

Book Published about Deseronto's WWI Pilot Training Camps

Dancing in the Sky

By C.W. Hunt

Dancing in the Sky looks back on Canada's contributions to the Royal Flying Corps in the First World War. Deseronto played a key role in the development of the Allied air forces during WWI. For a 19-month stretch between the Spring of 1917 until the end of 1918 the Deseronto Wing was home to a training facility that helped churn out some 4,000 Royal Flying Corps fighter pilots, in turn paving the way for Canada's increasing influence on the international stage.

Bill Hunt is a former history teacher who is well-known in our area as a writer on aspects of our local history, principally on the topic of rum-running in the prohibition era.

In his latest volume (which has been ten years in the writing) he has explored a new area of history, the early days of aviation in Canada. In particular, the training camps established by the Royal Flying Corps in Ontario and Texas during the First World War.

The area around Deseronto was home to not one, but two of the Royal Flying Corps' training camps, one on the Mohawk Territory and one on the eastern side of the town, while the Rathbun company's former offices in Mill Street were adapted for use as a headquarters building for the Deseronto Wing.

A book launch was held at the Deseronto Public Library on March 7th, 2009 to commemorate the event.

Copies of the book are available for purchase at the Deseronto Public Library, and most book retailers.

