

VP International Memorial Dedication

By
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On 28 September 1997, a solemn occasion was observed with the unveiling and dedication of the VP International Memorial at 14 Wing Greenwood, honouring those maritime patrol aircrew lost in the line of duty in the past fifty years.

The VPI memorial Monument was developed as a tribute to those who came before us: those who gave their lives in the performance of their flying duties while serving with maritime patrol and/or reconnaissance units, in all theaters of maritime operations since 1947. In total, some 1400 MPA fatalities have occurred since World War II. Although most were due to flying accidents, some were lost due to direct enemy action while others just disappeared; their fate still remaining a mystery.

The monument itself has many symbolic references entwined within its metal works. Sculpted by Canadian artist David Laliberte, the monument design was the inspiration of VPI member Captain (Ret) Bert Page, and is comprised of a three-wave structure supporting the VP International crest. The three waves represent the oceanic environment, and nature of maritime patrol operations, as well as recognizing the ties to the VPI member-nations. The larger wave structure further repre-



sents the mainly over-ocean duties of maritime patrol with the smaller ones symbolizing those missions carried out in support of both land and naval forces.

The VPI association symbol atop the monument refers to its sponsor and is comprised of the Canadian maple leaf, silhouette of a P-2 Neptune and a globe

within gimbals, all derived from the organization's original P-2000 Club roots. The maple leaf symbolizes Canada, the P-2 Neptune representing the preceding Club organization, and the "VP" identifying the heavier-than-air nature of land-based Maritime Patrol Aircraft - all enclosed within the gimbaled globe, attesting to the international

Lt General A. M. De Quetteville, Chief of the Air Staff, Canadian Forces unveiled the monument paying tribute to those 1400 maritime aircrew who have lost their lives in air operations during the Cold War. Seen in this photograph (L-R) Colonel Pierre Allard, Commander 14 Wing Greenwood, Major Bert Campbell, President VP International and Lt General De Quetteville.

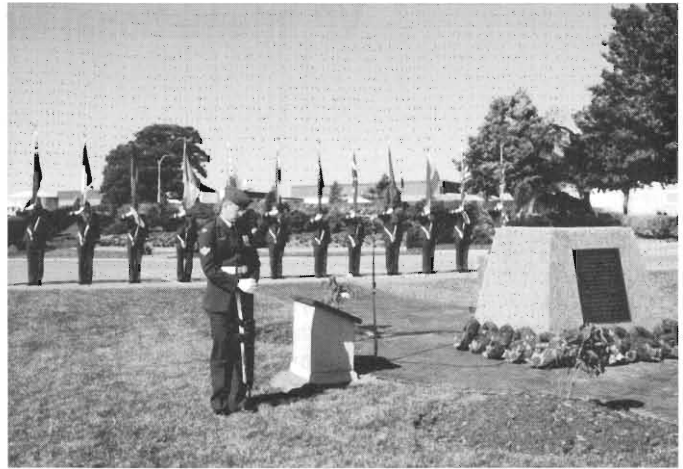


Major (Retd) Norm Donovan accepted the responsibility of acquiring and recording the names of 1400 aircrew from member-countries to produce the Book of Remembrance. Seen in this photograph, the Book of Remembrance is presented by Norm Donovan to Major Bert Campbell, President VP International for safe-keeping.





(L-R) Lt David Centenera and Warrant Officer Antonio Gonzalez, Spanish Air Force, jointly laid a wreath on behalf of their fallen comrades. Chief Warrant Officer J. H. Phillips, 415 Sqn CF, was the VPI Escort Officer.



VP International Flag Bearers represented Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States.

scope, stability and precision essential in anti-submarine operations. The memorial service was attended by close to 500 participants, with representatives and flight crews from around the world placing commemorative wreaths at the foot of the memorial. Additionally, retired members of VPI from across Canada and the United States were in attendance, some there to honour particular friends that were lost. For those who wanted to look up individuals, or the situation surrounding their loss, an honour roll was com-

piled by VPI and presented at the memorial dedication. On display at a reception following the ceremony, the Book Of Remembrance is now on permanent display at the 14 Wing Aviation Museum, included in a section on the VP International organization.

The memorial service took on all the pomp and ceremony of a full-dress military parade, complete with honour and color guards, pipe and brass bands and pastoral benediction before the laying of wreaths. An honorary fly-over of CF 434 Squadron T33 aircraft per-

forming the missing-man formation was followed by Maritime Patrol Aircraft, including a Canadian CP-140 Aurora, a British MK2 Nimrod, an Italian Atlantic I and a US Navy P-3C Orion.



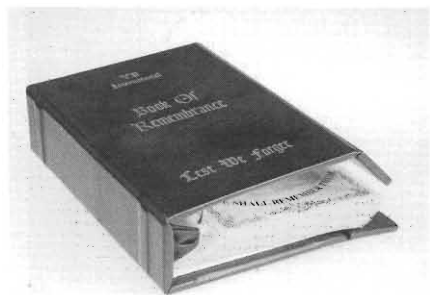
Editorial Note

The VPI Memorial Honour Roll detailing individual aircraft losses and the names of crews involved can be accessed on the World Wide Web at http://www.14wing.grwd.dnd.ca/vpi/vpihq_1.html

VPI Book Of Remembrance - USN Honour Roll

In the compilation of the VPI Book of Remembrance, the USN Honour Roll is incomplete owing to a lack of information concerning the crewmembers of the following accidents/incidents.

If any of our readers can provide information concerning them, please forward it to VPIHQ, attention Major (Retd) Norm Donovan.



US Accident List Without Matching Casualties					
Date	Location	Squadron	Casualties	Comments	Aircraft
4-Sep-54	Off Siberia	VP-19		Shot down by Russian fighter aircraft.	P2V
2-Apr-57	Chincoteague, Virginia	n.n.	11	Mid-air explosion shortly after take-off.	P2V
23-Jul-57	300yds off Barbers Point, Hawaii.	VP-28	11	BUNO 128418.	P2V-5F
30-Jan 63	NAS Patuxent River	VP-8	14	Lost at sea. BUNO 149672.	P-3
24-Nov 64	3 mi SW of Cape Newham.	n.n.	12	BUNO 135610.	P2V-7
27-Jul 65	Bermuda	VP-16	4	Ground impact. BUNO 151380.	P-3
9-Apr 66	Noris	VP-19	11	Water impact BUNO 152171	P-3
5-Apr 68	China Sea	VP-6	8	Lost at sea. BUNO 151350.	P-3
28-Aug-71	Nevada	VP-17	10	Mid-air explosion BUNO 152159.	P-3
5-Dec-71	Cubi Pt.	VP-6	1	Engine failure. BUNO 152151.	P-3
27-Jun-79	Cubi Pt.	VP-22	5	Engine failure with subsequent fire. BUNO 15459	P-3
5-Sep 80	Hawaii	VP-6	1	Wheels up landing. BUNO 151459.	P-3