

A BIRD'S EYE VIEW....1959-1968

1. The new decade opens with the unique occurrence of the Association's first National Convention to be held in the Province of Quebec. The Ninth Annual General Meeting was convened in Montreal, P.Q., 14-16 May, 1959 at the Queen Elizabeth Hotel. A summary of the activities which took place at this Convention was recorded in the Minutes of the Meeting and is therefore copied here primarily as a reminder to the long-time members and as an eye-opener to the newer and younger members. The summary reads as follows;-

From the Wednesday afternoon when registration began until the last farewell had been said on Sunday, the events of the Ninth Annual Convention moved swiftly and smoothly. The energetic and enthusiastic Convention Committee composed of members of 306, 310 and 313 Wings under the direction of Chairman Greig Harrison saw the plans on which they had been working for months develop and reach fruition in a program which was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended.

With only a few exceptions, all delegates had reached Montreal by Wednesday evening to attend the President's Reception held at the Officers' Mess, RCAF Station St. Hubert, through the courtesy of the Commanding Officer, Group Captain A.M. Jardine. Here, Air Marshal Curtis, the National President, welcomed the delegates from all across Canada to the Convention and a very pleasant evening was spent in renewing acquaintances and in meeting Association friends. A buffet supper was served after the President, the National Executive Council, and guests of the convention had been piped into the dining room.

The convention was honoured to have as a speaker on Thursday morning one of the most remarkable heroes of World War II, Group Captain Douglas Bader. After losing both limbs before the war he was able to convince the Air Ministry that he could still fly an airplane and did so. His leadership and the role he played in the development of air tactics during the Battle of Britain, more than justified the decision to let him fly again. Later he lead a Canadian Fighter Wing and won the respect and admiration of all those who served with him. He spoke of the intangible something that hold together with a bond of affection all those who served in the air forces during war and of the value of strengthening that link through meetings such as the Montreal Convention. He commented on the advent of missiles in air warfare and stated his opinion that a human pilot has uniqueness which cannot be replaced; that there can be no substitute for the manned interceptor. G/C Bader told of some recent experiences in north-western Canada and the possibilities for future development in that area....possibilities which, he said, can only be exploited by air.

At end of his address, G/C Bader was presented an engraved beer mug by the host Wings.

The noon luncheon on Thursday was a time for further presentations when the host Wing recognized the assistance of a number of individuals. The major presentation at that time was made to the President of #302 Quebec Wing, Pat Haberlin. He accepted the Carling Trophy awarded annually to the Wing in Quebec Group which has had the greatest increase in membership during the year. The award was accompanied by a cheque for \$200.00.

Thursday evening was a completely informal one as the Groups of the Association entertained in different rooms throughout the hotel. There was a constant parade of delegates up and down the corridors as they sampled Maritime lobster and oysters; Quebec pea soup; Ontario pig tails; Saskatchewan berries; Alberta thunder jug elixir; and the complete hospitality of everyone.

A distinguished past-president of the United States Air Force Association who had addressed the 1957 convention in Saint John, returned to the RCAF Association on Friday morning and was warmly welcomed. Mr. Gill Robb Wilson said " In this young country I would think that every Canadian airman would see that in this Air Force Association there is an instrument worthy of his dedication and best efforts." In referring to modern advances in aeronautical science, he said there is a progression "not only of machines, but of minds that venture to create and control the machines. The Association, he concluded, has a great custodian responsibility to preserve the history of airmanship on which succeeding generations have built the achievements of today.

The parade to the Cenotaph in Dominion Square on Friday morning was the largest in the history of the national convention. Led by the RCAF Central Band, the delegates were accompanied by cadets from College Militaire Royale de St. Jean; Air Cadets and the band of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The memorial service was conducted by Rev. William Morris, padre of #306 Wing, while wreaths were laid by Mrs. L.S. Tobin for the RCAF Silver Cross Mothers; A/V/M G.E. Brookes for the Association; Mayor Sarto Fournier for the City of Montreal; A/C J.G. Stepheson for the RCAF, and Mr. F.P. Legg for the Host Wings. Following the March Past, where the salute was taken by Mayor

Fournier, the parade marched to the City Hall for a reception and luncheon. This gesture of goodwill by the City of Montreal was greatly appreciated by the delegates who found the hospitality extended them by the City officials most friendly.

The Annual Dinner on Friday evening was the highlight of the convention. Le Grand Salon was attractively decorated and lighted with flags of the NATO countries forming a backdrop for the head - table. The six hundred diners rose as the National President and the distinguished guests of the Association, led by two pipers, entered the room and took their places. Throughout the meal music was played by the RCAF Central Band. Then Air Marshal Curtis introduced General Lauris Norstad, Supreme Commander, Allied Powers

Europe, and this Airman, Commander of all air, sea and ground forces in Europe of the fifteen nations in the NATO Alliance, spoke of NATO strength and NATO strategy to a keenly interested audience.

Air Commodore The Honourable J.A.D. McCurdy was then introduced by Air Marshal Curtis who recalled that it was forty-three years to the month that he, completing his pilot's test at the flying field at Long Branch, first had met Mr. McCurdy. He then said, 'We are extremely proud of him as our country's aerial trail-blazer. All of us who have known him down the long years look upon him with deep and abiding affection as well.' On behalf of all members, the National President then presented Mr. McCurdy with an Honorary Membership in the RCAF Association.

Following Mr. McCurdy's remarks in which he expressed complete surprise at being so honoured and great pleasure in accepting the membership, a huge three-tier Anniversary cake with 95 candles ablaze was piped to the head table. The three layers, representing the 50th Anniversary of Powered Flight; the 35th Anniversary of the RCAF and the 10th Anniversary of the RCAF Association, were then cut in succession by Mr. McCurdy, Air Marshal Campbell and Air Marshal Curtis while the Band played 'Happy Birthday' and a memorable annual dinner was brought to a close.

The RCAF's Chief of Air Staff, Air Marshal Hugh Campbell, who has always been keenly interested in Association activity and whose encouragement and help have been invaluable, addressed the convention at its final business session on Saturday morning. He referred to the Anniversaries which have in this year drawn public attention to Canada's place in air history and achievements and outlined the role of the RCAF today. He spoke of the assistance the RCAF Association has been, and can continue to be to the RCAF and suggested how important a job the Association can do in informing the public of the advances in aeronautical science and in air matters generally.

Air Marshal Campbell then presented for the first time the Mynarski Trophy to the RCAF Station whose married quarters Community Council makes the most effective use of its resources in developing a recreation program suited to the needs of the children and youths living there. The trophy had been presented to the RCAF during the National Convention in 1958 by the Polish Wings of the Association and it was a demonstration of the RCAF's high regard for those Wings and the Association that the award in its first year should be made at the Convention. The winning station was RCAF Station Parent and the Mynarski Trophy was presented to the Commanding Officer, W/C C.S. Yarnell by Air Marshal Campbell. The Association was honoured and pleased to have the ceremony take place at the convention and to have the opportunity to congratulate Station Parent, not only through the C.O., but through Flight Sergeant Gordon Faulkner, the recreation director of the station whose enthusiasm and drive were in a large measure responsible for the program.

The Officers' Mess at RCAF Station St. Hubert was again the centre of convention activity on Saturday at noon when the delegates were the guests of Air Vice Marshal W.R. MacBrien Air Officer Commanding, Air Defence Command, and his staff for luncheon. At one-thirty o'clock the group moved to the Command Operations Centre for a briefing on Air Defence procedures and then visited a CF-100 squadron on the airfield to be shown the facilities and to watch a simulated attack and a low-level fly-past. It was a most informative and interesting afternoon and a most appropriate schedule for the final afternoon of the convention.

At six o'clock that evening the National President, Air Marshal Curtis, and the newly elected Second Vice-President, Phil Connell, were interviewed on a coast-to-coast television program by Mr. Peter Stursberg of the CBC. The telecast, originating from the convention floor of the hotel, explained the make-up and function of the Bomarc missile and discussed this new weapon. The choice of the time and place for the telecast and the appearance of two national officers provided the Association some very worth-while publicity.

Two formal social events, both highly enjoyable, completed the round of the Ninth Annual Convention activity. #306 Wing entertained at a dance on Saturday night at their Wing quarters and on Sunday morning, beginning at six o'clock, the Host Wing Committee served a continuous and delightfully refreshing continental breakfast for the delegates just before they left the hotel. Although sleepiness was overtaking both the hosts and the delegates, the stimulation of friendliness and fellowship soon dispersed all weariness and the "au revoir" will long remain the happy note of an informative, impressive enjoyable and exciting convention.

1.1 It is believed that the above summary of activity was written by F/L Ross Rowlands who was in attendance at the convention in his official capacity as on-site RCAF Liaison Officer to the RCAF Association. His office of work was located at the RCAF Association National Headquarters, Beaver Barracks, 424 Metcalfe St., Ottawa, ON.

2. **WINGS FORMED 1959-1968**

2.1. The records will show that a total of 24 Wings were formed during this period and most unfortunately, a total of 20 Wings were closed or ceased to operate. The basic distribution was as follows:-

Group Name	No. of Wings at 1958	No. of Wings Formed 1959-68		No. of Wings Closed 1959-68
Maritime	20	1		3
Quebec	9	4		5
Ontario	33	10		6
Manitoba	3	2		3
Saskatchewan	5	-		1
Alberta	5	2	1	
B.C.(includes USA)	<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>		<u>1</u>
Totals	77	24		20

2.2 The actual listing of Wings/Groups in detail is reflected in the following charts:-

- (a) group3.cht - Group/Wings Membership Count3/59-3/62 & 7/63
- (b) group4.cht - Group/Wings Membership Count.....7/64-7/68
- (c) chart.n27 - Individual Wing's Membership Count..3/59-3/62 & 7/63
- (d) chart.n13 - Individual Wing's Membership Count ..7/64 - 7/68

2.3 **THE BEST OF TIMES.....THE WORST OF TIMES**

2.3.1. The loss of 20 Wings and the gain of 24 Wings tell a tale of growing pains for this young Association, while giving every indication of persevering “through difficulties, to the stars”. Needless to say, 1959-68 was both a very busy and a very difficult era in the history of Canada and of the world in general. In retrospect, these were the days when the western world lived in awe of an expanding Communist environ, while keeping a watchful eye in anticipation of the possible explosion of a Cold War into a Hot War. Canada and the RCAF had already given some contribution in support to the USA in the Korean conflict and at the same time, the USA was busily engaged in the Vietnam conflict plus the Cuban missile crisis of 1962. However, let us review some of the major intertwining events in the life of the RCAF and the RCAF Association.

2.3.1. **BLACK FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH, 1959**

A tremendous wealth of information has been recorded to cover the development and test flights of the AVRO CF-105 Arrow. This aircraft, renowned to be NORAD’s greatest potential weapon as an interceptor was designed and built in Canada. Its primary role was to be a deterrent to long range bomber attacks. However, in hot pursuit of the development of the Arrow was the

development of long range ICBMs.(Inter-Continental Ballistic Missiles). The development of these missiles somewhat thwarted the threat of long-range bombing and in turn, the development of the Arrow. It was in the House of Parliament, on Friday 20th of February, 1959, that the then Prime Minister, The Honourable John G. Diefenbaker, announced the cancellation of the Arrow Program.....the day that some 15,000 AVRO employees lost their jobs. Most interestingly, coincidental with the Black Friday's incident, a meeting of the National Executive Council of the RCAF Association was being held in Ottawa. In Ottawa and in attendance at this meeting as a member of the NEC, was the then President of Ontario Group, Mr. George Penfold and in a letter, (published in Airforce, Spring 1997, Vol.21 No.1) he writes:-

“ Motivated by the CBC's Avro Arrow program, I offer you my recollections of “Black Friday”, 20 Feb 1959, concerning the cancellation of the Arrow. That week I represented the National Executive Committee (NEC) of the RCAF Association at a meeting at Air Force Headquarters in Ottawa. On 20 Feb, A/M Hugh Campbell, then the Chief of the Air Staff, gave us a briefing on the status and projects of the RCAF. During the presentation A/M Campbell's aide interrupted us with an important message for the chief. Campbell accepted the chit, read it, and then carried on with his presentation, tucking the message in his tunic pocket. No mention was made of its content, no consternation, no surprise whatsoever was evident. In retrospect, I conclude that A/M Campbell expected the advice.

We found out the news when we adjourned for lunch at the RCAF Officers' Mess. The whole place was abuzz with it. That morning, Prime Minister John Diefenbaker had announced to Parliament that the Arrow program had been cancelled!

That NEC meeting was chaired by A/M W.A. Curtis (Ret.), then the Association's National President. As former Chief of the Air Staff, he had overseen the formulation of specifications for the Arrow. Upon retirement, he became a vice president of Avro, responsible for ensuring that the requirements which he and his RCAF staff had formulated were indeed being met. Much turmoil and discussion ensued at our luncheon. Naturally, different views were taken and freely expressed.

When we reassembled our meeting, A/M Curtis took immediate control of our assembly which had been suggesting with suitable descriptive adjectives, an immediate adjournment of the NEC in favour of an immediate meeting at the House of Commons to hang the prime minister - not in effigy but in actuality - and various means to effect this opportunity were suggested.

I shall never forget the words with which A/M Curtis terminated this discussion and put things into proper perspective. This physically slight little man, really about 5'9" in height (but nine feet tall in my estimation ever thereafter), who all of those present had the most to lose by the Arrow cancellation, which we thought arbitrary and ill-considered, said, “Now hold on a minute, everyone! First we are Canadians and dedicated airmen. Second, we think the PM is wrong! I think he is wrong! But as faithful Canadians we should hope that our elected PM is right! And if that aircraft is not needed by a Canada at war within the next 20 years, then the PM will have

been proven to have been right. Now let's get back to the agenda for which we came here!"

I saw and heard a great Canadian that day! I wish that more Canadians could possess and show that kind of personal self-sacrifice for the ultimate benefit of our country. Such was done over and over again from 1939-1945! Why have we forgotten so soon?" (Sgd.) George E. Penfold.

N.B. Mr. Penfold is a Past National President of this Association who was elected at the National Convention held in Regina, 30 Sep-2 Oct, 1965. He presently resides in Don Mills, ON, and is a member of 408/437 (Toronto-York) Wing.

2.3.2 **THE CELEBRATION OF 50 YEARS OF FLIGHT IN CANADA**

It was on February 23rd, 1909, when J.A.D. McCurdy made his first flight in the "Silver Dart" at Beddeck, Nova Scotia. It is recorded that of this flight, Alexander Graham Bell was heard to say:-

"This may seem to be a small matter at the present, but when flying machines have become common and aerial locomotion, a well organized and established mode of transit, the origin of the art in Canada will become a matter of historical interest."

N.B. J.A.D. McCurdy, is the same Air Commodore J.A.D. McCurdy, who attended this Association's National Convention held in Montreal, PQ, May, 1959.

2.3.3 **HER MAJESTY, QUEEN ELIZABETH II, VISITS CANADA SEP/59**

It was in concert with Her Majesty's visit to Ottawa, September 19th, 1959, that the unveiling of the Commonwealth War Memorial, at Green Island, took place. The tablet was erected in memory of all airmen killed in Canada during World War II, while undergoing training under the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan (BCATP) and who had no known grave. For the occasion, family members of the deceased airmen were flown to Ottawa by the Royal Air Force and the Royal Canadian Air Force and during their stay in Ottawa, were hosted and billeted by 410 Wing Members.

2.3.4 **THE ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE BENEVOLENT FUND**

In its original Constitution By-law and throughout the life of the RCAF Association, the Association continues to pledge its support to the RCAF Benevolent Fund. Why this interminable love affair between the two organizations? Here is some background information as told in 1961 by Mr. Stanley Phillips, MBE, Executive Secretary to the Fund.

"The RCAF Benevolent Fund was founded as a trust in 1935 with the gift to the RCAF of

a sum of money to commemorate the part played by Canadians in the flying services during the First World War. (Royal Naval Air Service, Royal Flying Corps and Royal Air Force). In 1944 this was expanded by the establishment of a Corporation under federal law with the same aims and object - to relieve distress and promote the well-being of serving personnel as well as former members of the RCAF and their dependents. The capital was provided by surplus profits of Second World War canteens and messes and the RCAF share of prize money for a total of \$3,898,157.00 plus \$555,000.00 from the original trust.

The fund is supported today by RCAF service institutes, voluntarily contributing one percent of their gross sales and by numerous gifts from the public. It is designed as a perpetuating entity, in the hope that assistance will always be available to aid Air Force personnel and their dependents who encounter financial difficulties beyond their resources.”

N.B. The Royal Canadian Air Force Benevolent Fund remains a household word or term to the family and dependents of all ex and serving airforce personnel residing in Canada or scattered around the Globe. The Benevolent Fund and the Association continue to share accommodation at the same address. First at Beaver Barracks, 424 Metcalfe St, until 1991 and presently at 100 Metcalfe St., Ottawa, ON.

2.3.5 ABOUT THE WORLD VETERANS FEDERATION

The World Veterans Federation was first mentioned in the Minutes of the 1953 Annual General Meeting of the RCAF Association. However, although the consensus was to join after being invited to do so, it was not until Mr. George Penfold gave an excellent report to the Annual General Meeting held in Winnipeg, May 1961, that a wealth of information regarding this organization was actually documented for the benefit of the membership.

Mr. Penfold, then Chairman to the National Executive Council of the RCAF Association, was elected to be a delegate to the W.V.F. General Assembly in Paris, France, May 8-12, 1961 and in reporting to the Association's AGM in Winnipeg, he stated as follows:-

“I should mention first a few facts about the World Veterans Federation. It was formed first just 10 years ago. I think five veterans organizations representatives met in France and formed an Association which would welcome all veterans groups in the world who would work together to support policies which serve the cause of world peace based on freedom and independence of nations, to support the United Nations, to implement the Declaration of Human Rights, to strengthen the bonds of friendship among veterans throughout the world. The W.V.F. has grown steadily in strength and numbers ever since, until at their Ninth General Meeting in Paris 155 different member war veterans and war victims groups were represented from 45 different nations, approximately 20,000,000 individual members.

The W.V.F.. is governed by the decisions of the General Assembly which now meets every two years. Each nation may send up to 12 delegates from its member groups and has one full vote on measures for decision. It is directed by a Council, each member nation naming a Council member, which Council meets every year, its actions in the intervening year being ratified by the next Assembly. New members are admitted by a vote of the Assembly after submission of applications to the W.V.F. which must meet certain conditions such as the right of free assembly and decision within the applicant's country, and so on. At this 1961 Assembly, veterans groups were admitted from new countries such as, Dahomey, Gabon, Ivory Coast, the Malagasy Republic, Niger, Upper Volta, and new associations were admitted from Canada, Ghana, Korea, Norway and the United States. Our Canadian new member was the War Amputations of Canada. The W.V.F.'s work is in many fields but can be classified mainly under four headings.

1) Rehabilitation of the disabled. 2) Land settlement. 3.) Legislation for the welfare of veterans. 4.) Projects directed towards encouraging international understanding. These activities are often interlocking, of course.

The work of the Federation is financed by dues collected from member organizations and through voluntary contributions. A major part of the funds is raised in the U.S.A. by the World Veterans Fund, Inc. A parallel organization named the World Veterans Federation has been established in Luxembourg.”

Mr. Penfold then proceeded to give a summarization of the meeting in general. However, another of the very many interesting observations he shared in his discourse at this AGM is as follows:- Quote - Re the Committee which had to do with Rehabilitation and Social Affairs. Here I may say that Canada and Canadians are the envy of the world for the scope and quality of its veterans legislation and the work being done by the Canadian Government Department of Veterans Affairs in rehabilitation of veterans. We in Canada take for granted that veterans have the right to the absolute best of treatment and restorative techniques available with which veterans may be enabled to take their place in society though disabled. This is certainly not always so in other countries, and it is here that the W.V.F. plays a valuable role by providing information on practices which are helpful to veterans and to nations, by lending material aid as well as advice and guidance on actual rehabilitation projects, by suggesting legislation of better organized countries to those member associations searching for ways and means of improving their circumstances, and so on.Unquote.

In concluding the discourse on the W.V.F., Mr. Penfold stated that, “ Canada will never be in a better position to make a contribution positively to world peace than it is at the present time. By our maximum effort to lend a helping hand to the new nations of the world, both materially and by sound advice out of our own experience, we can be a strong force towards guidance to the belief and practice of true democracy.”

2.3.6

R.C.A.F. ASSOCIATION MAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

The proposal for the Presentation of a "Man of the Year Award" was submitted by the National Executive Council to the delegates in attendance at the 1959 Annual General Meeting. The opening paragraph to the proposal reads as follows:-

"The 'Man of the Year' Award is conceived to recognize the outstanding contribution of a member of the Association in the achievement of RCAF Association aims and objects. It is intended to honour the performance of one whose skill, enthusiasm, inspiration, direction, or leadership in Association activities is above ordinary. It is intended to acknowledge his superior performance throughout the year rather than any single brilliant action. It is intended to recognize the achievements of one whose influence in his Wing and in his group has been beneficial, either directly or indirectly, to the Association as a national body."

The first presentation of this award was made at the 1960 Annual General Meeting, held in Toronto, May 19th-20th-21st. Attending this Convention as a Special Guest, was Group Captain J.E. "Johnny" Johnson, CBE, DSO, DFC, the famed WWII Fighter Pilot of the R.A.F. Group Captain Johnson made the presentation. However, it was announced that the winner of the award was Mr. P.J. "Pat" Haberlin of 302 Wing, Quebec City, who had died of a heart attack in February and his wife, Joan, who was in attendance, accepted the award which was made posthumously. This award was a tribute to his devotion to the RCAF Association and his inspiring leadership which he rendered over the years.

- N.B. (1) This "Man of the Year" Award is now recognized as "Member of the Year".
(2) To this date of writing, the 1960 AGM is the only AGM recorded to have been held in Toronto, Ontario.

2.3.7

R.C.A.F. ASSOCIATION 'WING OF THE YEAR' AWARD

This award received full approval at the 1960 AGM. The purpose of the award was: -

"To recognize the achievements of a Wing of the RCAF Association in any one year or over a period of years in furthering the Aims and Objects of the Association, cognizance being taken of the leadership provided by the Wing Executive. The Award to be made annually in accordance with the decision of the judges, but, should no Wing be considered to merit distinction in the opinion of the judges, then no award need be made in that year."

At the 1961 AGM, the then National President, Mr. Len Baldock, announced that the Selection Committee had unanimously agreed that the Wing of the Year Award be presented to No. 252 (Lord Beaverbrook) Wing, Fredericton, N.B. He made particular reference to the excellence of the submission by the Wing for this award and congratulated them wholeheartedly on their achievements. Mr. George Watts, President of 252 Wing, accepted the award on behalf of the Wing.

N.B. This Award is presented annually at the Annual General Meeting of the Association on condition that the Awards Selection Committee was able to make a selection from the Wings nominated for the award.

2.3.8 **THE RCAF ASSOCIATION AWARD OF MERIT**

Air Vice-Marshal Wait, Chairman of the Awards Committee, in his report to the 1961 Annual General Meeting, stated that it was the Committee's feeling that the eligibility of those nominated for the Award of Merit be clarified and requested that the terms of eligibility be redefined as follows:

Eligibility

- (i) Any elected member of the National Executive Council upon retirement.
- (ii) Group Presidents and Group Secretaries upon retirement.
- (iii) Any Wing member who has done outstanding work over an extended period, or the performance of a brilliant action that has brought credit to the Association.

N.B. It is understood that in the early days, commencing at the Annual General Meeting of 1962, the presentation of this Award to members of the Association was conducted after the conclusion of the business sessions and therefore the names of the first recipients were not recorded in the Minutes of the AGM. This Award still remains very popular with the membership of the Association and is usually presented at the Wing or Group level.

2.3.9 **A TREASURED GIFT - A 33-1/3 (LONG PLAYING) RECORD**

To date of writing, this is the only record known to have been produced on a commercial basis, on which the "Opening Ceremony" of a National Convention was recorded. Again, it happened in Toronto, at the Tenth National Convention, held on 19-21 May, 1960, at the Royal York Hotel. The cover-sheet reads:-

"The remembrance of gallant deeds and the sacrifice of fellow airmen of the Royal Canadian Air Force, the Commonwealth Air Forces and the Air Forces of Allied Nations has a prominent part in the ceremony

of meetings of the RCAF Association. It is appropriate then that at each National Convention, when delegates representing all the members of the Association are gathered together, a service of tribute and remembrance should be conducted. This observance has become a part of the opening ceremony at each annual convention and is included in this recording.”

About the record Produced by - F/L William H. Morley
Music - Air Transport Band, RCAF
Conductor - F/L Clifford Hunt
Soloist - Sgt. Thomas McGee
Commentators - F/L Ross Rowlands
 Sgt. John Wiseman
Original Composition & Musical Arrangements - F/S Eric Ford

On the record 1. RCAF March Past 2. RCAF March Past (Trio Slow Time)
 3. O Canada 4. God Save the Queen 5. Invocation 6. Night Fall in Camp
 7. Airmen's Prayer -High Flight - Airmen's Prayer 8. Reveille 9. NATO
Salute 10. Land of Hope and Glory 11. Closing 12. On the Quarterdeck

About the Band - Since the first public concert for the patients and staff of Old Chrisite Street Hospital in Toronto sixteen years ago, the Air Transport Command Band has come to occupy a high place among Canada's foremost musical organizations. Organized as the Central Air Command Band, it later was named Air Training Command Band and in September 1959 it became the Band of Air Transport Command. From a nucleus of twenty-five musicians the personnel has gradually increased to its present fifty-four men. This comprises an organization capable of performing any type of musical requirement for the Royal Canadian Air Force from a full dress ceremonial parade, a modern symphonic band concert, dance bands of various sizes or a salon group suitable the background music for a Mess Dinner or Investiture.

N.B. Truly a magnificent recording and a treasured memento for members of the Association.

2.3.10 **THE BADGE AND NATIONAL BANNER OF THE RCAFA**

It is understood that the original art work of Graphic Artist, Harold Diceman, were submitted to Clarenceaux, King of Arms, and approved by Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth the Second, May 1960.

The National Banner was formally presented to the RCAF Association at the Twelfth National Convention held in Halifax, N.S., on 27-28 Sept., 1962. His Honour, the Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Nova Scotia, made the presentation on behalf of our Patron, Her Majesty The Queen.

The original design of the Banner carried a ribbon on the bottom of the crest which would enable any Wing wishing to purchase their own Banner to have their Wing number and name placed on the ribbon. The rest is history, for thus began the inclusion of the marching in of the Wing Banners at the "Opening Ceremony" of each National Convention.

2.3.11 **OTHER RCAF ASSOCIATION AWARDS**

The apparent and slow growth in the membership of the Association remained very high on the list of priorities for the membership in the whole and as a consequence was the subject of many discussions and workshops at conventions. Regrettably, although many possible remedial suggestions were put forward and in some cases implemented, the situation remained unchanged. It was at the 1964 Annual General Meeting that the National President in his annual report made the following announcement:-

"At their first meeting in November, the National Executive took follow-up action on last year's Convention decision to carry out a Membership Drive, by indicating that the initiative for the Campaign should come from the Groups and Wings with such support from the National Office as was appropriate.

To provide incentives for the Campaign, four trophies and awards were instituted:

- (1) The Group Efficiency Award, to be awarded this year to the Group making the greatest contribution to the success of the Membership Drive.
- (2) The Grand President's Trophy, to be competed for by Wings with over 150 members.
- (3) The President's Trophy to be competed for by Wings starting out with less than 150 members.
- (4) The Vice-President's Trophy which is open to competition between individual members and which will be awarded to that member making the greatest contribution to his Wing's Membership Drive."

2.3.11.1 At this AGM, the following presentations were made for this first time:

- (1) The Group Efficiency Award was presented by A/M Campbell, our National President, to Alberta Group. Mr. Allan R. Craig, President of Alberta Group, accepted the Trophy.
- (2) The Grand President's Trophy was presented by A/M Curtis to 437 (York) Wing. Mr. Gordon Ruland, President of the Wing, accepted the Trophy.
- (3) The President's Trophy was presented by A/M Campbell to 446 (Brampton) Wing. Mr. Vernon Hamilton, 446 Wing's delegate accepted the Trophy.
- (4) The Vice President's Trophy was presented by Mr. George Penfold to Mr. John H. Harvey of 437 (York) Wing.

2.3.11.2 At the 1964 AGM, two additional Trophies were presented for the first time.

These were:

- (1) Wing Bulletin Trophy - Over 125 Membership Category This award was won by No. 404 (Kitchener-Waterloo) Wing for their bulletin, "Wing Ding". Mr. Morris Yule President of 404 Wing accepted the Trophy from Mr. Pope McMahon, President of 201 (Confederation) Wing, one of the co-host Wings of the AGM.
- (2) Wing Bulletin Trophy - Under 125 Membership Category This award was won by No. 444 (Scarborough) Wing for their bulletin, "Plane Torque". Mr. David Stubbs, President of 444 Wing accepted the Trophy from Mr. Bill Young, President of No. 200 (Summerside) Wing, one of the co-host Wing of the AGM.

N.B. The 1964 AGM was held in Charlottetown, P.E.I., 1-3 October.

2.3.12 **THE DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE**

It was indeed, with a certain amount of apprehension, that the attempt was made to capture the spirit of the Association at this critical time in its history and in the history of the Royal Canadian Air Force. However, at the helm of our organization at this time was none other than our very popular and highly respected National President, Air Marshal Hugh Campbell, retired Chief of the Air Staff, who in his opening address at the 1964 AGM, delivered an exceptional and most appropriate dissertation, which undoubtedly, helped to steady the course of the Association through the turbulence of the day. The following are excerpts from his speech:-

“Defence Trends

Since our last convention in Vancouver, the Government has issued a paper on Defence which was followed by some amplifying statements and Memoranda. Following the publication of this paper, your administrative committee and your Executive Council studied it to some length.

Before doing so, however, they set out a firm guiding principle for themselves which might very well be adopted by this Convention.

That principle was:-

That the White Paper and any subsequent ministerial statements should be analysed constructively and that it be given credit and endorsed where such was due.

On the other hand, any disagreements with it should be stated clearly and supported explicitly.

This approach to the problem to me, and I hope to you seems eminently sound.

Also at this time let me say that any disagreement we may have with it does not stem from an old school tie attitude, but rather from a desire to take a constructive and helpful approach to its proposals.

It is true that we cherish the history of the Service we support and are jealous of its future, but above all our concern is that Canada should have a strong Air Force, regardless of its designation, to meet her Defence Deterrent requirements, and to this end we try to serve as the Government's conscience.

As a background to our discussion, it might be helpful if I summarized the substance of the White Paper and subsequent statements.

1. First, the aims and objectives of our country as set out are very admirable indeed and need our support. These are:
 - a) That Canada will continue to maintain her membership in and support NATO.
 - b) That Canada will provide forces for peace keeping activities of the United Nations.
 - c) That Canada has an obligation to continue our contributions to the deterrence of war.
2. In support of these objectives the paper sets our requirements for:
 - a) Forces for the direct protection of Canada which can be deployed as required.
 - b) Forces-in-being as part of the deterrent in European operations.
 - c) Maritime forces- in-being as a contribution to the deterrent.
 - d) Forces-in-being for UN peacekeeping operations.
 - e) Reserve forces and mobilization potential.

3. Reorganization of the Forces to effect a maximum of economy by the following actions:

- a) Integration of National Defence Headquarters into one Pyramid.
- b) Setting up combined Navy, Army and Air Force Commands in the field, and,
- c) Unifying the Armed Forces into one body.

4. The budget to be arranged in such a manner that 25% of it could be spent on capital equipment each year.

5. Industry would be briefed on future Defence Requirements on a regular basis.

6. Under the Chief of Defence Staff there are to be four functional heads; Chief of Operational Readiness, Chief of Logistics, Chief of Personnel and a Comptroller.

Your Council, as I mentioned, studied the major items in detail, listened to briefings and speeches by responsible Ministers, and came to the following conclusions:

- 1) Council agrees with and wholeheartedly supports the aims and objectives as set out for our country and the force distribution associated therewith.
- b) (i) It agrees with the aim of effecting as many economies as possible, consistent with the maintenance of a sound military capability.

It points out that the ultimate in economy from a financial point of view would be the total disbandment of the Armed Forces.

This may be a bit extenuated, but it serves to illustrate the point that economies can be carried out to the point where you would end up with Military Forces in name only and completely lacking in military capability.

- (ii) It agrees with the integration of Planning and Policy Staffs.

The Council agrees with combined Commands where the function has a requirement for the efforts of two or more Services. This policy is not new and has been in force for some time. The British and Americans also follow this policy to a greater or lesser degree.

- (iii) The Council cannot find any objective reasons for agreeing with the Unification of the Armed Forces.

Indeed there are many important reasons why it cannot, bearing in mind the requirements for Military Deterrent Forces-in-being in peace time.

These Military Deterrent Forces in peace time require:

- (a) An Emergency reaction capability -
- (b) An Emergency mobility capability -
- (c) An Emergency staying or lasting capability

We do not believe that a Unified Force would have these capabilities 10 years from now, say 1975, particularly when we recognize all the restrictions that would encircle and enslave a single service in the meantime, particularly when it had lost its esprit de corps; and particularly when the basis for keen competition disappears.

Competition has been the life blood of our country. When it ceases to exist the rate of progress declines. Competition engenders new ideas, it requires a critical examination of all programmes and projects.

(iv) The Council agrees with the objectives of devoting a minimum of 25% of the Defence Budget to capital equipment.

(v) The Council believed that the abolition of the Chief of the Air Staff position was a mistake.

We now have an R.C.A.F. without a leader or spokesman.

An Air Force Adviser, if one is proposed, cannot fill the gap.

An adviser who is without responsibility for his Service and who in addition has a full time job, has never been effective.

In short the R.C.A.F. today can be compared to a tribe without a Chief. The future results would seem to be crystal clear.

(vi) The Council agrees that Industry should be briefed on future Capital equipment programmes. The idea makes sense.”

A/M Campbell then proceeded to give an update of the over-all aircraft equipment improvement programmes achieved since 1959 including giving credit to the Government for its agreement with the U.S. for the provisioning of the Nuclear Weapons System for the R.C.A.F. He then proceeded as follows:-

“On the other side of the coin, since the Vancouver Convention of last year we find that a number of R.C.A.F. Units and formations have been closed, disbanded or reduced in size. Sixteen stations extending from Torbay to Vancouver, including SASKATOON and LINCOLN PARK, have been closed. Some seven or more units, including two Fighter Squadrons and the GOLDEN HAWKS, have been disbanded, plus a number of AUXILIARY units. Fifteen regular force units have been reduced in size.

The Council expresses to you its grave concern in the lessening of the capability of the R.C.A.F. Contribution to Defence

At this point the Council feels that it should bring to your attention also the size and extent of Canada's contribution to Defence for the continued maintenance of Peace vis-avis her Allies.

A sound basis on which to judge whether or not we are paying our fair share for the benefits we enjoy is to compare ourselves with our partners.

It is on this basis that we can judge whether or not we are looked upon with respect, or, alternatively, whether we are regarded as a poor relation, accepting the shade of our neighbour's umbrella.

There are various ways in which we can compare our contributions.

- 1) Per capita of manpower under arms
- 2) Percentage of National Budget devoted to Defence
- 3) Percentage of Gross National Product devoted to Defence
- 4) Cost of Defence on a per capita basis

I am sure that you can take any one of these criteria in isolation and argue that it is not a fair basis for comparison.

The Council feels that the fairest judgement can be made by looking at our standing on all of these factors collectively.

To this end a limited research of NATO statistics and documents show that:-

- a) Per capita of manpower under arms.(The bottom of the scale)
- b) Percentage of National Budget devoted to Defence. (The bottom of the scale)
- c) Percentage of Gross National Product devoted to Defence. (Next door to the bottom of the scale)
- d) Cost of Defence on a per capita basis. (Next door to the bottom of the scale)

Looking at all of these together, the Council suggest to you that Canada is not paying her share and that if we continue to appear so low down on the scale of effort, and if we continue to enjoy peace for another 10 years, we should thank our neighbours for allowing us Canadians to have sheltered in the shade of their Defence Deterrent Umbrella.

The Council suggests to you that we, the Association, have a responsibility in this regard.

During the course of their deliberations, the Council came to a firm conclusion that Canada's Armed Forces have been notably loyal to political direction over the years and that, therefore, no government need fear any intransigence on the part of the Military, particularly when its direction is enlightened.

Future of the Association

The Council has studied the future of our Association. Many people have asked what the future holds - if the future of the Force is clouded. The Council believes that the future of the Association is very clear, very clear indeed.

The Council thinks that during this period of re-examination with our national security, our country need an Air Force Association more than ever before.

You are the people who know what the Air Force has done to assist in this country's survival. You are the people who know what the country need in the way of an Air Force. You are the people who can interpret the requirements to your friends.

With this basis, the Council would say that the future of the Association is clear. The opportunity exists for it to march onward with added vigor.

Finally, the Council knows of no more satisfying task or objective that you can pursue. On this basis, Ladies and Gentlemen, may we strive to make this Convention the most objective and most successful so far."

FOOTNOTE: As is customary at National Conventions, it is the duty of the National Executive Council to ensure that whenever problems or issues are presented to the membership which merit to be mandated for action, Council must also ensure that resolution or resolutions are in place to set the course for such action. In this case, a symposium was convened to examine the proposed Integration of the Armed Forces and many appropriate resolutions were concurred in and directed to the Federal Government and the Department of National Defence.

2.3.12.1 **SOME HISTORICAL DATES**

The following dates are listed in order to keep things in perspective and in view of the fact that they relate, in some degree, to the address given by A/M Campbell:

1. 31 July, 1964 - Air Marshal C.R. Dunlop, the last Chief of the Air Staff retires.
2. 1 August, 1964 - Air Chief Marshal F.R. Miller, appointed the first Chief of the Defence Staff.
3. 1 August, 1964 - Air Marshal C.R. Slemon, retires in Colorado Springs, USA, as the last serving Officer of the original 1924 Royal Canadian Air Force.

4. 1 February, 1968 - Unification of Canada's Armed Forces becomes effective and with common rank and trades structure. RCAF ranks were replaced by Army equivalents.

2.3.13 **AND WHAT OF OUR WINGS?**

Forming a Wing did not appear to be a difficulty. The steps to take and the procedure to follow are fairly logical, and so is the criteria to be met. And there the buck stops and the problems of managing the Wing begin. Over the past twenty years there have been successes and failures----of the 117 Wings formed, 41 have failed. It might be safe to say that the primary cause of failure appear to be a combination of declining interest and declining care-taking. The successful Wings will confirm that there is work to be done and that there are challenges to overcome. In addition, all the members of the National and Group Executive Councils continuously extol the importance of Wings both to the Association and to their respective communities across the land. A brief review of Wings operation reveal a variety areas which contribute to Wings' activities, including:-

- a. Air Cadet Squadron sponsorship and/or support.
- b. Clubroom rental and management.
- c. Clubroom ownership and management
- d. Bon Voyage management and support
- e. Sponsorship of Military Band and RCAF Band Concerts
- f. Financial support to World Veterans Federation
- g. Organized Hospital visits to Veterans
- h. Membership support and involvement with the Canadian Arthritis Society.
- j. Agency representation in the RCAF Benevolent Fund.
- k. Sponsorship of Group and National Conventions
- l. Sponsorship of Girl Cadettes training program
- m. Participation, sponsorship and in some cases management of Ceremonial Parades, including Battle of Britain and Armistice Day.
- n. Adoption of Underprivileged Children through the Unitarian Services Foster Parents Plan.
- o. Participation and management of fund-raising activities, including, Bingos, raffle ticket sales, magazine subscription sales, etc.
- 16. Acquisition and loan of hospital equipments to veterans, the handicapped and to meet some community needs.
- r. And the list goes on and on and with invaluable success being achieved through the astute participation of the Ladies Auxiliary by Wings so blessed with their sponsorship.

2.3.14 **SOME REFLECTIONS 1958-68**

All in all, a very busy and somewhat exciting decade for the membership. Undoubtedly, there is an urgent desire to see that this Association flourishes. From the various panel discussions

and symposiums that were held, it became very evident that issues, problems and many suggestions were being afforded careful and exploratory scrutiny. Some of the topics that were exposed to this kind of exercise included:-

- (a) Aviation Education program in Canada
- (b) A RCAF Association Foundation
- (c) Membership Drive and Campaigns
- (d) Communist Ideology
- (e) Wings Annual Programme
- (f) The Association's magazine, "Wings in Space"
- (g) Integration of the Armed Forces
- (h) Nuclear Weapons in the Armed Forces
- (j) RCAF Re-Settlement Program
- (k) RCAFA Youth Aeronautics & Aerospace Project
- (l) Review of Veterans' Benefits
- (m) Air Cadet Squadron Sponsorship
- (n) RCAF Association National Project
- (o) Feasibility and Design of a Light Weight Blue Blazer

2.3.14.1 As an off-shoot to some of these efforts, our records show some progress in the following instances:-

(a) OUR LARGEST WING EVER - Despite some failures and some successes, the competitive spirit among Wings never seem to falter. Hence it is safe to record the success of 700 (Edmonton) Wing, which during this era, grew in membership to be the largest Wing of the Association, achieving a staggering count of 1,006 members at year's end, July, 1964. At this time of writing, this record still stands up to and including documented membership statistics to June 1997.

(b) A STARTLING REVELATION - This happened at the 1964 National Convention - The symposium entitled, "Wings' Annual Programme" - Chairman: Mr. L. Schedlin, Ontario Group, Pres.
Panel Mr. R. Craig, Alberta Group, Pres.
Members: Mr. A.T. Goodwin, Atlantic Gp., Pres.
G/C A. Jardine, C.O. RCAF Stn. Penhold

It was in his opening remarks that the Chairman made the following statement that between 1956 and 1964 the Association gained only 2,603 members and within the same nine year period lost 17,023 members. Needless to say, this stirred a somewhat long and healthy discussion from which a detailed report was developed with the following recommendations:-

1. This report to be edited and mailed to all Group and Wing Presidents
2. A special Committee to be appointed to implement recommendations of this report.
3. Group Captain Jardine's report on Aeronautics and Space Projects given at the Convention to be given immediate consideration, and a proposed plan of operation, list of books, magazines, etc., be mailed to Wings at the earliest.
4. Suggest reorganization plan of 410 (Ottawa) Wing be used as a basis of Wings' organization programme and made available to Wings as soon as possible

FOOTNOTE - Perhaps the proper title to the above sub-paragraph should read "The Birth of the Booklets" rather than "A Startling Revelation" in view of the fact that the 410 (Ottawa) Wing reorganization plan referred to, was actually the booklet entitled "Managing a Wing" which had been introduced to Ontario Group by the Wing.

(c) THROUGHOUT TURBULENCE, COOPERATION - This was confirmed at the 1966 National Convention in a statement made by our General Manager, Mr. Jack Gray, who in his Annual Report said: " I should like to say also at this point that the integration of Canadian Forces Headquarters in Ottawa has had a very direct effect on me personally, because I am continuously in touch with officers in headquarters and whereas previously I dealt solely with the Air Force, I now find myself dealing with representatives of the Navy and Army as well, and I would be less than fair were I not to say that all the people with whom I have done business both officially and unofficially during the past year have been most generous in their attitude and cooperation."

(d) ANOTHER FEE INCREASE - It was at the National Convention held, October 1964, that a fee increase from \$4.00 to \$6.00 was approved, effective 1 Aug 65.

(e) CANADIAN FORCES UPDATE - Major General A.C. Hull, Commander of Air Transport Command, in his address at the 18th National Convention, October 1968, gave the attendees an excellent overview of the 'state of the union' as far as the integrated Forces were concerned. As a small excerpt he said: "The Canadian Forces are presently divided into five Commands, Mobile; Maritime; Air Defence; Air Transport and Training, each with an air element. In addition to these Five Commands there is No. 1 Air Division and No. 4 Brigade Group in Europe to support our NATO commitments. To accomplish the many air tasks, the Canadian Forces have over 1200 aircraft in inventory ranging from the small piston

engined Chipmunk to the huge turbo-prop Yukon. Air Defence Command is part of the North American Air Defence, or NORAD System on which you were briefed at your last general meeting. However, for the benefit of those of you who did not attend last year's meeting, a few words on ADC are in order. Because NORAD has been assigned the responsibility for air defence of the entire continent, ADC Forces are the only Canadian Forces which may operate in Canada NOT under the direct control of a Canadian."

(f) R.C.A.F. MEMORIAL AT TRENTON - At the National Convention, October, 1968, our National President, G/C A. Jardine, (Ret'd.), in his address stated:- "It was my honour and privilege to attend the Battle of Britain parade at Trenton last Sunday - an event which also included the unveiling of the plaque marking the the inauguration of the campaign to construct the R.C.A.F. Memorial at Trenton. It was a very moving occasion and the turnout of our members from Wings in Ontario was outstanding."

(g) EMPIRE LIFE GROUP INSURANCE PLAN - It was also at the 1968 AGM, that our National President stated:- "The Group Insurance Plan of which you have been informed, is now in effect.; and although response was not as good as we had hoped, over 100 members have signed up. I might say that it is necessary to have a minimum of 100 participants to make the plan work and I encourage all of you to keep this in mind, and to ensure that all members of your Wing are aware of the plan. It would be unfortunate if we were to lose the plan due to lack of response."

2.3.15 **SOME RESOLUTIONS IN REVIEW**

2.3.15.1 As a point of interest, here is a sampling of the resolutions which were concurred in during this decade:

(a) To the Federal Government:

1. (1959) That the Government of Canada ensure that the Royal Canadian Air Force continues to exercise its rightful responsibility and role in the air defence of North America.

2. (1968) That the Government of Canada enact a law requiring that all youths between 17 and 19 years of age be required to serve a period of two years in a youth training centre, learning how to be responsible, disciplined citizens before they are given the franchise to vote either in a Provincial or Federal election.

3. (1963) This Association urge the Government of Canada to amend the existing public service pensions adjustment Act of July 1959 to eliminate unfair penalties now suffered by retired personnel of the Armed Forces in receipt of pensions; and, to revise the rates of pension of those who retired some years ago to conform more equitably with those of similar rank now retiring.

(b) To the Royal Canadian Air Force

1..(1960) (i) That this Association grant to all RCAF personnel who are honourably released or retired a complimentary membership card in the Association for a period of six months; and,

(ii) That this Association request the RCAF to advise all personnel upon their honourable release or retirement from the service that they have been granted a complimentary membership card in this Association for a period of six months.

2. (1963) That the RCAF Association recommend to the RCAF the establishment of training courses, in addition to Flying Training courses, to provide some of those Air Cadets who for various reasons are unable to qualify for flight training, with the opportunity to acquire basic training in technical fields related to RCAF operations.

3. (1967) To DND: That the Minister of National Defence be urged most strongly to retain and continue the Golden Centennaires Aerobatic Team as one of his Department's major means of maintaining public awareness of Canada's Military Air Power, and its contribution in the skies of the world toward the maintenance of peace and freedom for all people.

(c) To the RCAF Association:

1. (1963) That the National Executive Council of the RCAF Association establish a defence committee on a permanent basis to study matters of importance to Canadian Defence, and make recommendations and originate information releases to the general membership. This defence committee should be constituted of at least three members with rotating terms of office to maintain continuity, the members to be appointed by the National Executive Council.

2. (1968) That 'Associate Members' be officially recognized by the R.C.A.F. Association at Wing level in a category separate and distinct from that of Regular Members.

3. (1968) That the Rules and Regulations of the RCAF Association be amended upon the recommendation of a committee appointed by the National President to define the qualifications, powers, rights, and duties of such Associate Members; said recommendations to be brought forward to the next annual general meeting for consideration.

4. (1968) (Allpassengers please return to your seats and fasten your seat belts. Then read this one that follows)

"RESOLVED, That delegates registration fees at National Conventions be increased from \$15.00 to not more than \$20.00 per person"

RESOLUTION CARRIED

- 2.3.15. 2 **A SAMPLING OF CONVENTION ATTENDEES** - See Charts attached:
a. Chart n.50 - NEC/Group Reps at the 13th AGM - Sep.63
b. Chart n.16- Wing Attendees Ditto Ditto
c. Chart n.51 - NEC/Group Reps at the 18th AGM - Oct. 68
d. Chart n.17- Accredited Delegates Ditto Ditto

2.3.16 **CENTENNIAL YEAR, 1967**

2.3.16.1 It was not intended that the summaries of two Conventions should be recorded in this decade, however, in view of the fact that 1967 was such an important year in the history of Canada, only Canada's 100th birth year, it is only natural that all members, new joiners as well as old joiners, would be curious to know how our comrades fared, convention-wise, on this auspicious occasion. So here goes, and as it is recorded in the Minutes of the Seventeenth National Convention, held in Montreal, PQ, at the Chateau Champlain Hotel, October 5th-6th-7th, 1967:-

“ Delegates to the Seventeenth Annual Convention arrived in Montreal on Wednesday, October 4th. The RCAF Airlift aircraft from the Maritimes and from the Western Provinces were met by members of the host Wing, (306 Maple Leaf Wing), Expo 67 Hostesses and an RCAF Piper.

The President's Reception, the first official function of the Convention, was held in the spectacular atmosphere of the “Salle de Bal” of the Convention Hotel “Le Chateau Champlain”. Delegates enjoyed this opportunity to renew acquaintances and become oriented to the sumptuous atmosphere of the hotel.

The Opening Ceremony on Thursday 5 October provided an inspiring and solemn start to the Convention's business sessions. A combination of bandsmen from the RCAF Central and Training Command Bands provided martial music for the ceremony, and with the singing of “The Airmen's Prayer”, a spirit of dedication and purpose enveloped those present.

The Luncheon theme on Thursday was “Salute to Industry”, sponsored by various aircraft industries and the Host Wing. Guest Speaker was Mr. John Lynch-Staunton, Pro Mayor of the City of Montreal.

“Groups at Home”, the annual informal entertainment highlight of the Convention, was held on Thursday evening. The imaginative themes and regionally unique foods presented to delegates by the Groups, provided for a most pleasant evening of relaxation and enjoyment.

The Annual Memorial Service and Parade was held at Expo 67's “Place des Nations”. With over 350 Association members, 100 Regular Force Airmen, fifty Air Cadets and fifty India-Burma Squadron members on parade, this was undoubtedly the most moving and inspiring event of the Convention. Wreaths were laid by Mr. G.A. Ault, President RCAF, Air Commodore R.C.

Weston, Senior RCAFA Liaison Officer, Mr. W.A. Brennan, President Quebec Group, and Mr. T.P. Harnett, representing the India-Burma Squadron, whose re-union in Montreal coincided with the Annual RCAFA Convention.

The parade commanded by Mr. Alex Jardine, marched past with Air Marshal W.A. Curtis, Grand President, taking the salute.

On Friday, 6 October, the Luncheon was "A Salute to Air Heroes" with Leslie Roberts, Journalist and Broadcaster, as guest speaker. Mr. Roberts' address was timely and inspiring, and with some of Canada's most famous airmen present, the event was a real highlight of the luncheon programme.

The evening of Friday was a "free evening" for those not wishing to attend the "India-Burma" Squadron re-union. Many delegates visited Montreal and Expo 67, and sampled the delights of both.

Saturday's Award Luncheon was the usual mixture of hilarity and camaraderie with various presentations and awards to members and guests. The luncheon was sponsored by "Canadair" and was chaired by Mr. W.A. Brennan, President of Quebec Group and the Association's "Member of the Year".

The Annual Banquet and Ball was the social highlight of the Convention. General John P. McConnell, Chief of Staff, USAF, was the guest speaker and his address, entitled, "Partnership for Peace" was a major one, covering comprehensively the interplay of Canadian/American co-operation in Defence and other fields, and projecting into the future the need for a continuing close association between our Nations. The speaker was introduced by Air Marshal Hugh Campbell, and thanked by Air Marshal W.A. Curtis.

Following the banquet, dancing continued well into the night in the glittering atmosphere of the "Salle de Bal".

Sunday was a free day for visiting Expo 67, and all delegates took this opportunity to visit the World's Fair.

Delegates departed on Monday, after a "Bon Voyage Brunch" sponsored by the Host Wing. The memories and the pleasant after-glow of the best Convention in Association history went with them, to serve as an inspiration for the future and a re-enforcement of the ties that bind Airmen together wherever they may be."

FOOTNOTE - WE REMEMBER IT WELL.