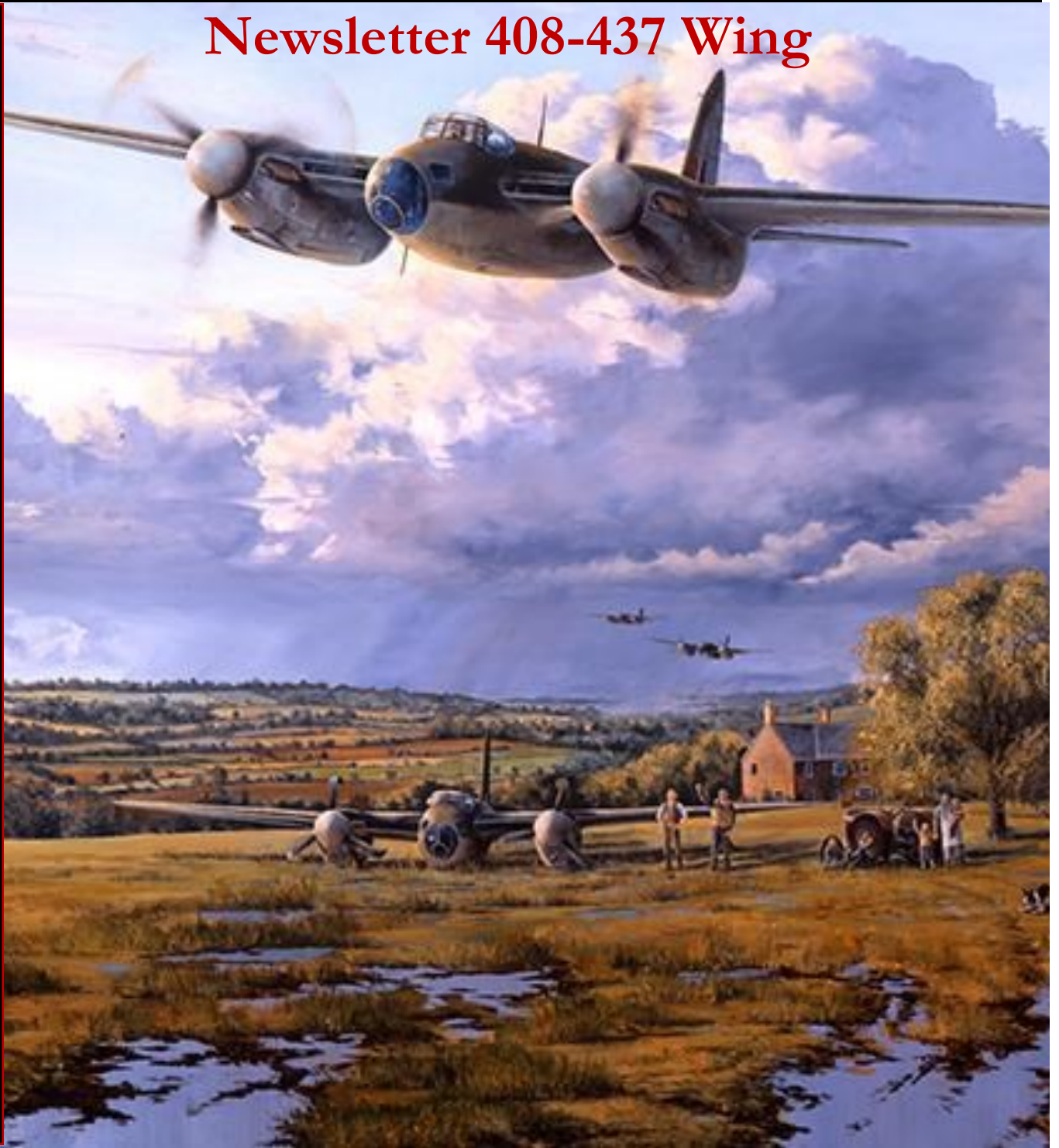


Wing Mate



Newsletter 408-437 Wing

Royal Canadian Air Force Association of Canada



February  2023

AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION of CANADA MISSION STATEMENT

The Air Force Association of Canada is a national aerospace and community service organization whose aim is to commemorate the noble achievements of the men and women who have served as members of Canada's Air Force since its inception, advocate for a proficient and well equipped Air Force and, support the Royal Canadian Air Cadets.

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Air Cadets
818 Squadron..... Jackie Johnston
110 Squadron..... Cécile Thompson



Sick and Visiting

Be sure to advise Barbara Newman, Fellowship Chair, if you are aware of a Wing member who is ill or in distressed circumstances.

Barbara can be reached at 416-223-7840.

January-February 2023

Bob McBain...January 13
Cécile Thompson...Feb.5
Curt Abels...Feb.17
Peter Rebek...Feb.19



Happy Birthday!

Wing Events

Monday 13 February
Meeting
Film Night



408-437 WING
RCAFA

I just found this old tape, so I gave it a play. I don't recommend it at all. Head Cleaner - worst band ever...



I see people around my age mountain climbing - meanwhile, I feel good getting my leg through my underwear without losing my balance

Police came round last night and told me my dogs were chasing people on bikes

My dogs don't even have bikes.

When I get a headache I take two aspirin and keep away from children just like the bottle says.

Today's 3-year-olds can switch on laptops and open their favorite apps. When I was 3, I ate mud.

"Your call is very important to us. Please enjoy this 40-minute flute solo."



President's Report

Welcome back. It's hard to believe that we are already on the doorstep of February cruising toward St Valentine's Day. As you know we have been hibernating since the Christmas Party. I've had a few comments regarding the cancellation of the January General Meeting. In the past number of years usually because of bad weather our attendance was below 10 people comprised from the usual attendees. A second factor to consider is that the Legion is not open on Mondays, our parade night. As a favour to the Wing, it is opened for us. We are not charged for the use of the hall. In the past I have offered, the response was 'If we need money we'll know where to find you.' Much appreciated.

The Christmas party turned out quite well, The Ladies from the Legion were forced to sweep us out the door after 9:30. Thirty-two people attended, some from the Air Crew along with Armin and his 'squeeze-box' treating us to several songs. As usual, the Winged Mercury, David Ouellette (perchance a remnant from the Disco Era) furnished the dance moves. Then again, he walks dogs, so I am guessing one must be nimble on one's feet if you know what I mean.

The Legion Ladies delivered the kitchen services with excellent and more than enough food. Thank you!

Once again, weather permitting, the 13th of February General Meeting is on. This will be a movie night. The movie will be 'DOG'. No giant spiders, highly recommended by Barb and John. Sandwiches and coffee as usual. Please plan to attend or I'll have a lot of sandwiches to eat. If you were wondering, there was no Wing Mate in January. The intent was to give our editor Terry Sleightholm a well-earned rest.

Nick Czernkovich



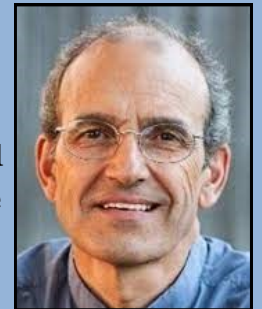
Ted Barris: Order of Canada

408-437 Wing member Ted Barris was recently awarded the Order of Canada.

In December, 2022, the Right Honourable Mary Simon, Governor General of Canada, announced 99 new appointments to the Order of Canada, including Ted Barris, C.M., "For advancing our understanding of Canadian military history as an acclaimed historical author, journalist and broadcaster." Ted's father, Alex Barris, was also appointed Member of the Order in 1998.

Ted Barris, 2023:

"The man told me my future. It happened back in the 1980s. But back then, Charley Fox, my oldest and dearest veteran friend, looked me straight in the eye and told me what I ought to be doing with the rest of my life.



"It's your job to tell our stories," he said. And each time we'd meet – usually every month or so at the Husky truck stop on Hwy 401 just east of London, Ont. – Charley would remind me with a "to-do list," exactly how I was to research famous battles, conduct first-hand interviews and then write and publish the eye-witness stories of Canadian veterans' experiences. Forty years and a dozen published books later, I realize Charley was right. History storytelling has become the centre of my life. Then last November on my way home, I pulled into that same Husky truck stop – more out of homage to my veteran pal than anything else – and my cellphone rang.

"You've been appointed to the Order of Canada," said Emma Grace, analyst at the Governor General's office at Rideau Hall in Ottawa.

Congratulations, Ted! From all of your friends in 408-437 Wing, RCAFA. Well-deserved recognition!

818 Toronto Falcon Squadron

Royal Canadian Air Cadets



110 Black Hawk Squadron

Royal Canadian Air Cadets



It has been a pleasure to return to consistent training. Our cadets have been working really hard to build confidence and experience to get comfortable in their new roles and appointments. Over the first few months of the year we have welcomed almost 20 new recruits, whose energy and enthusiasm have added a sense of liveliness and excitement we haven't seen in over 2 years. Training is running smoothly under our new Training Officer Captain Dorothea Silk-Barwell who is come to us from the Hamilton area. Additionally we welcomed a new Administration Officer Captain Linda Jung who came to us from the east side of the city. Both new members have been instrumental in revitalizing our optional activity programs, re-starting our Drill Team, Marksmanship Team and a BRAND NEW BAND! Needless to say, as a team the staff are all working hard to provide as many opportunities as possible to the cadets of 818. Hopefully we can do much more when the weather gets warmer. Lastly this year the Squadron will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary so look out for more information because we cannot celebrate 50 Years without 408/437 Wing.

Daryl Abbott Captain CO 818 RCACS

The Squadron Sponsoring Committee met in person with the parents on January 24.

After introducing themselves to them, they about the change over from OPC tickets to 50/50 tickets

They also discussed tag days and fundraising The Squadron's 50th Anniversary will take place in November 3023. Plans are being finalized and will include a special parade. More details will be forthcoming.



Wing Member Stanley Heather

Stan is currently 99 years young and of course that means that he will be turning 100 this year. This is certainly an event of note and we look forward to celebrating with him.

All the best, Stan!

de Havilland DH.98 Mosquito

“We believe that we could produce a twin-engine bomber which would have a performance so outstanding that little defensive equipment would be needed.”

Geoffrey de Havilland – September 1939

The de Havilland Mosquito is one of the most iconic British aircraft of WW II. The “Wooden Wonder” as it was called, due to its frame being made almost entirely out of wood, participated in a wide range of operations throughout the war, from the transport of valuable cargo across enemy-held airspace to high-precision bomb raids on prisons and Gestapo headquarters. If one needed to get in, wreak havoc and get out fast, the



Even with this bomb on board, the Mosquito could out fly most German night fighters, and on numerous occasions it attacked far-off Berlin and German V1 flying-bomb sites.

‘Mossie’ was your weapon of choice.

Conceived as a multi-role combat aircraft and manned by a crew of two, it served as a low- to medium-altitude daytime tactical bomber, high-altitude night bomber, pathfinder, day or night fighter, fighter-bomber, intruder, maritime strike aircraft, and fast photo-reconnaissance aircraft. Talk about multiple personalities!

The Mosquito’s operational history began in November 1941, when it started performing as an unarmed, high-speed, high-altitude aircraft engaged in photo-reconnaissance missions. Its speed enabled it to perform these duties since it was among the fastest airplanes in the world.

It quickly became clear that the mosquito could do much more damage than just providing intelligence on enemy positions and it was soon equipped with 4,000 pound Blockbuster bombs, usually dropped from high altitude. Its role became that of a “nuisance bomber,” either by diverting the attention of military defenses from raids occurring elsewhere or engaging “Targets of Opportunity” such as trains, convoys, and troop movements.

Apart from serving as an offensive aircraft, the Mossie helped defend the skies above Britain on numerous occasions, successfully intercepting German night raids during Operation Steinbock in the first months of 1944. After this final push, the Luftwaffe abandoned the idea of bombing Britain with conventional aircraft and almost entirely switched to the use of V1 and V2 rockets. Wing member, the late Russ Bannock, related to us many stories on this topic. This led to Mosquito pilots countering the threat by conducting raids on rocket production facilities deep in enemy territory. Some of its most notable actions include the famous raid on an Amiens prison in German-occupied France, in an attempt to cause a massive breakout of prisoners, most of whom were members of the French resistance.

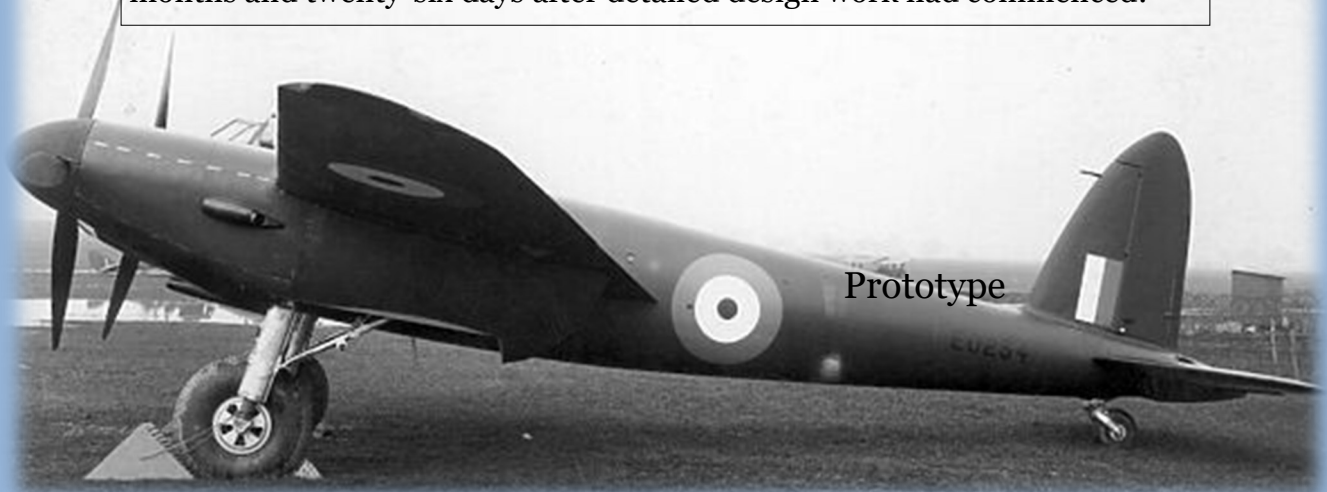
Other daring exploits in which the Mosquito played a vital role include the attack on the Gestapo headquarters in Copenhagen, Denmark, and the bombing of the Philips factory at Eindhoven, Netherlands, in 1942, which caused a major disruption in the production of electronic equipment used by the Germans.



A night intruder prior to take-off



The prototype made its first flight on November 25, 1940. This was only ten months and twenty-six days after detailed design work had commenced!



This shot-up wooden wonder made it home!





Christmas Party





Cécile & Nick present pins to Marg, Jackie & Barbara for their years of service to the Wing







"Look into my eyes. You are getting drowsy!"



Thank you, Cécile! Hand-knitted toques for everyone.



Right, John

I want to lead, Barbara!



Thank you, Armin, for your wonderful playing.



John thanking those who prepared and served the delicious turkey dinner.