

Royal Canadian Air Force Hudson Bomber Memorial Installed

By Linda Harrington

Ed Langille passed away last August but his Comrades in Legion Branch #72 recently completed a project Ed was very passionate about seeing completed. Diane Barkhouse was one of those Comrades who spent many hours over the last few years researching, making presentations to the Branch and putting plans into action. She said Ed was kept informed as the plans were made and she felt he would now be saying, "good job everyone". This important project was



The wreaths placed in memory of the four airmen who lost their life after the Hudson Bomber crashed in the Great Village River on October 23, 1941.

a memorial to four young airmen who lost their lives when a RCAF Hudson Bomber

crashed into the Great Village River on October 23, 1941. A beautiful plaque and bench were designed and installed, followed by a Remembrance Service for the Bomber crew.

The Lockheed Hudson #AM896 was one of 12 Hudson Bombers taking flight from RCAF Debert on their long-distance exercise before being ferried across the Atlantic to the UK. The intended destination was Windsor, Ontario. Shortly after take-off the plane tragically crashed into the ground on the Great Village River, taking the lives of

20-year-old RCAF Pilot Officer Charles Beeching O' Hanley from Yarmouth, NS; 21-year-old RCAF Sergeant Robert Frederick Kelley from Toronto, ON; 26-year-old RCAF Pilot Officer Richard Aubrey Luan and 21-year-old RAF Sergeant Norman Leonard Hornsey from Bristol, Northamptonshire, England.

Diane Barkhouse extensively researched the family genealogy of these young men and her diligence paid off. She was able to reach family members of three of the men and some of these relatives were

continued on page 11



The memorial plaque to the four airmen who died in the RCAF Hudson Bomber Crash on Oct. 23, 1941.



Maggie King-Roi lead the order of service and recited a prayer.



Charles Burns talked about the events leading up to the crash of the bomber on that fateful day in 1941.



Piper Dan Wesley leads the Legion Colour Party to the Service of Remembrance.



Legion Colour Party stands at attention.



Diane Barkhouse had opening remarks about the Memorial Project from start to completion.

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