

THE LONDON LINK

427 (LONDON) WING — ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION
2155 CRUMLIN SIDE ROAD | LONDON, ON N5V 3Z9 | 519-455-0430 | WWW.427WING.COM



427 (London) Wing Battle of Britain Luncheon Friday September 16, 2022

Doors open 10:30 a.m.
Chicken Lunch served at 11:30 a.m.

**Everyone must pre-register by
phoning 427 Wing at 519-455-0430.**

We expect a sell-out crowd,
so please register early.

Price is \$25.

We are honoured to host our Guest Speaker:

Tom Hennessy,

WW II RAF Veteran and Spitfire pilot,
recently marked his 100th birthday
with a 100-mile

“Walk of Gratitude”, to raise awareness and
funds for homeless Veterans.



We are unable to accommodate walk-in guests
without reservations. All are welcome. Please
offer transport to those with mobility
issues or those who appreciate a ride.

The Wing has fully accessible
washrooms and entrance.

Looking forward to seeing you – in person!

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ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION (RCAFA) MISSION STATEMENT

The RCAFA is a national aerospace and community service organization to:

- Commemorate the noble achievements of the men and women who served as members of Canada's Air Forces since its inception;
 - Advocate for a proficient and well equipped Air Force; and,
 - Support the Royal Canadian Air Cadet program.

THE LONDON LINK - PURPOSE AND CONTENT

Six editions each year beginning with the Jul/Aug edition.

Articles of interest to all readers including items about all components of the military both of a historic and more recent nature; articles written by Air Cadets of all Squadrons; regular Board articles; items from all readers as space allows.

To promote the Wing to the wider and diverse population with the aim of attracting new members and/or seeking volunteers who may not wish to join as members.

427 (LONDON) WING BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Director - Chairperson	Linda Brimson	linda.brimson@yahoo.com
Director	Mike Watts	mwatts427wing@gmail.com
Treasurer	Carolyn Ridley	roseharcn@gmail.com
Secretary	Catherine Herdman	optimistcatherine@gmail.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Vacant Positions – Food Services, Bar Officer, Entertainment, Sports, Lottery, Marketing – call Wing for info

Web-Site	Simon Lemire		simonlemire@sympatico.ca
Membership Chairperson	Chuck Hardy	519-452-1379	chuck.hardy@sympatico.ca
Committee Chair - Facility	Tom Pillon	519 660-8099	v33hor@gmail.com
Wellness/Parkwood Liaison	Hilda Smeltzer, Hazil Malone	519-657-5759	fhseltzer@rogers.com
Fundraising	Linda Brimson		linda.brimson@yahoo.com
Kit Shop	Fred Pettit	519 451-0467	arrow105@sympatico.ca
Euchre Club	Don Clarke	519-455-9350	
Air Cadet Liaison	Brent Elgie	519-539-5956	lgairs@gmail.com
Advisor	Rene McKinnon	519-471-8003	renemck@sympatico.ca
Advisor	Howard Johnston		johnston.hojo@rogers.com

Museum, War Graves, Poppy Fund, David Smith/Terry Rushton with Howard Johnson and advising.
Heritage/ History & Veterans'
Memorial, Tours

CLUB SERVICES

Wing Manager	Flo Douglas	519-455-0430
Bar Steward/Rentals	Flo Douglas	519-455-0430
Padre	Frank Mantz	for more info, ask a member of the Executive
London Link graphic artist	Cathy Wood	cathyrwood@gmail.com

Over 1,000sq ft for Rent at 427 (London) Wing – This includes two rooms with a bar, kitchen facilities and lots of parking. This clean, attractive setting is great for business meetings, small weddings, family gatherings, holiday events, musical concerts or any type of event you'd like to have. Holds 125.

- Call for rental rates • Catering IS an option! Call Flo at 519-455-0430 for more information.



BOARD REPORT

by Chuck Hardy

Summary of August 8, 2022 zoom meeting

Financial report: Treasurer Carolyn Ridley proposed purchase of subscription of QuickBooks. Advantages include having accounting linked for purposes of reconciliation, presentation, projections and financial statements. Easily tracks income and expenses, tracks sales, runs reports and invoices and records payments. The Board voted in favour of her proposal.

Linda Brimson Chair proposed and those in attendance accepted the following customized Indigenous Land Statement for the Wing:

427 (London) Wing RCAF Association Indigenous Land Statement: The three Indigenous Nations that are neighbours to London are the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation; Oneida Nation of the Thames; and the Munsee-Delaware Nation who all continue to live as sovereign Nations with individual and unique languages, cultures, and customs. The land that 427 (London) Wing RCAF Association is situated on is the traditional lands of the Anishinaabek (AUh-nish-in-ah-bek), Haudenosaunee (Ho-den-no-show-nee), Lūnaapéewak (Len-ah-pay-wuk) and Attawandaron (Add-a-won-da-run). Today, we strive to honour and respect the history, languages and culture of the diverse Indigenous people who call this territory home. We are grateful to have the opportunity to work and live in this territory. We need to increase our knowledge and understanding of these First People and their descendants, along with their lived experience.

Strategic Planning: need to assess, develop and prioritize necessary future projects for the Wing. Needed to make best use of available grants. Suggest a members' committee, hopefully with some expertise on building maintenance, project planning. Another part of this is developing a grant application team.

Hockey sweater (RCAF Flyers style)

donation from Deloris Fleet, via Sam Newman. Both were thanked. Can be used for fundraising.

Wing missed Doors Opens London application date (March 31st each year), but we will participate with neighbours SORM and Jet Aircraft Museum on Sunday Sept 18, 10 am to 4 pm. Thanks to David and Ann Smith, Chuck Hardy and Linda who volunteered to be on site and welcome guests. We are not officially in DOL literature, but organizer Dhira Ghosh is aware and fine with Wing supporting aviation neighbours.

Sept-Oct Link deadline for approved and proofread copy to graphic designer Cathy Wood, is Wed. August 24th. All articles and photos should first be submitted to Linda before this date, so proofreading and any necessary checks with others can be done. Linda offered to be Link coordinator for the balance of 2022, to streamline completed articles going to Cathy as she requested.

Governance: 427 Wing general meeting date. A Friday in October is suggested – to be determined.

A discussion was held regarding air cadet fundraising. It's been decided to donate \$100 monthly to Air Cadets.

Building: Howard and Rene report vertical lift project awaits delivery of equipment, then installation can begin. Howard has been working on covering and insulating a spot at back of Wing wall.

Air Cadet Training is going well. Interim internet speed issues resolved.

London Air Show Fri Sept 9-10-11. Flo & team providing meals for EMS group onsite pre- and during airshow, and volunteers during setup. Wing is not open to members or guests for viewing the Airshow aerial or static displays.

Membership is currently 125.

An attractive Wing ad will be in early September issue of Bryon Village magazine, advertising Friday lunches, and rental of premises.

Battle of Britain Lunch Friday Sept. 16 with retired veteran Tom Hennessy as

speaker. See details of the Luncheon elsewhere in this edition.

POPPY FUND – Need to organize Wing support for Dorchester Legion poppy distribution in early October – before Oct 10th Thanksgiving weekend.

Next zoom Board meeting: September 12, 2022 at 6 pm.



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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

by Chuck Hardy Chairperson

Obituary – Kathy Brown

Kathy passed away suddenly at Windermere on the Mount at the age of 85. Dear wife of Robert Brown. Both Kathy and her husband, Robert enjoyed the Wing Friday lunches.

For many years she taught in schools in England, Manitoba, New Brunswick and Ontario.

A service will be held at St. George's Anglican Church at a later date.

WE WILL REMEMBER HER

The Wing has lost many members since the last Battle of Britain luncheon in 2019. They will be honoured at the upcoming Battle of Britain luncheon on Friday September 16, 2022. See front cover of this edition.



Lindsay Mathysen and her husband Joel at their recent wedding. Congratulations!

Masks are currently optional at 427 Wing.



Take time to count our blessings and share the gifts we enjoy – peace, food, a home, family & friends. May gratitude and kindness fill our hearts.



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REMINDER

April 1st, 2024 marks the 100th anniversary of the Royal Canadian Air Force

There are special fundraising initiatives and celebrations from national level being planned.

Follow 427 (London) Wing on Facebook for updates. There is remarkable history to celebrate and many great veterans to remember, along with wonderful aircraft.

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REMINISCING over our Spooner Memorial Gardens *by Sam Newman*

The title has a nice air about it, doesn't it? One can almost visualize in their minds a striking monument erected to acknowledge the deeds of a young navigator student some 59 years ago who unselfishly gave up his life so that others would be spared. As you hear so often these days, 'in order to see what we seek for the future we have to remember what we've done in the past.' The erection of this monument to be dedicated to a George Cross recipient, speaks volumes for what people can do for others, whether it be yesterday, today or even in the future. I have an idea this project is going to not only recognize a heroic deed of yesteryear, but it's going to help bind our membership together. The creation of a monument, together with a marker to recognize the very existence of the two units of the British Commonwealth Air training Plan, as well as a meandering interlocked walkway down to a wall, which will in time pay tribute to other units which existed during WW II, will pave the way for us to REMEMBER some of those 4,439 graduates from #4 Air Observer School and some 681 from #3 Elementary Flying Training School; remember those who helped the RCAF grow to a strength of more than 215,000 and ultimately made Canada become the 3rd most powerful Air Force in the world. In a surrounding such as this, amid the rustle of trees and the chirping of the birds, not to forget the whirl of a prop or the whine of an engine in the background, there'll be plenty of time for contemplative thinking and memories renewed. Sprinkle the scene with some park benches and fresh flowers and shrubs, it won't be difficult to say . . . LEST WE FORGET!



These words were written some 22 years ago, in an attempt to get this project on the move; to make it happen; and to recognize a George Cross Recipient. Our Bulletin in those days, called THE FLAME OUT, was full of ideas, thoughts, and dreams to put before our membership. It didn't take long for our members and outside supporters from every part of this Region, to buy into the idea, as this is what we followed up to explain how we intended to 'make it happen'.

HOW DO WE FINANCE SUCH A PROJECT? Where do we look for the monies to put this idea, this dream, these thoughts into reality? It was suggested that we look in many spots for a variety of folks and businesses to come on side and to be part of this Spooner Memorial Gardens project. Pride will bring these people to us with their monies. Purpose



will draw benefactors from all walks of life. Preservation will provide a small legacy, for those interested, to be part of this scene long after we've departed.

We're going to sell BRICKS – small ones, bigger ones and still bigger ones! Those of us promoting this venture believe that not only Regular, Associate and Honorary members of 427 (London) Wing of the RCAF Association would want to purchase small bricks commemorating someone or some special moment, but clubs, associations, or other groups may wish to be recognized with a mid-sized brick and more or a longer list of names on it. It was envisaged that commercial firms who are interested in patronizing this venture will make larger contributions and be recognized in an even bigger fashion. The details (at that time), prices, stipulations, colours, shapes, sizes, and many other details have to be worked out and worked on. But we told our audience, not to worry, I bet all of you will want to share in this project. There are occasions for Birthday and Christmas gifts, acknowledgements for Dads, Grandparents, Uncles, or even Moms and Aunts, Air Cadets, Squadrons they belong to, a presentation for a graduate from school, college or university. The list is endless. Please talk it up, think about it, and be an early bird so we can get this off the ground. We need YOUR SUPPORT!

AND THAT'S HOW IT ALL GOT STARTED!

Hey folks, that started it all and we collected slightly more than \$40,000 in support of what we have today. We sold BRICKS then, (or MEMORIAL STONES if you wish to refer to them in that manner) to raise the necessary funds, and we have continued to sell the bricks that you see out in our walkway east of our Club Quarters. It's our only continuing money raising project that helps us pay for the upkeep of our Memorial. If you haven't purchased a brick to date, or would like to purchase one for posterity or to recognize a deed or a person of choice, just enquire at the Wing. They will steer you in the right direction. Don't be bashful . . . we'd love to recognize your selection in our Memorial Garden!

SAVE STAMPS. SAVE PAPER:
Sign up to receive the Link online at
<http://eepurl.com/dLIqJo>

BIRTHDAY BRATS

SEPTEMBER HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES

Doug Adams, Charlene Bagshaw, Carolyn Dalgity, Rene McKinnon, Dave O'Brien, Brian Perry, Doug Rath and Claude Vigeant.

OCTOBER HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES

Flo Douglas, Armin Grunwald, Bette Hexter, Don Martin, Charlie Rath, Ernie Regan and Randy Warden.

"The older the fiddler, the sweeter the tune."
~English Proverb



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LONDON LINK SUBMISSION DEADLINES:

January/February: December 18th • March/April: February 15th. May/June: April 17th • July/August: June 17th.
September/October: August 18th • November/December: October 18th.

Please forward any articles that you consider of value to the Wing members and we will do our best to get it to print. Sometimes submissions are of such a size that we then make them a two, or three part series.

Looking forward to hearing from you and sharing your photos, stories etc with our members.

(For good reproduction at reasonable size, photos should be fairly high resolution)

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2022 Power Pilot Training Course (London)

The 2022 Power Pilot Training Course (PPTC) cadets in their new flight suits with one of the Diamond DA20-C1 aircraft used for their flight training this summer.

Diamond Flight Centre London conducted the flight training, the ground training held at the 427 (London) Wing in July and August.

The Power Pilot Training Course last ran in 2019 and, as in the past, it has been a pleasure welcoming the PPTC air cadets, their adult staff officers, and the Diamond Flight Centre instructors back at the 427 Wing. We wish them well in all their future endeavours.

Photo courtesy DND

427 (London) Wing RCAF Association GENERAL MEETING

Friday October 21st • 1 p.m.

(after regular Friday luncheon meal)

Please plan to attend. A members' meeting has not been possible since before Covid. There are several items to be considered and voted upon.

Funding provided to support important updates to London International Airport's main taxiway.

LONDON, ON - The continued growth of Canada's economy relies largely on an efficient, updated transportation infrastructure that can move goods and people quickly and reliably. The Government of Canada continues to reinforce their dedication to ensuring Canadian infrastructure remains competitive in the global marketplace.

July 25, 2022, the Honourable Mary Ng, MP, Minister of Small Business and Export Promotion, announced an investment of over \$3 million to assist with the update of London International Airport's "Taxiway Golf". This investment forms part of the National Trade Corridor's Fund, an initiative to provide funding to important transportation infrastructure projects across Canada.

"Taxiway Golf is our main taxiway at London [International Airport]" said Mike Seabrook, [former CEO and President,] "And from commercial passenger aircraft, to our freight operations, through to our business and aviation programs with both Western University and Fanshawe College, this taxiway will be used extensively in the coming years; it will allow us to meet the aviation demands in our market." The project will consist of resurfacing the entire length of the asphalt taxiway, ensuring it can withstand the current and projected increase in passenger traffic.

"London International Airport is positioned to take on a much greater role in Southern Ontario" said Seabrook, "Today we are seeing close to 10% annualized growth in our passenger traffic, and as Toronto Pearson Airport gets busier and more congested, our airport in London is centered in a population of 2.5 million residents, with an uncongested road system that has direct access to our airport. So, we see a much bigger role for London."

VISIT 427 WING ON FACEBOOK FOR UPDATES

<https://www.facebook.com/427winglondon>



SEPTEMBER 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29	30	31	1 LARC	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	CLOSED FOR AIRSHOW	
OPEN FOR DOORS OPEN LONDON 10-4	12 BOARD ZOOM MEETING 6PM	13	14 BCC	15 Woodturners	16 BATTLE OF BRITAIN LUNCH	17 PRIVATE RENTAL
	19	20	21	22	23 LUNCH	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 LUNCH	1

OCTOBER 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
2	3	4	5	6 LARC	7 LUNCH Veterans Classic	8
9	10 Thanksgiving	11 MAC	12 BCC	13	14 LUNCH	15 Air Force Assoc. Biennial Mtg. Hamilton
16 Air Force Assoc. Biennial Mtg. Hamilton	17	18	19	20	21 LUNCH 11:30 GENERAL MEETING 1pm	22
23	24	25	26	27	28 LUNCH	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5



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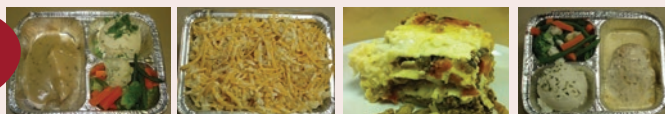
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Tom Hennessy awarded Veteran Affairs Medal by Rene McKinnon

Recently F/L Tom Hennessy was in the media resulting from his Walk of Gratitude to raise funds for homeless veterans. His plan was to finish the last part of his walk with laps around Victoria Park. Starting Tuesday June 14, supporters joined him for 9 days and completed the walk on Canada Day. He will have walked 160 km (100 miles) when finished. In addition to the Walk of Gratitude, Tom turned 100 years old on May 31, 2022.

We did not hear much about the Walk of Gratitude after it was finished. That was until the Wing received a call from Randy Warden (a Wing member) asking if the Wing was available for a private function on July 19th. The Wing is hosting 20 Air Cadets for 8 weeks this summer while they complete their Power Flight course, and we hope they will all complete the program and "earn their wings". The Wing was able to provide space for this event. Details were few. We understood it was a private affair with no media or visitors permitted. As time moved along, we became aware that the Honourable Lawrence MacAulay, the Minister of Veterans Affairs requested this meeting to meet with Tom. Randy Warden was the person who suggested to the Minister that the 427 (London) Wing would be an ideal location for this event and the date was set for July 19th. The Minister, with a few of his staff, Tom, and his wife Joyce Hetherington were among the small group assembled. The Minister and Tom shared some private time in conversation. During their time together, the Minister presented F/L Tom Hennessy with a Commemorative Medallion. When that ended, the two gentlemen went to the cadets' classroom and each spoke

to the cadets. The Minister had to move on to his next appointment and fortunately, Tom was able to stay with the cadets and do a question-and-answer session with them. He was wearing his WW II RAF uniform for the day. Apparently, this uniform is the original one issued to him.

Later, Tom was contacted and asked if he would consider being the Guest Speaker at the Wing's Battle of Britain Lunch being held on Friday September 16th. The offer was graciously accepted.

The Wing was proud to be part of this event.



Photos from Veteran Affairs. Left: The Hon. Minister of Veterans Affairs, Lawrence MacAulay sitting with Tom Hennessy.

Tom's RAF flying cap and the medal that was presented to Tom.

Right: Tom in his original RAF uniform. Photos courtesy Veterans Affairs



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Benefits Payment Calendar 2022

Below are dates for recurring Government of Canada benefit payments administered by Canada Revenue Agency. If you signed for direct deposit, payments will be made to your bank account.

CPP AND OAS: January 27, February 24, March 29, April 27, May 27, June 28, July 27, August 29, September 27, October 27, November 28, December 21

VETERANS DISABILITY PENSION: January 28, February 25, March 30, April 28, May 30, June 29, July 28, August 30, September 28, October 28, November 29, December 22

GST: January 5, April 5, July 5, October 5

ONTARIO TRILLIUM BENEFIT: January 10, February 10, March 10, April 8, May 10, June 10, July 8, August 10, September 9, October 7, November 10, December 9



Photos (top to bottom, left to right): Tom with Joyce Hetherington, outside the Wing entrance. Tom during a question and answer time with the Air Cadets. Joyce Hetherington, The Hon. Lawrence MacAulay, Tom Hennessey, Flo Douglas, Rene McKinnon, Peter Fragiskatos, MP London North. Seated: Joyce Hetherington, The Hon. Lawrence MacAulay holding Tom's book "Call MeTom", Tom Hennessey, and Peter Fragiskatos. Standing: Joyce Hetherington, The Hon. Lawrence MacAulay, Peter Fragiskatos. Randy Warden, Joyce Hetherington, The Hon. Lawrence MacAulay, Tom Hennessey, Bruce Stock, Rene McKinnon, Peter Fragiskatos. The Hon. Lawrence MacAulay presenting the commemorative medal to Tom. Photos courtesy Veterans Affairs.



8 Things You Need to Know About the Battle of Britain

By The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica with additions from Imperial War Museum

The Battle of Britain was a major air campaign fought largely over southern England in the summer and autumn of 1940. After the defeat and evacuation of the British Expeditionary Force from Dunkirk and the fall of France, Germany planned to gain air superiority in preparation for an invasion of Great Britain. The pilots of RAF Fighter Command, flying iconic aircraft including the Hurricane and Spitfire, were supported by a vast network of ground crew during the battle. Ultimately, the Luftwaffe was defeated by Fighter Command, forcing Adolf Hitler to abandon his invasion plans.

#1 Hitler planned to invade Britain in 1940 – Adolf Hitler had expected the British to seek a peace settlement after Germany's defeat of France in June 1940, but Britain was determined to fight on. Hitler explored military options that would bring the war to a quick end and ordered his armed forces to prepare for an invasion of Britain – codenamed Operation 'Sealion'. But for the invasion to have any chance of success, the Germans needed to first secure control of the skies over southern England and remove the threat posed by the Royal Air Force (RAF). A sustained air assault on Britain would achieve the decisive victory needed to make 'Sealion' a possibility – or so the Germans thought.

#2 The Battle of Britain saw the RAF take on the German Air Force – It was ultimately a test of strength between the German Air Force (Luftwaffe) and the RAF. The RAF had become an independent branch of the British armed forces in 1918. Although it developed slowly in the years following the First World War, it went through a period of rapid expansion in the latter half of the 1930s – largely in response to the growing threat from Nazi Germany. In July 1936, RAF Fighter Command was established under the leadership of Air Marshal Sir Hugh Dowding.

Germany had been banned from having an air force after the First World War, but the Luftwaffe was re-established by the Nazi government and by 1940 it was the largest and most formidable air force in the world.

#3 The British had a highly effective air defence network. The Dowding System (named for Fighter Command's Commander-in-Chief Sir Hugh Dowding) brought together

technology such as radar, ground defences and fighter aircraft into a unified system of defence. The RAF organized the defence of Britain into four geographical areas, called 'Groups', which were further divided into sectors. The main fighter airfield in each sector – the 'Sector Station' – was equipped with an operations room from which the fighters were directed into combat.



Radar gave early warning of Luftwaffe raids, which were also tracked by the Observer Corps. (see photo from Imperial War Museum). Information on incoming raids was passed to the Filter Room at Fighter Command Headquarters at Bentley Priory. Once the direction of the raid was clearly established, the information was sent to the relevant Group's headquarters. From there it was sent to the Sector Stations, which would 'scramble' fighters into action. The Sector Stations received updated information as it became available and further directed airborne fighters by radio. The operations rooms also directed other elements of the defence network, including anti-aircraft guns, searchlights and barrage balloons.

The Dowding System could process huge amounts of information in a short period of time. It allowed Fighter Command to manage its valuable – and relatively limited – resources, making sure they were not wasted.

#4 There were several phases to the Battle of Britain – Taking place between July and October 1940, the Germans began by attacking coastal targets and British shipping operating in the English Channel. They launched their main offensive August 13. Attacks moved inland, concentrating on airfields and communication centres. Fighter Command offered stiff resistance, despite coming under enormous pressure. During the last week of August and the first week of September, in what would be the critical phase of the battle, the Germans intensified their efforts to destroy Fighter Command. Airfields, particularly those in the southeast,

were significantly damaged but most remained operational. On August 31, Fighter Command suffered its worst day of the entire battle. The Germans called the date 'Adlertag' (Eagle Day) with waves of strong attacks over a ten-hour period in Essex, Kent, Sussex and Hampshire. That day the Luftwaffe mounted a total of 1,485 sorties (missions) with Fighter Command flying 727 sorties in response. But the Luftwaffe was overestimating the damage it was inflicting and wrongly came to the conclusion that the RAF was on its last legs. Fighter Command was bruised but not broken. On September 7, the Germans shifted the weight of their attacks away from RAF targets and onto London. This would be an error of critical importance. The raids had devastating effects on London's residents, but they also gave Britain's defences time to recover. This was 'the Blitz' - continuous bombing of London and other major British cities (Manchester, Liverpool, Coventry, industrial centres and ports from September 1940 to May 1941, intended to demoralize the British people. Over a period of nine months, 43,500 civilians were killed in the raids. On September 15 Fighter Command repelled another massive Luftwaffe assault, inflicting severe losses that were becoming increasingly unsustainable for the Germans. Although fighting would continue for several more weeks, it had become clear the Luftwaffe had failed to secure the air superiority needed for invasion of England. Hitler indefinitely postponed Operation 'Sealion'.



#5 Not all of the pilots were British. Nearly 3,000 men of the RAF took part in the Battle of Britain – those who Winston Churchill called 'The Few'. While most of the pilots were British, Fighter Command was an international force. Men came from all over the Commonwealth and occupied Europe – from New Zealand, Australia, Canada, South Africa, Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), Belgium, France, Poland and Czechoslovakia. There were even some pilots from neutral United States and Ireland.



Australian pilots of No. 452 Squadron relax outside their dispersal hut at Kirton in Lindsey, 18 June 1941.

Canada made an extraordinary contribution by training 131,500 personnel – pilots, navigators, bomb aimers, air gunners, wireless operators, flight engineers and ground crew. 131 British Commonwealth Air Training Plan bases across Canada hosted international trainees who went on to serve in the Royal Air Force, Royal Navy Fleet Air Arm, Royal Australian Air Force, Royal Canadian Air Force and Royal New Zealand Air Force. At the plan's high point in late 1943, an organization of over 100,000 administrative personnel operated 107 schools and 184 other supporting units at 231 locations all across Canada. The instruction was of such quality that it made all the difference – exceptional aircraft could not do the job without the strategic advantage of well-trained aircrew.

#6 'The Few' were supported by many. Many people in addition to Churchill's 'Few' worked to defend Britain. Ground crew – including riggers, fitters, armourers, and repair and maintenance engineers – looked after the aircraft. Factory workers (women and men) kept aircraft production up. The Observer Corps tracked incoming raids – its ten of thousands of volunteers ensured that the 1,000 observation posts were continuously manned. Anti-aircraft gunners, searchlight operators and barrage balloon crews all played vital roles in Britain's defence. Members of the Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF) served as radar operators and worked as plotters, tracking raids in the group and sector

operations rooms. Members of the Air Transport Auxiliary flew newly completed aircraft from manufacturing plants or testing areas to Bomber Command Airfields. Defence Volunteers (later the Home Guard) had been set up in May 1940 as a 'last line of defence' against German invasion. By July, nearly 1.5 million men had enrolled.

#7 All of the RAF helped defend Britain. The RAF was organized into different 'Commands' based on function or role, including Fighter, Bomber and Coastal commands. While victory in the Battle of Britain was decisively gained by Fighter Command, defence was carried out by the whole of the Royal Air Force. Britain's most senior military personnel understood the importance of the bomber in air defence. They wrote on May 25: 'We cannot resist invasion by fighter aircraft alone. An air striking force is necessary not only to meet the sea-borne expedition, but also to bring direct pressure to bear upon Germany by attacking objectives in the country.' In other words, RAF Bomber Command would attack German industry, carry out raids on ports where Germany was assembling its invasion fleet, and reduce the threat posed by the Luftwaffe by targeting airfields and aircraft production. RAF Coastal Command carried out anti-invasion patrols, provided vital intelligence on German positions along the European coast and occasionally bombed German shipping and industrial targets.



#8 The Battle of Britain was a defensive victory for Britain. During the Battle of Britain, the Luftwaffe was dealt an almost lethal blow from which it never fully recovered. Although Fighter Command suffered heavy losses and was often outnumbered during actual engagements, the British outproduced the Germans and maintained a level of aircraft production that helped them withstand their losses. The Luftwaffe, with its lack of heavy bombers and failure to identify critically important targets, never inflicted strategically significant damage. It suffered from constant supply problems, largely as a result of underachievement in aircraft production. Germany's failure to defeat the RAF and secure control of the skies over southern England made invasion all but impossible. British victory in the Battle of Britain was decisive, but ultimately defensive in nature – in avoiding defeat, Britain secured one of its most significant victories of the Second World War. It was able to stay in the war and lived to fight another day.

Why was the Battle of Britain important? Victory in the Battle of Britain did not win the war, but it made winning a possibility in the longer term. Four years later, the Allies would launch their invasion of Nazi-occupied Europe – Operation 'Overlord' – from British shores, which would prove decisive in ultimately bringing the war against Germany to an end.

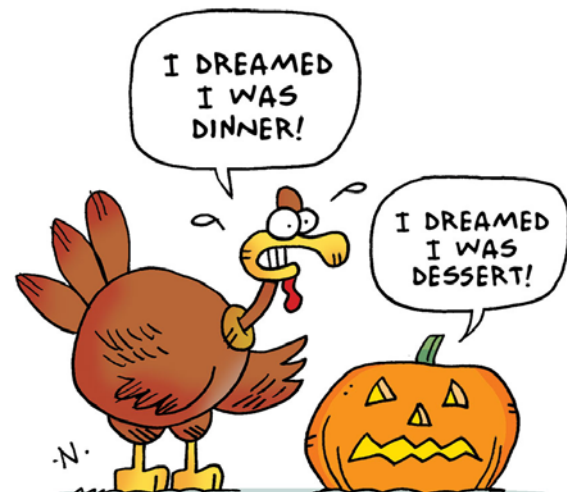
Here is the famous extract from "The Few", Prime Minister Winston Churchill's speech to The House of Commons, on August 20, 1940, praising Battle of Britain and Bomber Command squadrons:

"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 odds, unwearied in their constant challenge and mortal danger, are turning the tide of the World War by their prowess and by their devotion. Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few. All hearts go out to the fighter pilots, whose brilliant actions we see with our own eyes day after day; but we must never forget that all the time, night after night, month after month, our bomber squadrons travel far into Germany, find their targets in the darkness by the highest navigational skill, aim their attacks, often under the heaviest fire, often with serious loss, with deliberate careful discrimination, and inflict shattering blows upon the whole of the technical and war-making structure of the Nazi power. On no part of the Royal Air Force does the weight of the war fall more heavily than on the daylight bombers, who will play an invaluable part in the case of invasion and whose unflinching zeal it has been necessary in the meanwhile on numerous occasions to restrain."

[At the outbreak of WW II in 1939, Air Marshal Sir Arthur Harris took command of No. 5 Group RAF in England, and in Feb. 1942 was appointed head of Bomber Command until Sept. 1945.] Here is a riveting quote from Air Marshal Arthur T. Harris that appears in the Foreword of the 1971 book, *Lancaster at War*, by authors Mike Garrett and Brian Goulding.

"This country [England], and its allies, owe these young men – the Many that died, the Few that survived – a debt they have not met: because it can never be met in full.

It is due to them, and their kind in the other Services, that Britain today is not a mere slave market in a Nazi empire. That was the Plan. Never forget it."



London International Airport Opens A Fly Pickleball Court

Enjoy the new, free to use Pickleball court with your friends and family this summer!

London International Airport is pleased to introduce our new pickleball court! Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in North America and combines many elements of tennis, badminton and ping-pong. It's played on a badminton-sized court with a modified tennis net using a paddle and plastic ball with holes. It is a game that is appropriate for players of all ages and skill levels. Rules for pickleball are simple, making it a great introductory sport. It can also be quite the challenging, fast-paced, and competitive game when people become more experienced at playing and most importantly, it's a lot of FUN!



"We like to promote fun, activity and teamwork here at the London International Airport" said Scott McFadzean, President and CEO, pictured at left. "Pickleball is a great way to stay active and enjoy time with family and friends. We also see it as a way to give back to our community and provide a fun and safe place for staff, tenants and the general public to play. In addition to

pickleball, we have also added some cornhole boards for some added fun for all ages and skill levels."

If you don't have a racket, head over to our security operations center (inside the terminal before departures, to the right) to borrow equipment, free of charge. Cornhole bean bags are also available to borrow. Please bring a piece of photo ID to exchange for duration of use.

We've built the outdoor court on the Northeast side of our parking lot. It's open from 08:00 to 20:00 and is free for the public to use. Parking rates are only \$2 per hour at the London International Airport and helps to support more fun and games to come to the airport in future.

Bring your family or a group of friends and do some plane spotting while being outside and active!



CALLING ALL FORMER SORM VOLUNTEERS & STAFF

INTERVIEW PARTICIPANTS NEEDED!



Maya Hirschman is doing research for her PhD dissertation! Visit: secretsofradar.com/PhDresearch

Secrets of Radar Research

Are you a Second World War RCAF/RAF radar veteran who has been involved in the creation or operations of the Secrets of Radar Museum?

Are you a close family member of a veteran who has been involved with SORM?

Did you ever attend a reunion of WWII Radar veterans?

Were you a board member, employee, or volunteer with the museum between the years 2001 and 2017?

If so, Maya would like to invite you to an interview.

Visit: secretsofradar.com/PhDresearch

New Chocolate Outlet opens on Robin's Hill Road

Welcome to Annies Chocolates at their new location on Robin's Hill Road! Their quality, hand-made chocolates, fudge, candy, nuts, popcorn, peanut brittle and more (including some sugar-free options) are now made and available just around the corner from 427 Wing. Annies makes all your holidays – and every day – sweeter.

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Shop online or come in
for all your Thanksgiving,
and Halloween treats!



Airshow London SkyDrive
Sept. 9-11, 2022.
A terrific lineup of aircraft for
aerial and static display.
(Photos from SkyDrive Air-
show London Facebook)

An MC-130J will be in the
air display Friday and Satur-
day, from Kirtland AFB New
Mexico!

Airshow London is pleased
to welcome P-51 Mustang
“Double Trouble Two” to our
flying display, flown by local
pilot Mackenzie Cline.

United States Air Force
Thunderbirds