

## Journal

by Ray Dick

be leaving in their wake some disappointed Newfoundlanders after a relationship that has spanned about half a century.

A recent statement by the British Defence Department says its 26 military personnel and 23 civilian workers will be heading home in April, leaving behind a multimillion-dollar hangar and several other buildings.

And they are not the first to announce they are leaving this area, which has become home to North Atlantic Treaty Organization air force training exercises. German and Dutch forces announced last year they are also winding up operations in Labrador.

"That will be a big blow to the business community here," says Leo Abbass, mayor of Happy Valley-Goose Bay, in expressing his disappointment at the news. He said many of the British families are involved in a number of organizations and make great contributions to the

community.

It is good news for natives in the area, who have complained for years about the noise and disturbance to wildlife from the low-flying NATO warplanes.

There is still a chance there will be some British presence at the base in future. The British government is negotiating to continue military exercises there with the support of Canada's Department of National Defence and private contractors.

## Treasure From The Deep

There were 121 souls aboard the French ship *Auguste*, many of them wealthy passengers, when it sank after sailing too close to the harbour in Dingwall, N.S., in 1761. Only seven people survived to tell the tale, and it wasn't until 1977 that the bow of the ship was discovered on the ocean floor, along with thousands of silver coins and hundreds of artifacts.

Now an undersea exploration crew believes it has found the wreckage of the midship and stern sections of the *Auguste*, and will be applying to the Nova Scotia government to begin recovery work.

Deep Star Exploration said it found a trail of metal on the ocean floor from the stern section of the 18th century vessel and that pictures taken in 11 metres of water show what appear to be cannons,

rigging, a rudder, cannonballs, spikes and other pieces of scattered metal.

## Navy Fails To Recover Avro Arrow Models



A Nike missile was used to launch Arrow model.

The last known remains of Canada's fabled jet fighter—nine scale models of the Avro Arrow—still rest in peace in the muddy bottom of Lake Ontario despite recent efforts by two navy ships to uncover the elusive remains.

"We found lots of things, but not just what we hoped to find," said navy spokesman Captain Paul Doucette after crews aboard HMCS Kingston and HMCS Glace Bay used scanners and specially trained divers in a three-day search for the one-eighth scale models of the fighter that was ordered scrapped in 1959 by then-prime minister John Diefenbaker.

The models, three metres long and with a wingspan of two metres, were launched on the backs of missiles from a military test site about 160 kilometres east of Toronto. After separating from their booster rockets, the models flew at nearly twice the speed of sound as they transmitted data to engineers on the ground before crashing into the lake.

The navy search, used mainly for crew proficiency training and testing, is only the latest attempt to find the models. Private groups of Avro Arrow enthusiasts have been searching for years to uncover artifacts from the Canadian fighter plane that was considered way ahead of its time. The prototype planes, parts, tools and plans were ordered destroyed.

## Adoption Records Opening In Alberta

It is getting easier to get access to adoption records in Alberta—thanks to the Child, Youth and Family Enhancement



## Poster Unveiled For Veterans Week

The government has unveiled its poster for Veterans Week, Nov. 5-11, and this year it will remember the Italian campaign of WW II.

Veterans Affairs Minister Albina Guarnieri unveiled the poster at the Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans Association in Canada convention in Saskatoon. It portrays typical Canadian ground troops soldiering on past the rubble and ruins left in the wake of battle.

Some 100,000 Canadians, along with their allies, played a vital role in the Italian campaign as they moved from the south to the north over a 20-month period facing difficult battles with some of the German army's best troops. Canadian casualties totalled more than 26,000, nearly 6,000 of which were fatal.

A high resolution image of the 2004 poster is available on the VAC Web site, [www.vac-acc.gc.ca](http://www.vac-acc.gc.ca).

## British Air Force To Leave Labrador

Britain's Royal Air Force will be pulling up stakes and leaving the Happy Valley-Goose Bay area of Labrador next spring, mainly because of defence budget cuts in the homeland. But they will