8th at the Spielman Ranch with approximately 140 attending. Our Wing took this opportunity to present \$29,000 in donations to various Charities in the Calgary Area. A good time was had by all.

Our Wing had our 1st Bus Tour of the year in July touring the western side of Central AB. Again all reports were an enjoyable and entertaining tour.

On a sad note, our Wing said good bye to a dear friend and long time Wing member; Jackie Mckeague. Our Wing was asked to provide an Honor Guard for the service which was made up of Bev Spielman, Marian Mascaro and Peggy McAllister. We also conducted a Poppy Ceremony to Honor Jackie, where all those in attendance were asked to place a poppy in a pillow draped in the Air Force tartan.

783 Wing took part in the Annual UN Peacekeepers Parade at Peacekeepers Park in Calgary. As President, I represented the Wing and Robert Roe and Brian Lewis carried the flags for the parade to Buffalo Park after the Ceremony, many other Wing Members were in attendance. I took this opportunity to talk to organizers about our Wing laying a wreath at Buffalo Park, which we will resume starting next year.

I represented the Wing and laid a wreath at the Annual Battle of Britain Ceremony. A good crowd was on hand including many Air Cadets, which added significantly to the parade. Thank you to the organizing committee for a job well done.

Respectfully submitted,
Keith Mann, President

Awards

The following Awards were presented at the September 26th Wing meeting:



Don Matthews was presented with the ***Sidehill Gouger Award***



Bill Cooke was awarded with the ***Award of Merit***

Cadet Liaison

September finds the Air Cadets in Southern Alberta back at it. Many cadets spent time away from their respective units over the summer attending various cadets summer training centers. Several of the Calgary and area Squadrons have reported increased enrollments.

Cadets from across the City participated in the Battle of Britain parade this year. Cadet gliding and the Regional CO's conference took place on the same weekend.

The CO's conference in Penhold provided Commanding Officers from across prairie region with the opportunity to connect, learn and develop their skills. Independent streams of information were made available for those units CO's who were brand new to the job, a second stream was for those who were in the middle of their tenures and a third for repeat CO's and finally a fourth stream for CO's who were in their final year of command. Major General Hussey, the Colonel Commandant of the CIC Branch was also in attendance and spoke on leadership and professionalism. His session was well attended. Dr. Pat Pizel, was also a guest speaker and spoke about team building from a leadership perspective.

29 teams of Cadets and over 350 people were expected to take the Survivair Challenge over the Thanksgiving weekend. This year it was held at the Rocky Mountain National Army Cadet Summer Training Center near Ghost Lake Ranger station. during the Thanksgiving weekend.

Plans are also underway for this year's Remembrance Day Ceremony to be held at the Mewata Armouries. Cadets are currently being approached by members of the organizing committee to actively participate in out service as well.

Casino

The next Casino event will be held during the Second Quarter of 2012. We hope to receive actual dates in November. Our event will again be held at the Elbow River Casino.

Website Information & Newsletter Distribution

783 (Calgary) Wing website is up and running. This is your original website that we are always tweaking and revising. Want to publish an event on the website calendar? Submit in writing (snail mail or email) to Brian Lewis.

Website: www.783afacwingcalgary.ca (or search for **783 CALGARY WING** in Google).

Distribution of this newsletter is either by e-mail or Canada Post. If you now have an e-mail address, please contact Thom Gordon to receive an electronic version. We will mail paper copies to those who still need them.

We encourage all members to submit Ideas, Recipes, News Stories, Pictures or general comments. You can also submit Clean Jokes and Groaners for consideration.

Feedback will help in the development of your newsletter and website.

Membership Report

As of September 26th, we have **91** regular and **5** life members for a total of **96** wing members.

Friends of Colonel Belcher Report

The Digital Book of Memories is coming along. It will be named "the Hon Col Art Smith OC, AOE, Memory Project". They were very grateful for our donation of \$2,500.00 for this project, which will be in excess of \$10,000.00 for completion. Ribbon cutting ceremony will include Mrs. Smith in attendance. Further info to follow.

The Digital Book will be located at the front door and also accessible on their Website. The website is soon going to be redesigned, with updated information.

They are looking into touch screen monitors at the nurses stations to provide easy access to chart updates on patient progress, orders and other information.

The FOCB Casino application has been approved. Waiting for dates; possibly last quarter of 2012.

Other Business

- 783 Wing has adopted the name of **RCAFA** (*Royal Canadian Air Force Association*) in alignment with Alberta Group
- Storage Facility to be secured to store RCAFA 783 (Calgary) Wing memorabilia.
- National AGM Awards of Note:

Group Efficiency Award	Alberta Group
Distinguished Service Award	Kenneth Carlin 783 Wing
Life Membership Award	Klas Kroeker 783 Wing
Meritorious Service Award	Kenn Nixon 783 Wing

NOTICES

- Please save your used stamps for Marion Mascaro, to be donated to the Alberta Cancer Society. You can bring them to the monthly meeting or send them to:

#783 (Calgary) Wing, c/o 100 Rosevale Drive NW, Calgary, AB T2K 1N5



- Eleanor Berlin requests notification of any wing member who are ill so that she can send them a card from the Wing. Phone: 403-244-8217

THE LAST POST



McKEAGUE – Mabel “Jackie” (nee Jackson)



October 26, 1923 – July 24, 2011

Jackie McKeague died suddenly at Emma Lake, SK on Sunday, July 24, 2011, surrounded by family.

Mabel Arlene Jackson was born October 26, 1923 in Kirkland, New Brunswick. She was the third of four daughters born to Clarence and Georgia (Winchester) Jackson, and was brought up on their New Brunswick farm. Mabel enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force Women's Division on May 20, 1943. In the air force Mabel became known as Jackie. While posted in Newfoundland during WWII she met Vernon (Vern) McKeague, an air force navigator from Sibbald, Alberta. Vern and Jackie were married September 4, 1946 shortly after Jackie's discharge from the air force. After the war Vern transferred to the regular air force. They lived in Prince Edward Island, Alberta, Ontario (Toronto, Ottawa), England, New York and Saskatchewan for varying lengths of time, and had three children over these years. While they were in Ottawa in 1970 Jackie began working at Sears where she remained until retirement. In 1974 Vern and Jackie moved to Calgary where they have lived ever since.

Jackie was an excellent cook, a wonderful knitter and a whiz at crossword puzzles. Jackie enjoyed observing nature, particularly on trips to their condo at Fairmont and her son's cabin at Emma Lake.

Jackie was a member of the Air Force Association of Canada, the Ex-Service Women's Club and St. David's United Church. Jackie was also a member of the Aero Space Museum of Calgary and of the Western Canada Aviation Museum in Winnipeg

Jackie was predeceased by her three sisters, Annice (Harold) Dickinson; Agnes (Hank) Dickinson; and Hazel (Jack) Marshall. Jackie is survived by her loving husband, Vern; her children, David (Neva) McKeague, Dale (Lorraine Hope) McKeague and Heather McKeague; her grandchildren, Reche (Trevor Newell), Caileen (Ryan Schmidt), Sean, Maureen and Reed McKeague; her great grandchildren, Aidan, Milo, Katie and Libby; and by various nieces and nephews.

Jackie will be sorely missed.

<http://www.mhfh.com/mckeague-%E2%80%93-mabel-%E2%80%93-jackie%E2%80%93-nee-jackson/>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



General Wing Meetings are usually held on the fourth Monday of each month.

No meetings will be held in July, August or December.

Meetings will continue to be held at 1930 hrs at the #285 Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion, on Horton Road, for the foreseeable future.

Members may enjoy dinner at the #285 Legion before Wing meetings. Last call for the kitchen is around 1815 hrs.

All members are encouraged to attend Wing Meetings to find out what's going on and have input into the Wing decisions and activities. Summer dress attire is from May 1 to Sept 30.

October 24, 2011

October 26

November 11, 2011

November 26, 2011

November 28, 2011

December 2, 2011

December , 2011

January 23, 2012

February 27, 2012

March 26, 2012

April 23, 2012

May 11-13, 2012

May 28, 2012

June 2, 2012

June 25, 2012

✓ Wing Meeting

52 Squadron Silent Auction (contact Anna Lewis)

Remembrance Day Service (see following) ⌘ ⌘ ⌘

Tour to Rosebud Theatre – The Gifts of the Magi

✓ Wing Meeting

Wing Christmas Party ☆ ☆ ☆

*** No Wing Meeting – Enjoy the holidays!**

✓ Wing Meeting

✓ Wing Meeting

✓ Wing Meeting

✓ Wing Meeting

Alberta AGM hosted by 784 Diamond Jubilee Wing, Cold Lake

✓ Wing Meeting

702 Wing Lobsterfest in Lethbridge

✓ Wing Meeting & 783 Wing AGM

DATE MISSING? WRONG INFORMATION? LET US KNOW!

WE'RE ALWAYS LOOKING AHEAD, SO ALL DATES (EVEN A YEAR IN ADVANCE) ARE MOST WELCOME.

SPECIAL EVENTS AND TOURS

Special Events/Bus trips - Pat Sulek, our esteemed event coordinator, welcomes all suggestions and comments.



Upcoming Events and Tours

Nov 11, 10:30am Remembrance Day Service Mewatta Armouries

783 (Calgary) Wing of the Royal Canadian Air Force Association will be hosting a Remembrance Day Service commencing at 10:30 am at the Mewata Armouries (801 - 11th St SW, Calgary AB). Prepare to arrive in time to be seated by 10:30. This service will focus on the Air Force Community and Air Cadets in an intimate, indoor event.

Following the service, a reception will be held upstairs in the Military Officers Mess. All Wing members are cordially invited as well. Take this opportunity to mingle with other invited guests, Government officials, ranking members of the Military, members of the 783 (Calgary) Wing and Air Force Veterans. We will be accepting either non-perishable food items or monetary donations for the Veteran's Food Bank.

A Poster Contest will be conducted. The 12 to 15 year-old winning entry will be on front page of program. All others will be displayed around Mewata Armouries on Remembrance Day. An Essay Contest will be conducted for 16 to 18 year-old. The topic will be "What the Poppy means to me". Winning essay will be published in the program. The deadline is Oct 14th. Poster Contest judging will be conducted by 783 Wing members present at the Oct 24th meeting. Essay Contest judging will be by the Remembrance Day Committee.

For reserved seating and the reception, Contact Anna Lewis by October 15th to confirm by phone (403-730-8969) or email (bandalewis@shaw.ca). Your RSVP response will get you two "Invited Guest" cards. If you require additional cards, we will be most delighted to send more as needed.

Nov 26, 9:00 am The Gifts of the Magi Rosebud Theatre

Come and join us for the last exciting tours of the year.

Get ready for Christmas. Come with us to the Rosebud Theatre. Enjoy a wonderful buffet brunch, discover unique Christmas gift ideas in numerous gift shops, then watch a terrific play.



A Christmas Musical

It's Christmas in New York, but Jim and Della are out of work and penniless. In the desire to give each other something meaningful, they give away more than expected. This classic story is framed by a host of characters who scurry through the streets preparing for Christmas, including a paperboy and an old bum who is not above doing something illegal in order to spend a few nights in a warm jail. Christmas doesn't get much warmer than this story.

Respectfully submitted, Pat Sulek (your "tour guide")

CATCH UP ON PAST EVENTS

September 23 – Saskatoon Farm

It was an absolutely fabulous day for a quick trip South to the Saskatoon Farm for sightseeing, lunch and some shopping.

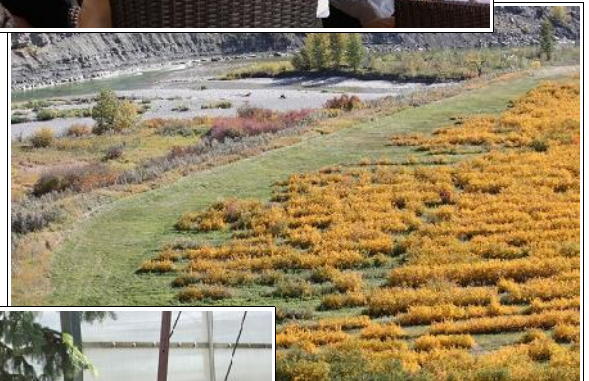
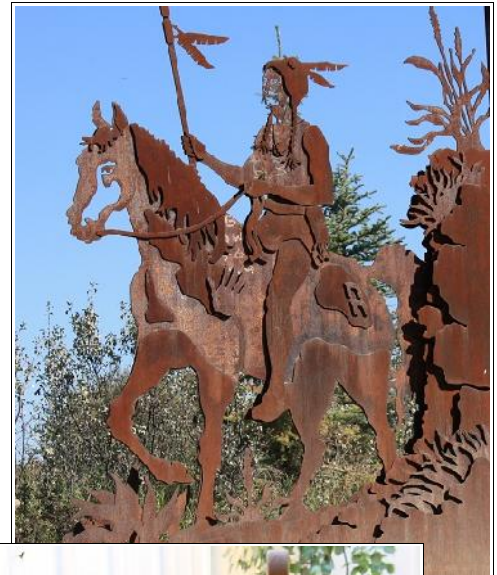
The area, located just off Highway 2 between Okotoks and High River provided a picturesque backdrop to our visit. The Saskatoon Farm combines a number of quaint buildings, greenhouses, gardens and a spectacular view of the orchard and valley to the east.

The Cafe was host to a fabulous mid-day meal of Buffalo (or was it Bison?). Lunch featured various Sandwiches and Soup made from the legendary beast. This was topped off by far too many deserts. While some chose to lounge around and sip coffee in the shaded veranda, others wandered the grounds, enjoying the scenery and artwork.

Most could not resist the Gift Shop, carrying away various items. Lorie Gordon left no corner of the shop unexplored, uncovering some great bargains.

The heat was challenging but, fortunately, there was ample shade wherever 783 Wing Adventurers wandered. Alas, the visit came to an end far too soon, leaving everyone vowing to return. It is hard to believe that such a gem is located within easy striking distance to Calgary.

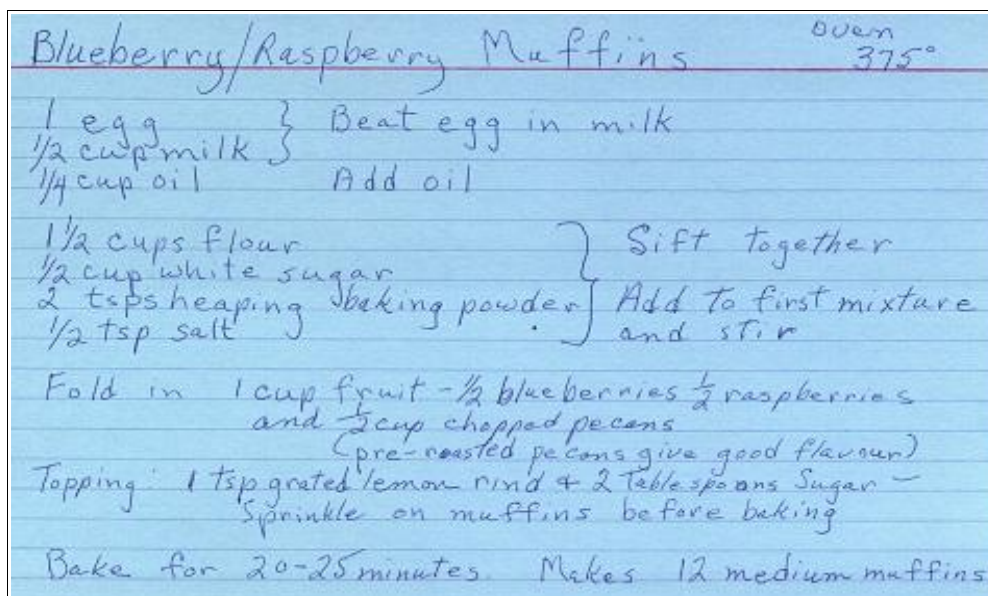
In the words of the immortal Lt. Gen. Douglas MacArthur; "I shall return!"



RECIPE SWAP



Blueberry / Raspberry Muffins



INGREDIENTS:

1	egg	1/2 cup	blueberries
1/2 cup	milk	1/2 cup	raspberries
1/4 cup	oil	1/2 cup	chopped pecans
Dry Ingredients		Toppings	
1 1/2 cups	flour	1 tsp	grated lemon rind
1/2 cup	white sugar	3 tbsp	sugar
2 heaping tsp	baking powder		
1/2 tsp	salt		

Preheat oven to 375°.

Beat egg in milk. Add oil.

Sift together dry ingredients and add to the first mixture.

Fold in the fruit and pecans. (pre-roasted pecans give good flavour).

Sprinkle toppings on muffins before baking.

Bake for 20 to 25 minutes. Makes 12 medium muffins.

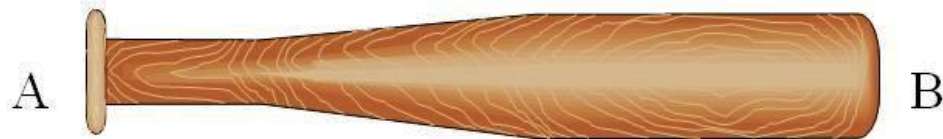
Enjoy!

Recipe Courtesy of Betty Watson

COMEDY CORNER



ENGINEER ADJUSTMENT AND RESET TOOL



INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

- A. Locate engineer that created situation.
- B. Grasp hold on A-Side of tool firmly with both hands.
- C. Initiate Extreme Contact of Engineer's head with B-side of tool, until one of three conditions become apparent:
 - A. Engineer's line of thinking meets reality.
 - B. Engineer admits that he or she has made a mistake.
 - C. Engineer realizes that Non-engineering methods may work.

When any one of these conditions has been met; **STOP !! ...ENGINEER HAS BEEN RESET !**

Thoroughly clean the tool and place it back into its designated holder until needed again. Return Engineer to his or her work station and have them proceed as normal.

***WOMEN ARE ANGELS.
AND WHEN SOMEONE BREAKS OUR WINGS,
WE SIMPLY CONTINUE TO FLY... ON A BROOMSTICK.
WE'RE FLEXIBLE LIKE THAT.***

SENILITY PRAYER

***Grant me the senility
to forget the people I never liked
The good fortune
to run into the people I do like
And the eyesight to tell the
difference.***

OTHER NEWS

World Trade Center Artifact at the Military Museum – September 11th, 2011

In remembrance of the 10th Anniversary, The Military Museum was the recipient of an Artifact from a building of the World Trade Center of New York. The artifact is in memory of those who perished on that fateful day, September 11th, 2001.



Mr. Tom Doucette, Director of The Military Museum, Calgary, Alberta presided over the unveiling of the Artifact. The following guests were present – left to right are as follows:

- *Dr. Terry Rock, President and CEO, Calgary Arts Development*
- *Colonel Scott Kennedy, Commander, Area Support Group*
- *Mr. Rob Anders, MP for Calgary West*
- *Ms. Laura Lockman, United States Consul General*
- *His Honour Col. (Ret'd) Donald S. Ethell, Lieutenant Governor of Alberta*
- *His Worship Mayor Naheed Nenshi, Office of the Mayor, The City of Calgary*
- *Mr. Dick Averbs, Faculty of the Alberta College of Arts and Design*
- *Staff Sergeant (Ret'd) Neil Murray, Calgary Police Service*



His Worship Mayor Naheed Nenshi, thanking Edith McMinn for volunteering at The Military Museum – September 11, 2011

Submitted by: Edith McMinn

RAF Permanent Air Movement Detachment (PAMD) Canada stand proud at Canadian Battle of Britain Parade



On 18 Sep 11, RAF Permanent Air Movements Detachment (PAMD) Canada stood proudly alongside Canadian colleagues at the Battle of Britain parades in Calgary, Alberta and St Johns, Newfoundland. Invited to attend by the local Air Force Associations and continuing the long standing tradition of RAF attendance, the parade marks the hard won victory of the RAF over the Luftwaffe in 1940.



*RAF PAMD St Johns.
FS Ian Harvey and
Sgt Eddie Knight
at the Newfoundland National
War Memorial.*

The St Johns parade and ceremony was held at the Newfoundland National War Memorial where FS Ian Harvey and Sgt Eddie Knight met Canadian Air Force (CAF) members including the St Johns (Pleasantville) and Gander Base Commanders. Tributes to commemorate comrades lost in the battle were read by CAF veterans before wreaths were laid by local dignitaries, CAF representatives and the RAF.

The Battle of Britain took place from 10 Jul to 31 Oct, 1940. Eighty Canadian fighter pilots fought in the Battle of Britain out of approximately 500 non-British aircrew. They mainly served in No. 1 (later 401) Squadron RCAF and No. 242 Squadron RAF (Canadians serving with the 242 Sqn were commanded by Douglas Bader, the famous "Legless Ace").



*242 Squadron pilots, with Sqn.
Ldr. Douglas Bader (standing,
centre). Bader is flanked by his
two flight commanders, Ft. Lt.
Stan Turner (Canadian, third
from left) and Eric Ball (third
from right).*

The remainder of the Canadians were scattered through another dozen RAF Squadrons. The 42 Canadians who served with No.1 and 242 Squadrons were credited with 60 German aircraft being destroyed and another 50 probable or damaged. Twenty Canadians were killed in action; three of those while serving with No.1 RCAF Squadron.



RCAF pilots scramble for their Hurricane aircraft in early 1941. The RCAF received its first Hurricanes in February 1939 and the first RCAF squadron to take the aircraft into combat was No. 1 (Canadian) – later 401 – Squadron, which flew the Hurricane during the Battle of Britain.

The Luftwaffe started out with 3000 aircraft including 1100 fighters. The RAF started with 700 fighters. At the end of the battle, RAF Fighter Command was estimated to have lost 800 aircraft with 400 pilots killed. The Luftwaffe losses were about 1300 aircraft lost. Reported aircraft loss estimates vary. During the official four months of the Battle of Britain, 3080 pilots served with RAF Fighter Command.



FS Ian Harvey and Sgt Eddie Knight in attendance at the RCAF Wing Battle of Britain remembrance parade and wreath laying ceremony in St Johns, Newfoundland.



RAF PAMD Calgary. Flt Lt Matt Sharrock, Sgt Si Hammond and Mr Kenn Nixon 783 (Calgary) Wing, Air Force Association, Canada at the parade in Calgary, Alberta.

Marking the occasion for the RAF in Calgary was Flt Lt Matt Sharrock and Sgt Si Hammond. Flt Lt Sharrock who took up post as OC PAMD Canada in Jul 11 was delighted to share the occasion with Mr Kenn Nixon of the Air Force Association of Canada. The RAF has had an enduring presence in Canada from the mid 1930s with the Calgary detachment having been established for over 3 decades. The parade was also attended by members of the governing political parties and local cadet forces.

It is because of the efforts of those allied pilots and ground crew involved in the Battle of Britain that Winston Churchill made his famous statement: "The gratitude of every home in our island, in our Empire and indeed, throughout the world, except in the abodes of the guilty, goes out to the British airmen who, undaunted by the odds, unwearied in their constant challenge and mortal danger, turned the tide of the world war by their prowess and their devotion. Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."



Veterans and Cadets of Calgary mark the occasion with a march past and salute.

Monopoly - WWII

This is a neat piece of trivia.



(You'll never look at the game the same way again!)

Starting in 1941, an increasing number of British Airmen found themselves as the involuntary guests of the Third Reich, and the Crown was casting about for ways and means to facilitate their escape...

Now obviously, one of the most helpful aids to that end is a useful and accurate map, one showing not only where stuff was, but also showing the locations of 'safe houses' where a POW on-the-lam could go for food and shelter.

Paper maps had some real drawbacks -- they make a lot of noise when you open and fold them, they wear out rapidly, and if they get wet, they turn into mush. Someone in MI-5 (similar to America's OSS) got the idea of printing escape maps on silk. It's durable, can be scrunched-up into tiny wads, and unfolded as many times as needed, and makes no noise whatsoever.

At that time, there was only one manufacturer in Great Britain that had perfected the technology of printing on silk, and that was John Waddington, Ltd. When approached by the government, the firm was only too happy to do its bit for the war effort.

By pure coincidence, Waddington was also the U.K. licensee for the popular American board game, Monopoly. As it happened, 'games and pastimes' was a category of item qualified for insertion into 'CARE packages', dispatched by the International Red Cross to prisoners of war.

Under the strictest of secrecy, in a securely guarded and inaccessible old workshop on the grounds of Waddington's, a group of sworn-to-secrecy employees began mass-producing escape maps, keyed to each region of Germany or Italy where Allied POW camps were located). When processed, these maps could be folded into such tiny dots that they would actually fit inside a Monopoly playing piece.

As long as they were at it, the clever workmen at Waddington's also managed to add:

1. A playing token, containing a small magnetic compass
2. A two-part metal file that could easily be screwed together
3. Useful amounts of genuine high-denomination German, Italian, and French currency, hidden within the piles of Monopoly money!

British and American air crews were advised, before taking off on their first mission, how to identify a 'rigged' Monopoly set -- by means of a tiny red dot, one cleverly rigged to look like an ordinary printing glitch, located in the corner of the Free Parking square.

Of the estimated 35,000 Allied POWS who successfully escaped, an estimated one-third were aided in their flight by the rigged Monopoly sets.. Everyone who did so was sworn to secrecy indefinitely, since the British Government might want to use this highly successful ruse in still another, future war.

The story wasn't declassified until 2007, when the surviving craftsmen from Waddington's, as well as the firm itself, were finally honored in a public ceremony.

It's always nice when you can play that 'Get Out of Jail' Free' card!

I realize some of you are (probably) too young to have any personal connection to WWII (Dec. '41 to Aug. '45), but this is still interesting.

Air Force Museum Society of Alberta

The Air Force Museum of Alberta (AFMSA) is an equal partner in the new Military Museums at the location of the former Museum of the Regiments on Crowchild Trail. Official opening was on May 7, 2009. The AFMSA website is www.airforcemuseumalberta.ca.

The Museum needs volunteers to be Tour Guides, so please consider volunteering by contacting Kenn Nixon. Comments and suggestions should be directed to Kenn Nixon. Wing members are encouraged to become members of the museum. The AFMSA is an approved charitable organization, and can provide official receipts for tax purposes for all donations. For further information and applications for memberships, please call Don Norrie, the membership chairman, at 403-949-2579.



Other Photos

Peacekeepers Parade, August 2011



RJ Roe and Brian Lewis representing 783 as Flag Bearers



Keith Mann representing the AFAC and laid a wreath in our name

Battle of Britain



Don Matthews with Reviewing Officer and his wife



Kenn Nixon organizing the march past of the veterans and cadets

August 2011 - Fam Fly at Netook.



Canadian Business Aviation Association Presentation

Golden Hawks Pilot Dan Dempsey thanking Sam Barone for CBAA support

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Greetings to all.

It has been an interesting struggle to get my first Newsletter off the ground. I truly hope you all appreciate the incredible efforts that Anna Lewis has put into this endeavour over the past 3 years. I hope that I can live up to her standards.

Summer was a busy time with Stampede, holidays and getting to play outdoors. I hope everyone survived the early monsoon season we had and then took full advantage of all the sunshine we got towards the end. The barbecue at Spielman's Hacienda was a fabulous success this year. I felt the presentation ceremonies made it quite special. Hearing from various organizations about how our donations are being used was a nice touch.

I was so glad that I was able to catch up (literally) with the group at the Saskatoon Farm last month. Kudos to Kenn who tracked me down at the last minute and reminded me. It was such a beautiful day. The food and conversation was stimulating and the view from the Farm was breathtaking. I hope everyone enjoyed the outing as much as I did. I, for one, missed the camaraderie and silliness of that Bus trip. That part is always as much fun as the outing itself. I encourage everyone to take advantage of these trips whenever possible.

The next few months are filled with adventure for all of us. We have Remembrance Day and Christmas before us.

Cheers, Thom Gordon