

Sam Garnet -  
Canadian Air Force

By Kristen Gallagher



# Canadian Training

- Canada had the best training facilities from coast to coast. Better than any other countries
- The world was very proud of Canadian training
- The British Commonwealth Air Training Plan
- Sam was trained as a Wireless Operator in the Air Force



# Training in Nassau

- Sam trained for nine months in Calgary in the summer time
- Sam then trained in Nassau during the winter
- He crewed up with other men and was then part of the RAF
- They don't know how they picked each other as they worked so well together
- Three wireless operators that rotated between the shooter, radio, and radar, which Sam specialized in
- Sam also specialized in the Mid Upper Turret because the skipper loved his voice.
- Flew for fourteen hours





# Training With Lysanders

- Sam had to learn how to fire a machine gun on a plane with one turret with and aimed at a drogue that was pulled by a chain attached to a lysander
- Lysanders can fly like helicopters and move quite slowly in the air while pulling the drogue
- Sam recieved his WAG (Wireless Aire Gunner) after completing his training



# Going Against Hitler

- Sam never entirely thought about himself going up against Adolf Hitler early on in the war
- After the news about the Holocaust came out, and the rumors turned out to be factual, people started to think about how fortunate they were



# Friends

- Made friends with two other Canadian men and acted like brothers
- One of them became a principle at Montreal High School
- The other was madly in love with a women and when the war ended she ended up sending him a Dear John Letter
- A letter a women sends to their husband/boyfriend telling them the relationship was over



# VE-Day

- Sam Garnet was stationed in Leuchars, Scotland when he got his commission
- For an airman, Sam was living pretty nicely and was content
- Although, it was a very stressful time for the soldiers
- They knew that the war was coming to an end at some point in the near future. It was not going to be a surprise



# D-Day

- Commemorating the sixty-fifth anniversary of D-Day, Sam was interrogated by a reporter asking what it looked like
- Sam said that it looked like you could walk across the channel and his words were shared all over the world
- Sam was glad he was up in the air and not down in the water





# Working With The Navy

- The Air Force was asked to work with the Navy in Ireland
- The man in charge of the Navy was a CBC executive from Vancouver
- He told them to never put anyone but a Canadian on the phone because everyone can understand the way we speak English





# Finishing The War



- Sam was station in Leuchurst up in Scotland and had a commission which was much different from being an officer
- Because he was in Scotland, he lived in a building like a hotel
- Sam had a hard living allowance and got a shilling a day



# Adjusting Back Home

- Sam returned home in August, 1945
- Now that Sam was a father he had more responsibility than he ever thought he would have which was difficult for him
- The Canadian Government allowed the men to go to university for free but Sam hadn't even finished 10<sup>th</sup> grade
- You could either have land or \$600, so Sam took the money and bought his family a fridge



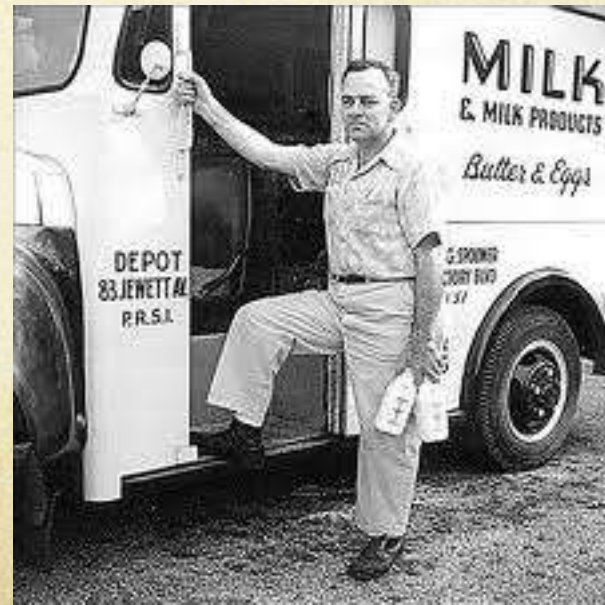
# Being Home

- Sam took off his uniform and put it away
- He hardly kept any of his uniforms, they all disappeared and his kids always played with them
- No one cared about the war and no one would even talk about it until they turned about fifty to sixty years old
- Also many of the organizations like the Air Crew Association didn't start right away
- People were only focusing on making their lives work for what they had to do for the rest of their lives



# Sam's New Son

- Sam has had a few children since the war, but his eldest son was born while he was away at war
- His son had very red strawberry hair and nobody in Sam's family had red hair
- When he was sitting on his front steps with his sons and the milk man came up, Sam told him to take his hat off... he was bald
- “You're lucky your bald”



# Remembrance Day

- Remembrance Day is always a sad time for all veterans
- Sam especially thinks about all the men he met during the war and that one of them that was part of his crew was actually killed
- Also many of his other friends did not make it through the war
- “They were so young they’d never tasted a glass of wine or a women.”



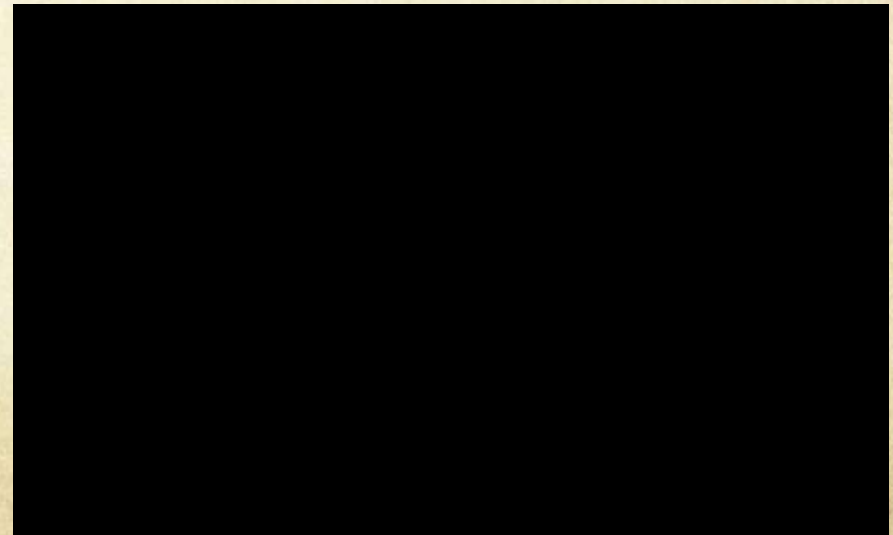
# People Who Didn't Enlist

- Sam had friends who didn't enlist in the war for their own reasons and it didn't bother him at all
- Sam is glad that he made the choice to enlist, especially now that he is here to share his stories with everyone



# Movies About War

- The Movie “Saving Private Ryan” was Sam’s favorite of all the movies about the war because it was accurate
- He also thought that “All Quiet On The Western Front” was gory but very good





# Respect For Canadian Military

- Same believes that Canadians are very well respected now-a-days
- As long as there is respect and on Remembrance Day it is acceptable but not if it's overdone
- Sam doesn't want to fight the wars over and over again



# Importance Of Oral History

- Oral history is very important because you not only learn all about the facts about the war from the textbook, but you also get to hear other peoples exciting and thrilling stories from their own personal experiences during the war. Making these interviews will create wonderful memories for these survivors and great knowledge for others as well. These videos can be saved for a long time, and in the future, when there are no longer any more veterans or survivors alive to share their stories, the videos will be a key and helpful resource for everyone to use.

# The End

- Thank you Sam Garnet for sharing your amazing and interesting stories with me. I really enjoyed listening to your experiences from the war and your thoughts. I truly appreciate you for coming in for the interview.

# Bibliography

- <http://www.google.com/imgres?q=Milkman&um>
- <http://www.google.com/imgres?q=Liberator+plane&um>
- <http://www.google.com/imgres?q=plane+drogue&um>
- <http://www.google.com/imgres?q=lysander&um>
- <http://www.google.com/imgres?q=hitler&start>
- <http://www.google.com/imgres?q=dear+john+letter&start>
- <http://www.google.com/imgres?q=d-day+and+the+normandy+invasion+boats&um>