

BOOK LAUNCH: THE BOYS OF SPRING

TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA, AUGUST 20, 2007: Canadian author G. Gordon Symons, a WWII fighter pilot and leading expert on the Canadian-led, pre-involvement war recruitment efforts in the U.S., launches his autobiography *The Boys of Spring* at a special event at the Nanton Lancaster Society Air Museum, August 25th, in Nanton, Alberta. Symons, who recounts life in wartime Britain with remarkable detail, is available for book signing and interviews at the event and in Calgary two days prior.

The all-day event is entitled *A Salute to Americans in the RCAF*, and features:

- Military aircraft flypasts and Lancaster rear-turret gun demonstrations
- 379 American flags on Canada's Bomber Command Memorial Wall
- Ribbon cutting for new "Americans in the RCAF" display, gifted to the museum by Gordon Symons
- Living historians, stationed in tents, mingling in costume among the 400 attendees
- Three Symons brothers, each of whom served as WWII pilots
- War stories featuring Americans who died in action with the R.C.A.F.

About *The Boys of Spring*

Dedicated in part to his two brothers and father who also served as fighter pilots, G. Gordon Symons' *The Boys of Spring* paints a clear picture of the author's life serving on 143 Squadron Banff Wing in England. We are entertained by stories of dangerous missions in the airspace over the ports of Europe, and with other treacherous tactics played out in the many tea parties and nightclubs where young servicemen found themselves vastly outnumbered by women of various distinction.

"In *The Boys of Spring* I tell many entertaining stories, including how it took a hero from World War One to buttress the allied air strategy for the Second World War," said Symons. "Billy Bishop spearheaded the Clayton Knight Committee – the recruitment agency that helped 8,200 American men cross the U.S./Canada border during the period of American neutrality."

About the Author

Born in Montreal, Gerald Gordon Symons joined the war effort in February of 1942. He served with R.A.F Coastal Command Anti-Shipping Squadron, attacking German naval and merchant ships in France, Belgium, German, and Scandinavian waters. After the war, he entered the field of finance, forming Symons International Group, a public holding company specializing in insurance. In addition to serving on charitable boards, Mr. Symons is now an avid golfer, painter, and writer. He is currently writing an entry for the Canadian Encyclopedia regarding Billy Bishop and the Clayton Knight Committee and holds the title: Lord of Whitehouses, Nottinghamshire, UK.

For details, please visit TheBoysOfSpring.com. For the Nanton event, please visit LancasterMuseum.ca

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