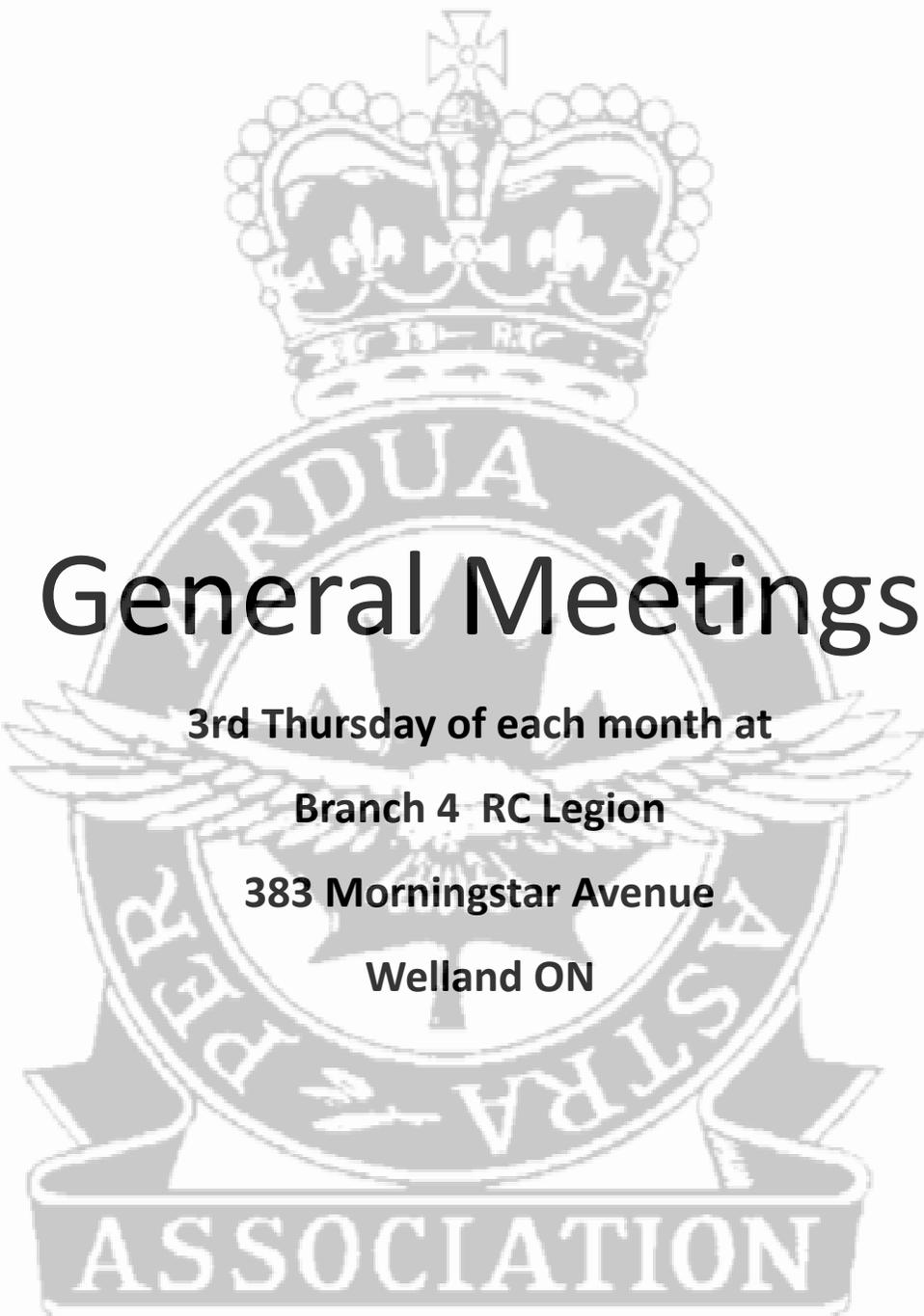


434's Bulletin

Vol. 22 no 2 November-December 2019



General Meetings

3rd Thursday of each month at

Branch 4 RC Legion

383 Morningstar Avenue

Welland ON

We proudly promote the glorious tradition of the RCAF

434 Wing Board of Directors

2019-2020

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ROYAL CANADIAN LEGIONS

Welland	Branch 4	Office	905-734-3611
		Canteen	905-734-6601
Port Colborne	Branch 56	Hall	905-834-9512
Fort Erie	Branch 71	Hall	905-871-8682
Fonthill	Branch 613	Hall	905-892-6293

Published by

434 (Niagara Peninsula) Wing

Email: 434wingrcafa@gmail.com

Royal Canadian Air Force Association of Canada

Chairman's Report October 2019

We have had a busy summer starting in May with our first Giant Tiger BBQ. Into June we had representation at 79 & 87 Squadrons Air Cadets Annual Inspections.

Classic Air Race

Followed later in the month with our booth set up at the Classic Air Race at the Dorothy Rungeling Airport here in Welland.

Banquet and Awards Dinner

We closed out June with our annual Banquet and Awards dinner which appeared to go over quite well and was well attended.

Canal Days

Into August we setup for 4 days of Canal Days.

Battle of Britain

During the course of the month the Battle of Britain committee met a few times in preparation for the event in September. September 15th saw us hold the Battle of Britain ceremony at Br 4 Legion, many thanks to all those that helped.

Ontario Group Central Meeting

On Saturday September 21, 6 members attended the Ont. Group Central meeting at 447 Wing in Mt. Hope, many topics were discussed and some items were to be brought forward at the Ontario Group Executive meeting (we are hoping for a resolution and direction regarding the change in Wing voting procedures).

Ted Barris Presentation

At the time of writing, our next item fast approaching is the Ted Barris presentation on the "Great Escape" October 26th we are hoping for a good turnout and rely on our members to participate and bring along a friend or two.

Guest Speakers

We are always looking for guest speakers, so if any member knows of someone willing to fill that void please let one of the executive know.

Christmas Dinner

We are currently making enquiries with regards to our Christmas Dinner and yes I realize it is October and Christmas still seems far away but it will arrive quickly as we that are a little older know all too well as we confirm arrangements we will get the word out to you all.

As a reminder our general meetings are on the 3rd Thursday of each month 7pm at Br.4 RCL Welland Just in closing I wanted to say that it takes a combined effort to make things work and when we all pull together we can achieve.

On behalf of the Wing Executive I wish you all good health and thank you for your support.

Bill Heron (Chairman)

434 (Niagara Peninsula) Wing

RCAFA

Secretary/Treasurers' Report

FINANCES

Our finances stand at \$ 3,419.77 as of September 30, 2019.

THE GREAT ESCAPE

We have one more fundraising event for this year which is Ted Barris speaking on the "Great Escape" Saturday, October 26, 2019 at Branch 4 Legion upstairs hall commencing at 2:00 PM. Lets put a push on selling the remaining tickets and make this project a total success! We will need volunteers to set up chairs at 12:00 noon that day. There will be a phone call to ask for your help.

CHRISTMAS DINNER

Our Wing Christmas Dinner is now set for Saturday, December 7, 2019 at Branch 4 Legion in Welland. Symposium is at 5:30 PM. with Dinner at 6:00 PM. Cost is \$30.00 per person with a family style dinner of Roast Beef, roasted potatoes, vegetables, salad, buns, pickle tray, dessert, tea and coffee. Tickets will be available at the Executive meeting of November 7 and the General meeting of November 21, 2019.

OTHER TOPICS

If any member knows of anyone they think would have an interesting topic they would like to share with the wing, please contact your Executive.

Secretary/Treasurer

George Groff

Membership Chairman Report

The membership now stands at 34 Regular members and 5 associates. I would like to welcome 2 new members, **Brian Howard and Dr Deborah Wilkes-Whitehall.**

Members meet on the 3rd Thursday of each month at Legion's Branch 4 in Welland except for December, July and August.

C Leguerrier

Membership Chairman.

AIR CADET REPORT

A little history of the 3 Air Cadet Squadrons 434 Wing Supports

Port Colborne's Air Cadet Squadron, 79 Lynton Davies Squadron is one of the original squadrons formed in Canada during 1942, (January 9th, 1942) and has recently celebrated it's 77th anniversary. 79 Squadron is currently meeting at Oakwood School on Omar St. on Tuesday nights. 79 Sqn takes it's name from Lynton Davies, one of the first men from Port Colborne to join the RAF in WWII. The current Commanding Officer is Captain Belansky. 79 Squadron is sponsored by a Committee of parents and other volunteers. Since September, 79 Squadron has held Tag Day, and a Field Training Exercise (FTX) at which survival, camp craft and canoeing were taught. Like the other squadrons, they are doing their mandatory training on their parade night but also have been meeting on Wednesday nights for band practice and drill team practice, and on Monday nights for fitness and sports training. In November 79 Sqn will be, participating in a Vigil overnight November 10-11 at Port Colborne and at Wainfleet cenotaphs. In December, 79 Squadron will be participating in the Christmas parade and holding a Christmas party for the cadets.

Welland's Air Cadet Squadron, 87 Eagle, is one of the original squadrons formed in Canada during 1942, and has recently celebrated it's 77th anniversary. 87 Squadron meeting on Wednesday nights at the Niagara Central Dorothy Rungeling Airport in Welland Ontario, the 87 Eagle squadron has been training in the airports former Fire Company #1 meeting place for over 65 years. Literally thousands of young men and women have reaped the many benefits of the Royal Canadian Air Cadet program in the old WWII-era building. Today the building is maintained by the hard work of the cadets, the generous donations of the community, and the time invested by the Squadron Sponsoring Committee and volunteers. The current Commanding Officer is Capt Bowman. So far this year the Squadron has held an Open House, and tagging. 87 Sqn will be hosting a Halloween party at the Lake St Armouries for all of the 9 Squadrons in Niagara Air Group (NAG) on Nov 1, 2019. In December, they will be having a Christmas Party.

Dunnville's Air Cadet Squadron was reformed on January 20, 1984. 611 Squadron celebrated their 35th anniversary in the past training year. 611 Squadron meet on Tuesday nights at the Dunnville Legion on Queen St. Branch 142 has been the sponsor of the Squadron since 1984. 611 Squadron is active in the community. The current Commanding Officer is Capt Scott Durwood.

All 3 Squadrons will be participating in Poppying for their local Legion on Nov 2nd or 9th, and the Remembrance day Services on Nov 3rd or 11th. On Nov 23 and 30th, there will be a joint training day for the all senior cadets to participate in. Cadets from all squadrons are participating in Ground School in preparation for writing the Glider and Power Scholarship exams in January 2020. The cadets are also preparing for the NAG Sports competition which will be held at the end of January 2020. Also note, that all squadrons will be selling tickets for a chance to win 2 Subaru vehicles, a Lancaster flight for 4, or cash prizes of \$5,000 and \$1,000. Please support the cadets during the coming year.

1st Vice Chairwoman
Julie Sheppard

The Return of the Propeller Driven Combat Aircraft

The Super Tucano is a light attack aircraft currently being employed by 44 air forces in the world. In a partnership between Sierra Nevada Corp and Embraer, the aircraft is also being built in the USA in Jacksonville, Florida for the Afghan Airforce and an order was recently received to build the aircraft for the Nigerian Air Force from Jacksonville.

The Super Tucano is an economical aircraft to fly and sustain, costing approximately US \$1,000 per hour to fly. Fuel consumption is also a fraction of that used for jet fighters.

Comparative costs for jet fighters as of 2015 are:



Embraer A-29 Super Tucano

F-35A	\$28,455 per hour
F-22 Raptor	\$35,538 per hour
F-18F Super Hornet	\$10,507 per hour

Members of the US Congress have expressed a desire to see expanded use of light attack aircraft (LAA). So far, the US Department of Defense is still looking at the feasibility of purchasing the Super Tucano for US forces. The US Department of Defense Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Request makes no mention of the LAA but does contain a statement, *“Reflected in the FY 2020 request, is a revised Tactical Air (TACAIR) strategy to supplement 5th generation fighters like the F-22 and F-35 with 4th generation capability, to more economically address threats that do not require state-of-the-art 5th generation combat jets.”* Clearly there is a recognition that more economical aircraft must be employed where practical.

Kit Shop News

This is the kit shop report as we approach 2019 Remembrance Day I will be placing an order by Friday for any uniform needs for the event.

Please contact me at 289 686 8636 to place an order

Kit shop Director & Team Jeanette and Rod Lee and Michael

Airwomen in Combat

Ace Fighter Pilot Lydia (Lilya) Litviak, HSU (Hero of the Soviet Union)

First woman in history to shoot down an enemy aircraft in aerial combat

More documented kills than any other female fighter pilot in history

Born: August 18, 1921, Moscow

When the first Soviet air show was held on August 18, 1933, the day of Lydia's 12th birthday, she took it as a sign that she definitely was meant to be a pilot flying in the air show from the Central Moscow Aerodrome. Persistent and determined, she persuaded officials at her local flying club to allow her to attend classes at 14 years of age (minimum age was 16). Telling her mother (her father "disappeared" during Stalin's Great Purge) that she was off to rehearsals for a play at school, she attended classes at flying school and passed the theoretical exam. Then it was flying lessons in a U-2 (Po2) biplane. One day in 1936 her instructor asked her if she wanted to fly solo to which she replied "of course" and off she went, solo at 15 years of age. At 18 she attended Kherson Aviation School and worked as a licensed instructor pilot at Kirov Airclub in Moscow.



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On October 8, 1941 the Government requested the creation of the 122 Aviation Group to be headed by the famous Soviet air heroine Marina Raskova, to train and process women into operational groups. Upon interviewing volunteer Lydia, Marina saw her as a fighter pilot. Marina created three all women regiments: the 586th Fighter Aviation Regiment, the 587th Bomber Aviation Regiment and the 588th Night Bomber Aviation Regiment (the famous "Night Witches"). Lydia was placed in the 586th Regiment where she piloted one of the new Yak-1 fighter planes.

In September 1942 Lydia with three of her fellow pilots were transferred to the 437 Fighter Regiment, a men's regiment fighting over Stalingrad. Three days after arriving, flying as a wingman to the regimental commander, she shot down a Junkers JU-88 making her the first woman fighter pilot to shoot down an enemy aircraft. About 10 minutes later she shot down a Bf 109 piloted by an 11-kill fighter ace and three time recipient of the Iron Cross. The German pilot bailed out and was captured. He refused to believe that he had been shot down by a 20-year old girl until Lydia was brought before him and she recounted the details of their encounter. After a short time, the women were transferred to the 9th Guards Fighter Regiment in the Stalingrad area and from there Lydia was transferred to the 296th Fighter Regiment (later the 73rd Guards Fighter Aviation Regiment). One problem was that the Regiments were not equipped to service the Yak-1 and hence they kept moving to where the planes could be serviced.

On February 23, 1943, Lydia was awarded the Order of the Red Star, made a junior lieutenant and selected to be a Free Hunter, where skilled pilots are allowed to search for targets on their own initiative. On June 13, 1943 Lydia was appointed Flight Commander of the 3rd Aviation Squadron within the 73rd Guards Fighter Aviation Regiment.

On August 1, 1943 Lydia was attacking a group of German bombers when she in turn was attacked by Messerschmitt 109s flying cover for the bombers. She was last seen with smoke pouring from her Yak-1b and being pursued by eight Bf 109s. She did not return to her base at Krasny Luch that day and no one knew what happened to her. Her rank at this time was Senior Lieutenant.

Lydia was never forgotten and after a determined 36 year search, remains were located and confirmed to be those of Lydia Litviak. A monument was erected in Krasny Luch in her honour and she was reinterred near the monument. She had set her plane down not far from the village of Marinkova in the Donetsk region and had died in her cockpit. In 1990 she was posthumously named a Hero of the Soviet Union by Soviet Chairman Mikhail Gorbachev. The Lilia Litviak Museum is maintained in Krasny Luch together with the Lilia Litviak High School named in her honour.

Lydia Litviak was attractive, determined, aggressive and a rebel, all of which give rise to fascinating stories. Several books have been written about her and each author has their own version and interpretation of events in Lydia's life and her demise but no matter which one you chose to read it will prove to be exciting and hard to put down.

Lydia Litviak Record:

12 solo kills; 3 team kills, all within less than a year of combat

Awards:

Order of the Red Star

Order of the Red Banner

medal "For the Defense of Stalingrad"

Order of the Patriotic War, 1st degree

Hero of the Soviet Union (awarded posthumously in 1990)

(awards compiled by author Reina Pennington)

Canada became the first country to allow women to fly in a combat role since WW2 when the Soviet Union allowed women such as Lydia Litviak to fly in combat missions. In 1989 Captain Jane Foster and Major Deanna Brasseur became the only airwomen in the world flying fighters in operational squadrons.



SNOWBIRDS

Visit Niagara Airport in
September

Alf, Thank You For Another Great Season

Thank you for inviting the 434 Niagara Wing to attend your fly-ins this year at the **Alf Beam International Airfield (ABIA)**. Our members always look forward to the opportunity of sharing stories with other flying enthusiasts. For many veterans, the doorway to the skies was through a Tiger Moth, a Harvard, a Cornell, etc. and to see these aircraft along with so many others, landing and taking off from your airfield stirs many memories and stories.

Spitfire Pilot Tom Vance checking out superb scaled down replica of Spitfire at the airfield



Refueling Trojan T-28 before an air-show over the airfield

Leaving the airfield for 2019



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Royal Canadian Legion Branch 613

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