



HONOUR, EXCELLENCE, SACRIFICE

Halifax 57 Rescue (Canada)

Registered Charity 84586 5740 RR0001

PROGRESS REPORT No. 55

December 21, 2014

www.57rescuecanada.com

Merry Christmas and warm greetings to all of our Halifax 57 Rescue (Canada) members and supporters!

As we spend time with our family and friends this Christmas season (we all know whose birthday this is and “happy holidays” is only a conversation starter) we hope you will take time, during those lulls from opening presents and eating goodies, to read of the great progress that Halifax 57 Rescue (Canada) has made to bring a second Halifax to Canada, to be displayed at the Bomber Command Museum of Canada!

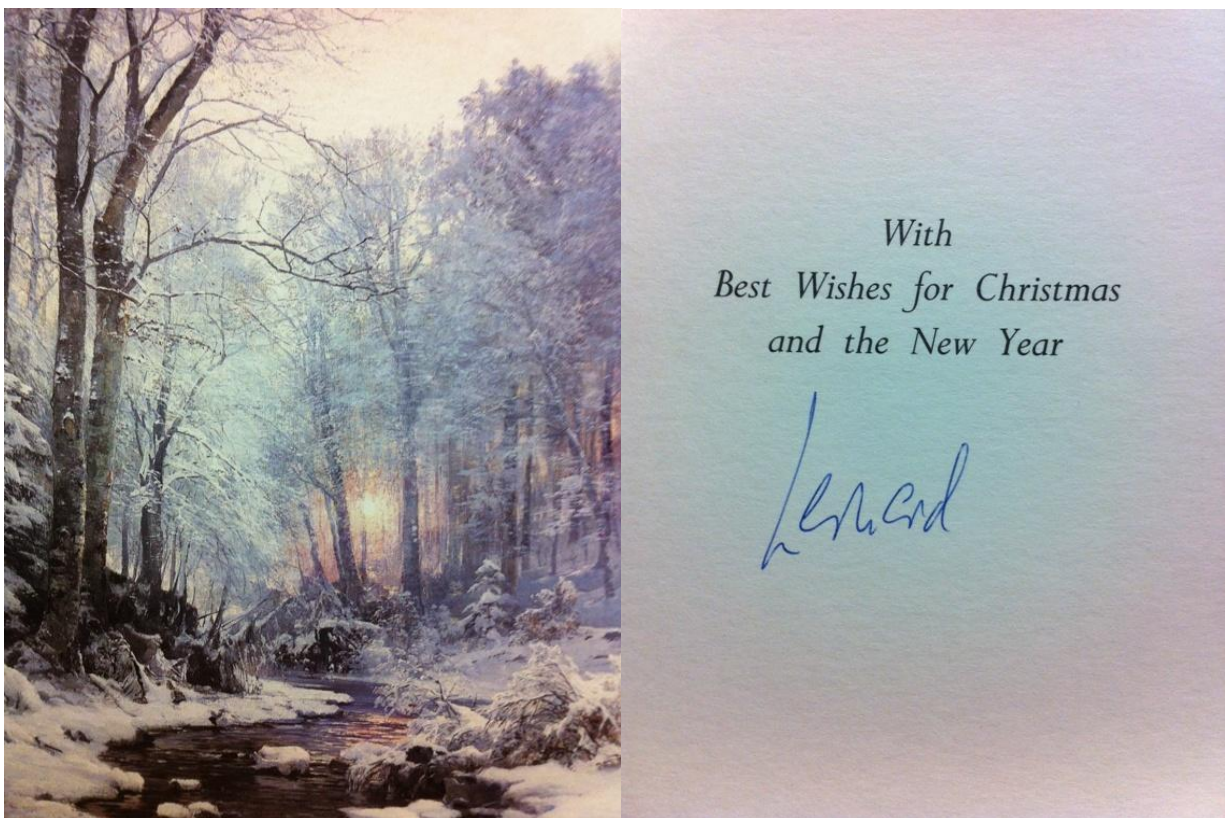
All of these efforts are on your behalf and you are supporting us because you understand that the Halifax deserves a special place in our nation’s heart as a symbol of excellence and sacrifice of so many young aircrew.

Freedom is a special gift, above all the gifts which you may receive this festive season - except for your health of course, that we must not take for granted. For 70 years you and your family have had this gift to enjoy and it was a 20 or 21 year old warrior in those war years that paid for what you and yours have now.

So we plod along, gathering all things Halifax, as the best tribute we can think of to remember our bomber boys and the gift they gave us.

Before we move on to report our progress, I wanted to share with you a little Christmas gem I found while doing archive work in the dusty files of the library of the Bomber Command Museum. In one solitary file was an envelope from the UK containing a Christmas card addressed to a Canadian family, who had donated this special card to us in the pre-1992 period.

It was from a RAF Halifax bomber pilot who went on to do 4 combat tours and 102 combat trips and survived! I do not know why this pilot sent this beautiful and simple Christmas card to this Canadian family. But I am glad that it was found and I wanted to share it with you now during this most special time of year.



From our hero above, and from the Directors of Halifax 57 Rescue to all our supporters,
Merry Christmas and a Healthy, Happy New Year

(Group Captain Leonard Cheshire was one of the most highly decorated pilots in all of Bomber Command and the RAF with the VC, OM, DSO & 2 bars, and DFC)

On to business- here are the Hali-facts:

For those of you that did not know of the discovery, recovery, and purchase of our 2 NEW Hercules engines from John Robson of Preston, UK let me fill you in. While searching for Halifax propeller parts in south England last summer I located these 2 Hercules engines which are “0-hours since rebuild” that have been oil inhibited and sitting in their cradles for over 50 years! Needless to say, we snapped them up for they are super rare and just what is required for our Halifax Project if we are going to run Hercules engines on our Halifax.

These 2 engines were purchased and shipped across the ocean for the total cost of around \$17,000 which is a great deal (and excellent use of your donated funds with half this purchase being provided by the BCMC) BUT this purchase has taken a big chunk out of our financial reserves.

See below the photo of our first running Halifax Hercules on the yellow trailer, and her 2 NEW sisters when these babies arrived Nov.10th , which was taken at the Bomber Command Museum. We now have enough engines, including all our parts-engines, to make 4 running Hercules for the Halifax!



Thanks to Rick Featherstone of BCMC for supplying the truck and trailer to get these 2 engines from the Calgary airport, safe and sound, back to our parent museum in Nanton.

But wait, it gets even better. All of you know Halifax airframe expert George Roskopf is our chief rebuild of the Halifax main spar and airframe parts we collected from Malta, which will begin our Halifax Project. Now George and fellow engineer Scott Knox have joined forces at the shops of “Knox Tech Inc.” in south Ottawa to expand and becoming the driving force and headquarters of the BEGINNING of a Halifax main spar rebuild.

You have already seen the start of a Halifax rebuild with photos and videos of “The REBUILD SHOP”.

Well feast your eyes on the next major step of the actual START of a main spar (the back-bone) of our Halifax with this great photo of the giant jig table just completed at Knox Tech in Ottawa. Knox Tech has now started to splice and rebuild the main spars extracted from the Halifax-Hastings wings recovered from Malta. They are not just sprucing up these structures, they are rebuilding them using new made Halifax main spar caps and rebuilding-modifying these main spars back to exact wartime Halifax standards with the Halifax blueprints used to rebuild Halifax NA337! The main-spar jig table is over 30 feet long just to accommodate this giant main spar.



See red arrow pointing to 2/3 of old main spar waiting to be added to NEW spar caps on giant yellow jig table

Now if you would like to see videos of the new jig table which has just been constructed by Scott and George then link to this great video as done by our film expert Jim Blondeau and available on YOUTUBE at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uLdEZkgn47g>

There are a ton (12 or more) videos done by Jim on the progress of the main spar work and rebuild but this is the most exciting because we are now building UP, from square one, a Halifax bomber! No more exploratory or tear down work, the Halifax is a GO and she starts now.

To see all Jim Blondeau's videos on the Halifax Project, The Rebuild Shop, and veterans interviews just go to the YOUTUBE website and put in: "NAS The Rebuild Shop"

or to see the Veterans interviews put in

"Nanton Aviation Station"

If you would like to keep up to date on the main spar rebuild and you are a FACEBOOK fan, then just go to the Facebook web page and put in "REBUILDSHOP" and you will go directly to the Knox Tech Inc. page with all the photos and videos (up-dated weekly on Saturdays) of all that is going on in the rebirth of a Halifax for Halifax 57 Rescue and the Bomber Command Museum of Canada.

All of these rebuild services are not free and are being paid in installments and I have just sent the 2nd (\$5,000) payment to keep the main spar rebuild going in the New Year with the 3rd installment to be paid at the end of February 2015. So if you are keen, and I know you are, then I know you will keep the donations coming in so we do not have to stop the rebuild. Knox Tech and their guys are a great outfit of technology and enthusiasm, avec passion, and I am so pleased to see all they have done. Go you guys, GO!

Also, I have found some more DeHavilland Halifax propeller parts (they are as scarce as hen's teeth) in Europe and when I go over to the UK and Europe to hunt them down (hopefully in Jan.) then I will be adding them to the parts we have already recovered at our Halifax stockpile of parts at Skysport Engineering.

Not only this but I have been emailing back and forth with the Irish Marine Institute and have received interest from them in having a meeting in Jan. or Feb. to discuss the sonar search for our holy grail RCAF Halifax LW170 this coming summer. They are traveling with their sonar ship and underwater vehicles from Ireland to Iceland and return, on a scientific cruise, and they are passing by the position of the sinking point of Halifax LW170. We do appreciate the consideration from the Marine Institute and they are sympathetic to helping us find the most historic combat bomber in Canadian aviation history. Karl's bucket list is well known to them and they want to help if it can just be arranged. So standby for future developments on LW170.

I must add that the special remembrance project to recover the 5 missing crew and Halifax HR980 from the swamp north of Berlin has been put on hold as we are meeting opposition for the financial support for this recovery from the 3 governments of the UK, Australia, and Canada. However, our groups of concerned family of the crew, LAO recovery group in Germany, H57RC and the Bomber Command Museum of Canada, and a core of supporters worldwide are not deterred and will press on.

I have had a promise of an article in the Canadian press by a prominent reporter and hopefully this will appear before the New Year. My heart goes out to these missing crew's families! I hope more progress can be made and I will report more in 1 month after we see the support than can be raised for the recovery of the crew of HR980.

So as the activities heat up for the above and all we are doing and will do, to save a Halifax for our memorial museum, so too have the demands for funding become more pressing. You know what we have done with what you have donated so far towards our honourable Halifax Project.

The Halifax Project as you are now seeing is NOT impossible, it is only "difficult", so leave the stick-handling to us and please send in as many of those little things that are kind of like hockey pucks but actually called dollars, pounds, and euros. Halifax 57 Rescue will score goals with them that will knock your socks off. Our record speaks for itself.

Remember, here are the ways to help us out as we start into a new and exciting year in our Halifax quest. To all our stalwarts of support we thank you and hope for your continued help. If you are new to this project we hope you will join us for the long run to help save Halifaxes in memory of our bomber boys.

You and/or your corporation can help by:

1) Donate funds to Halifax 57 Rescue (Canada) via the post – see our 2 addresses available at the end of this report

2) Try our new PAYPAL internet payment method for all who have purchased or contributed online (via your PAYPAL account) to our worthy and honourable charity. Go to our website www.57rescuecanada.com and see the golden “DONATE” button which immediately donates these funds to our cause from anywhere in the world (if you have a PAYPAL account!)

3) Donate your unused stocks, bonds, and securities to our Halifax 57 Rescue - Royal Bank Discount Brokerage account and receive a “full market value” tax receipt credit for the donation of these securities. You will not have to pay income tax on the profit portion side of this transfer and donation. You receive full tax deductible credit for said donation. It is a win-win for all concerned.

4) Purchase a beautiful limited-edition signed print of our Halifax LW170 “INVINCIBLE ITEM” for (\$165.00 including postage) or an unsigned print for (\$60.00 including postage). This has to be one of the finest prints of a combat Halifax that has ever been produced. We still have half of the 500 signed prints available to all you Halifax fans. See www.57rescuecanada.com for all our print info.

Finally, your tax receipts for all your wonderful donations for 2014 will be mailed out by Jan.15, 2015.

Merry Christmas to all of you.

Remember, WE LEAVE NO HALIFAX BEHIND

Sincerely,

Karl Kjarsgaard - Project Manager

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or

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UFO over RCAF 432 Squadron- Eastmoor, Yorkshire December 24, 1944