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NEW BOOK: *Mystery Plane Found in New Brunswick* written by Fredericton author Jim Cogle hits the bookstands this week. Cogle said the historical monograph is a tribute to the first two Canadians who died in the Second World War.

Historian documents mysterious plane crash

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Sixty-six years ago, two Canadian pilots became the first casualties of the Second World War when their Northrop Delta 673 crashed north of Juniper, N.B., en route to England.

It was another 19 years before the wreckage was found and the mystery of the lost flyers put to rest.

Local historian and author Jim Cogle is writing about the wartime tragedy in a book called *Mystery Plane Found in New Brunswick*.

"I hope *Mystery Plane Found in New Brunswick* helps give people a better insight into what was involved in serving in the military forces during wartime," said Cogle.

Cogle, who also wrote *Canadian Blood — American Soil*, about Canada's involvement and contribution to the American Civil War, said he wants to honour all who have served defending liberty.

Mystery Plane is about two young men who joined the Royal Canadian Air Force in the 1920s and were called to serve in active combat when war broke out in 1939.

"The only decent aircraft in Canada at that time was the Northrop Delta but those planes were not designed for wartime use or combat situations," Cogle said. "Nonetheless they were pressed into action on Canada's East Coast to counter an enemy submarine presence."

Leading Aircraftsman Corp. David Alexander Rennie and flight Sgt. Ted Doan's plane suffered a series of misfortunes between the time they left Ottawa Aug. 27, 1939, and the crash on Sept. 14, 1939.

Cogle said 19 years later, on July 10, 1958, parts of the plane and a few bone fragments were discovered in thick woods near Beaverbrook Lake, about 30 kilometres north of Juniper.

Cogle said he's determined to study Canadian history, research the facts and compile them in book form for those who want to read and understand what it is to be Canadian.

"The biggest challenge facing me is that there's little regard in Canada for history," Cogle said. "The fact is most people could care less about history."

"It's the nature of this beast," he said. "I've always had a strong interest in history and I studied it at university."

Cogle said Canadians should learn about these first two casualties of the Second World War.

"It's a matter of national significance and gives us reasons to be proud," he said.

"It's just as important to our fabric as is knowing about the Canadian involvement in the American Civil War," he said. "Canadians believed that the now African-Americans deserved to be free citizens and Canadians were prepared to fight for their right and flocked to the U.S. to serve those ends."

Cogle said Canadians seem to prefer to put other issues above history.

"We seem to take a backseat when it comes to history and we don't know exactly what it is we should be proud of," he said.

There are political factions in this country that downplay significant historical events and choose to celebrate social issues, Cogle said.

"That results in a loss of national pride," he said.

"We may be focused on the wrong issues or at least issues of less significance than those pertaining to our military history," he said.

Cogle said social issues are important but national security, national defence, military pride and accomplishments are also important.

"In many cases we'll always have social issues and we shouldn't neglect national defence, safe guarding democracy and freedom of parliament," he said. "That's the glue that holds this nation together over time."