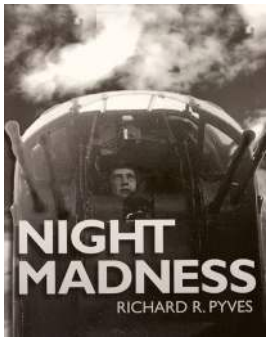
*The **PYVES** family*







Mission briefing



"Kathleen" for luck



Kay Eason





Ron Leslie Pyves

Canadian author, Rick Pyves' memories of his father…

Rick Pyves is a Canadian author with three well-read works, two of which are military in scope.

- Night Madness - A Rear Gunner's Story of Love, Courage and Hope in WWII
- Courage, Sacrifice, Betrayal: The Story of the Victoria Rifles of Canada, 60th Battalion, in the First World War.

[This is not intended as a book promotion. However, Pyves writes military history and these books are very informative in regard to Canadian and British military services.]

Night Madness, which I highly recommend, is Pyves' tribute to his father, pilot officer Ronald Leslie Pyves, RCAF 434 Bluenose Squadron who flew on 35 combat ops over France, Germany, and Norway.

When Rick's mother passed in 2007, it led to the discovery of over 220 letters of correspondence between his mom and dad during WWII – a teenager's eye witness account to WWII – both overseas on the home front. This was the genesis for Rick's book *Night Madness* and a reconnection with his dad's military service which had so dramatically affected his dad's mental health.

Night Madness is an emotional and sensitive war story about Ronald Pyves, the author's father.

It is far more than a recounting of a man's military service. Rather it is a touching tribute to a vet who returned home, shaken and traumatized by his military experience. Another real case of PTSD, something the Canadian military never acknowledged at that time.

Ronald Pyves was a tail gunner in a Canadian Royal Air Force bomber flying bombing missions over Germany. His most devastating mission was the bombing of the city of Dresden on Valentine's Day in 1945. The German city was targeted as it was a key transportation hub for the movement of German troops on the Western Front in reaction to the Russian army's penetration into Germany in early 1945. Although a necessary mission, with over 25,000 military and civilian casualties, Ron would later in life feel guilty about this particular mission although this was not the case for many aircrew who participated.

Pyves, the younger, dedicates his book to the memory of his father and his service but the dedication goes further. All veterans are traumatized by their combat engagement to some degree with some so severely that the repercussions affect them long after their service days end. This awful mental illness is an agonizing mental personal battle known as PTSD (Post-traumatic stress disorder). The Pyves children saw the seriousness and extent of this emotional and mental suffering experienced by their father for many years after the war.

Another important goal of *Night Madness* is to prod the Canadian government into developing more and better psychological and medical assistance for all first responders including the armed forces veterans who have suffered debilitating mental trauma because of their military service.

Consider giving your support to the cause by reading Rick Pyves' ***Night Madness.***

View Rick Pyves' summary of his book at ***NIGHT MADNESS.***

by ***Rick Pyves***