



Jan Chalmers

*Story of a Royal Canadian
Air Force Veteran*

of

World War II





Lest We Forget

Ian Chalmers

Ian was born and raised in Oshawa, Ontario and at only 18 years old, he joined the Royal Canadian Air Force. He always dreamed of being a pilot, even though he had been a Sea Cadet and a Cadet in the Ontario Regiment.

His basic training started in Aylmer, Ontario and then on to Quebec for more training. He was a member of the 423rd RCAF with the rank of Leading Air Craftsman stationed in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia.

His job was on the ground helping to keep the planes in the air. He did general maintenance including building practice bombing ranges. He also worked in the stock room for airplane parts. One other important job was as a signal man on the runways.

Another skill he had was he knew how to drive a snow plow. When this was discovered, the next thing he knew he was clearing snow off the runways.

While stationed in Nova Scotia, he took the opportunity to travel around the province getting to know the countryside and the people. He took advantage of his days off to do this traveling knowing he may never get the opportunity to see this part of the country again.

When the war ended, he held the rank of Corporal and stayed on as a clerk with the job of completing the Discharge Papers for returning Airmen. He was one of the last six servicemen to be discharged from the Dartmouth Base.



Ian never did achieve his dream to fly as God had other plans for him. The jobs he did were important as they kept the airplanes in the air. Without those working on the ground, the pilots who did fly would not have been able to do their job.

Thank you, Ian, for the important job of keeping our pilots flying and thank you for serving to protect us here in Canada.