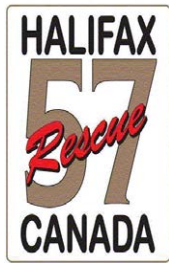


Halifax 57 Rescue (Canada)



RCAF HALIFAX LW170 RECOVERY
(424 Squadron)



LW170
Recovery
Phase I

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Progress Report No.43

April 5, 2012

Registered Charity 84586 5740 RR0001

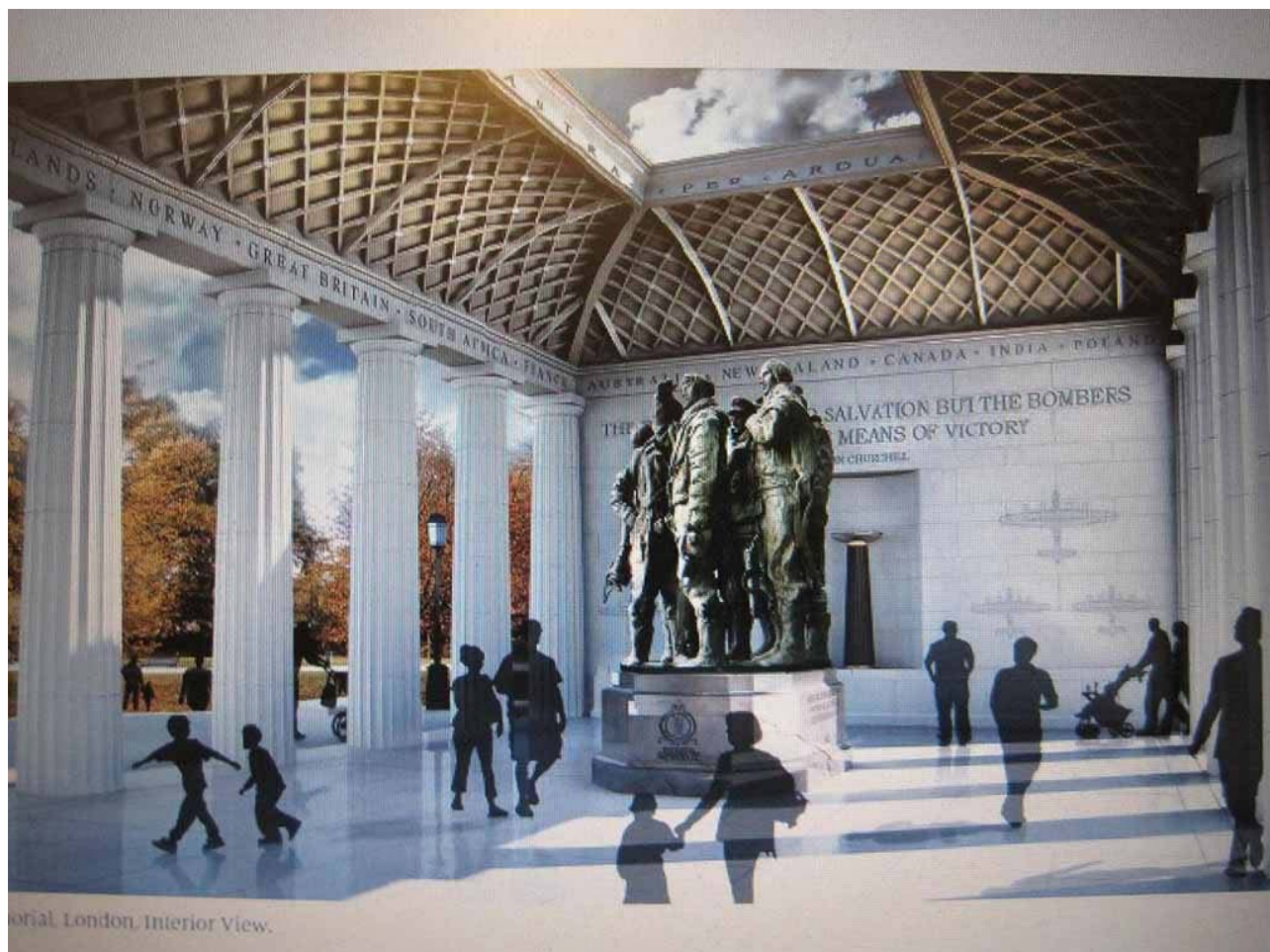
Finally, Recognition and Justice for our Bomber Command Veterans

Please read below the text of our Progress Report 37 from February 24, 2011 – 13 months ago, about our concern for the Canadian people and our organizations to rally with financial support for the BOMBER COMMAND MEMORIAL.

Quote:

“ This magnificent monument, the BOMBER COMMAND MEMORIAL, the ultimate international memorial to our aircrews who flew and died for our FREEDOM in bombers, will be built this year in Green Park, London, England and be dedicated in 2012 just before the Olympic Games.

The cost of this memorial will be well in excess of 10 million dollars, which has been covered by donations from all over the world. But the Maintenance Fund to care for the memorial in perpetuity, requiring funding of well over 1 million dollars, has not been reached and urgently needs our support.



Look at the 9 foot high statues in bronze of the 7 men, a full bomber crew in combat gear!

Now look to the right of the crew on top of the wall and see a word which should mean something to my fellow citizens and it is a name of a great country which starts with a “C”. Now look down to the inscription below and see the word “VICTORY” which some of you may recall Canada had something to do with, which cost us 10,000+ young Canadian aircrew of the total 55,000+ aircrews of RAF Bomber Command.

Now look below this and you will see the carvings of the bombers on the wall and one of these is a Halifax, one of the most important combat aircraft in all 101 years of Canadian powered flight and military history ! (author’s editorial exclamation mark)

And finally, look up to the ceiling of this stunning memorial-to-be and see the “aluminium” covering of the ceiling behind the geodesic ribbing and know this. The ceiling will be made from melted down ingots of a bomber of the Royal Canadian Air Force - Halifax LW682. In there will be the actual essence of the entire bomber crew who perished when this bomber went down in Belgium in 1944.

And why would I show you all of this, which will become a reality in 2011-2012? Why would I send this in a Progress Report?

Why would I, after the Bomber Command Museum of Canada and Halifax 57 Rescue (Canada) have unanimously agreed to support this UK memorial with these precious Halifax LW682 ingots and our efforts, why would I pass this on to you – our international readership and supporters??

Why? Because we are the ONLY Canadian national group who has stepped forward so far to honor

the Canadians and British allies who stood together against the tyranny that stormed Europe. We are the only national group to stand and support the Bomber Command Association as they prepare to raise this ultimate memorial, which has been 65 years in the waiting!!

We are proud of our national MEMORIAL WALL at the Bomber Command Museum of Canada in Nanton and all the things we do to at our museum to remember our bomber crews.

We are proud of our progress to go worldwide to find a Halifax for the museum and restore one for our bomber collection to go beside our Lancaster.

Isn't it time for more action from our national groups and leaders across this country? Isn't it time for Canada to become prime supporters and promoters of the greatest Commonwealth military memorial in the last 200 years? Isn't it time for Canada to once again stand and honor those, both Canadian and British, who once stood for us and our Freedom?

We need you to do what is right and good because you are Canadian and the FREE descendants of our military forces and our bomber crews – the 55,000 to whom this memorial will be dedicated.

“We will remember them” can be real action and tangible support, beyond those revered words we say in memoriam on November 11th each year. ”

End quote.

So today, April 5, 2012, we have just received word that our deep concerns and prayers have been addressed, that the Canadian government has donated \$100,000 to the Bomber Command Memorial and will be bring a plane load of Bomber Command veterans and officials for the dedication ceremonies on June 28 !!

Minster Steven Blaney of Veterans Affairs made this wonderful announcement in London and on his behalf in Ottawa, Laurie Hawn MP – a former RCAF officer, announced this major support by Canada for the Bomber Command Memorial. Laurie Hawn has been a tower of strength to see that the Bomber Command Memorial received full support and we are proud to say that he has supported Halifax 57 Rescue (Canada) from Day 1 on our historic quests, most importantly this one.

In addition, the Air Force Association under the guidance and leadership of President Terry Chester has taken up the cause and they are providing and rallying all kinds of support for the Bomber Command Memorial and our veterans to be there for that wonderful day, which some thought might never happen for our boys in Bomber Command.

I must tell you how satisfying it is to see this action by our officials after all the letter writing, phone calls, and rallying was carried out by our parent museum, the Bomber Command Museum of Canada, and Halifax 57 Rescue (Canada). We knew that Canada MUST be there in word and deed on June 28 so Halifax 57 Rescue did not let up in our efforts to help finally gain the attention that was needed to get Canada involved in supporting the Bomber Command Memorial

I would especially like to thanks National Defence Minister Peter MacKay for his support over the past few months as the Bomber Command Museum of Canada was able to get the precious RCAF Halifax LW682 ingots over to England for inclusion in the Bomber Command Memorial structure. What symbolism and how appropriate is the inclusion of these bomber ingots in the ultimate memorial to the 55,000+ bomber aircrew who sacrificed their lives for our Freedom!

There is another backgrounder to the news of the Canadian support for the Bomber Command Memorial that you must know about that occurred last November 8 in London at the Bomber

Command Memorial fundraiser. This was the corporate effort of the Bomber Command Memorial fund raising committee and this author who arranged a dream flight for 2 in the Canadian Warplane Heritage Lancaster including 2 free airline tickets “across the pond”, thanks to the generosity of Air Canada. This unique prize was one of the silent auction items for this gala evening.

The final and winning bid for the dream ride for 2 was 45,000 pounds sterling or a whopping \$72,000!! So indirectly we have had a wonderful addition to the Bomber Command Memorial fund by this innovative and unique creation of the Canadian Lancaster dream ride. (imagine this author promoting rides on a Lanc when we all know which is his favourite bomber!)

Also, we have had great news regarding our own James Blondeau, Director and Multi-media manager of Halifax 57 Rescue that he has received a large grant from Veterans Affairs, under the sponsorship of the Bomber Command Museum of Canada, to tell the full story of the Bomber Command Memorial and the RCAF Halifax LW682 ingots. This will be wonderful documentary and poignant story from May-1944 to June-2012 when the ingots of this Halifax are incorporated into the magnificent Bomber Command Memorial.

Jim has over 500 personal interviews with Bomber Command veterans which he has collected since the 1980's which he will use in the making of this exciting documentary. See all Jim's productions of recent times at his special website for Halifax 57 Rescue (Canada).

www.dunrobin castle.com/Aviators/Aviators_index.htm

See right now on YOUTUBE the beautiful first hand and birds-eye-view video of the Bomber Command Memorial in London UK being built now, as captured by Jim Blondeau on Mar.14, which will be incorporated into his documentary that he is creating this summer. This one-of-a-kind documentary will be available a short while after the dedication of the Bomber Command Memorial on June 28. Just click on the YOUTUBE site below and be amazed.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YsVLaGJc8_U

Further to this our Halifax 57 Rescue Director and Halifax Rebuild Manager, George Roskopf, has already starting rebuilding at his shop in Ottawa the MALTA Halifax-Hasting wings and spars we brought home to Canada last summer. This initial wing spar work will be the beginning of the Halifax wing rebuild using new manufactured main spar caps! The main spar is the foundation of a Halifax and George has an agreement with our parent museum, the Bomber Command Museum of Canada, to start rebuilding wing sections now for their Halifax Project. Halifax 57 Rescue will continue to scour the world to gather all parts, artifacts, and materials for this second Halifax for Canada. Just click on the site below and see George begin the Halifax rebuild.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qd5mMDViwZA&feature=relmfu>

More information on our ultimate prize RCAF Halifax LW170 will be in the next Progress Report with the sonar season just ahead and 3 possibilities pending for sonar assistance to find our historic LW170 off the coast of Ireland. Standby for more exciting news in this regard.

For now, we are so pleased that all our efforts to spotlight the importance of the Bomber Command Memorial to our government and officials has finally brought about this wonderful official donation and support for this ultimate memorial, a memorial which has been too long in waiting for one of the greatest sacrifices ever in military history, the sacrifice of Bomber Command.

Please continue to support us with your donations and funding as we move onwards and upwards

in our historic quest to save our heritage and history in the Halifax bomber.

And remember,

WE LEAVE NO HALIFAX BEHIND

Sincerely,

Karl Kjarsgaard

Project Manager

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