

Good morning ladies and gentlemen:

I have been asked to share my thoughts prior to enlisting for WW II. My family would hear news of the war on the radio or read it in the newspaper, normally the Barrie Examiner, that was delivered once a week. Being thousands of miles away, it was hard for a young person to understand the seriousness of Britain's position. Our parents had experienced WW 1, my mother's older brother served and eventually came home safe. I am sure that my parents said, "Oh no, not again!". I remember that as a family we would watch airplanes from Camp Borden during their training flights, way up in the blue sky. I thought to myself, a young lad of 16-17 years old, I'd love to do something like that. We in November 1941 I got my chance.

The expectation during that time was that after turning 18 we were expected to take infantry training in Newmarket. If one was needed on the farm, one could be excused from this training. I did not think much of the infantry training. So myself and two other neighbours chose to join the RCAF at the Barrie Armouries. We were excited but little did we know that we would be trained in and for the positions that were needed most. The British Commonwealth Air Training Plan was in full operation and they needed all trades to support it.

In January 1942, I was sent to Galt Aircraft School from the Manning Depot, Toronto. From there, I was sent to No. 1 Technical Training School in St. Thomas, Ontario, entry #110 – Aero Engine course. No. 1 TTS was the largest single establishment in the BCATP with over 5,000 students and instructors. Over 40, 000 students graduated from this school during WW II. On graduation, I was posted to the No. 3 Bombing and Gunnery School at RCAF Station MacDonald, Manitoba. Here we worked on the Fairey Battle aircraft, which was the main operational aircraft and its Merlin engines. We then endured a long sea voyage aboard the Queen Elizabeth and landed in England in March 1943. Learning and working really prepared us to work on the No. 6 RCAF Bomber Group's Halifax, and later the Lancaster, aircraft, which were fitted with Merlin engines.

I enjoyed my service life, even with its many ups and downs. I met many great people and had many enduring friendships. I was one the lucky ones. I arrived back on home soil in October, 1945.

Today, members of the military services continue to leave their families to assist others. It is not an easy task to leave loved ones and go forth ones and go forth to the many unknowns. For that, we thank you for your continued service.

Thank you very much for having me as your guest of honour today. It has been a pleasure to have been able to address you and share some of my experiences with you.

Allister David 'Mac' MacDonald
20 September, 2020



Allister MacDonald talking about his Second World War experiences after receiving the RCAF Association 75th Anniversary of VE-Day Coin at Edenvale Aerodrome 3 Sept 2020



Allister MacDonald being presented with the RCAF Association 75th Anniversary of VE-Day Coin by 441 (Huron) Wing Chair Bill Sergeant at Edenvale Aerodrome 3 September 2020



Battle of Britain Guest of Honour & Second World War Veteran Mac MacDonald with 441 Wing Chair Bill Sergeant, 20 Sept, 2020