

# 434's Bulletin

Vol. 21, No. 3 Jan-Feb 2019



## General Meetings

3rd Thursday of each month at

Branch 4 R C Legion

383 Morningstar Avenues

Welland ON

***We proudly promote the glorious tradition of the  
RCAF***

**434 Wing Executive Council  
2017-2018**

President – Bill Heron .....	289-820-8712
Immediate Past President Don Feduck	905-835-1064
1st Vice President- Norm Sonnenberg	905-834-6722
2nd Vice President – Julia Sheppard .....	905-734-6307
Secretary Treasurer - George Groff.....	905-734-4948
Membership Chair - Chuck Leguerrier.....	289-723-2544
Kit shop - Mike Mascitelli.....	289-478-6010
Liaison Officer - Pending	
Padre- Rev John Cathcart.....	905-384-4660
Bulletin Editor - Chuck Leguerrier.....	289-723-2544
<b><u>Directors</u></b>	
Rod Lee	905-834-0710
F/L Tom Vance (Honorary).....	905-834-8155

**Committees**

Air - Cadets Capt - Julia Sheppard  
Audio Visual - Bill Heron  
Phone Committee - Chuck & George  
Programs - George & executive  
Sick/Visitation - Chuck  
Publicity - Executive

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# President's Report

## Presidents Report December 2018

Christmas is approaching and many of you will gather with family and friends, if you will be driving, please be safe on the roads particularly if there is bad weather and watch out for the other guy.

Our Christmas Dinner seemed to be well accepted. This was a first time trial at something different and George will be sending out a questionnaire just to see how things went so please take the time to give your opinion and let us know, this way we will know whether or not to try this idea in the future.

It is hard to imagine that 100 years has passed since the end of the First World War and 75 years since the Dams raid on the Ruhr, history has a way of making time seem like it was yesterday.

With a new year just around the corner we will once again face many repetitive challenges. The main one as I see it is membership. I know I have brought this up in the past but in order to ensure the survival of the Wing please give this important item some serious thought and consider the consequences if we can't maintain or increase our membership the latter being preferred.

To all those who have given of their time over this last year I thank you for your efforts.

In closing and on behalf of the executive, I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and healthy 2019.

Bill Heron (President)  
434 (Niagara Peninsula) Wing  
RCAFA

*Per Ardua ad Astra*

## Secretary/Treasurers' Report

The Wings' finances are stable for now. Our November 30, 2018 balance was \$ 2,943.72. We have nearly completed our Pocket Planner Calendars and Christmas Card Packs projects and we will have the final reports for you in the new year. We still need to push forward with new fundraising projects so please let us know about any ideas you may have.

Our Christmas Dinner at Canadas' Best Value Inn was a success. We had 31 members, spouses and friends attend and everyone had a good time. Please remember to fill out your satisfaction survey and e-mail it to me.

The next general meeting will be Thursday, January 17, 2019 at 7:00 PM Branch 4 legion in Welland. We will need speakers for next year so if you have any ideas for one, please let us know

Secretary/Treasurer  
George Groff



Above is the aircraft flown by Tom Williams when he was the oldest pilot in Canada

## **Membership Chairman Report**

Our wing membership still stands at 31 regular + 6 associates. Our membership as all wings is going down in numbers, so if you know anybody interested in aviation please contact me with their info I would like to extend a warm welcome our new padre Reverend John Cathcart. We lost our padre a few years ago and Reverend John will be available for all of our functions.

**C. Leguerrier** Membership chairman

## **Kit shop News**

Welcome back members of 434 wing and the executive from the holidays I'm sure you filled right up on Turkey.

I'd like to talk about a different bird that is the Sea King helicopter it has been retired from active service as of 2018.

I have available a limited Supply off Sea King helicopter commemorative pins.

These pins commemorate the long life and commitment to this great country.

If you need any supplies for your uniform blues and greys please feel free to contact me buy phone 289 478 6010.

Or by email at [mascitelli.mm@gmail.com](mailto:mascitelli.mm@gmail.com).

Michael Mascitelli  
Kit Shop Director 434 Wing

## **Taken from F/O Doug Ruppel's memoirs**

Black bearing factory-Black Thursday. The second Schweinfurt raid was a World War 2 air battle that took place October 14, 1943 over Nazi Germany. The aim of the American led mission was a strategic bombing raid on ball bearing factories in order to reduce production of these vital parts for all manner of war machines. Of the 291 B-17 Flying fortresses sent on the mission, 60 were lost another 17 damaged so heavily they had to be scrapped and another 121 had varying degrees of battle damage. Outright losses represented over 26%. Losses in aircrew were equally heavy with 65 men lost out of 2900.

When we got back to Ludford, we were greeted by our usual crowd and filled up with rum and coke and went to bed.

. Now when I went over to go to bed I had a lot of trouble getting my flying boots off and I found out why before very long.. The boot was glued to my left leg with blood.. So I went to the hospital where they cut off my boot and dug out the pieces of metal, patched me up and sent me back to bed. Well with an operation on the next night, I went over to the briefing room as usual. When the briefing was over the Squire who was our C/O came over to me and said "you had a rotten time last night. Do you want to stay home?" I said no, just get me a new pair of boots. He grinned and said Done.

PS Doug Ruppel was a navigator with 101 Squadron flying Lancasters

## Manfred von Richthofen (The Red Baron)



*Baron von Richthofen with one of his triplanes. (Credit: Time Life Pictures/Mansell/The LIFE Picture Collection/Getty Images)*

*Manfred Albrecht Freiherr von Richthofen, also known as the "Red Baron", was a fighter pilot with the German Air Force during World War I. He is considered the ace-of-aces of the war, being officially credited with 80 air combat victories.*

*After the outbreak of World War I, Richthofen served on both the Eastern and Western Fronts as a cavalryman and messenger. He was awarded the Iron Cross for his daring trips along the front lines, but as the war settled into a bloody stalemate; he grew tired of the tedium of life in the trenches. In mid-1915, he transferred to the German air corps, serving first as a back-seat observer and later as a pilot. The switch was anything but smooth—Richthofen crashed during his first solo flight—but his determination eventually caught the attention of Germany's top ace, Oswald Boelcke, who recruited him for a new fighter squadron known as Jasta 2.*

*On April 21, 1918 he and the Flying Circus engaged a group of British fighter planes over Vaux-sur-Somme in northern France. As he gave chase to a Sopwith Camel piloted by novice airman Wilfrid May, Richthofen zigzagged over enemy territory and passed a series of Allied infantry emplacements. Australian ground troops immediately spotted his red airplane and unleashed a storm of machine gun fire. At the same time, May's squadron leader, Canadian Captain Arthur Roy Brown, zeroed in on Richthofen's tail and fired a burst from his guns. One of the bullets—either from Brown or the Australian gunners—struck Richthofen in the torso, seriously wounding him. The 25-year-old crash-landed in a beet field and died moments later, still strapped into his cockpit.*

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