

Halifax 57 Rescue (Canada)



RCAF HALIFAX LW170 RECOVERY (424 Squadron)



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Progress Report No.45

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Registered Charity 84586 5740 RR0001

THE BOMBER COMMAND MEMORIAL



June 29th, RCAF Bomber Boys Farewell



"We Will Remember Them"

C. De Decker

It is with great excitement and pride that I report to all of you, on behalf of the Bomber Command Museum of Canada and our own Halifax 57 Rescue (Canada), of the dedication of the BOMBER COMMAND MEMORIAL, in Green Park, London on June 28th, 2012.

This is a truly magnificent memorial that has become the ultimate as the final and long awaited tribute to those crews of Bomber Command who flew, fought, and sacrificed their lives for all of us and our Freedom.

The Bomber Command Museum of Canada provided the most unique element of all for this stunning Memorial, the contribution of hundreds of pounds of aluminum of a RCAF Halifax bomber which was incorporated into the Memorial roof structure of this momentous tribute.

11 executive and members of our Bomber Command Museum of Canada attended these great ceremonies.

We must explain the sequence of events that led up to this great day and the special personalities who, through their passionate efforts and dedication to honouring those crews who flew in Bomber Command, made all this possible.

When the sincere request and true concern of the Hammond, Summerhayes, and Roach families reached me in 1996, that they wished to recover RCAF Halifax LW682 to find their loved ones, I knew that we could do this IF certain parties rallied to our cause. 426 Squadron Association truly rallied to our cause

under the guidance and sponsorship of President Larry Motiuk, along with a Ministry of Heritage grant – thanks to Chuck Gruchy’s efforts to obtain the grant to get the LW682 recovery going.

The Belgian Aviation History Association (BAHA), under the guidance and direction of Cynrik De Decker, Stephan Delannoit, Peter Van de Pare, Jean Louis Roba, and so many more in this dedicated group were our workforce - our energy, hands, and heart - in Belgium to recover this entire Canadian Halifax LW682, which lay in up to 7 meters of mud in a swamp in Gerarrdsbergen. Without them the Canadians were truly “stuck in the mud”, without recourse. They are still our friends to this day.

While all this exciting recovery was happening in Sept/1997 our own James Blondeau, talented documentary producer, was right there with us capturing the moments on film when we found the 3 missing aircrew and recovered the wreckage of the Halifax. Scott Knox, our innovative recovery webmaster, was sharing all our recovery with the world on the internet (almost live!) with thousands of people in Canada and around the world.

Then we received the full military funeral we needed for these 3 missing aircrew thanks to Veterans Affairs Canada and Minister Fred Mifflin, with all families concerned invited, transported, and attending the funeral in Nov/1997 in Belgium – a most moving event of international importance as our RCAF aircrew was laid to rest.

But there comes a moment in time when there is a deciding event which would have repercussions, benefits, and affect all of Canada 15 years later when we dedicated the Bomber Command Memorial. I remember that time when Larry Motiuk and I discussed, after the funeral of our airmen, what we would do with all the wreckage of our Halifax. The intact parts would go to the Halifax NA337 rebuild in Trenton, Ontario but what of the “mini-mountain of crushed aluminium”? Both of us felt that we just could NOT sell it to the scrap man considering the history, rarity, and sacrifice this metal signified. Once again our Belgian friends, BAHA, made this all possible as they tediously sorted, cleaned, and had smelted down our Halifax precious metal into ingots which were finally transported back to Canada in early 1998.

With these ingots was the metal for RCAF and military memorials, plaques, and statues for which there would be no equal for historic and sacrificial content. Little did we know that years later, through our own Bomber Command Museum of Canada, that we would provide this precious metal for “THE memorial of all memorials” to our Bomber aircrews. It just does not get any better than this!

When our British comrades at the Bomber Command Association most enthusiastically accepted, in early 2011, our Bomber Command Museum of Canada offer of the 800 pounds of RCAF Halifax bomber metal for their Bomber Command Memorial we knew we must take this Canadian effort to a level of national importance because of the huge contribution of the RCAF to RAF Bomber Command and Allied Victory.

So let us give more credit where credit is due, for initially we wish to thank Minister of National Defence Peter MacKay for taking our concerns whole-heartedly and with genuine enthusiasm. The Minister made sure that the Bomber Command Museum of Canada got the support we needed to deliver our rare RCAF aluminum ingots to our British friends, for incorporation into this great Bomber Command Memorial. Also, Minister MacKay was able to begin the initial awakening on Parliament Hill to all our officials of just how important the Bomber Command Memorial was going to be on the world stage and across Canada.

As the Bomber Command Museum of Canada accelerated its efforts to tell all of Canada and our officials in Ottawa of this great memorial (starting in Jan. 2011) our museum was blessed in the appearance of a Member of Parliament, and former RCAF officer, to further our efforts on the national level. The Honourable Laurie Hawn, MP for Edmonton Centre, became a tower of strength for our museum for high-lighting to all the officials on Parliament Hill that Canada MUST be there in June of

2012, so that we would be able to finally pay our respects to all of Bomber Command and the 55,573 who sacrificed their lives, including 10,659 Canadians!



Laurie Hawn MP receiving memento of Halifax LW682 from Karl Kjarsgaard at the Bomber Command Memorial site

We must also spotlight the efforts of a great personality in the Senate of Canada, Senator Anne Cools, who has for years, almost single-handedly supported our aims and goals for our Bomber Command Museum of Canada and our national MEMORIAL WALL, as well as the HALIFAX PROJECT. This MEMORIAL WALL is the ONLY memorial in all of Canada to have ALL 10,659 names of those RCAF bomber crews who flew and sacrificed their lives in RAF Bomber Command.

Senator Cools has made speeches and supported all our causes for years now and we have highly appreciated her tireless efforts, along with Laurie Hawn's efforts to rally support for the Bomber Command Memorial. Senator Cools truly understood the significance of the Bomber Command Memorial and what the contribution of the RCAF Halifax ingot metal signified for this Memorial and to all of Canada and also to the Commonwealth.

See below the photos taken on June 29th at the Bomber Command Memorial "RCAF Bomber Boys Farewell" with Ted Turner, a 424 Squadron tail-gunner of Halifax LW170 beside the magnificent bomber crew statues of this memorial. Ted was one of 42 RCAF Bomber Command veterans attending the ceremonies. Also included, an animated photo of Senator Anne Cools and President Rob Pedersen of our Bomber Command Museum of Canada delegation.



As we look at this stunning and brilliant memorial to these great people who gave us our FREEDOM we must spotlight 2 great creators of this tribute, those Memorial-artists who gave their full attention and passion to building the “Bomber Command Memorial”, architect Liam O’Connor and aircrew sculptor Philip Jackson.

Yours truly worked diligently and carefully for over 2 years with Liam O’Connor to make sure that our “RCAF aluminium gold” would be suitably placed into the Bomber Command Memorial. It was with Liam’s sure talent and creativity that he deliberated and came up with the brilliant idea of the Memorial roof structure being made from our precious ingots. It was a master stroke by a true artist. Well done Liam, all of Canada thanks you.

And Philip Jackson matched Liam’s brilliant Memorial with creativity and detail of the highest order, for his Memorial crew statues have no equal for true-life intensity, accuracy, and detail of image that is stunning. This truly is the way they were as these beautiful young lads - the best we ever had - who fought and sacrificed for our Freedom wielding giant “aluminium swords” so many years ago. From Canada, a salute to Philip Jackson for his brilliant centre-piece creation that is exactly right for a Memorial of this standing and significance.

All the main preparations were being made for the Bomber Command Memorial as Malcolm White, Jim Dooley, and Douglas Radcliffe (RCAF 425 Squadron veteran) and all the determined staff of the Fund-raising committee pressed on in the UK and across the Commonwealth with gathering support for the memorial. But I must tell you about a cool and joint brain-storming plan that came to full fruition in November 2011 at the Fund-raising Gala dinner in London, England by the Bomber Command Memorial committee.

Jim Dooley and I agreed that offering a dream ride for 2 people in the Canadian Warplane Heritage Lancaster would be a suitably attractive prize for the silent auction fund-raiser at the Gala dinner. Yours truly went ahead and teed up the plans with CWH, and while in the midst of this planning we agreed we must approach Air Canada to see if they would consider providing 2 free tickets from London to Toronto return for the lucky winners of the Lanc Dream ride. Lo and behold, Air Canada was true to our request and gladly contributed these great tickets to the Dream ride package.

So on that evening last November the Gala Dinner gem of the Lanc Dream ride astonished everyone, when the bidding stopped, as this prize went for (45,000 pounds)!! For those of you not enamored with math operations, this prize raised \$72,000 Canadian! Both Jim Dooley and I were well pleased at the results and support for this fund raising operation.

Finally, after all our Museum's concerted efforts across Canada and including on Parliament Hill, thanks to Laurie Hawn and Senator Cools, came the wonderful announcement by Veterans Affairs Canada Minister Steven Blaney on April 7, 2012 of the great donation of \$100,000 by VAC to the Bomber Command Memorial on behalf of the Government of Canada.

In addition, a special RCAF charter jet would be provided to bring a contingent of 41 RCAF Bomber Command veterans and officials for the dedication including Minister Blaney and the Chief of the Air Staff, Lt. Gen. Deschamps. Our Museum delegation veteran, Ted Turner of LW170, was the 42nd and final addition to this group of RCAF combat "Bomber Boys".



**Bomber Boys Farewell”
Laurie Hawn MP, Jean Cauchy-Halifax Veteran,
Senator Anne Cools, author, Minister Blaney VAC**

This was the best we could have hoped for when the Bomber Command Museum of Canada first threw its full support behind the Bomber Command Memorial some 2 years before. Now Canada, as a nation who gave great support to the Bomber Command victory some 67 years ago, could truly feel we did our best to carry the torch for our Canadian Bomber Boys to whom we owe so much. We have upheld their honour, excellence, and sacrifice!

PER ARDUA AD ASTRA

On to Business –These are the Hali-facts:

While all these most special activities were going on with the Bomber Command Memorial we are proceeding diligently, with some difficulty, with our Halifax Project.

George Rosskopf, our Director of Engineering, over the past few weeks has started the first phase of evaluation and extraction of the Halifax-Hastings main spar components from the Malta parts we

recovered last year. George has set up a temporary shop and assembled the basic tools to get started. Jim Blondeau has documented and placed on YOUTUBE the “H57RC Rebuild Shop” with 6 special video reports over the last few weeks of George’s progress and these are called “The Rebuild Shop”. To find these videos online, ‘Google’ these titles and you will see them.

See below George Roszkopf with the first section of Halifax main spar which has now been evaluated, disassembled, and prepped for the main spar rebuild, IF we can continue with the rebuild program



This is a major step – a first step, towards a Halifax started for the Bomber Command Museum of Canada. Listen to me when I say this: all of what George is doing now **MUST** be done no matter where we find a Halifax airframe or what parts we uncover. George is the most experienced Halifax structures engineer available. We must start work now on all these component items at home in Canada while we search for LW170 and all the other possibilities of Halifax parts wherever they are in the world. I will report on all these Halifax parts searches soon.

BUT as the overall Project Manager, I have taken a position if we cannot raise enough funds, if funds are not being donated - because people who donated before or are considering supporting our cause - but have not donated yet, then we will be forced to put the beginnings of our Halifax on hold. The costs of rebuilding the Halifax main-spar, and components thereof, are in the order of \$1500-2500 per MONTH! This includes the labour, parts, and materials required for the Halifax main spar component of our project.

We have a mutual support agreement with the Bomber Command Museum of Canada to assist in supporting the initial work on the main spar but times are tough for both our groups and it is crunch time to (Go//No Go) for extending-continuing the Halifax main spar project. How can I explain this so you will understand that this is one of the most important times in the history and future of Halifax 57 Rescue (Canada)?

When you get a core of a Halifax in your “garage”, after years of trying to get that airframe core – those beginnings of a great aircraft which should mean so much to all of us as a Canadian symbol of Freedom – there is the risk that we will sit back and admire it and say “there, we did it” and think that it will somehow be cared for and fixed-restored-rebuilt by itself. I think we have fallen into this state of mind where we think it is not required to keep supporting, building, and collecting all things Halifax so that we can maximize our Halifax situation and have the opportunity to make another Halifax for Canada.

Thanks to those of you who have renewed your memberships or just joined us on our Halifax quest. I

must mention a bright spot in all this with the appearance of a small support group who has kept us going during this difficult financial time and I have dubbed them “Cawsey’s Crusaders”, a group of friends and family of our long-time benefactor Clint Cawsey who have heeded his words and been keen to help out these last few weeks. My kingdom for a few more of you to join these wonderful people who have taken Clint’s words to heart about our Halifax Project.

Donations for our efforts have dropped to an all-time low (just when we can begin a Halifax) and this is indeed puzzling to myself and our directors. We will renew our efforts for fund raising on our end, including raising more corporate support, and we hope you will show your support while we work even harder to keep things going.

Follow me with your logic and your heart!



If we have this:



and this:
NEW Halifax main spars



To make this:



And then add these:



And then add these:



And then add this gem:

Do you not have a “HALIFAX beginning” worthy of your support?

And WHY would we ask of you this most vital support at this time?

FOR THEM!



By Iain McLauchlan

I hope you can see the progression here and that the one missing but crucial ingredient is your vital support, to bring all these treasures together and help us keep the rebuilding going while acquiring more Halifax “gold” we are uncovering and hope to uncover and salvage.

REMEMBER, there are 3 main ways to donate and support Halifax 57 Rescue.

- 1) Mail in a cheque to our addresses below
- 2) Use our convenient internet PAYPAL account on our website, if you use PAYPAL for online business.
- 3) Donate stocks, bonds, and securities you hold to Halifax 57 Rescue’s RBC Discount Brokerage account and receive full charity tax credit and also avoid any capital gains tax on said stocks, bonds, and securities

As the years have passed and we have persevered, slowly converting the impossible to the difficult, with stumbling blocks and impasses which have been overcome, I have faith we will find those people and situations of opportunity that will give us the success we need to fulfill our mission. Faith is the key and the flame that keeps us going when there are difficult times.

Renew us in this honourable Project. There are some very rare Swords of Freedom that are made from “aluminium” and must be saved and cherished. This is one of them!

Please remember us when you wish to support a good cause.

And remember,
[WE LEAVE NO HALIFAX BEHIND](#)

Sincerely,

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