

# A BOMBER COMMAND MUSEUM OF CANADA BULLETIN

2014-04-07



## MOVING DAY AT THE MUSEUM

Last Saturday was very busy at the museum. The Lancaster and Blenheim spent much of the day outside as aircraft were re-arranged so our Messerschmitt Bf 109 mock-up could be placed on display. Together with associated signage, it will contribute to the telling of the history of Bomber Command.



The Blenheim in the Sunshine



## THE LUFTWAFFE vs BOMBER COMMAND

**-Although batteries of radar controlled anti-aircraft guns could fill the sky with flak, the Nazi's air force (The Luftwaffe) accounted for the majority of the 12,330 aircraft lost by Bomber Command.**

**-The deployment of large numbers of Luftwaffe fighters to defend against Bomber Command meant there were few available to support the German army.**

**"We did not hate the men who flew in these bombers, these men who we characterized as 'comrades from the other side,' in whom we saw airmen, who just like ourselves loved to fly, and who in those dark nights with their manifold dangers had to endure the same fears as we had to." -Lt. Otto Fries**

### LUFTWAFFE FIGHTERS vs BOMBER COMMAND'S AIR GUNNERS

Bomber Command flew almost exclusively under the cover of darkness. The aircraft sacrificed guns, firepower, and armour for the ability to carry a maximum bomb load. The standard machine gun was the Browning .303 which, although it dispensed significant volumes of lead, lacked range and destructive power. The Luftwaffe fighters were armed with 20 and 30 mm cannons. Bomber Command air gunners shot down thousands of enemy fighters but their primary role was that of a lookout so that they could hopefully have their pilot begin the "Corkscrew" evasive action prior to a fighter opening fire.



Cannon Shells and a .303 Cartridge

### THE FIGHTERS THAT CHALLENGED BOMBER COMMAND



Focke-Wulf Fw 190 -Some models carried armour protection for the pilot and were fitted with two 30 mm cannons.



Junkers Ju 88 -The aircraft in this photo "accidentally" landed in England in 1944. The RAF used specifications based on its radar to develop countermeasures.

### LUFTWAFFE STRATEGIES

#### -THE KAMMHUBER LINE

During the early years of Bomber Command's offensive when the bombers flew separate routes to their targets, the Luftwaffe established a



### **RCAF 90<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY EVENT -25,26 APRIL**

Join us at the museum for a “Night Run” on Friday April 25<sup>th</sup>. Then on Saturday, enjoy a special presentation on the history of the RCAF by aviation historian Dr. Stéphane Guevremont followed by two more engine runs.

Details at [http://www.bombercommandmuseum.ca/photos\\_temp/poster\\_2014rcaf1a.pdf](http://www.bombercommandmuseum.ca/photos_temp/poster_2014rcaf1a.pdf)

### **TRUE PATRIOT LOVE FOUNDATION DINNER**

The museum was pleased to be part of this impressive function that saw over \$1.2 million raised to assist military families. Our half-scale, portable Memorial Wall with its 10,659 names was a poignant part of the museum’s display. Over 1000 people attended the dinner at the BMO Centre in Calgary.

<http://truepatriotlove.com/>





**D-DAY 70<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION -7 JUNE**

We're pleased to announce that HAWK ONE will flying over the museum to help us salute Bomber Command's contribution to the success of D-Day. <http://www.hawkone.ca/>



**SUMMER EVENTS**

Visit [www.bombercommandmuseum.ca](http://www.bombercommandmuseum.ca) regularly as planning progresses for all our summer events.

**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](mailto:bulletin@bombercommandmuseum.ca).*

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