



HONOUR, EXCELLENCE, SACRIFICE

Halifax 57 Rescue (Canada)

Registered Charity 84586 5740 RR0001

MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HEALTHY and HAPPY NEW YEAR Dec. 22, 2012



The Memorial in Winter 2012

photo by David Birrell

As we enjoy our Christmas 2012 with family, friends, and loved ones let us also reflect on this special year when the most unique Bomber Command Memorial was completed and dedicated. Finally, we have THE Memorial where people from all over the world, free people, can gather and think about what our bomber heroes and warriors did, the immensity of their sacrifice, so that we could have Freedom on this most special Christian holiday and season.

And if this gift given to us by those young warriors has been such a bless-ed one, and has continued for over 67 years, then we can move into the New Year with added enthusiasm and vigour to honour them in all we do at the Bomber Command Museum of Canada and Halifax 57 Rescue (Canada).

Let me tell you a story I have just discovered this month about the sacrifice of Bomber Command, a Scottish family, two brothers, a RCAF Halifax and a RAF Lancaster, and a heart-rending Christmas tale which was revealed to me, simply by going to the Bomber Command Memorial in Green Park, London UK on a chilly December night just 2 weeks ago.

As I approached the Bomber Command Memorial from the dark of Green Park I saw the bright lights that spotlighted the 7 bomber crew statues and then they came into view in such a prominent glow, with such great and striking detail, it was as if they had just stepped out of their bomber after having cheated death one more time. It was then that I noticed the many colours and objects at their feet and all around the marble base upon which they stood. Then it struck me as to what these were!

These were the wreaths and poppies and crosses and photos, tributes to all those young warriors lovingly and informally placed there by those family and friends of the bomber crews who had made a Remembrance pilgrimage to this spot in the weeks and months past to pay their respects. Over 60 years in the waiting and now a place to come and remember them!

While circling and admiring the crew statues and all these tributes, not withstanding the glances to the ceiling and feeling a sense of satisfaction at the inclusion of our RCAF Halifax aluminum into this ultimate Memorial, I decided to document those cherished items with a photo or two of the gifts of remembrance and tribute.

One small wooden cross was most special and I could not pass up capturing an image of this cross because of the hidden story written on the cross. This story has now come clear to me and I wanted to share it with you.

Look now below at this small cross of Remembrance, the dates of the passing of 2 sons, and understand what this means to the Boylan family of Motherwell, Scotland.



Martin Boylan was killed-in-action on December 4, 1943 on a Lancaster of RAF 625 Squadron!

Michael Boylan was killed-in-action on Dec.18, 1944 on a Halifax NP699 of RCAF 432 Squadron!

This was to be Michael's final trip of his tour and he was the Flight Engineer of a RCAF Halifax "OSCAR the OUTLAW" which was on its 42nd trip.

See below the crew of "OSCAR the OUTLAW" with Michael Boylan on the far right.



Photo courtesy of the Aircrew Remembrance Society

"Oscar the Outlaw" crew - left to right: F/O. Krakovsky, F/O. Cann, F/O. Wilson, Sgt. Blayney, Sgt. Zadorozmy, Sgt. Green and Sgt. Boylan

So let us think of the price paid by the Boylan family of Motherwell, Scotland and at such cost in human terms that it is heart-wrenching just to think of what it must have meant to all the Boylan family. For even Allied Victory in 1945 and Freedom in the years to come would not help to ease the loss of their 2 sons as each December and Christmas season passed.

Let us also think of the families of the other crew members who would have received the sad news of their missing sons, with news soon to follow, that a total of 6 crew of “OSCAR the OUTLAW” were killed-in-action in a tragic mid-air collision between 2 bombers coming into the target that night.

The pilot Max Krakovsky DFC was blown out of the RCAF Halifax, saved by his parachute, and was rescued by American soldiers!

The other aircraft was Halifax LV818 of RAF 10 Squadron from which all 8 crew were killed from the mid-air collision.

To see all the facts on the stories behind these 2 Halifaxes just google “Aircrew Remembrance Society” and the serial numbers of the aircraft Halifax NP699 and LV818.

So now I must tell you of a silver lining in this adventure of “honour, excellence, and sacrifice” that also bears witness to this small wooden cross laid in remembrance there, just days before I arrived, at the feet of the bomber crew statues of the Bomber Command Memorial.

For you see pilot Max Krakovsky of Toronto, later changing his name to Max Carson, came back from the war to Canada, put himself through medical school, and became a Doctor of obstetrics. Max practiced medicine in Toronto for over 40 years and delivered over 2,000 babies into this world! He knew what he must do to honour his mates and brothers-in-arms so they did not die in vain.

Does this mean that one man was spared by God so that 2,000 should live and grow up in a free world?

This author believes that it means much more than that, but don't you agree that this is a wonderful gift of Freedom and life for so many by one small miracle that happened at Christmas time in the dark skies of Europe in 1944.

The best we can do now is to carry the torch for all those young aircrew and keep the home fires burning in memory of them. For every Lancaster Merlin we start, for every Halifax Hercules we rebuild, for every tour we give to kids who do not know but will, for every Bomber Command veteran's family who finally knows what Grandpa did for Freedom, for every rivet we replace on every airframe we rebuild, and all that we do as the Bomber Command Museum of Canada and Halifax 57 Rescue (Canada) THIS is the best we can do.

MERRY CHRISTMAS to you all and we hope you will join us and support us in the NEW YEAR 2013.

Some swords of Freedom are made of aluminium.

And remember, we leave no Halifax behind.

Sincerely,

Karl Kjarsgaard – Director and Project Manager
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