

## LEST WE FORGET



1919 - 2006

### F/SGT HARRY HINTON, OStJ, DFM, CD

Flight Sergeant - Royal Air Force

Sergeant – The Governor General’s Horse Guards - Canada

Colonel on the Staff of the Governor of Kentucky – also known as a Kentucky Colonel – Highest Honour that Kentucky can bestow.

Captain – 78<sup>th</sup> Fraser Highlanders of Canada – York Garrison – Military Liaison Officer

Trustee – The Governor General’s Horse Guards

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Mr. Harry Thomas Hinton’s life began on the fourth of March 1919, in Cardiff Wales, the United Kingdom. He came from a rather large family of six brother and sisters. His father was with The 1<sup>st</sup> Queen’s Dragoon Guards during the Boer War in South Africa; the Regimental Sergeant Major of the Royal Welch Regiment when it was stationed in South Africa during World War One, and was a Captain in the Home Guard during World War Two. At the age of 14 Harry left school to work and after several jobs left Wales to become an Apprentice in the carpet trade but continued his education by attending night school and received his senior matriculation. As the National Service Act was fast approaching (1939), and the drums of war were being heard, Harry joined the Royal Air Volunteer Reserve in 1938. Harry was called up for active duty in August of 1939, when he was barely twenty. After basic training, he was posted to RAF Cottesmore and trained as an air gunner. After completion of his course he was posted to Bomber Command at RAF Cottesmore Rutland where he completed 30 missions over Europe, including mine laying missions, flying in Hampdens. After completing his first tour, Harry was posted to Cosford to complete the Flight Mechanics Course on which he placed first.

He was then posted to Sealand as Flight Mechanic / Air Gunner. In 1940, Harry was involved in flying Ferry Battles; he was posted to Tern Hill for selection to go either to Canada or to Chivenor. This was the first time that Canada and Harry encountered each other. He was ready to go but was posted to Chivenor in December where he met his lovely wife Barbara. They were engaged in April of 1941. One night while taking Barbara home on St. George’s Day, they were in London to see a show, when at approximately 9 PM, the anti aircraft guns opened. They decided to leave the show, when the bombs started to fall, and head for an Air Raid Shelter. As the bombs started to fall on either side of them Harry dropped to the ground, but as Barbara had never been in a bombing raid before kept running. Harry got up chased after her and just as a bomb hit the ground tackled her. Unfortunately the blast of the bomb, caught both Harry and Barbara, and blew them across the road and through a plate glass window. Harry picked up Barbara and brought her to an air raid shelter, unfortunately her injuries required urgent medical attention so an ambulance was called for. Upon arrival at the hospital she was immediately rushed to the operating room. Harry stayed the entire night at the hospital and assisted the staff with

wounded individuals as bombs had hit the hospital itself. All the patients were finally moved and treated by 430 A.M. At that time one of the nurses suggested that they go for a cup of tea. As Harry was sitting down he felt pain in his rear end, the nurse asked him to turn around so she could look and noticed that there was blood on his pants. He was asked to drop his drawers where it was found that Harry had been hit by shrapnel and it looked like someone had taken a razor blade to his backside. The shrapnel was removed and in the afternoon Harry was released to go home. He left without Barbara who had to stay in the hospital for six weeks to recover.

Mr. Hinton was sent back to Cosford for a Fitter 11E Course and then onto a Flight Engineers Course, returning to Bomber Command at Cottesmore and flying on Lancasters' for another 30 Missions. It was after during this second tour, Feb 1943, that Mr. Hinton received personally the Distinguished Flying Medal from King George VI, for bringing home his badly damaged bomber and injured crew after being hit by anti-aircraft fire during a flying mission. At the end of that tour Harry was allowed to go to a station of his choice. Harry picked Chivenor, which at that time had the 407 Squadron located at it and which was Canadian. This was Harry's second contact with Canadians. In 1943, Harry was transferred to Stranraer to fly Catalina Flying Boats. He was then sent to Castle Archdale and then to Sulum Voe on the Shetland Islands, Barbara accompanied Harry the entire time. After 20 trips Harry suffered a blown eardrum and was grounded for recovery at Chivenor, and was posted to RAF 407 Squadron. To Harry's credit after flying more than 60 Combat Missions and 20 Flying Boat Missions (Reconnaissance), Harry volunteered to fly Search and Rescue Missions from Azores, Portugal. Harry then returned in 1944 to partake in the invasion of Europe on D-Day and patrolled the Channel conducting Search and Rescue Missions. Once a foothold was established in Europe, Harry was transferred to supervise workshops in France and Holland. At the end of 1945, Harry was demobilized, and he returned to the carpet trade and his own business.

In 1946, Harry decided that he would have better opportunities elsewhere. He remembered fondly his times with the Canadians and decided to immigrate to Canada. After serving eight years in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve and with the assistance from the Royal Canadian Air Force he immigrated to Canada in April of 1946 and moved first to Owen Sound and then to Toronto. He had to leave Barbara and their first child behind until he could sponsor them as a War Bride and dependent. The Simpson's Company hired Harry in 1947 for their Carpet Department, until he moved on in 1957 for other opportunities. While employed at Simpson's he met Mr. Allan Burton who was not only the President of the Company but also the Commanding officer of The Governor General's Horse Guards, the senior militia regiment in the Canadian Forces Reserves. Lieutenant Colonel Burton convinced Harry to join the Regiment. As a Senior Non Commissioned Officer in the unit, one of the tasks he was required to do by the Commanding Officer was to assist in standing up and reviving the Governor General's Horse Guards Cavalry Squadron. This part of the Regiment was and still does perpetuate the origins of the unit to provide mounted escorts. Harry and the Cavalry Squadron provided escorts to the Her Majesty the Queen, the Governor General and many other dignitaries. Through his association in the Regiment he made contacts with the Allied Regiment and succeeded in acquiring items needed by the Cavalry Squadron. He struck up a lasting friendship with the then Regimental Cpl Major, Mr. James Greaves, and that initial ground work struck up by Harry at that time has lasted to this day between the Blues and Royals and The Governor General's Horse Guards. Through his long friendship with the Cpl Major, he was able to meet Her Majesty The Queen and he was made a life member of the Household Cavalry Regiment and inducted into the Guards Club. Harry Retired from the Canadian Forces Reserves after 14 years of service in 1965.

In 1957, Harry left Simpson's and started his own company and was successful, but as the economic conditions were not right he decided to return to work for another company. He was immediately hired by an American Company and became their representative in the UK. The product that he sold for them was very successful. As Harry did not wish to remain in the UK, he returned to Canada in 1959 and joined the T. Eaton Company. Harry worked his way up the corporate ladder to become an Estimator and then to superintendent in 1970. It was while at Eaton's that Mr. Hinton was encouraged to become the Business Manager of the Eaton's and Simpson Carpet Layers Union, a job he did for 15 years and at the same time he was also the chairman of the board of trustees for the union till 1991, when he retired after a total of 21 years of service. While serving in the Carpet Layers Union, which was bankrupt, Harry

negotiated an agreement with Eaton's and Simpson's to make the Union solvent. He encouraged the companies to pay for a new Health, Dental and Pension Plan. He worked tirelessly to point out to senior management, that it was to their benefit to retain qualified and trained workers rather to lose them, who if they left would start their own business and be competition. In this manner Eaton's and Simpson's kept their qualified and experienced staff. The Union and two companies did not have an apprenticeship program. Harry took it upon himself to approach the Ontario Government and got their assistance to setup this type of program. Harry, in conjunction with Eaton's, Eaton's Carpet Union and the American Carpet Laying Union created a curriculum and apprenticeship program so that apprentices could receive their ticket in the trade. In recognition of Harry's work, he received the Award of Merit from the American Carpet Layers Union. It is with pride that Harry was able to say that while he was president of the Union, there was never a strike and everyone from Eaton's and Simpson's Management to the members of the Union were sad the day Harry retired. In fact Harry retired when he was 65 much to delight of his family and friends who had many projects in which Harry could partake. It is important to note that Harry left the Eaton's Company to open his own business in 1970. He continued, however, to be the chairman of the Board and Manager of the Carpet Layers Union, which he ran successfully till he retired in 1984.

It is said that people work harder when they retire than when they actually worked. Well, Harry fits this saying to a tee. Harry worked hard with the Masons and the Shriners to raise funds for these two organizations' charitable works. The Masons for such diverse projects as Hearing, Vision, and special trusts and for the Shriners the many hospitals they support for treating children. Harry was encouraged to join the St. John Ambulance - Community Services Advisory Committee – Toronto Branch in February 1992, and through his good works he was appointed the Order of St. John and received the Long Service medal. In addition to volunteering with the Freemasons and St. John Ambulance he was a volunteer on many other committees, some which were as follows:

Royal Air Force Association  
Royal Air Force Museum  
Royal Canadian Air Force Association  
Royal Canadian Legion  
Royal Canadian Military Institute  
Royal Niagara Military Institute  
Governor Generals' Horse Guards – Regimental Trustees  
The Governor General's Horse Guards Association  
The Governor General's Horse Guards – Officers Mess  
The Governor General's Horse Guards – Warrant Officers and Sergeants Mess  
House Hold Cavalry Regiment, UK  
78<sup>th</sup> Fraser Highlanders – York Garrison Command  
Warriors Day Organization Committee – Canadian National Exhibition  
The Order of St. Lazarus

On all the committees he served with or chaired, his advice and suggestions were listened to. His greatest strength, however, was his ability to persuade individuals to become involved, as many can attest to. As Harry always said, "New members ensure that the committees survive and that fresh ideas are constantly being brought forward for the betterment of the organizations – for volunteers are the life blood of any organization, and if you loose them the organization will suffer". Harry, because of his volunteer work and in attracting volunteers, was also invited in to join to the Military and Hospitaller Order of St. Lazarus. As such, he was responsible in raising more than 1800 dollars in 1994, the highest amount raised by a single individual that year donated to charity. Harry was also invited to join the 78<sup>th</sup> Fraser Highlanders. This Unit is dedicated to charity, the education and improvement of today's Canadian youth. Its aims are to preserve the memory of the men of the Fraser Highlanders, their commanders, Comrades-in-Arms, their adversaries and Canada's history in general. For his work he was promoted to the rank of Captain in the Unit.

As a member of the Royal Canadian Military Institute, he was asked to join to the membership committee. In doing so, he succeeded in attracting many new members and was instrumental in raising

the Pistol Club and promoting safe firearm handling. With his association with The Governor General's Horse Guards, and in his role as the Military Liaison Officer of the 78<sup>th</sup> Fraser Highlanders, he was able to get both the Pistol Club of the RCMI and Members of the 78th to become Associate Members of The Governor General's Horse Guards Officers' Mess, and the 78<sup>th</sup> Fraser Highlanders to join the Royal Canadian Military Institute.

Warriors Day at the Canadian National Exhibition is an annual event and as such Harry has attended many of the Parades. He participated in this parade since 1965 and in 1993, Harry was asked to become part of the Warriors Day Parade Committee. He became the Deputy Parade Marshall and then in 1995 he was elected the Parade Marshall of the Warriors Day Parade, a position he held until he retired from the committee, in addition he was the Director in 2001. As a veteran, Harry was asked to participate as a speaker to Canadian Youth at various venues. He was always available, as he believed that Canada's youth should be educated in Canadian and World history. He spoke of his own wartime experiences both the good and the bad.

Along the way, because of his good works, F/Sgt Hinton was granted a Commission as a Colonel on the Staff of the Governor of The Commonwealth of Kentucky. Also known as a Kentucky Colonel, it is the highest honour that Kentucky can bestow, and Harry was immensely proud to be one. As a note, Harry's life partner and friend, Barbara, is also a Kentucky Colonel.

Harry Hinton will be remembered as an example and inspiration to young and old alike, as he was known for the following:

1. Loyalty - his fierce loyalty to Canada, friends and family;
2. Honesty – as he was known to tell the truth and act with integrity;
3. Courage - he faced challenges both physical and moral with determination and strength of character;
4. Diligence - he undertook all tasks with dedication and perseverance and strived for excellence;
5. Fairness – he was always equitable in his dealings with others and he was just in his decisions and actions;
6. His ability to deal with conflicts and disputes through negotiation and verbal discourse: and
7. Dedicated – to his family, friends and the causes he championed.

All who knew Harry respected him, and he was a man of honour and dignity who took his responsibilities and obligations in life seriously. Harry was a leader and an example of a person who inspired and encouraged individuals to do their best and excel. Harry actively supported volunteerism as he persuaded individuals to join worthy causes and to become members of many organizations dedicated to the well being of Canada and its citizens.

F/SGT HARRY HINTON, OSTJ, DFM, CD, will be missed by his loving wife Barabara, their 2 Children, grandchildren, and by us all.

## **WE SHALL REMEMBER HIM**

### **Honours and Awards of Mr. Harry Thomas Hinton:**

The Order of St. John – Officer  
Distinguished Flying Medal  
Defence Medal  
War Medal  
1939/45 Star  
Atlantic Star

Air Medal  
Air Crew Europe Star  
France Germany Star  
The Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal  
Canadian Forces Decoration  
The Service Medal of the Order of St. John  
The Order of St. Lazarus, Commander, Member of Merit  
Honorary Kentucky Colonel – The highest Honour award by the Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky  
Parade Marshall Warriors Day – Canadian National Exhibition  
Award of Merit from the American Carpet Layers Union

### **Membership in Associations and Organizations**

Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, The Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario.  
Member of the Shrine  
Royal Air Force Association – Life Member  
Royal Air Force Museum – Benefactor  
Royal Canadian Air Force Association  
Royal Canadian Legion  
Royal Canadian Military Institute – Life Member  
Royal Niagara Military Institute  
The Governor General's Horse Guards Association  
The Governor General's Horse Guards – Officers Mess  
The Governor General's Horse Guards – Warrant Officers and Sergeants Mess  
House Hold Cavalry Regiment, UK – Life Member  
The Order of St. John  
St. John Ambulance – Community Services Advisory Committee – Toronto Branch  
The Order of St. Lazarus  
78<sup>th</sup> Fraser Highlanders – York Garrison Command  
Warriors Day Organization Committee – Canadian National Exhibition  
The Order of the Kentucky Colonel