

APPENDIX

SPEECHES BY HER MAJESTY IN OTTAWA, JULY 1, 1959

*Unveiling of Commonwealth Air Forces Memorial**Ottawa, July 1, 1959*

This memorial has been built to honour the men and women of the air forces of the commonwealth who during the second world war gave their lives in Canada, in the United States of America and in neighbouring lands and seas, and who have no known graves. It is one of five such air force memorials, commemorating in all some 30,000 names. I have already opened two of these—at Runnymede and Malta—and the others are at El Alamein and Singapore.

Their very locations illustrate how wide was the conflict from which hardly any portion of the world was immune, and to which every part of our commonwealth made its contribution.

Some of those commemorated here were killed in active operations, based in Canada—on missions over the Atlantic and Pacific oceans and in the Arctic. But most of them were learning to fly under the empire air training scheme, or ferrying aircraft made in this continent to Europe and North Africa. They were young people with a belief in the future, many of whom, had they lived, would be playing their part in the reshaping of this modern world. Their deaths have increased the burden on us, but the example of their faith and courage will surely help and inspire us.

As those whose names are recorded here came from every part of the commonwealth, so today many of you, their relatives and kinsfolk, have come from all over the world to join with my Canadian people in honouring their memory. You will be looking for the names of sons or husbands or brothers who did not shrink from losing their lives to save our own. I share your pride in them and assure you of the undiminished gratitude of those who survived the conflict and are able to live in freedom because of their self sacrifice. I would also offer you a word of sympathy in your loss, which time can mitigate but never dispel.

Many Canadians were present when I unveiled the Runnymede memorial, on which are recorded the names of 3,000 Canadian airmen. In the great window of the shrine there is engraved a verse from the 139th Psalm:

"If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea;

Even there shall Thy hand lead me,
and Thy right hand shall hold me."

Let these words, in which some of those whom we are honouring here may have found encouragement as they climbed up into the skies, help and support you today.

*Television Broadcast**Ottawa, July 1, 1959*

The last time I spoke to you, from this my home in Ottawa, was when I opened the new parliament two years ago.

This time I want to speak to you about two other great national occasions. The first was the opening of the St. Lawrence seaway in which President Eisenhower and I took part near Montreal last Friday. He represented the American people and I was there as your representative to mark the completion of this joint enterprise which has captured the imagination of the world. Although this was an international undertaking, it is worth remembering that Canada was the moving spirit in getting the project started and that two thirds of the seaway and the work on it is in Canadian territory. This was a truly great national occasion.

The other national occasion is Dominion day which we are celebrating today. If the opening of the seaway is a salute to the future, then Dominion day is a salute to the past. Five hundred years ago there were no Europeans on this continent, today over 17 million Canadians enjoy what is probably one of the highest standards of living anywhere in the world.

During the early history of what is now Canada there was controversy and fighting. Today you have achieved a unity and a sense of common purpose which is a tribute to good sense and tolerance. This did not come about of its own accord. It came about because there have been men in every generation who were not content simply to work for themselves but who worked for the nation as a whole, who sacrificed their own interests for the common good.

Dominion day commemorates the birth of Canada as a nation and the first independent country within the British Empire. So it also marks the beginning of that free association of independent states which is now known as the commonwealth of nations.

(Translation):

Very recently, I was on the very site where Jacques Cartier, in 1534, set foot for the first