



FEBRUARY
2020

TAKE OFF

429 (Georgina) Wing
Royal Canadian Air Force Association

Pefferlaw Lion's Hall
Pete's Lane
Pefferlaw, Ontario



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Chair's Message

..... “ *Off the Cuffe* ”



As I am writing this, it is a beautiful bright sunny day with a very pleasant temperature. The groundhog said it was going to be an early spring, here's hoping he is right. We have turned the calendar to February, leap year. Unfortunately, the weeks go by too fast.

February is Hearth & Stroke month and the flower for February is the “Violet”.

In the body of the Wing News, you will see the information the Spaghetti Dinner that 659 Sqdn. are planning. This is a fundraising event for them and a lot of work is being put in to make it successful. It would be nice if 429 Wing could have a showing of members to support them in this endeavour. They will be selling tickets ahead of time and Len will get the tickets for those of us who would like to go.

In late April, early May, we will be having our Anniversary and Awards Dinner. If anyone has any ideas for a venue, please contact me. Suggestions would be appreciated.

Everyone enjoy the good weather, although it is too early to last. Keep well.

Don Hannen keep up the good work and keep getting better, look forward to seeing you soon.

“Don't let aging get you down, It is too hard to get back up.”

Per Ardua Ad Astra

Ann



***** WING NEWS ******

Newfoundland Blessing for the New Year!

*'Tis another year gone,
God Bless You and Yours,
May He grant you fair winds
As you bend at the oars.*

Our January General Meeting was very successful. Celebration of “Robbie Burns” was a good evening by all and the meal was again, exceptional. Thank you to Donna, Eileen, Ethel, Gladys and so many other ladies who helped out. We couldn't do this without you all.

Central Region Meeting - Saturday, March 21st - 10:00 a.m. To be held at 447 (Hamilton) Wing, Mt. Hope. All are invited to attend.

February General Meeting - Sunday, February 23rd. - 2:00 p.m. followed by an afternoon social and a Pot Luck Dinner.

We will also have an in-house Guest Speaker and he will have many a story to tell.

Winner of the January Lucky Draw - Lyle Carson.

There still are tickets available for these draws, see Eileen Mennell, she will be more than willing to sell you some.

659 Air Cadet Squadron will be holding a fundraising Spaghetti Dinner on **Saturday, February 29th, at the Cannington Legion.** Cost will be \$15.00 per person. Doors open at 1800 hrs., dinner at 1900 hrs. There will be visual displays of the squadron's activities, a silent auction, two guest speakers. One is an alumni of 650 Sqdn who is current CAF member piloting C130's and the other an ex-cadet who is First Officer with JAZZ Airlines. JAZZ works closely with Cadets Canada and he should provide an interesting perspective of another route into the field of aviation

Please contact Len Milligan to reserve your tickets before February 14th and he will pick up the tickets for us. (see second page of bulletin for phone no.)..



Russ Bannock

Canadian air ace Russell Bannock, 100, was a Second World War legend.

This is Russ with a painting of a de Havilland Mosquito. This is the type of plane he flew during the war.

In 1939 when young Russell Bannock was leaving home to become a pilot in the Royal

Canadian Air Force, his mother really did tell him “don’t fly too high or too fast”. Mr. Bannock mostly ignored that advice and with a few years became one Canada’s greatest Second World War Air Aces. He died on January 4 in Toronto, he had celebrated his 100th Birthday in November.

The Toronto Chapter of the Canadian Aviation Historical Society held a memorial for Russ at the Canadian Forces College in Toronto.

The De Havilland 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 WW11. 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 transport of valuable cargo across enemy-held airspace to high precision bomb raids on prisons and Gestapo headquarters. If you needed to get in, wreak havoc and get out fast, the “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.

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. Justifiable, since it was among the fastest airplanes in the world at the time.

It quickly became clear that this wooden beauty could do much more damage than just providing intelligence on enemy positions. It was soon equipped with 4,000 lbs. 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 of serving as an offensive aircraft, de Havillands pride and joy helped defend the skies above Britain on numerous occasions, successfully intercepting German night raids during Operaton 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.

This lead the 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 Amiens prison in German occupied France, in an attempt to cause a massive breakout of prisoners, most of whom where 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.

It remained active within the RAF, as well as other air forces supplied by the British until in 1950 when it was subsequently replaced by the jet-powered English Electric Canberra.

The Navigators Position.

On one occasion a Mosquito daylight attack knocked out the main Berlin broadcasting station on the very day Herman Goring was giving a speech to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Nazis' seizing of power.



Mosquito

On the

Suez

ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION

MISSION STATEMENT

The Royal Canadian Air Force Association is a not-for-profit community service organization composed of aviation minded members, established to remind Canadians of their country's aeronautical tradition and history, to support Canada's Air Force, Royal Canadian Air Cadets and to support and encourage civil aviation.



659 Brock Air Cadet Squadron

*Meet every Thursday evening 6:30 – 9:00 p.m.
Pefferlaw Lion's Hall, Pefferlaw, Ont.*

Commanding Officer – Capt. Larry Umphrey