

# 971 RCAF AIR MARSHAL SLEMON WING

## AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION OF CANADA NEWSLETTER

March 2011

[www.971WingAFAC.com](http://www.971WingAFAC.com)

Colorado Springs, Colorado



NWMP Re-enactment - see page 2

### Social Calendar

Jan 08 Once more Carol and Art Nielsen hosted a great evening, this time our traditionally-belated Christmas party with the exchange of gifts and with 49 of us attending. Also, we fired up the same old engine that, without fanfare or expense, railroaded a few new faces into executive roles:

President:	Dave Bristow replaces Joan Peterson.
Vice President:	Darrell Levitt replaces Peter Rallis.
Social Rep.	Valerie Freimuth and Jim Berwick replace Carol Nielsen and Roy Thompson.
Membership:	Larry Best replaces Susan Gerdes. (Larry was VP 1996-99).
Those who lacked the energy (or wisdom) to move on are:	
Secretary:	Bob Freimuth Since 1996. Also runs off snail-mail newsletter copies.
Treasurer:	Lew Lomas Since 2006
Ceremonial:	Darrell Levitt Since 1996
Newsletter:	George Swenor Since 1986

**Joan Peterson adds:** "Thank-you to all the 971 Wing Executive members that assisted me for the past two years. I really appreciate the time, energy, and hard work you gave to the Wing and to myself. You are an awesome group. Thank-you to the incoming Executive members for stepping up and giving back a little extra to our wonderful organization. I believe we have a great Canadian Colorado connection going here. We find pleasure in coming together to enjoy one another's company and to keep the past & present alive. Thanks So Much, Joan".

**Others who have served:** Bert Banville, Ron Blank, Phil Briand, Len Campaigne, Len Couture, Jim Czirjak, Mike Doohar, Gord Davis, Paul Ellis, Frank Fraser, Bob Johnson, Dick Lay, Judy Lomas, Al MacGillivray, Miles McMillan, John Melnic, Bob Nichols, Art Nielsen, Rick Page, Kathie Reece, Gerry Robitaille, Bill Schick, Barry Simpson, Carmen Swift, Don Swift, Gary Thompson, Margit Thompson, Roy Thompson, David Tinson, Bob Tracy, Ron Willard.

Mar 12 1700 at the residence of Judy and Lew Lomas, 5060 Cliffpoint Circle East, 80919 593-1644. They would appreciate a couple to volunteer as Co-hosts.

# The Editor's Corner

## GUN-HAPPY HERITAGE

Forging, and maintaining, a great nation and empire is no easy task as so many aspirants over the centuries have discovered. Inherited vestiges of behaviour acquired during the building can hamper blissful futures.

The January Tucson massacre is one more statistic among the 98,000 annual gunshot wounds that cause 30,000 deaths in the United States not to mention the suffering of the wounded. Amid all the rhetoric and tears, there is little about the obvious and vital need to outlaw today's easy access to guns. From its founding, guns have been considered a US cherished personal right.

Being born in violence, both Mexico and the US remain with problems not known in Canada with its relatively peaceful evolution. Yes, Canada has had its enemies: From a Native point of view: Other tribes and Europeans. From a French-Canadien point of view: the Iroquois, the British, and the American rebels. From a British-Canadian point of view: the US Americans. And two politicians did lose their lives: D'Arcy McGee and Louis Riel.

The settlement of the Canadian West came after that in the US. To avoid the legacy of gun-slinging cowboys and massacres of the Natives, Canada established law and order first, but this was prompted by US whiskey traders causing enormous harm to Natives who drank their "Fire-Water". In the Cypress Hills, 20 Assiniboine, including entire families, were slaughtered by drunken traders in 1873 and other traders had set up posts like fortified Fort Whoop-up (near Lethbridge), trading bad whiskey for furs.

Tribal chiefs wanted the return of British troops with their law and order but the problem was now Canada's, so, in 1874, PM John A. MacDonald organized a force of 300 North West Mounted Police to capture the whiskey traders and establish law and order in 300,000 sq miles. The "Mounties" made a show with an 800-mile parade westwards from Fort Dufferin, Manitoba, to Fort Macleod, Alberta, with each troop having horses of a different colour. They were followed by a supply train of 114 carts, 73 freight wagons and 93 head of cattle. The message was broadcast to the Natives that the red uniform of the Mounties meant a friend as opposed to an enemy that the blue uniforms of the US Cavalry implied. Leaving detachments at selected points, the last remaining troop reached Fort Whoop-up to find the whiskey traders had fled to Montana, so the fort was captured without firing a shot.

It is an amazing and successful story of scattered detachments of 2 or 3 Mounties maintaining the law in a vast territory. Sitting Bull and his group, fleeing the US Cavalry, were amazed when met by only 2 Mounties who welcomed them into Canada provided they adhere to the Queen's law.

Different philosophies were apparent in WWII. US airmen were armed. Commonwealth were not, arguing it was suicidal for a downed airman to be seen with a gun as he would be more likely to be shot than captured. The odds of a lone airman with a pistol shooting his way home through 90 million enemy were not high.

Today in the US 70% of murders are by firearms, in Canada 30%, usually by rifles or shotguns as handguns are so controlled. Canada has 1 policeman per 529 people, the US 1 per 412. In 2004 the homicide rate in Canada per 100,000 people was 1.8. In the US it was 6.3.

In the 235 years since 1776, the US has lost 580,000 lives in wars including the Civil War. In the last 40 years it has lost 1.3 million due to its addiction to guns. The vast majority of US enemies are within its own borders. The United States has suffered the assassination of 37 prominent people, Mexico 20 (not including the thousands killed in the drug wars), and Canada 5. US guns arm Mexican drug cartels.

Canada suffers much less from gun crimes although problems are increasing with drug-related crime seeping across the border. It is a criminal offense to carry a gun into Canada.

Strict control of arms has not prevented Canada from providing some of the world's best airmen, sailors, and soldiers to world conflicts.

**BOB TRACY REPORTS:** “I still choreograph the Tattoo Estes each September. The 3 evening performances always occur at 1930 hrs, Thurs, Fri., Sat after the Labour Day weekend. Next year may be my last Tattoo after starting the event in 1982 when I was still with NORAD. By then I'll be 80 year old; time to turn the Tattoo over to a Marine Gunnery Sergeant I've been grooming for the job over recent years. For next year's Tattoo I am lining up the New Zealand Police pipe band (world's best at intricate formation drill), the Halifax Citadel re-enactment 1867, and the 78th Highlanders and supporting pipe band. Meantime, I have stepped down as Pipe Major of the Legion's Highland Mist pipe band, but continue to be active with my AF&AM Lodge.

Trudy delights in her dual citizenship and newly adopted country. Six years ago she retired from full-time nursing. She remains active by volunteering at the local Food Bank, attending Spanish language classes, weekly fitness classes and of course, keeping up to speed on bagpipes.”

**FRAN and DON MCNAUGHTON:** In 1986, when he was NORAD's deputy Commander, Don criticized an article I published in the Wing newsletter. Appreciating those who point out my numerous shortcomings, we became friends. They continue to receive, and support, the newsletters. They report: Son-in-law, Mike Dabros, while in Afghanistan was promoted to brigadier-general and transferred to Ottawa. They took, and highly recommend, *The Canadian* 4-day scenic train ride from Toronto to Vancouver to attend the Sabre Pilot Reunion in Penticton. In Kamloops they visited Val and Al Trotter, author of *Against the Odds*. When life expectancy in Bomber Command was 5 operations Al survived to be shot down on his 44<sup>th</sup> to become a Kriegie (POW)

**DAVE AND LOREEN O'BLENIS:** Another of our ex-DCINCS who has it made. Lovely family, home, cottage, locations - and Dave remains a leading figure at the Smith Falls Flying Club where he is training younger generations in the art of piloting. They enjoyed a 3-week tour of China as well as visits to Saskatchewan and New Brunswick where Dave remains active with the Gregg Centre at UNB. Loreen still volunteers with Ronald McDonald House and with the Heart and Stroke Foundation. Dave's family home has been sold, ending a 3-generation chapter in a small town.

Grandsons: David (11) is accomplished on piano and classical base guitar. Sean (9) plays drum and passed the 1<sup>st</sup> Royal Conservatory exam in trumpet. Both are very involved in hockey. Son Daniel and Cindy had a baby boy, Sam, 15 Sep. Cindy works for General Dynamics and Dan for Export Development Corps.

**PAT and WENDY DENIS:** Pat taught a university course on Global Political-Military Issues while Wendy continued her work with 6 chartered accountants. Pat got in some good genealogical work in Rhode Island.

**START:** In April 2010 PM Medevac and Pres. Obama signed a treaty to mutually reduce nuclear arsenals and allow inspections. It took the US Senate 8 months to ratify it. The importance of this can sink in by taking a now-allowed tour of the silo 33 metres down at Pervomaisk, Ukraine. Here two officers, on 6-hour shifts, had a white button, the pushing of which would dispatch a missile carrying 10 nuclear warheads, each with 50 times the destruction of the Hiroshima bomb, to hit 10 pre-selected targets in North America.

After independence in 1991 the Ukraine, with the world's 3<sup>rd</sup> largest arsenal, de-activated it all, turning Pervomaisk into a museum retaining all the insane Armageddon technology, minus the warheads, to remind us that hundreds of similar, but active, silos still exist in 9 countries, all of which must follow Ukraine's example.

**THE HALIFAX AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION's president, Jeff Jefferies,** died 28 Nov 10. Jeff and a team of 50 volunteers spent 16 years restoring a Halifax retrieved from Lake Mjosa, Norway, in 1994 and flown to Trenton. It is the museum's centre piece display as the world's only technically-correct Halifax of the 6,176 built. Its work done, the association's 5,000 members disbanded 31 Jan 2011. Your scribe was a patron and Diana DeLuca with Patricia Strobel, the daughter of the sole survivor of the crew that included Diana's Dad, formed the Halifax Families Association which continues to help relatives seeking data on Halifax crew members. Diana also donated to the restoration all profits from her book.

**THE AEROPLANE DELIVERS:** Barry Edward has given me the 2010 issues of this fine magazine. Here are a few extracts:

(1) **The Fall of France** (5 pages): France emerged from WWI with one of the largest and best-equipped air arms. But the progression of short-lived governments led to its neglect. After the 1938 Munich crisis it was planned to modernize L'Armée de l'Air with 2,500 new aircraft per month. It was too late and when the invasion came, 10 May 1940, French aircrew bravely plunged into battle with 387 obsolescent aircraft, helped by escaped Polish and Czech airmen and RAF Squadrons flying Hurricanes and Gladiators. Against deadly odds French bomber and fighter crews accounted for numerous German troops, tanks, and 684 confirmed Luftwaffe and Regia Aeronautica aircraft plus 281 probables. As airfield after airfield fell, the RAF and a Polish squadron were recalled to Britain.

(2) **Victory Lake:** These 5 pages with 11 pictures are written by our **LGen Bill Carr**. A Spitfire pilot, he was returned to Canada in 1945 to partake in *Project Photo Canada*. In the vast unmapped expanses of the NWT he flew Norsemen aircraft on floats to find suitable lakes 50 miles apart from which to set up 2-man Geodetic Survey teams to astronomically fix locations for aerial photographic mapping. One of these unknown lakes is now Carr Lake. On another beautiful lake Bill and his team had sprayed their Norseman with DDT in order to sleep free of mosquitoes and deer flies. In the morning Bill tuned into the BBC's short wave to learn it was VJ Day. The war was over! They promptly named the lake **Victory Lake**.

(3) **National Treasure:** This 5-page article with 13 pictures describes the **Canada Aviation and Space Museum** from its founding in 1960 in 3 WWII hangars at Rockcliffe through the 1982 grant of \$20 million and the 1988 completion of an impressive modern new home and the further grant of \$24 million in 1998 to house the larger aircraft. Then in 2007 new grants allowed for the construction of auditorium, conference, and educational rooms, completed in Feb 2011. Depicting Canadian aviation from 1909 the museum continues to grow. Check [www.aviation,technomuses.ca](http://www.aviation,technomuses.ca)

(4) **The Battle of Britain** display at Duxford Sep 2010 drew a crowd of 40,000. 4 Hurricanes and 16 Spitfires gave a most impressive aerial display.

**AKADEMGORODOK:** Such a name deserves a place in this newsletter. A modern Siberian city of 100,000 (and a suburb of Novosibirsk 25 km north), its founding in scenic virgin forest on the shores of man-made Ob Sea was due to Nikita Khryshchev (USSR head 1953-64). He cut the military in half, and enhanced the country's space, industrial, scientific, and educational status. He organized the construction of Akademgorodok and had the physicist Mikhail Lavrentyev recruit talent to build the renowned University of Novosibirsk and 35 research centres. The city's library has 100,000 books as well as subscriptions to European and North American magazines. The Academy of Agriculture and the Academy of Medicine are also there. The city was hurt with the collapse of the USSR as funding dried up but businessmen have made it the Silicon Valley of Russia.

**THE MEMORIAL REFURBISHMENT** is coming along nicely. To date, we have raised enough funds to obtain the five crests which look exceptional. There is monies remaining to be able to rent most of the equipment required to start refacing and cleaning the memorial and we are on track for a rededication ceremony mid summer. I thank all Wing members who have donated to this endeavour. In addition to wing members, we have received donations from the RCN Association, AFAC, and the Colorado Canadian organization. We may not have enough money available to pay for a rededication ceremony; however, I am still waiting on a reply from the Royal Canadian Legion and the Canadian Forces in Colorado.

I have been working with the Canadian Forces Directorate of History and Heritage as well as Veterans Affairs Canada to have the memorial recognized. When the project is completed, I will be forwarding photos of the memorial to VAC requesting official recognition. With this done, it will be included in the Out-Of-Canada Memorial database and should therefore be eligible for future funding for upkeep and maintenance.

One further plea for donations. In order for this project to be a success, we still need funds. To those wing members that have not as yet been able to contribute, it is not too late. Any amount donated is greatly appreciated, \$5, \$10, or more will all help. If you are inclined to assist in this project please make your check (or cheque) payable to the "971 wing" and simply mail it to me.

. . . . Darrell Levitt.

# Book

## Reviews



### **MARIANNE IN CHAINS**

by Robert Gildea, Metropolitan Books, NY, 2002, 509 pages

Robert Gildea is a Professor of Modern French History at Oxford University. For this book on the WWII German occupation of France he studied the Loire Valley from St. Nazaire to Tours, concentrating on ordinary people, villages, towns. This area was inundated in 1940 with 250,000 refugees from Belgium and northern France fleeing the German onslaught. When it was learned that the rape and plunder of 1870 and 1914 was not being repeated and that the Germans sought co-operation, the inhabitants of cities, towns, and villages along the Loire River hampered the military and several mayors met onrushing Germans to negotiate surrender to avoid their communities being reduced to rubble and their people massacred. This resulted in fragmented and diverse administration with little contact with Vichy. To the Germans, security and French compliance were paramount. Public buildings and hotels were commandeered and soldiers were billeted in private homes. Levies were set on farm and factory production, but German behaviour was usually correct. They flocked to stores, resorts, and brothels, but paid for merchandise and services. With 1.5 million French soldiers in POW camps the women were left to manage much of French life and were admired by the Germans who had admired the men who had defeated them in 1914-18 but despised the 1940 rabbits who ran giving them little opposition. It is a long story of the burden placed on women to raise families, work on farms and in factories, all on meagre income that forced many to turn to prostitution. Initially the Germans paid well but later when thousands of soldiers were dumped on France for R&R after 20 months of terror and hardship on the eastern front they considered French women their compensation with no need to pay, so rapes and pregnancies increased dramatically. Women thus victimized were often snubbed by French communities and penalized after the war.

### **FUSILIERS**

by Mark Urban, Walker & Company, NY, 2007, 384 pages

Reviewed by Darrell Levitt

Mark Urban presents a view of the American War of Independence from the British perspective. The book begins in 1775 Boston where the British forces are massed. It follows the exploits of the British forces and more specifically the 23<sup>rd</sup> Regiment or as they were known the Royal Welsh Fusiliers. Using historic documents, regimental and personal diaries as well as excerpts from personal letters, Mark Urban takes the reader from the regiments first engagement at Concord through to the end of the US War of Independence. This book depicts in detail the follies, ineptness, and tragedies of the British in the early colonies as well as personal sacrifice and honour. From Boston to the battle of Yorktown in 1782 Mark Urban uncovers acts of personal bravery among the "common soldier" to unthinkable atrocities committed by British officers as well as rebel colonists. He brings a human quality to the British side of the conflict Encompassed within its pages the reader is skillfully taken along the battle routes and into the prisoner of war compounds. Urban, using notes from letters shows the selfishness of upper class British officers to care for themselves in the camps and disregard the common soldier he has been charged to protect. He also shows us the true officer and noncommissioned officers of the regiment that above all cared for a protected his charges. For the history buff of the American Revolution this is a must read publication.

## MY SEARCH FOR ANSWERS

I am disappointed.

As I stumble into my 92<sup>nd</sup> year, the hope that, by now, I would have some vital answers is fading fastly. Oh, sure - I have accumulated zillions of facts since I first started asking questions long before I embarked on my formal education in kindergarten. Although these facts include tempting clues they fail to give the answers I crave. Yes, I now know a little about quarks, photons, quantum, the human and a few other species, but my most worrisome questions remain unanswered. I feel answers are there - just out of reach.

Biologists tell me that this facility, called a brain; or is it a mind?; or is it me?, is identical to all those 7 billion owned by other humans and, for that matter, similar to those in many other species. Then, why do we have so many conflicting emotions towards each other? And, do I really understand what an emotion is?

I have read thousands of books and even more magazine and newspapers. I have attended no end of lectures. I have studied the utterances of great minds over thousands of years - but nothing and no one tells me what I crave to know. What am I? Where am I? How am I? Why am I? I have no memory of volunteering so why, and by whom, was I drafted into this existence, and is there any meaning or follow up? Over the years many have told me they have the answers - but every one is based on Faith, and a lot of Hope. Worse, they disagree with each other, often violently. I long to move towards the Light, but, if I get there, what can I do with a bunch of photons? Can I understand the basics? Everything it seems is nothing but a mess of vibrations, the speed of which determines which are Energy and which are Matter, but they both get quite entangled, creating all sorts of entities that, in turn, combine to form what we see as suns, planets, universes, and you and me. We know that, on at least one of these planets, the speed at which things vibrate, called Temperature, was just right for something, called Life, to evolve. But, what is Life?

The interplay of Energy and Matter created a huge broth of elements that just milled about aimlessly until a few of them collided to create Intelligence who realized that a Command Centre was a must to give it a home in which it could thrive. So it built a Mind. To do this it needed Food in the form of mobile Electrons that could be found in Oxygen, Sulphates, Nitrates, and Iron. Many were needed because Mind had to be housed in a Brain that in turn needed a protective shield. Intelligence plodded on, finding and recruiting suitable entities with which to construct such a centre that also required Communications and the allocation of Responsibilities. Then, there were sights, sounds, and smells out there so Sensors had to be built. As 'The Now' was all that Intelligence knew it neglected to create Longevity so by trial and error learned how to reproduce itself and its creation so that a form of survival could be ensured through progeny.

Soon, Intelligence and all it had produced was divided among numerous similar life forms that used for Food inorganic sources like sunlight, water, and soil with their vast stores of chemicals. These continue to be the most numerous and successful life forms today and they evolved into millions of species such as Shewanella which, when deprived of its preferred Food, will grow hairs to find iron flakes in rock from which to extract electrons to survive and reproduce. Some bacteria, when the environment becomes hostile, can survive in a dormant state until, centuries later, conditions improve.

But things went wrong. Intelligence was so pleased with its creation, Mind, that it neglected to build in Gratitude so Mind soon grew dominant and took over, relegating Intelligence to a minor role. Intelligence became pregnant, giving birth to Wisdom who, throughout its long childhood, was largely ignored. With hordes of Bacteria soon milling about, all needing food, some found it easier to invade other species and nestle in without bringing Symbiosis, thus killing their hosts. Worse, some renegades found it easier just to use their neighbours as food which dictated the need to develop mobility and weapons for the chase. And, of course, advanced means of ingesting, digesting, and excreting.

We, unfortunately, have evolved from this last group. In our race to multiply and diversify we became addicted to different sources of Food so, when it became scarce, we invented Greed that had no tolerance for Compassion. Also, as we grew, the vast lines of communication that Mind had to set up among all these components sent back electrical impulses that could be interpreted as Pain or Pleasure. They also told us that Environment often turned hostile and offered us Fear and Curiosity as safeguards. Minds, here and there, realized they could profit from creating explanatory Myths and selling them to others. A few Minds, having taken a liking to young Wisdom, questioned this practice but they were so far in the minority that they could

not prevail against the hordes that seized upon a particular Myth and used it to justify the exploitation of those addicted to different Myths. Eternal conflict spells Failure of Mind to organize itself successfully.

The story continues. The human species has created sub species called Computers and Robots with superior circuitry that will soon permit another takeover. Even if Intelligence is given a more influential role in future species it must be under the control of Wisdom if they are to find the answers that have eluded us.

**SEQUEL:** Robert Lanza in his excellent book “Biocentrism” weaves in life experiences as he explains the 7 principles of Biocentrism and the fact that we need to search Biology, not Physics, for answers. He claims Space and Time, the realm of Physics, require a conscious observer to become reality. I can vouch for this in my dreams which I can sometimes control. In them I can effortlessly jump among scenes and people long gone, some for centuries. It seems so natural, and almost all are pleasurable. Why, then, can I not do the same in my waking moments? Robert provides much food for thought but, like me, he still seeks answers that remain elusive. This spark of energy we call Consciousness may be immortal, as he suggests, even if it is arrogant to assume that the trillions of cells that have supported it in this life may not be. Are not cells also Conscious Observers? I also relate to Robert’s “All life is one”. During my lone period of aggression - my 17 bombing operations over Germany - I could never escape the feeling that what I was doing to others I was actually doing to myself as were flak gunners and night-fighter crews thinking I, and those like me, were their only victims. Immortality is great if it means continuance of what we enjoy, but there are far too many frightening scenarios that we could stumble into while we struggle to learn how to pilot Consciousness.

For now, the thrill remains in the chase. As some say PER ARDUA AD ASTRA.

**ROB DAVIS** of Telford, Shropshire, and a member of the post-WWII generation, continues to amaze me. I have described in these newsletters his massive data base of Bomber Command casualties, his book *Nor the Years Condemn* about a Bomber Command crew, his research and writings on WWII topics such as the 1942 assassination of Reinhard Heydrich, the Great Escape, and his highly-professional travel DVDs.

Rob and his motorcycle enthusiasts meet annually to plan and execute motorcycle tours. This latest DVD summarises, with maps, comments, songs, descriptions, and hundreds of photographs their 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010 tours. Their motorcycles are equipped with inter-bike radios and Satnav units, and are loaded with spare parts, tents, clothing, and cameras, sometimes mounted on their bikes to follow their autobahn speeds and weaving on secondary roads through beautiful countryside. The day-by-day accounts describe road hazards, navigational problems in spite of Satnav, campgrounds, as well as the food, beer, and wine they sample. In 2010 they used B&Bs instead of campgrounds. While landscapes, cathedrals, and architectural delights are shown and described, their emphasis is on sites of conflict such as: Agincourt, Waterloo, and ..

WWI sites include: Ypres where 4 years of war left nothing but mud and rubble and 75,000 of those killed having no known grave. We see and hear, on the DVD, the Last Post played nightly at 8 PM by 6 buglers and for which traffic is stopped; Mons that, after 50 months of occupation was liberated by a Canadian Corps on 11 November 1918, having fired the last shot of the war; Lochnager Crater where New Zealand sappers built tunnels under German lines, deposited 80,000 pounds of high explosives and, in July 1916, blew a crater that today remains 300 feet in diameter and 90 feet deep - an explosion that was heard in London. There are shots of massive underground barracks and tunnels leading to breakout points that were unknown and discovered only a few years ago. Songs, such as *Roses are shining in Picardy* provide haunting backgrounds to the numerous shots of cemeteries, one of which contains the grave of a great uncle of one of Rob’s team. He sprinkled soil from his home town on the grave as well as a shot of Irish whiskey.

WWII sites: Colditz: excellent aerial and ground shots including a replica of the glider built in an attic and never discovered. The replica was successfully flown. I had not known that one of the few successful Colditz escapers was murdered by the IRA in the 1970s. Stalag Luft III: numerous shots of the camp, then treeless, now a young forest, with the museum the Poles have built including replicas of our tunnels, air pumps, and so on. The routes of Harry, Tom, and Dick, 30 feet down, are outlined above ground with plaques naming the 50 shot.(24 Britons, 6 Canadians, 5 Poles, 4 Australians, 3 South Africans, 2 New Zealanders, 2 Norwegians, 1 Czech, 1 Lithuanian, 1 French, and 1 Greek.). The shots of what is left of the foundation of the theatre we built recalls the amount of work we expended in laying that brick foundation. Omaha Beach: I agree with Rob that the “modern” monuments on the beach provide no inkling of the sacrifices

of US troops in taking that beach. V1 and V2 massive bunkers which the RAF destroyed with the 8,000-pound Tallboy bombs. Berchtesgaden, Dachau, and my old POW resort at Moosberg with nothing left the way I remember it. The father of one of the cyclists was also a POW there. Werfen village and castle where the *Where Eagles Dare* movie was shot are explored and also The Bavarian Film Studios where *Das Boot* was filmed.

Thank you, Rob, you made me feel I was there with you.

**BOREAL FOREST VICTORY - AND EVERYONE WON!** It has long been an immense battleground - the world's 3<sup>rd</sup> largest forest after Russia and Brazil. Occupying 2/3rds of Canada's land mass its forestry industry is Canada's 3<sup>rd</sup> largest source of income. On 21 May 2010 The Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement was signed by the First Nations, the provincial governments, 21 large forestry companies and 9 national environmental organizations. An enlightened example of sustainable resource harvesting, the agreement protects large areas from development, has restrictions in others, promotes selective rather than clear cutting, protects water fronts from cutting, spares caribou migration routes, calls for reforestation and 100% use of all parts of trees harvested, and protects the forest floor that stores most of the carbon dioxide.

**REVOLT:** The tsunami sweeping the Arab world, while welcomed and long overdue, is nothing new. Greed, that has been part of the human psyche, has controlled far too many human organizations, creating Haves and Have-Nots. Greed even creeps into groups of egalitarian-minded people like monastics, socialists, and communists. To retain their privileges the Haves must share their wealth with sufficient knights, nobles, executives, and generals to monopolize the weapons of force. All of which can go awry as Lesser Haves vie to become major Haves. Periodically, the Have-Nots become Have-Had-Enoughs and revolt, often peacefully, but the fearful Haves use bloody force to maintain the status quo. Successful revolts, like the French Revolution, require the Army, drawn from the ranks of the Have-Nots, to switch loyalties. Knowing this, the Haves build into their armies harsh punishments for deviance from the rules. They also use large quantities of Brain Wash. And, they often forget their reform promises made while the Have-Nots are assembled.

We, in the Western World (and China) pride ourselves that we have, albeit with slow and painful steps, opened the doors for ever more Have-Nots to become, at least, partial Haves. And, we have established procedures for the peaceful transfer of political power. Our militaries, we claim, are under civilian control.

A few minds, blessed by geography and resources, created the necessary cultural, commercial and industrial revolutions that slowly gave rise to the notions of Fair Play and the Dignity of Man (as we forget the nomadic Celts had this 3500 years ago), but our high ideals have too often been restricted to utterances rather than actions. We have become too satisfied with our comfortable lives and in order to enhance them we have supported dictatorial regimes creating enemies among their numerous Have-Nots, giving rise to al Qaida, Hamas, Hezbollah, and others that range from freedom fighters to terrorists. Middle East oil and the Suez Canal are important to us so we pay dictatorial regimes to do our bidding. Much of the \$70 billion Mubarak has pocketed has been donated by our taxpayers. The courage, dedication, and stamina of the protestors is admirable, Continuing to support Mubarak will lose us their future co-operation. The resultant revolt in Iran against the abusive Shah we supported was not to our liking and resulted in a regime that can suppress popular uprisings. Israel also takes our money but refuses our advice and does its own thing, thus not endearing us to the Palestinians or Lebanese. We have not lived up to our own ideals.

At home we allow the gap between Haves and Have-Nots to become a chasm. Is a CEO, a banker, a sport or entertainment star worth that much more than the essential farmer who toils in the hot sun to feed us? There was good reason for the rise of Communism. Why and how did it go off the rails? This latest Arab tsunami demands our immediate support, guidance, and sacrifices if we are to have a better world for all of us. The world-wide dissatisfaction with government and multi-national conglomerates must be heeded.

It is not an easy task but we must ensure, as we drive forward, that we keep in the driver's seat Human Rights who has respect for all living things.

**GLOBAL WARMING BEHAVING AS PREDICTED:** NE Canada and Greenland have been 20 degrees warmer than normal, so have lost 30% of their surface ice that had kept Arctic air dense, confining the cold air to the Arctic. This air can now stream south giving Europe and North America much colder winters.

