



# A BOMBER COMMAND MUSEUM OF CANADA BULLETIN

## BOOK LAUNCH: "SHE MADE THEM FAMILY" by Anne Gafiuk

-Our museum is pleased to be publishing Anne's second book. It will be available at the launch, at the museum, and through our on-line museum shop. <http://www.bombercommandmuseum.ca/store/>

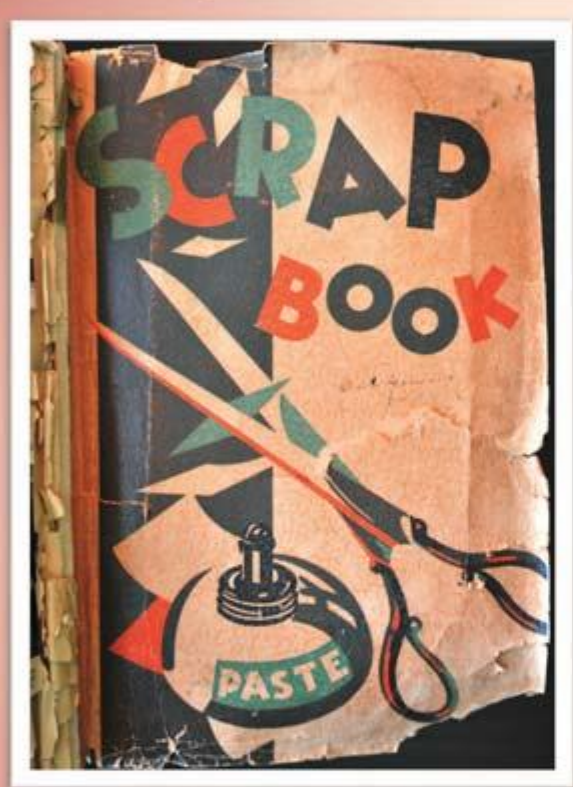
You are cordially invited to the book launch of

# SHE MADE THEM FAMILY

A WARTIME SCRAPBOOK FROM THE PRAIRIES

BY ANNE GAFIUK

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2015 2 PM



Rotary Performing Arts Centre, 3 Elma Street East, Okotoks

Mrs. Alice Spackman of Okotoks created a 'war years' scrapbook during the Second World War. She kept photos, articles, and anecdotes about many of the people who served during WWII from Okotoks and surrounding communities, as well as those who visited her from the wartime air-training base east of De Winton.

Additional research and interviews enhance this unique look at how war affected a small town in southern Alberta.

Meet the author, veterans, and other people connected to the book!

Sponsored by the Bomber Command Museum of Canada (Nanton) and the Okotoks Museum.

Five limited edition copies of the scrapbook will be up for auction, with proceeds to benefit both museums.

Additional copies of the book will also be available for purchase... and light refreshments will be served!

## REMEMBRANCE DAY 2015

We will have a special focus this year on Thomas Fetherston, whose family operated a grocery store in Nanton until moving to High River when Thomas entered high school. Read "A Name in the Sand," the poignant story of his RCAF bracelet being found on a beach 57 years after his aircraft was lost in the North Sea. <http://www.bombercommandmuseum.ca/s.fetherston.pdf>

## THE LANCASTER'S PORT-OUTER ENGINE

Our Lanc crew will soon be removing the port-outer in order to complete a necessary repair this winter. It will be ready to run next spring for a full schedule of special events at the museum. Keep up-to-date with the project by joining the Facebook Group "Lancaster FM159 Restoration Project."

## OFF-SITE STORAGE BUILDING CONSTRUCTION UNDER WAY

With the co-operation of our friends and supporters at <http://www.sprung.com/>, we will be erecting an off-site storage building in the next few weeks. What will become the floor is ready to go.



## MUSEUM DISPLAYS

This winter we will continue the development of our interpretive displays by creating several new panels including this one regarding Canadian lady pilots who flew bombers and other aircraft with the ATA.

# CANADIAN LADY PILOTS FLY WITH THE A.T.A.

During World War II, the Air Transport Auxiliary (ATA) ferried military aircraft between factories, repair depots, and operational squadrons. The types flown ranged from single-engine trainers to seaplanes and four-engine bombers. Pilots were issued a blue book in which one or two pages provided essential instructions for operating each of the different types of aircraft.

An amazing 309,011 flights were made by the ATA, including many across the Atlantic Ocean. The pilots accumulated 415,000 flying hours in the process, enabling regular air force pilots to be available for combat.

Women were not allowed to fly in combat roles with the RCAF or as flying instructors, but were permitted to fly with the ATA whose pilots included 1300 men and 166 women - five of whom were Canadian.

"When I applied to the RCAF I was rejected because I wore a skirt. I was furious. I had 2600 hours, an instructor's rating, multi-engine and instrument endorsements, a seaplane rating, and the experience of flying civil and military aircraft in three countries. Instead, they took men with 150 hours." -Helen Harrison

"When the boys got over fainting spells from seeing a girl climb out of the airplane, they became very helpful." -Violet Milstead



Violet Milstead



Vi Milstead with her favourite -the Mosquito. She flew 47 types including Wellington bombers and fighters such as the Spitfire and Beaufighter. Later she became one of Canada's first woman bush pilots.

| Date     | Time  | From     | To       | Remarks  |
|----------|-------|----------|----------|----------|
| 10/10/42 | 08:00 | Winnipeg | Winnipeg | Training |
| 10/11/42 | 08:00 | Winnipeg | Winnipeg | Training |
| 10/12/42 | 08:00 | Winnipeg | Winnipeg | Training |
| 10/13/42 | 08:00 | Winnipeg | Winnipeg | Training |
| 10/14/42 | 08:00 | Winnipeg | Winnipeg | Training |
| 10/15/42 | 08:00 | Winnipeg | Winnipeg | Training |
| 10/16/42 | 08:00 | Winnipeg | Winnipeg | Training |
| 10/17/42 | 08:00 | Winnipeg | Winnipeg | Training |
| 10/18/42 | 08:00 | Winnipeg | Winnipeg | Training |
| 10/19/42 | 08:00 | Winnipeg | Winnipeg | Training |
| 10/20/42 | 08:00 | Winnipeg | Winnipeg | Training |
| 10/21/42 | 08:00 | Winnipeg | Winnipeg | Training |
| 10/22/42 | 08:00 | Winnipeg | Winnipeg | Training |
| 10/23/42 | 08:00 | Winnipeg | Winnipeg | Training |
| 10/24/42 | 08:00 | Winnipeg | Winnipeg | Training |
| 10/25/42 | 08:00 | Winnipeg | Winnipeg | Training |
| 10/26/42 | 08:00 | Winnipeg | Winnipeg | Training |
| 10/27/42 | 08:00 | Winnipeg | Winnipeg | Training |
| 10/28/42 | 08:00 | Winnipeg | Winnipeg | Training |
| 10/29/42 | 08:00 | Winnipeg | Winnipeg | Training |
| 10/30/42 | 08:00 | Winnipeg | Winnipeg | Training |
| 10/31/42 | 08:00 | Winnipeg | Winnipeg | Training |

This section of Vi Milstead's logbook shows that she flew eight types of aircraft over a five day period including fighters such as the Spitfire and Typhoon, high performance, twin-engine aircraft such as the Mosquito, Beaufighter, and Beaufort, and the Avenger torpedo bomber.



Helen Harrison was the first Canadian to join the ATA. Later, she was reputed to be BC's best floatplane instructor and was dubbed, "Floats Harrison."

## MUSEUM RESEARCH GUIDE

We have recently updated our "Research Guide" to assist those who would like to learn more about an airman who flew with Bomber Command. [http://www.bombercommandmuseum.ca/bcmc\\_researchguide.pdf](http://www.bombercommandmuseum.ca/bcmc_researchguide.pdf)

## WINTER OPENING HOURS

Please note the museum will be open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday (10-4) until April 16<sup>th</sup>.

## EVENT PHOTO ARCHIVE

If you miss an event and are wondering what happened, visit <http://www.archerphotoworks.ca/museum/>

## FACEBOOK

Museum updates are best received via our FACEBOOK postings. You'll receive all our bulletins and more. So please, "Like Us" at [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/bombercommandmuseum) to keep up to date with all the happenings at the museum.

## PLEASE NOTE THAT WE ARE A VOLUNTEER-DRIVEN, REGISTERED CHARITABLE SOCIETY.

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.

Our Bulletins are available on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/bombercommandmuseum) and [Twitter](https://twitter.com/bombercommandmuseum). Watch our videos on our [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/bombercommandmuseum) channel.

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).

This bulletin has been sent to members and supporters of the Bomber Command Museum of Canada. To have your name deleted from our list please advise [bulletin@bombercommandmuseum.ca](mailto:bulletin@bombercommandmuseum.ca).