



The BIGOT List

by Douglas Rowland

“Do you know what BIGOT means?” I blinked, uncertain how to respond. Win Farmer, the widow of a WWII veteran and one of my table companions at the Legion persisted “Have you heard of the BIGOT list?” I hadn’t. Mrs. Farmer said her family possessed a “BIGOT A LIST” and that I could see it.

A bit of research revealed that critical information dealing with targets, landing zones, timing and force levels for OVERLORD was assigned a level of security higher than TOP SECRET. Such documents were stamped BIGOT. Those on the distribution list for such documents were said to be BIGOTED. Considering the vast numbers of men and women from all arms of the service involved in the planning for OVERLORD, there were a relatively small number of them who found themselves on a BIGOT list.

The document Mrs. Farmer showed me is a single, legal-length

sheet of paper, dated 24th May 1944 and hand-numbered “30” in pencil. It is classified TOP SECRET and headed “BIGOT A LIST”. It lists 43 officers and 6 airmen with their appointments and is issued over the signature block of Air Vice Marshall H. Broadhurst commanding No. 83 Group.1

The most junior officer’s name to appear on the BIGOT List for 83 Group was Flying Officer E.K. (Kyrle) Farmer appointed to maps/plans. He joined the RCAF in 1942. After gaining his pilot’s wings he was posted to 414 (Black Knight) squadron. When he joined, the squadron operated Mustang Mk I’s in a fighter-bomber role out of Britain. It then switched to Mk IX Spitfires fitted for photo-reconnaissance. Kyrle told his family that early in 1944 he was taken off flying duties and assigned to a hush, hush planning organization preparing for the invasion of France. There

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he was BIGOTED. So sensitive was the information he acquired during this assignment he was not allowed to resume flying duties nor to leave Britain to rejoin 414 squadron until well after the Allies were firmly established in Europe. He watched the invasion force leave Britain from the shore in Dover.

When Kyrle was about to leave 83 Group HQ he asked his superior officer if he could keep his copy of the List. What young man wouldn’t want to have some tangible evidence of his involvement in the planning, at a very high level, for what we now think of as D-Day, June 6,

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President's Message

Friends' Fall activities are in full swing as we participate in First and Second World War commemorations in conjunction with the Canadian War Museum. This month our focus is on the annual Remembrance Week activities and the ceremonies and events of Remembrance Day itself.

The first half of the friends work year has been very productive. Your membership and ongoing donations are essential to the continued support to the Museum and our efforts to engage all Canadians in learning about and supporting Canada's military

history. Among our accomplishments the following are representative of the things the Friends as an organization and our many individual volunteers do to support the CWM:

- Jean Morin's ongoing The First World War Day-by-Day/La Premier Guerre Mondiale de jour en jour is a fascinating project, which identifies interesting happenings for each day of the First World War. The daily facts/happenings are distributed by Twitter and Facebook.
- Allan Bacon, one of our new directors, participated with members of the CWM staff in the selection of the Gunter Award winners. The awards, which are financed by the Friends, exist to encourage students to pursue studies in Canadian Military History. The \$4,000 to cover the four awards was passed to the CWM, and the awards themselves were presented to the four winning students in June 2015.
- Mike Braham, Ruth Kirkpatrick, Victor Vaivads, the mailing team and other volunteers continue to publish the Torch including the annual First World War Centennial Supplement, e-bulletins and other communications products for our members and Canadians at large.
- William (Bill) Smith led another successful Adopt-a-Book Program. Through the generosity of our members, we met our \$2,000 annual commitment and the Hartland Molson Library of the Canadian War Museum has the new books on its shelves.
- We have paid the CWM \$5,000 to support the provision of free parking for former military and RCMP members who visit the Museum.
- We continue to support the CWM initiative, Awesome Sundays. So far we have provided \$10,000 to assist the Museum with activities and special handouts for the monthly interactive family Sunday events at the CWM. Awesome Sunday themes to date have included Tanks, Models, Art and Gladiators.
- The Book Room Team is on pace for another record-setting year, selling used military books as a major source of revenue for the Friends.

The next Torch will include a full update on the Medals Stories Project. Our \$25,000 annual commitment is making a difference as CWM staff and Friends volunteers work to conserve the over 1,100 sets of World War I medals currently held by the Museum, research the stories of the people who earned those medals, acquire additional medals and work to development of a searchable website to digitally display the medals and stories.

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1944? His superior said “Yes, but keep it secret; tell no one.”

The trust wasn’t misplaced. It was not until a visit to France in 1987 that he told his wife about the List.

“Why BIGOT?” The classification was inaugurated by the Inter-Services Security Board of COSSAC² in September 1943. It could be another of those words that popped out of the opaque and somewhat random process that the Allies had adopted for selecting codewords — Totalize, Neptune,

Market Garden, Ultra. William B Brauer argues with conviction, in his book *Hoodwinking Hitler*, that it “took its curious name from the stamp ‘To Gib’ that had been printed on the papers of officers travelling to Gibraltar for the invasion of North Africa in 1942. To confuse the Germans the ‘To Gib’ letters had been reversed”

A third possibility and the most fun given that it was employed by both the British and the Americans is that it was an acronym for **British Invasion of German Occupied Territories**. Imagine the snickers among

the British staff officers if they slid that one by.

It’s amazing what you can learn when eating fish and chips at the Legion.

¹ 83 Group was one of four in 2 Tactical Air Force, a unit of the Allied Expeditionary Air Force commanded by Air Chief Marshall Leigh-Mallory.

² Chief of Staff to the Supreme Allied Commander.

Doug Rowland is a former President of the FCWM.

Canadian War Museum welcomes new Director General



On September 15, 2015, the Canadian War Museum announced the appointment of Stephen Quick as its new Director General. Mr. Quick has a wealth of experience in Canada’s cultural sector, serving most recently as Director General of the Canada Aviation and Space Museum and Vice-President of Conservation and Collection for the Canada Science and Technology Museums Corporation, positions he held concurrently since April 2010.

“I am delighted to welcome Stephen Quick as the new leader of the Canadian War Museum’s management team,” said Mark O’Neill, President and CEO of the Canadian Museum of History and Canadian War Museum. “Mr. Quick’s leadership skills and national museum experience make him ideally suited to guide the future of the War Museum, one of Canada’s most respected, valued and visited cultural institutions.”

Highlights of Mr. Quick’s tenure at the Canada Aviation and Space Museum include his leading role in the Museum’s acquisition of the first Canadarm and his election as the first non-European president of the International Association of Transport Museums.

“The Canadian War Museum is an exceptional institution; it is a place for collective memory, a place to engage in the type of dialogue that helps us all understand the effect of conflict on the human experience in the context of Canada’s military history” said Stephen Quick. “It is both an honour and a humbling experience to be given this incredible responsibility.”

Mr. Quick has also worked for the National Gallery of Canada and the Department of Canadian Heritage, and held senior positions in the Canadian publishing industry.

British Infantry Tank Mark III, Valentine

by Major (Ret'd) Don Allen

In 1938 the British arms manufacturer Vickers-Armstrong, as a private venture, offered the UK government a 16 ton infantry support tank they dubbed the Valentine. The tank had very little to recommend it – it was slow, the existing turret could easily accommodate the excellent 2 pounder (40mm) gun but any main armament weapon of increased size would require major alterations of the turret to contain it and any increase in the crew of two. The tank was rejected initially but soon the urgent needs of war necessitated its acceptance and it was designated the Infantry Tank Mark III Valentine. Despite the early misgivings the Valentine became one of the most important British tanks - accounting for nearly a quarter of British tank output by 1943. The Valentine production accounted for 8,275 examples produced in Marks (Mark I through to Mark XI) including 1,420 tanks produced in Montreal and several variants. Some of the more important variants included the Valentine Bridgelay, the Valentine Duplex Drive swimming tank and the Archer, the 17 pounder self-propelled anti-tank which was employed by some Canadian artillery units.

The name “Valentine” remains a mystery but three tales hint at a possible origin: firstly, the plans for the tank were submitted on Valentine’s Day 1938 — not true — they arrived 10 February; secondly, it was named in



honour of the tank designer Sir John Valentine Carden who was killed in a plane crash in 1935 — possible; and lastly, it was the acronym for Vickers-Armstrong Limited Elswick & Newcastle-upon-Tyne - a possible — you pick one!

With war coming Britain had asked Canada to produce the Valentine in October 1939 but the order was withdrawn in early 1940 as the UK decided to restrict production to Britain only. With the Allied defeat at Dunkirk in 1940 Britain lost much of their military equipment including most of their tanks. The tank order to Canada was quickly reinstated and the Canadian

Pacific Railway Angus Locomotive Shop in Montreal was contracted. It was a dramatic change from building trains to building tanks. The growing pains were severe, hampered not just by poor production and assembly methods and facilities, but by delays in getting materiel and drawings from the UK. This was the first time tanks had been built in Canada but the difficulties were eventually overcome and the tank was designated the Valentine Mark VIIA. It differed from its UK counterpart in several ways: she used a US- built GMC diesel engine and gearbox, employed a 24 volt electrical system vice the UK 12 volt system, the UK 7.92mm Besa machine gun (MG) was eventually replaced with the Browning .30 calibre MG and in later models the tank received a one piece cast nose instead of the bolted plate



CWM Valentine

nose. The entire production run of 1,420 tanks, less 30 for Canadian training purposes, were dispatched to the Soviet Union under Mutual Aid Programme. The Valentine proved to be a valuable training tank for Canada in the initial stages of the war until sufficient quantities of Ram tanks arrived. The Soviets liked their Canadian Valentines for their sturdiness and the reliability of its diesel engine although they were disappointed with the 2 pounder gun. The Valentine was used by the Soviets until the end of the war.

The Canadian War Museum's Valentine was production number 838 and it was built in late 1942 or early 1943 with the distinctive cast nose. Her current appear-

ance resulted from being under water for 46 years. Upon arrival in the USSR she was assigned to the 57th Regiment of the 5th Guards Tank Army and was lost in action on 25 January 1944 near Telepino, Ukraine (180 km south of Kiev). During the attack she broke through the ice during a river crossing and was lost until 1990. A deal was made with the Ukrainian government and the Valentine was returned home. As a tribute to the tank's history she will remain in her current state.

Don Allen is a retired Armoured Corps Officer and a Volunteer Interpreter in the LeBreton Gallery of the Canadian War Museum.

Donations

General Donations

The Friends are grateful to the following who made general donations during the Period 1 July – 30 September 2015

Brunt, Pamela N.

Buchanan, Donald R.

Dunne, Stephen J.

Elliot, Bruce

Gambin, Joseph

Hale, Kerrie

Jarrett, Leslie Paul

Little, W.E. Robert

MacFie Clan Society of Canada

MacQuarrie, Heather

Margeson, Robert W.

Milledge, Mr. & Mrs.

Ott, Helen F.

“Remember Our Fallen” Fund

Stinson, David L.

In-Memoriam Donations

The following is the list of donors making in-memoriam donations during the period 1 July – 30 September 2015. The tributes are recorded in the language in which they are provided.

Foster, Gordon in memory of William (Bill) Vradenberg

Parent, Lori in memory of Robert Parent

Transitions

New Friends

From 1 July – 30 September 2015 the Friends of the Canadian War Museum have welcomed the following new Friends:

Barker, Louis

Elliot, Bruce

Fraser, Jennifer

Gagnon, Karl

Gordon, Frederick

Hale, Kerrie

MacQuarrie, Heather

Philips, Graeme

Remember Our Fallen Fund

Richardson, Margaret

Rygiel, Margaret

Sheehy, Barry

Stinson, David L.

Tardivel, Jacques

In Memoriam

Since distribution of the last Torch in August 2015, the Friends have been notified of, and mourn, the passing of the following colleagues:

Harper, Wayne Burton

Canadian War Museum historian Tim Cook invested into the Order of Canada

The Friends join the Canadian War Museum in congratulating historian Tim Cook on the occasion of his investiture as Member of the Order of Canada, in recognition of his contributions to promoting Canada's military history as an author, researcher and curator. The ceremony took place on 23 September at Rideau Hall, and was presided over by His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada.

"Tim Cook's exemplary work stimulates important conversations about our country's military history," said Mark O'Neill, President and CEO of the Canadian War Museum and the Canadian Museum of History. "The Canadian War Museum, as a centre of excellence in the study of Canada's military history, is very proud of this outstanding achievement."

Educated at Trent University, the Royal Military College of Canada and the Australian Defence Force Academy, Dr. Cook has been with the Canadian War Museum since early 2002. He was responsible for the historical content of Gallery 2, *For Crown and Country: The South*

African and First World Wars, as well as for two special exhibitions: **Trench Life: A Survival Guide** (2008) and **War and Medicine** (2011). He is also the author of numerous award-winning books, and received the 2013

Pierre Berton Award for popularizing Canadian history. His latest book, *The Necessary War, Volume One: Canadians Fighting the Second World War 1939-1943* is a finalist for the Ottawa Book Awards.



Photo: Sgt Ronald Duchesne, Rideau Hall
©Her Majesty The Queen in Right of Canada represented
by the Office of the Secretary to the Governor General, 2015.

Comments and Letters

The *Torch* editorial staff has been pleased to notice a recent increase in the number of comments and letters received on articles appearing in the newsletter.

That said, some of them, particularly as they relate to the factual or technical content of an article, pose a challenge to our two-person staff both in terms of our own limited technical knowledge and in the time and means available to deal with them appropriately.

Given those limitations we rely largely on the expertise and/or experience of the author to produce a well-researched and accurate article within the imposed space constraints. Our editorial efforts are restricted primarily to grammatical and layout considerations.

Fortunately, our Webmaster has come up with a workable solution that allows those with comments on an article to do so on-line, thereby opening the way for a useful discussion on contentious issues. Readers of the electronic version of the *Torch* will note that there is now a comment section following each article that allows for additional or differing views to be shared and discussed. We fervently hope that those of you with a computer will take advantage of this innovation, thereby enlivening the *Torch* by making it a more inter-active publication.

Of course, for those of you who continue to resist the electronic plague, we continue to look forward to your comments via the mail and telephone.

2014 FCWM Volunteer of the Year — Julia Finn

Julia Finn is the recipient of the 2014 FCWM Volunteer of the Year Award.

Julia is the FCWM Office Manager, a role she performs with grace and efficiency. During the past year she developed and enhanced the office operating procedures and worked with the FCWM Executive Committee to bring the office's governance files up-to-date. She is the go-to person for all the on-going office tasks. Her pleasing and helpful manner makes her a great ambassador for the Friends in her face-to-face and telephone communications with visitors and callers to the office. She is meticulous in her work, taking nothing for granted and checking/rechecking documents for accuracy.

In addition to her a specific office management duties Julia provided unreserved support for the FCWM committees in numerous ways, including the distribution of information on upcoming CWM events; management of the the distribution of *The Torch*; maintenance of a calendar of Committee meetings; updating of the membership database with address changes; and, assistance with the registration and orientation of new CWM volunteers.

Julia is a well-deserving recipient of this award and *The Torch* joins in congratulating her and also apologizes for this belated recognition of her achievement.



Wartime Golf

German aircraft from Norway would fly on missions to attack northern England. Because of the icy weather conditions, the barrels of their guns had a small dab of wax in the muzzle to protect them from clogging with ice. In addition to attacking industrial or other targets close to golf courses, as they crossed the coast, they would clear their guns by firing a few rounds at the golf courses. Golfers were urged to take cover.

The notice below was posted adjusting rules at a golf club in Britain in 1940.

RICHMOND GOLF CLUB Temporary Rules, 1940

1. Players are asked to collect bomb and shrapnel splinters to save these causing damage to the Mowing Machines.
2. In Competitions, during gunfire or while bombs are falling, players may take cover without penalty for ceasing play.
3. The positions of known delayed action bombs are by red flags at a reasonably, but not guaranteed, safe distance therefrom.
4. Shrapnel and/or bomb splinters on the Fairways, or in Bunkers within a club's length of a ball, may be moved without penalty, and no penalty shall be incurred if a ball is thereby caused to move accidentally.
5. A ball moved by enemy action may be replaced, or if lost or destroyed, a ball may be dropped not nearer the hole without penalty.
6. A ball lying in a crater may be lifted and dropped not nearer the hole, preserving the line to the hole, without penalty.
7. A player whose stroke is affected by the simultaneous explosion of a bomb may play another ball from the same place. Penalty one stroke.

At The Abyss, An Insider's History of the Cold War by Thomas C. Reed

Reviewed by John Anderson

Random House, March 2004,
ISBN 0-89141-821-0

The saga of the development of the atomic bomb and its deployment against Japan at the end of World War II is now part of our mythology. But for readers of my generation, an equally important part of the mythology is what happened after World War II in what we call the "Cold War" that is deemed to have ended with the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991.

Thomas Reed began his career as a new engineering graduate from Cornell University in the mid-50s, worked as a weapons designer at the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory, became Secretary of the Air Force in the Ford administration, and then moved on to senior posts in the administrations of Ronald Regan and George Bush Senior.

For myself personally, the two most intriguing parts of his story are (a) the initial years of nuclear weapons development, testing and deployment, and (b) the events in the years following the collapse of the Soviet Union, including the opening of relations with the Russians responsible for the Soviet Union's weapons program.

In between was the Vietnam War. Vietnam was a traumatic experience for the US Air Force, and also for the US Army. Neither service was equipped or prepared to fight a war with conventional weapons, and both subsequently went through massive rebuilding and restructuring programs.

In many cases, Reed tells the story as if he were directly involved at the highest level; in fact though, especially in the early years, Reed

was involved only at more junior levels, but he fills out the story based on document releases and other disclosures that occurred in the late 1990s after the Cold war was over and relations had been established with the Russians.

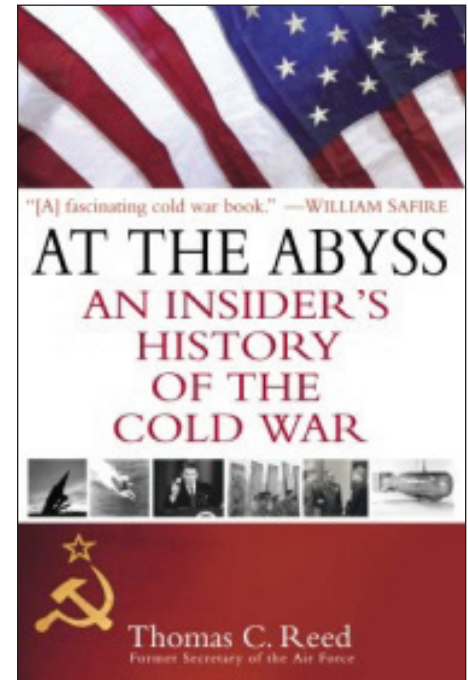
Reed's ability to tell his story is aided by the fact that he knew many, if not most, of key players personally. He was a close friend and adviser to both Ronald Regan and George Bush Senior.

One of the most telling vignettes in the book, in my view, was Reed's description of a visit by Russian nuclear weapons physicists and engineers to Lawrence Livermore and Los Alamos in February 1992. In particular, he describes a dinner whose participants, both Russian and American, had all been witness to multi-megaton nuclear events -- and who were horrified at the thought that such terrible weapons might have ever been used in anger.

And Reed's narrative ends with a very moving description of the ceremony, on 31 May 1992, at Offutt Air Force Base, at which US Stra-

tegic Air Command was stood down, a definitive event marking the end of the Cold War for the United States.

This is a very important book, well worth reading. My only regret is that this brief review really does not do justice to the material covered in the book. Most highly recommended.



Personal Treasures

Personal Treasures comprise the FCWM's virtual museum. Made up of personal military memorabilia, they form a fascinating insight into Canadians and their relationship to military matters. Do you have something that you would like to share? If so, send a high resolution photograph of the item and a brief description to one of the addresses found on page 2 of this Torch. E-Mails should be sent attention: Mike Braham. To see the items currently in the collection, visit the FCWM web site at <https://www.friends-amis.org> where you will find the tab for Personal Treasures on the Home Page. If you would like to comment on any of the Treasures those readers with a computer will note that there is now an on-line comment capability. Of course, comments by mail are also welcome and encouraged.