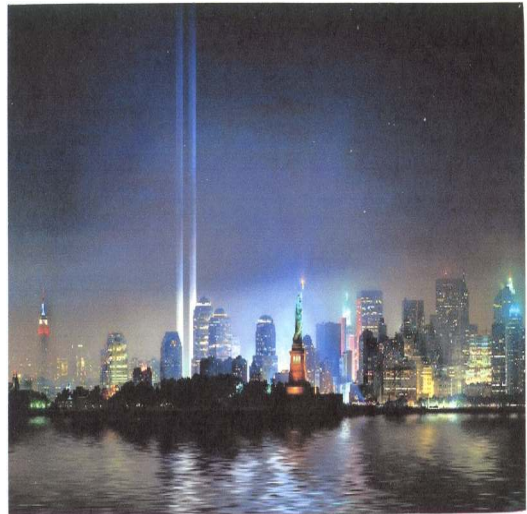


971 RCAF - Air Marshal Slemon Wing

Air Force Association

Newsletter, May 2002



NYC - WTC Memorial - 88 beams

EDITORIALS: Since the inception of our Association in 1983, I have been trying, not too successfully, to infuse some interest for discussions on controversial world topics. The sole bit of flak aimed at me was back in 1987 when I argued that we had far too many generals, wall-to-wall colonels, and nowhere near enough privates and corporals (I still think so). My foray into crop circles did bring some questions but otherwise dead silence. My outbursts over harassments to our museum project fell on deaf ears. Not one to give up easily, I have composed for this issue 2 pages of the history of the Palestinian situation plus, as usual, my own views. I would be happy to publish your critiques in a future newsletter. My Irish blood loves a good argument!

Social Calendar

- 09 Mar 44 of us had a most enjoyable gathering at Shirley and Jim Stewart's.
- 03 April Some 50 of us had a great time helping young Don Swift celebrate his 70th birthday at a dinner organized by his family (we had the pleasure of meeting Shane, Jennifer, and Kelly) at the AFA Officers' Club. Don's career is summarized somewhere in this newsletter.
- 10 Apr Only 9 retirees attended the dining-in for the 78th birthday of the RCAF. Ever-increasing costs for these functions (\$70 per couple this time) have deterred many of us old timers. The evening, however, was most enjoyable with fine food, excellent company, and a guest speaker in the form of Henry Champ, CBC News Correspondent, whose world-wide experiences permitted a most interesting talk.
- 20 Apr 38 of us attended the dinner-play at the Encore in Manitou. Good company and an interesting play although the Encore could use an elevated stage or better seating arrangements because, sitting at our dinner tables, those of us more than half way back did not have a clear view of the stage.
- 01 Jun 1730 at Margit and Roy's. Chinese food. Go east from the intersection of Murray and Constitution. First right, red gravel road, wind around until you find an impressive structure with two flagpoles. **Come prepared to nominate and vote for the 2002-2003 executive!**
- 01 Jul **Dominion Day:** By invitation due to the large number expected. Invitations will be mailed the end of May. 1400-1600 at the El Pomar Center (Penrose House). Our 135th Birthday.
- 20 Jul at Charlene and Bill Champion's. Bill is preparing an up-to-date map for the next newsletter.

CHANGES TO THE 1 MARCH MEMBERSHIP LIST:

Briand: New address: 4165 Greens Drive, 80922, Same phone 574-6933.
Bristow: Change telephone number to 531-7257.
DesGroseilliers: Add e-mail: radisson@worldnet.att.net
Ghyselincks: New phone & e-mail: (253) 565-1535 dghyselincks@attbi.com
Pennie: Add e-mail: 3pennies@adelphia.net

NEW MEMBERS: **Paul and Louise Ellis**, Box 187, 408 W. Bowman Ave., Woodland Park, 80866, (719) 686-7575, Fax 686-7570 rcafret@aol.com

Paul hails from St. John, NB and Louise from Plainfield, NJ. Paul was an air cadet 1952-56 when he joined the RCAF and trained at Crumlin, Centralia, Claresholm, Gimli, and Chatham. He flew Sabres with 441 Sqn, Marville, 1958-62, then spent 9 months each at Falconbridge and Chibougamau.

He left the RCAF in 1963, returning to St. John. In 1966 he re-enlisted as a controller in North Bay and took the SAGE course at Biloxi, Mississippi. He then served at North Bay, Tyndall, Goose Bay, St. Margarets, Cheyenne Mountain, North Bay, and Tyndall where he retired in 1990 after 31 years service.

He and Louise were real estate brokers in Panama City, returning to Colorado in 2001.

DON SWIFT: Don was born in 1932 in Kitchener/Waterloo, but before he could get into too much trouble there his family moved to St. Thomas which he considers his home town. For a year he pursued an accounting career in Detroit then, in 1954, walked across the bridge to Windsor to join the RCAF for a short service commission, training at Centralia, Claresholm, and Portage. He served at Chatham, Trenton, and Winnipeg and, in 1957, married Carmen, his childhood sweetheart. He left the RCAF in 1960 for a Trans Canada Airlines slot which evaporated a few months later due to a surplus of pilots. Not keen on the available crop-dusting and DEW-Line-resupply positions, he and Carmen sailed on the SS Cunard to join the RAF at Hendon. Based at Lyneham, Wiltshire, he flew Bristol Britannias to most parts of the universe. In 1966 they returned to Canada to possibilities with Air Canada and United. United won and he trained in Denver, then flew DC8s, B727s, 737s, and 747s out of New York, Cleveland, Denver, and San Francisco. Retiring at age 60 they moved to Monument.

WINGS PARADES: It is a proud moment when one has surmounted all the obstacles and is eligible to have some dignitary pin a wing on his breast. During WWII, wing parades, in most cases, did not deserve the term "parade". They were usually rushed affairs in any building that happened to be available and with few, if any, relatives or friends in attendance.

Observers, for instance, reached this status on graduation from Navigation school (14 weeks) and from Bombing and Gunnery School (6 weeks) before going on to an Astro School (4 weeks) and the compulsory reduction and plotting of 250 star shots. It was then 14 days of embarkation leave before proceeding to the UK. from "an eastern Canadian port".

I was fortunate in graduating from Mountain View, less than 100 miles from my home town, so my parents, brother, and sister were able to attend. More typical was Vern White's experience (editor of 427 Squadron's newsletter, and from whom I have stolen articles for our newsletter):

"My Wings Parade at Mont Joli, the mud capital of the world, was held in a building not much better than a barracks. Only six relatives or friends were present. Observers were called out first. A Brit, named Bradshaw, marched proudly to the front and proceeded to salute the padre who was a good 20 feet from the CO and the Group Captain from Training Command who was doing the honours. When Bradshaw was pointed in the right direction, he shuffled along the platform and saluted the scrambled eggs in front of him. All was well, we thought, until the NCO passing the brevets to the Groupie handed him a WAG wing that he expertly pinned on. The snafu was corrected and, by the time they got to the W's, all went well. We were all happy as clams in the exalted rank of sergeant and rushed to the train station for the long journey to Rivers, Manitoba, for those 250 star shots."

Taking these shots meant sticking our heads, hands, and sextants out of the top hatch of an Anson for 5 minutes (2 stars for a fix) in a slipstream that was often 50 degrees below zero. Before embarking for overseas the top 20% of each class would be commissioned, often too late to show off in the home town during embarkation leave.

CROP CIRCLE TECHNICAL DATA: Some of you have queried the size of the crop circle depicted in the last newsletter which was one of a score of 2001 beautifully-designed works of art. The 409 circles in this one “circle” range from 4 to 70 feet in diameter and the overall design was 900 feet in diameter. For hoaxers to have done this, while leaving no footprints, in the few hours of darkness they would have had to complete a circle every 30 seconds, a somewhat impossible feat. Hoaxers, it is believed, were few in 2001 because of foot and mouth dangers and the £5,000 fine imposed on one hoaxer who was caught.

Although the best and most numerous ones are found in southern England, most countries have reported them. They have been found on lake ice too thin to support a person, on desert sand, on numerous crop and grasslands, and even on the tops of coniferous forests in western Canada.

RCAF MUSEUM, TRENTON: The Halifax Aircraft Association has over 4,000 members. 17 volunteers have each donated 2,000 hours per year on the Halifax restoration. Altogether in 2001 there were 49,000 volunteer hours. The fuselage is now complete from tail to nose and was turned 45 degrees to permit attachment of the wings, taking up all the room in the current building. Towards the goal of \$5 million for the new hangar, the Association has raised \$1.2 million. If they get the requested \$1.6 million from the Ontario Superbuild Corporation they will also receive in matching funds \$1.6 million from the Canada/Ontario Infrastructure Program which will still leave \$600,000 for the Association to raise.

There are now 5,490 Ad Astra stones lining the walkways around the aircraft park. The Minister of National Defence was one of the many recent visitors to the museum.

RAF MUSEUM, HENDON: The current £7.5 million (£4.7 million from the National Lottery and £2.7 million from the Ministry of Defence) expansion should be finished by Nov 2003. It will house 24 more aircraft. A Eurofighter will be displayed alongside a Bleriot. The museum has over 200 aircraft.

BOMBERS AND THE RAF: The first Zeppelin raids on England started in 1915. In 1917 the formidable Gotha joined the raids, hitting Folkestone and London. In all there were 50 raids that inflicted 2,000 casualties. Since then, Bombers were considered weapons of terror and, as Trenchard believed, much more useful as deterrents than fighters. With the break-up of the Ottoman empire the League of Nations assigned responsibility for Transjordan, Iraq, and Palestine to the UK which did not have sufficient manpower for the task, so used the RAF to save army resources. Sqn Ldr Arthur (Butch) Harris, CO of 45 Sqn, converted his transports to bombers, and achieved a high level of accuracy. In Iraq alone 8 bomber squadrons plus 4 RAF squadrons of armoured cars were estimated to have saved 33 battalions of infantry, 6 of cavalry, and 16 of artillery. From 1919 to 1939 there was not a full year of peace so the RAF was fully employed. In 1923 the growing need of homeland defence was recognized and 52 squadrons were authorized to be in service by 1928. This proved too ambitious so by 1933 only 42 squadrons were in being with the ratio being 2 to 1 for bombers over fighters. After 1934 the growth of the Luftwaffe prompted the so-called appeaser, Neville Chamberlain, to inaugurate a huge build-up to 128 squadrons with monoplanes, enclosed cockpits, retractable undercarriage, variable-pitch airscrews, landing flaps, and greatly improved performance. In 1936 Chamberlain approved specifications for new bombers that led to the Stirling, Halifax, and Lancaster. Also, that year, the Command structure was introduced: Bomber, Fighter, Coastal, and Training. Training schools increased from 52 to 138. In 6 months in 1939 the new Women’s Auxiliary had enlisted 8,000. Yet, when war came, the Luftwaffe still outnumbered the RAF.

ADRENALINE WHEN NEEDED: Jeff Phillips, who died in December 2001, was an RCAF armourer. In December 1943 he was lying on his trolley, changing the bomb load on a Halifax from 500 pounders to incendiaries when a 500 pounder broke loose and pinned him to his bomb trolley. It was chocking him to death. A member of his crew moved the bomb allowing Jeff to wiggle free. Amazed at his show of strength this armourer went back to the Halifax to try moving the bomb again. He could not budge it. Jeff required several months of hospitalization for repairs to his face and jaw.

HUNGARIAN PILOTS: Hungary has joined the UK, Italy, Denmark, and Singapore in having 20 pilots per year trained at Moose Jaw and Cold Lake in a 2-year course. Hungary has ordered, for delivery in 2004, fourteen Griffen JAS39 fighters from Sweden.

May 2002

Prayer Before Battle

Written by Major Alexander Campbell of Perth, Ontario, Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment
Before the Canadian victory at the Battle of Ortono, Italy, in which he was killed.
25 December 1943 at age 33.

When 'neath the rumble of the guns,
I lead my men against the Huns,
'Tis then I feel so all alone and weak and scared,
And oft I wonder how I dared,
Accept the task of leading men.

I wonder, worry, fret, and then I pray,
Oh God! Who promised oft
To humble men a listening ear,
Now in my spirit's troubled state,
Draw near, dear God, draw near, draw near.

Make me more willing to obey,
Help me to merit my command,
And if this should be my fatal day,
Reach out, Oh God, Thy Guiding Hand,
And lead me down that deep, dark vale.

These men of mine must never know
How much afraid I really am,
Help me to lead them in the fight
So they will say, "He was a man."

THE REAL CULPRIT: The Japanese eat very little fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than the Australians, British or North Americans whom we will call "we".. On the other hand, the French eat a lot of fat and also suffer fewer heart attacks than we do. The Japanese drink very little red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than we. The Italians drink excessive amounts of red wine and also suffer fewer heart attacks than we. Conclusion: Eat and drink what you like. It is speaking English that kills you.

FRIENDLY FIRE: Having been the frightened recipient of friendly fire on 31 occasions that I can remember vividly, I should comment on the current tragedy in Afghanistan. When two equally-matched belligerents are hammering at each other, accidents can be expected. In 1944 Canadian troops who had advanced further and faster than expected were bombed and many killed by RCAF bombers mistaking them for Germans. On ten occasions over the North Sea, returning from bombing operations over Germany, I was fired on by the RN, RCN, and/or USN. While residing in a POW camp on the outskirts of Nürnberg, Bomber Command hit the city a score of times and we received a fair share of the bombs. You learn to take all this. Unacceptable is, when your side has overwhelming superiority and the war is winding down, for trigger-happy crews, and usually late-comers to the war, to fire away without careful consideration of the target. In 1945 with practically no Luftwaffe interference, RAF and RCAF fighters strafed and killed POWs on forced marches in northern Germany while USAAF crews did the same in southern Germany. I was in a hospital train, clearly marked with large Red Crosses on the roofs and sides. Three Thunderbolts peeled off from escorting B-17s from Italy and made 3 strafing runs at us killing several POWs and missing me by half a millimetre. Today in Afghanistan, air crews, with incredible communications and navigational aids and absolutely no opposition worthy of the name, have no excuse whatsoever.

THE CURRENT 'THIN RED LINE': With their red pullovers and red ball caps a contingent of the Canadian Rangers patrolled this month from Resolute Bay to the North Magnetic Pole a distance of some 850 kilometres. They were armed with that formidable weapon that has brought down enemy aircraft (Western Front 1918) and which I used to successfully safeguard Canada's vital installations at the hub of the universe (Guard Duty, Port Hope, 1939) - none other than the indestructible Lee Enfield rifle.

The Canadian Rangers were formed in 1942 to patrol our western coast. Today there are 4,000 Rangers who come from almost every northern community. This latest patrol, known as Operation Kigliqavik is guided by Sgt Paddy Aqiatasuk, a Ranger for 14 years (an Irish Inuit?).

THE BALL POINT PEN: was invented by Hungarian Kazlo Biro and patented in 1943. Bomber Command immediately saw its advantages over pencils for navigators and ordered 30,000 of them as the pen was unaffected by altitude or air pressure. In 1957 Marcel Bich bought the patent and mass produced it as the Biro-Bic pen for civilian use in the UK. It then crossed the ocean to North America where it was produced to sell at \$8.50 each. Today 15,000,000 are produced daily.

CANADA and COST EFFECTIVENESS: The third (1997, 1999, 2002) KPMG 10-month survey of Austria, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, UK, and US concludes that Canada remains Number 1 in cost effectiveness in starting up and operating for 10 years a 122,000 sq ft R&D complex with 500 workers. Canada has a 14.5% edge over the US followed by the UK with 13.1%, Italy with 11.4% and the Netherlands with 9.2%. Among North American cities Calgary was the winner at \$28 million annually followed by Ottawa 30, Toronto 32, Baltimore 34.4, Dallas 34.9, Vancouver 35, New York 41, San Francisco 43. All figures in US dollars. Canada would still be #1 if the Canadian dollar exceeded 80 cents.

JULIA'S STRATEGY: Anxious for a suitable heir, the Roman Emperor Augustus tried 3 wives but produced only one daughter, Julia, whom, starting at the age of 14, he married to 3 different men of his choosing, not Julia's. To compensate, Julia took numerous lovers which made Augustus somewhat furious as he wanted to establish a pure succession line. However, all of Julia's 5 children looked convincingly like Julia's approved husbands. When asked by a friend how she managed this with all her lovers, she replied with this sound advise: "*Never take on passengers unless you are already fully loaded.*"

CHRONICLES OF A NERVOUS NAVIGATOR by John A. Iverach: John had most of the manuscripts done when he died in 1992, so his wife, Peggy, completed them to publish his book. For my taste far too much boozing, the right amount of sex, and plenty of combat action with many names I know. He completed two tours on Stranraers and Cansos with Coastal Command including the Murmansk run, then did 38 clandestine trips on Dornier 115s that had been flown to the UK by Norwegians, then transport work in India and the Far East. He does a good job of placing his operations in context of the overall war and he mentions numerous people including "our" Dick Stovel with whom he commenced training.

THE CANADIAN DISEASE: Too many Canadian authors just cannot tolerate Canada having any heroes, especially military heroes. The latest is Brereton Greenhous who argues that Billy Bishop was an inflated hero because German records do not substantiate many of his claims. I tend to downplay Brereton. When I was writing my book I wrote to him asking for clarification on one point. He replied 14 months later by which time I had what I needed from other sources. When I called on him in his Ottawa office I showed him a front-page article from the German press that I had retained from my POW days. It was headed: **Canadians Always on the Most Dangerous Fronts.** Brereton dismissed this as baseless German newspaper propaganda and showed me an article he trusted by a German panzer officer who argued that Canadian tank commanders were timid.

Fighter jocks may be prone to exaggeration, but in WWI RFC authorities were extremely careful and strict in accepting accounts of kills. Many kills went unrecorded as the claimants had no witnesses and the wrecks, often in enemy territory, could not be examined. There are so many heroes whose exploits have never been recorded why expend time and effort in the diabolical pursuit of established heroes?

MAKE A SPECTACLE OF YOURSELF (So says Darrell Levitt): All of us in the Wing suffer from the same incurable disease TOO MANY BIRTHDAYS !! As a result, some of us are plagued with failing optical focusing. This creates the requirement to either purchase a seeing eye dog or a trip to the local retinal adjustment technician. As a result of this usually painless visit, we are faced with the dilemma of disposing of the old and mostly useless "Removable Optical Viewing Enhancement Devices" (glasses).

The Lions Club in Colorado Springs has a program that enables us to donate them to the Lions Club. They will be refurbished and given to persons in need of eye wear but unable to afford them.

To this end, for the next several months, a box will be placed at the treasurer's table at the entrance to the monthly meeting. Please look in your dressers, junk drawers, or any other place that you hide old eye wear and bring them to the meetings. This will be an ongoing initiative so every few months I will take the glasses to the Lions Club and make a donation in the name of the 971 Wing.

SO UNLESS YOU ARE PLANNING TO HAVE YOU OLD CHEATERS BRONZED AND PLACED ON THE MANTLE PIECE, donate them to this most noble and worthwhile cause.

A Treatise Proveinge by Sundrie Reasons that Woemen do Excell Men. This was the title of a book published in Manchester, UK, about 1635. Need I elaborate?

May 2002

FUEL CELLS and SUBMARINES: Powered by fuel cells developed in Kingston, Ontario, a slim, unmanned submarine will cruise under the Arctic ice cap for 11 days next year. Small, Canadian-built submarines are now in service in some Caribbean islands to take tourists on sub-surface tours of coral reefs.

SICK PARADE: Nothing locally to report, but our thoughts, prayers, and best wishes go out to:
Eillen Banville in Regina who is now in a full-time nursing home, and
Chris Cuppens who is undergoing cancer treatments.

TOO LATE FOR LARRY BEST: We have all procrastinated so long that we can no longer call on Larry to officiate at our funerals. He is retiring from the business to plant vegetables instead of people. Larry retired from the RCAF in 1993 after 36 years of service. For 3 years he was a full-time volunteer for Pikes Peak Hospice. Then they actually paid him as a counsellor at Memorial Gardens Cemetery for Swan Lake, Pikes Peak, and Dove Witt Funeral Homes. Since 1997 he has worked for a large Canadian-based international corporation in Pueblo, earning a couple of promotions. In 1999 this corporation, with over 1500 funeral homes and cemeteries in North America and the UK, became bankrupt so trimmed down, eliminating thousands of positions but kept Larry, giving him numerous portfolios that had him maintaining offices in Pueblo and Boulder. The company emerged leaner and stronger and Larry enjoyed the challenge, but now he feels it is time to retire and relax.

VISITORS: Bob and Donna Robert, guests of the Thompsons, were taken on a tour of Arizona and New Mexico, visiting many museums. Bud Stanley, also exRCAF, proved an excellent museum guide.

Dave Ghyselinckx made a quick visit from McChord to pick up artifacts from Roy for an RCAF museum.

STATE OF THE WING, by Art Nielsen

It is both appropriate and timely to offer you my opinions on the state of the Wing. This will be mostly informational, but I also encourage your questions and comments.

Membership: We were worried last year about a decline in membership, although it was caused only by people moving. What we have seen since then is restoration of our membership to a comfortable level through the addition of both retired members as well as serving CF members. Our current membership is healthy, comprised mostly of active participants in Wing activities. This is good!

Executive: I have been pleased to work with an excellent executive. Thank you all!

Finances: We restructured our finances two years ago to include annual dues of \$50 per member plus \$1 per head from the proceeds collected at functions. This has proven a sound plan, and Don will tell you our finances are in good shape. In particular, the revenues from functions have allowed us to defray the costs of events such as the Christmas dinner and our recent dinner-theater night. We foresee no immediate changes to our financial structure unless our commitment to Association HQ changes.

Social: Judy has orchestrated a great program this year, and we will continue with a schedule of monthly meetings, based primarily on house functions, but also broadened by outside activities as opportunities arise, or as the mood strikes.

Wing Objectives: The Air Force Association has a number of “business” goals, and we in turn publish our objectives annually in support of these goals. While I believe we can do more in this area than we have in the past, I am also reminded that we have in fact accomplished quite a few of this year’s objectives. I will continue to beat this drum in the future, but hopefully in a congenial manner.

Museum: The status of our museum remains an enigma on two counts. First, its place within the USAF museum hierarchy is still very uncertain. Second, the security measures in effect at PAFB raise concerns that the museum may never really be opened to the public. While progress is not readily apparent on either count, we should be sensitive to the issues involved and work collegially to seek resolution. I will strive to do this. I hope the foregoing will be of use to you, and I invite your comments.

BOB & BECKY JOHNSON, ex NORAD and now of North Gower, ON, will be house sitting for Joan and Ye Olde Scribe while they cavort in Ontario, July-August.

Palestine -War and Terror

These terms for the same thing confuse me, perhaps because I spent 7 months of my youth as a terrorist, raining high explosives and incendiaries on hapless people as this was the only weapon we had that could strike at the intolerable regime imposed upon them and threatening our very survival. Life expectancy was only 5 bombing trips so we came close to qualifying as suicide bombers with no promise of 72 virgins each. I hated the havoc I wrought even though it had to be done. I never blamed Butch Harris. I blamed the inaction of world politicians and electorates that got us into this mess. So, what is new?

We in the West have always been slow at reacting to threats, so we eventually pay a much higher price than we needed to. Today, with a united Europe and a strong democratic English-speaking world, we are in a better position than ever to assume our responsibilities to promote human rights and to strike at the roots of war or terror, whatever you want to call it. Are we making any progress? A little history:

Terror has haunted the **Middle East** since Jericho was founded 10,000 years ago.

Assyria is one example of human folly. Hundreds of years of abuse by their neighbours hardened them to respond with terror. Among the first to recognize the superiority of iron over bronze, they built a formidable army and deliberately used cruelty and violence to terrorize and to eventually build a powerful and wealthy empire based on Nineveh. Their empire lasted 150 years until destroyed by others in 612 BC.

Palestine was settled in 3,000BC by Canaanites. In 1250 BC Israelites invaded, smote them, and took over. "He who liveth by the sword" came true in 720 BC when the Assyrians conquered the Israelis, and in 586 BC when the Babylonians conquered and expelled them. In 539 BC the dominant Persians allowed the Jews to return. Alexander the Great upset thing in 333 BC and much later, in 63 BC, the Romans appeared, failed to assimilate the Jews, so expelled and dispersed them between 70 and 135 AD. From 330 to 638 Palestine was part of the Byzantine Empire, then it was ruled in turn from Damascus, Bagdad, and Cairo until the Crusaders showed up in 1099. From 1516 to 1917 it was part of the Ottoman Empire. In 1876 the first Palestinian served in the Ottoman parliament.

Palestinians and Jews both claim descent from Abraham who arrived in the area about 1500 BC. Jews, widely dispersed, remained Jews and nurtured the will to one day return. The chance did not come until 1831 when the Turks opened the area to western trade, and 25,000 Jews arrived illegally with thousands more following. The Palestinians who had helped the British defeat Napoleon's invasions and who had lived under sometimes good, sometimes bad, Ottoman rule, allowed the Jews to buy farms and businesses with the money given to them by Baron Edmond de Rothschild whose banking house had made fortunes financing the enemies of Napoleon. By 1917 there were 47 Jewish areas in Palestine, but Jews were still only 8% of the population. Palestinians remained friendly towards them, even though Jews began buying up land and evicting Arab tenants to make room for more Jews, and by 1922 they numbered 83,290.

Middle East people had helped the Brits, Anzacs, Indians, and French liberate the area from the Ottoman Empire. Palestinians joined the Australian Camel Corps and the Lawrence of Arabia story is well known. In 1919 the US went into isolation and The League of Nations handed the UK the mandate to prepare for independence much of what is now Israel, Jordan, Palestine, Iraq, and Egypt, leaving Syria to France. Jews and Arabs had both fought for the British. The Jews, however, diverted large quantities of British arms to build up clandestine supplies for planned underground fighting forces known as:

Haganah formed in 1921 and included Stern until the 1930s. **Ariel Sharon** was a member.

Stern: formed by Avraham Stern with Yitzhak Shamir as Chief of Operations. Made overtures to Mussolini and Hitler to send unwanted European Jews to Palestine to oust the British and to form a new Israel stretching from Egypt to the Euphrates. Stern was killed in 1942 fighting the British.

Irgon formed in 1931 by Vladimir Jabutinsky breaking away from Haganah. Supported by Menachem Begin who was also an early Israeli terrorist.

In 1933 the UK warned that there were not enough land or resources to support the million new Jewish arrivals and that relief and re-settlements were needed for displaced Palestinians. In 1938 Irgon killed 119 Palestinians. In 1944 Stern murdered in Cairo Lord Moyne, British minister of state. In 1946 Irgon blew up the King David Hotel in Jerusalem, murdering 91 British, Palestinian, and Jewish mediators. In 1948 Stern murdered the UN Mediator, Swedish Count Folke Bernadotte, who had saved Jews from the Nazis, and his French colonel Andre Serot because they were conciliatory to Arabs. In spite of this,

President Truman continued to pressure the British to allow more hundreds of thousands of Jews into Palestine. With financial help from Britain, the US, Canada, and others, Jews, desiring to return to their biblical lands used terror tactics to greatly expand their initial footholds. After 1945 world sympathy was with the Jews, who had 6 million out of the 14 million unfortunates who were murdered in Nazi extermination camps. The British were somewhat annoyed being shot at by both sides as they became the enemy of the Arabs for allowing too many Jews into Palestine and also the enemy of the Jews for not letting in enough. Argentina, Canada, and the United States, where there is lots of room and far more Jews than in Palestine, made no offer to donate land to the new Israel, but the West allowed the Jews to take increasing amounts of tiny Palestine and to behave like Europeans did in the takeover of the Americas.

In April 1948 the Irgon and Stern massacred 250 Palestinians in the village of Deir Yassin. They drove trucks through other villages warning all Arabs to flee or be killed. Haganah took Haifa and began ethnic cleansing in seaside communities. They also took Jerusalem. Over 1,500,000 Palestinian refugees were forced into squalid camps in Jordan, Lebanon, and Egypt. On 14 May 1948 Israelis proclaimed the State of Israel as the UK mandate ended. Arab nations immediately attacked but were defeated. In 1953 Sharon's unit killed 50 Palestinians in the refugee camp of El Bureig south of Gaza and 69 in the Jordanian camp of Qibya. In 1982 Sharon was responsible for attacks on the refugee camps of Sabra and Shatila in Lebanon that killed hundreds, perhaps thousands.

The UN divided Palestine into two areas with a shared Jerusalem, one to be Israel, the other to be a home for stateless Palestinians. Arab nations remain reluctant to absorb refugees and continue to restrict most Palestinians to camps that are festering sores and fertile breeding ground for suicide bombers. This serves their own interests and provides no help to Palestinians. US help to Israel is \$3-5 billion annually.

With substantial help from the U.S. and with German reparations the Israelis built up a formidable and highly efficient military force as surrounding Arab nations discovered when they attempted to come to the aid of the Palestinians in 1967. Israeli greatly expanded its territory. It has since given the Sinai back to Egypt but has kept the Golan Heights and keeps the West Bank and Gaza under close watch with some 200 settlements and 400,000 Jewish settlers, creating even more refugees.

The Jews did make the desert bloom and did create jobs for Arabs, but there are now 2 million Palestinian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria while another 1.2 million refugees are in the West Bank and Gaza. Of these, 1 million are still in wretched camps. Five million Israelis now occupy their former lands. Scattered, fragmented, and destitute the Palestinians reacted the only way they could - by what we call terrorist acts of blowing up aircraft, killing Israeli athletes, and suicide bombers. They formed:

Fatah founded 1959 and carried out its first military action in 1965. Joined PLO in 1969.

PLO (Palestine Liberation Organization) founded in 1964. Yasser Arafat became chairman in 1969. In 1974 the Arab League recognized it as the sole Palestinian authority.

PLFP (Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine) formed in 1968 by George Habash. Broke from the PLO and has executed a number of attacks.

PIJ (Palestine Islamic Jihad) formed in Gaza in the 1970s. Opposed to the existence of Israel. Considers the US an enemy and operates a clandestine network in the US.

Hamas is a social organization that has done considerable good for Palestinians, but since 1993 has carried out most of the "terrorist" attacks on Israel.

PLF (Palestine Liberation Front) contains 3 factions (1) pro PLO, based in Iraq and known as Abu Abbas Group, (2) pro Syria, (3) pro Libyan. In 1985 it attacked the Achille Lauro. It supported Iraq in the Gulf War, and has carried out numerous "terrorist" attacks.

When two groups, related (both Semites) but distinct, want the same plot of ground, current inequalities will lead to another Assyria. The Jews have adopted Nazi tactics of massive overkill and the Palestinians have adopted Jewish-style terror groups. The energetic and industrious Israelis have no room to expand so continue to encroach on Palestinian land. The Arab world has a dangerously-high birthrate with few jobs and practically no participation in government for restless youths, so street anger grows.

It is hypocritical to call only the Palestinians "terrorists" or for Sharon, who has destroyed Arafat's capabilities, to demand that he ends Palestinian attacks. Retire Sharon and Arafat, curb Israeli immigration and Palestinian birthrates, make Jewish enclaves part of Palestine, and work for an Israel-Palestine nation.

Pray that Time has not run out. Palestinian-Israeli medical and technical units have worked well together. The area is too small for two states. Unwelcome as it might be by the Israelis, Kofi Annan's International Peacekeeping Force is a must. . . . Another job for the over-burdened Canadian Forces?