



Mosquito Bytes

Calgary Mosquito
Aircraft Society

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Tour to Historic Aviation Services

It's time once again to journey northward to Wetaskiwin for a look at the progress on our Hurricane in the hands of Historic Aviation Services and to snoop around the back rooms of the Reynolds-Alberta Museum.

Spaces are limited and only current members are eligible to join us for this very special tour. Time, date and place are 11:00 a.m., Saturday May 30 in the parking lot of the RAM. Members are allowed to bring one non-member.

As with last year, make your own way. From north Calgary it's a 2.5 hour drive, sans bathroom breaks. First come first served for signing up. Email me at calgarymosquito@telus.net to claim a spot. If you are an old fashioned computer-less type, phone and leave me a message at 403-235-1350. After the 30 spots are claimed we will have to say 'sorry, but like the Oilers, you will have to try again next year'.

Prez

Membership Reminder

Last reminder to renew! Hate to see you go, but in order to stay current we need to hear from you and your \$20. If you choose not to, then I'll say thanks for the support; It's all helped. To those who have already re-upped, an even bigger thanks. It takes a team to get this job done and you are part of it. Online renewals here: <http://www.calgarymosquitosociety.com/membership.htm>



The newly restored undercarriage and flap selector on the Hurricane.



Just one small corner of the storage area at the Reynolds-Alberta Museum. Join us for a 'Members Only' look behind the scenes.

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\$1 Per Touch



At 3 ply and a total of just 3mm, this is the thickest plywood used on the Mosquito.

That’s what I think we should charge. It’s blonde and ever so smooth and slightly exotic and you can’t help but want to lightly brush your fingers across it. Its genuine, made to spec Mosquito plywood, newly delivered from the plant in.....Salzburg, Austria. The J.U.A. Frischeis GES M.B.H. company was recommended to us by the maker of new Mosquito airframes, Glyn Powell of New Zealand.

The company proudly manufactures to the original British Specification 6V3, exactly as ordered by de Havilland for Mosquito production throughout the war, though most of the wood of that vintage came from western Canada and the northern USA. We have three ply birch sheets in 1.5, 2 and 3mm. Most of the sheets are 313 cm by 153 cm, or for us older New Worlders, that is roughly 123” X 60”. Weird but true. And what’s it worth these days? About \$650 per sheet. Repeat after me “Measure six times; cut once”.

Parts Needed

And speaking of parts, check your basements, garages and hangars. Here is a partial list of what we need for our birds:

For the Mosquito, a PR style nose blister. Throttle quadrant. Rudder pedals. Exhaust pipes (a full set of 24).

For the Hurricane, a retractable step, spade grip brake lever, undercarriage and flap hydraulic selector unit, one axle nut, elevator trim chain and cables and twelve .303 Browning machine guns. Drop us a line if you know where we can find any of these.



Looking good as new! This is stamped inside a fuel tank bay of our airplane.



Hurricane gun bay. We need a set of 12 to complete our airplane



Richard de Boer



70th Anniversary Events

To those who track such things, May 2nd marked the 70th anniversary of the last combat operation by Bomber Command in WWII. It was carried out by 179 Mosquitoes of 8 and 100 Groups on the city of Kiel. Thanks to Paul English for the heads up on this.



Of course May 8th is VE-Day and May 9th marks the anniversary of the arrival of F for Freddie in Calgary. As I often do, I'll stop by the tower and later the cemetery and have a word with the boys, reminding them that they are remembered and honoured.

More Parts From England

Thanks to our good friend, supporter and Mosquito-ophile in England, David Coeshall, we received a crate of Mosquito parts which he has been sourcing from around the 'Sceptered Isle' for the past couple of years. David has scrounged at 'aerajumbles' (airplane swap meets to us New Worlders), eBay UK, collectors and fellow Mossie fans.

The collection included DH tools, Mosquito castings, counterweights, gun charging cables and handles (very cool), main undercarriage rubber blocks, nav lights and main wheel covers.

Perhaps my favourite piece is not Mosquito, but an armoured windscreen for the Hurricane. Though acquired in England, it is a 'Made in Canada' piece that was never installed and is as clean and pretty as the day it was made in 1942. It came packed in a box that was apparently mailed from Quebec to England in 1982, covered in \$85 worth of stamps. Welcome home windscreen. Have we got a place for you! And a big thanks to David and his boss, Jan!



WESTJET

YYC™ CALGARY AIRPORT AUTHORITY



Scott McTavish

John Hopkinson & Associates Ltd.

Jack McWilliam



A New/Old Stock armoured windscreen for our Hurricane, acquired in England by member and very active supporter David Coeshall.



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**RETAIN, RESTORE
HONOUR and EDUCATE**

We're on the web at
calgarymosquitosociety.com



Mossie Prototype

This November will mark the 75th anniversary of the first flight of the prototype Mosquito. Our friends and supporters at the de Havilland Heritage Center at Hatfield, England are busy restoring the original Mossie #1 in preparation for the event. Last month they achieved a major milestone in the restoration process by rejoining the fuselage to the wing. This picture was forwarded by Gerald Mears to videographer April Butler of Pan Productions. Tell me their fuselage handling rig doesn't look awfully familiar.

Who Was Walter E. Grauman?

If the name doesn't ring a bell, I'm betting that you know some of his work. Sadly he passed away on March 20th of this year, but not without leaving a very lasting impression on more than one kid back in 1964 with the release of his film 633 Squadron.

You can read a short note about his passing here:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-32149495> Thanks to George Skulsky for the heads up on this.

Walter, you changed my life.

But clearly he had a very significant effect on others as well. Check this very cool story on the Vintage Wings website about someone else whose life was deeply influenced by Walter and his classic film:

<http://www.vintagewings.ca/VintageNews/Stories/tabid/116/articleType/ArticleView/articleId/518/633-Squadron.aspx>



*The cover for the original vinyl soundtrack.
(Yes, I still have it.)*