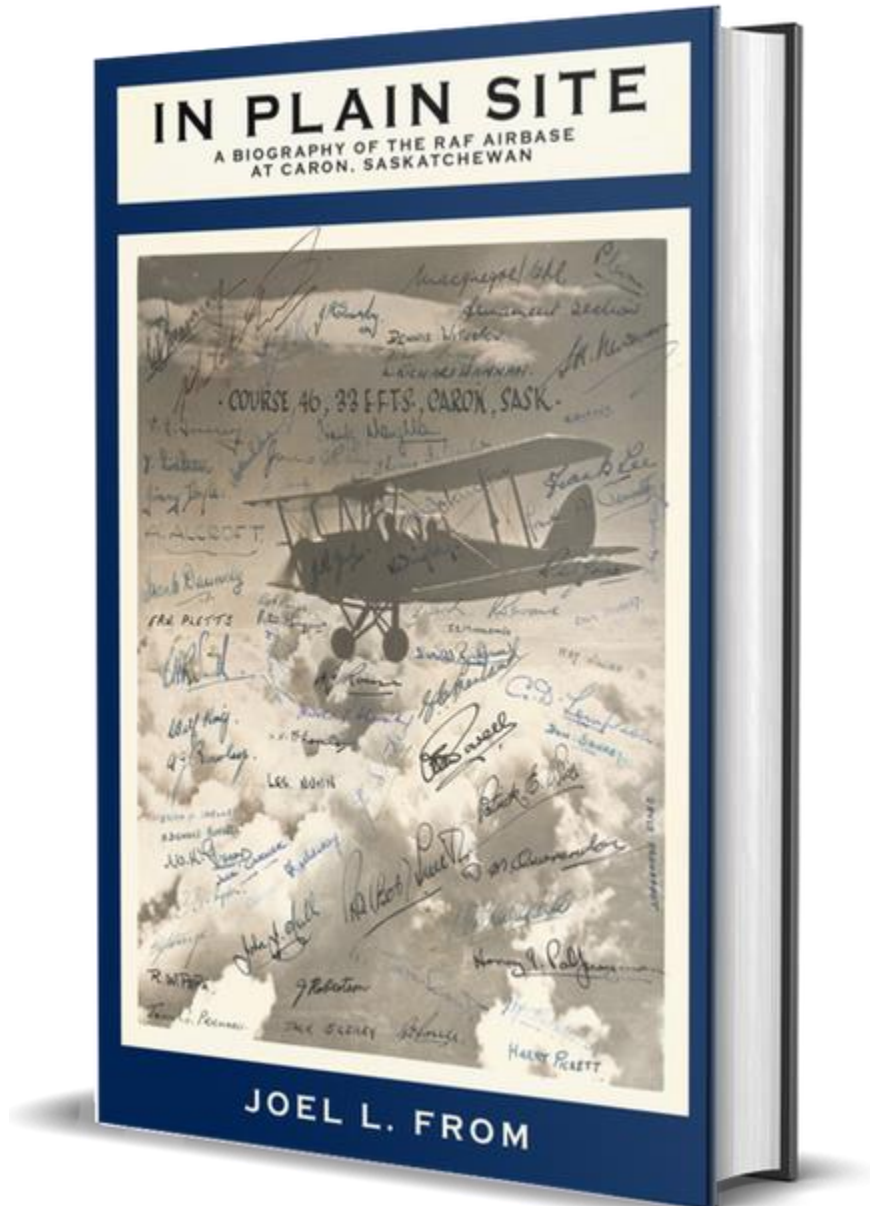


MEDIA KIT

for

In Plain Site: A Biography of the RAF Airbase at Caron, Saskatchewan

(Victoria, BC: FriesenPress, 2019)





In Plain Site: A Biography of the RAF Airbase at Caron, Saskatchewan

ABOUT THE BOOK

In Plain Site is the first life-cycle biography of a Second World War air training facility in Canada. Readers with an interest in aviation history, flying training, Saskatchewan history, the RAF, or Canada's impressive war effort will be interested in this book.

Based on interviews, published sources, and meticulous archival research in Canada and overseas, *In Plain Site* provides a comprehensive chronicle of Caron's selection and development, air training operations, after-hours activities, and the struggles of its UK personnel to make sense of the Canadian prairies. Readers will be intrigued to learn how and why the RAF came to Caron and how scores of civilians from southwestern British Columbia made important contributions to its success.

Supplemented by numerous photos and extensive endnotes, *In Plain Site* offers a compendium of Canadian and Allied wartime achievements.

In Plain Site is available at shops and museums in Saskatchewan as well as online at Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and Chapters-Indigo. Readers can also purchase ebooks on Kindle, iTunes, and Google Play.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Debut aviation historian Joel From, PhD, was raised in Caronport, Saskatchewan where he spent his youth living, playing, and working on the former airbase at Caron. After earning degrees in Canada and the United States, he returned to Briercrest College (and the Caron site) as a professor of philosophy and humanities. During the past decade, he developed an avid interest in the former airbase and its history. He and his wife, Rebecca, live in Caronport. He can be reached through the email or website listed below.



REVIEW COPY

A complimentary PDF of *In Plain Site* is available for qualified media personnel. Please contact the author at the email address below.



QUESTIONS FOR THE AUTHOR

How did this project begin?

In one sense, I've been working on this project my entire life. I was raised on the grounds of the former Caron airbase. I learned to play hockey in an arena erected within one of its hangars. As a teenager, I helped maintain what remained of its aging facilities. It wasn't until 2009, however, as I observed its final hangar being dismantled, that I was compelled to learn about its history.

What are your goals for the book?

My goals evolved as this project unfolded. Originally, I set out to learn more about Caron's buildings. When a colleague directed me to Vernon Peters' letters in the provincial archives, it suddenly seemed possible that a more wide-ranging account could be written.

From the beginning, I aimed to make my findings available to the families of those (civilian and service) who served at Caron. The "Bonus" tab on the book's website (www.caronairbase.com) contains photos and other records of all those I encountered in my research. I sincerely hope that this information finds those who can appreciate it best.

Further, it became increasingly obvious that the federal and provincial governments and other civilians played a monumental role in the development and operation of the air training plan and the Caron airbase. *In Plain Site* aims to make these contributions more widely known.

And finally, in order to understand the total situation of the airbase, it seemed critical to situate it in the physical, social, and conceptual geographies into which it had been interjected.

Why a biography?

I take my inspiration from Rachel Hewitt's *Map of a Nation: A Biography of the Ordnance Survey*, a brilliant and lively history of the first systematic mapping of the UK. Like the famous Ordnance

Survey maps which mirrored the expanding prospects of the British nation, I came to believe that the events flowing in and out of Caron were part of a living thing that absorbed the energies of the Canadian people and turned them into the living bone and iron will which rose to crush the pretensions of the enemy. There is something that lives in and through Caron.

What are your most important findings?

First, it is hard not to be impressed by the organizational acumen required to plan and execute an air training plan, let alone a scheme that effectively doubled as it rolled out across the Dominion.

Second, given what is revealed at Caron, we must acknowledge the massive civilian contribution to the plan, including the various levels of governments, the operating companies that conducted the affairs of the elementary flying training schools, and the legions of contractors who worked tirelessly to furnish and modify its facilities.

Third, the vibrancy of the after-hours entertainment and recreational scene at Caron is remarkable, especially when set against our current ideas and practices.

What are the most valuable features of this work? Why should I purchase it?

Readers will find *In Plain Site* valuable for the following reasons:

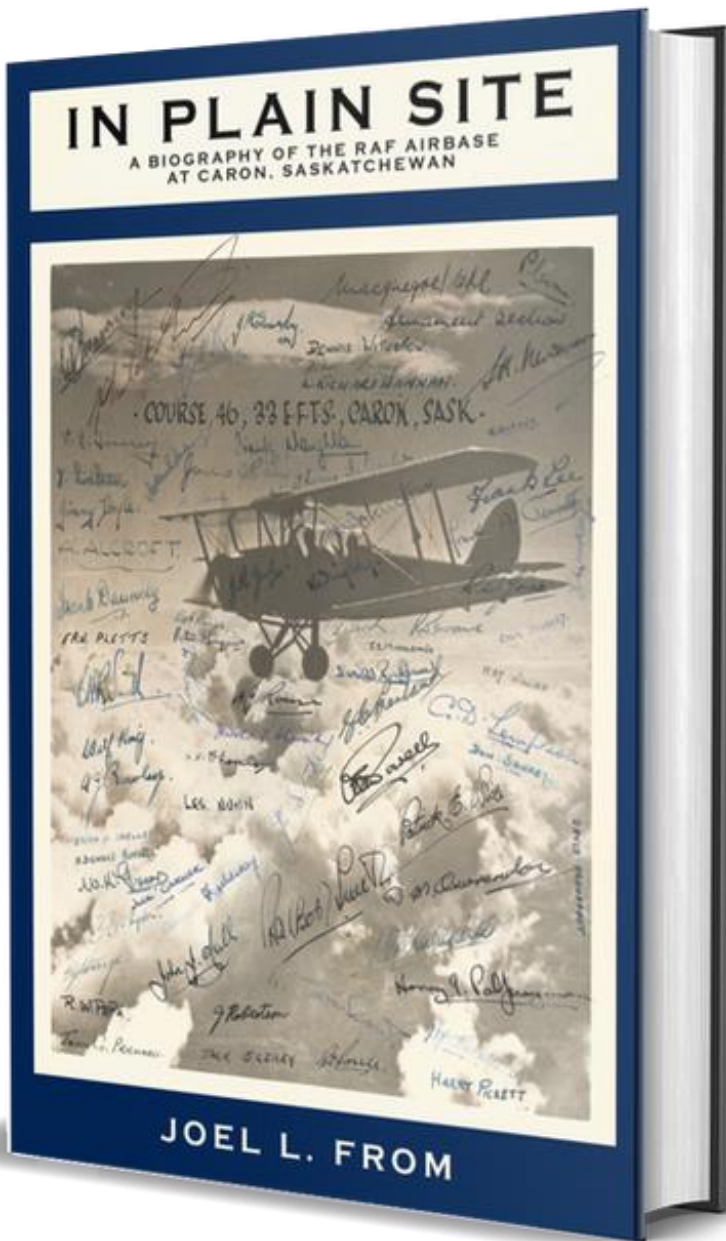
First, it foregrounds the diffuse, diverse, and cooperative labours of Canadian civilians in support of the war effort;

Second, readers will gain new insight into some of the curricular mysteries of the wildly successful air training plan. *In Plain Site* explains the training processes whereby raw novices were brought to the point of being able to fly solo, cross-country, and at night;

Third, *In Plain Site* is firmly rooted in careful archival research, published sources, and interviews with those caught up in the air training program;

Fourth, due in large part to the incomparable letters of Vernon Peters, we now have a full-orbed account of the after-hours life of a wartime airbase in Canada. Peters is our authority, an apt chronicler of Anglo and Canadian cultures as they intermixed at Caron.

And finally, readers will come to know and appreciate the strong and varied connections between the City of Moose Jaw and the airbase at Caron. No. 33 EFTS (RAF) was not just Caron's airbase.



**In Plain Site: A Biography
of the RAF Airbase at
Caron, Saskatchewan**

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ISBN

978-1-5255-4055-4 (SC)
978-1-5255-4054-7 (HC)
978-1-5255-4056-1 (ebook)

Suggested Price

\$29.99 (SC)
\$44.99 (HC)
\$7.99 (ebook)

Publication Date

October 1, 2019

BISAC Codes

HIS027100
HIS027140
TRA002010

Page Count

318

Trim Size

6.0 x 9.0

Publisher

FriesenPress

Wholesale Distributor

INGRAM

Individual Orders

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www.amazon.ca
www.amazon.com
www.amazon.co.uk