

A BOMBER COMMAND MUSEUM OF CANADA BULLETIN

2013-04-25



BACKGROUND

- One of the most daring and tactically demanding air operations of World War II, the legendary Dambusters Raid utilized a bouncing bomb released at an altitude of sixty feet to destroy enemy hydroelectric dams.
- A brilliant tactical success was achieved but eight of the nineteen Lancaster bombers did not return. Of the 133 airmen who flew on the raid, 53 were killed and three became Prisoners of War.
- Of the thirty Canadians who flew, only fifteen returned safely to base. Albertans in particular were prominent, as seven of the thirty Canadians were from our province.

THE COMMEMORATIVE EVENT –Saturday, May 11th

The Bomber Command Museum of Canada will be commemorating the 70th Anniversary of the Dams Raid with an all day event featuring:

- Lancaster Bomber Engine Start-ups
 - In honour of the Dambusters.
- “The Dambusters –The Legendary Raid in Art”
 - A Special Display of sixteen pieces of Dams Raid aviation art featuring original works and limited edition prints.
- “Big Joe McCarthy –The RCAF’s American Dambuster”
 - The Launch of Big Joe’s Biography as published by our museum and in the UK.
- “The Dams Raid as told by Sgt. Ken Brown CGM”
 - A video replay of Ken’s riveting presentation as recorded at the museum’s 50th Anniversary Commemoration in 1993.
- “The Canadian Dambusters”
 - The unveiling of a display honouring the 30 Canadians who flew on the raid including the 15 who did not return.
- Special Guests
 - 617 Squadron veteran Bill Hume. Bill flew with all of the surviving Dambusters for over a year following the Dams Raid.
 - Family members of a number of the Canadian Dambusters
- Bristol Hercules Engine Run-ups
 - The first public run-ups of our recently restored 14 cylinder sleeve-valve radial engine of the type that powered many Bomber Command aircraft.
- A Special Display of Dambuster related artifacts and documents from our archives.

CHECK: <http://www.bombercommandmuseum.ca/event2013dambuster70.html> for details, updates, and timing.

VISIT: <http://www.bombercommandmuseum.ca/damsraid.html> for detailed background information and several Dams Raid articles.

CONTACT: library@bombercommandmuseum.ca for additional information.

THE CANADIAN DAMBUSTERS

*-Canadians played a leading role in all aspects of Bomber Command.
Of the 133 airmen who took off on the Dams Raid, 30 were Canadians.
15 of them did not return -14 were killed and one became a Prisoner of War.*

THE FIFTEEN CANADIANS WHO RETURNED



Back Row: Sgt Stefan Oancica, Sgt Frederick E. Sutherland, Sgt Harry E. O'Brien, F/S Kenneth W. Brown, F/S Harvey A. Weeks, F/S John W. Thrasher, F/S George A. Deering, Sgt. William Radcliffe, F/S Donald A. MacLean, F/Lt Joseph C. McCarthy, F/S Grant S. MacDonald
Front Row: Sgt Percy E. Pigeon, P/O T. Harlo Taerum, P/O D. Revie Walker, Sgt Chester B. Gowrie, P/O David Rodger

*F/Lt McCarthy was an American citizen who was serving in the Royal Canadian Air Force.

*F/S Deering, Sgt Gowrie, P/O Taerum, and F/S Thrasher were killed on operations later in the war.

THE FIFTEEN CANADIANS WHO DID NOT RETURN



WO2 James L. Arthur, WO2 Joseph G. Brady, Sgt. Charles Brennan, P/O Lewis J. Burpee, P/O. Vernon W. Byers, WO2 Aiden P. Cottam, F/O Kenneth Earnshaw, P/O John W. Fraser, F/S Francis A. Garbas, WO2 Abram Ganshowitz, F/O Harvey S. Ginz, F/O Vincent S. MacCausland, F/S James McDowell, F/O Robert A. Urquhart, P/O Floyd A. Wise

*P/O Fraser survived the raid but became a Prisoner of War.

BOMBER COMMAND BAR

Their efforts and their sacrifices made by Canadian Airmen have finally been acknowledged, and the Bomber Command clasp is a symbol of that acknowledgement and of a nation's gratitude.

An application form is available at <https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/collections/cmdp/bomber>.

PLEASE NOTE THAT WE ARE A VOLUNTEER DRIVEN, REGISTERED CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION.

We depend upon private donations for our operation and development. Please help if you can.

For Membership and Donation information visit: <http://www.bombercommandmuseum.ca/membership.html>

We encourage you to forward this bulletin to others who you feel may be interested.

If this bulletin has been forwarded to you and you would like to receive future bulletins directly, please advise by email to bulletin@bombercommandmuseum.ca.

This bulletin has been sent to members and supporters of the Bomber Command Museum of Canada. If you would like to have your name removed from our mailing list please advise by email to bulletin@bombercommandmuseum.ca.