

Greetings from Ontario, Canada

February in Ontario is typically a slow month for most of our ATA clubs. Many suspend operations altogether but some have winter leagues and practice for the more durable of our enthusiasts.

As most of you know, there is always a lead time between when delegates submit their articles to Trap & Field and when they are printed. For me, and I am sure many of you, November is a time of reflection. We would not be enjoying our sport or even the freedoms we often take for granted, were it not for the sacrifices made by the men and women that served in not only the two World Wars but in the conflicts around the world that continue to place our armed forces in harm's way. The world is a very dangerous place and strong leadership at the highest levels is critical. Is the current U.S. administration focused on destroying ISIS or more concerned about having firearms in the hands of citizens? Is the new Canadian Liberal government so intent on pulling our fighter jets out of Syria in favour of playing a "training" support role that it may naively underestimate the potential threat to our own homeland? Canadians are big-hearted, generous and caring people who can't wait for the government to fast track an influx of 25,000 Syrian refugees. Speed in relocating them here seems to be the pivotal consideration. Is there the possibility of ISIS infiltration among them given the fact that ISIS has long promised this Trojan horse approach? If top U.S. homeland security personnel cannot properly vet refugees from the same region, what makes those that do our Canadian vetting confident that there is no risk? Hopefully everything works out, well. Time will tell.

Our new Prime Minister Trudeau seems to be aligned with President Obama on the real risk to global security – climate change. Our federal Liberals have never been fiscally prudent and even ran an election campaign on running a deficit. They're off to a fabulous start by taking 383 Canadian delegates to the recent Paris climate change conference, which is more delegates than the U.S.A., Australia and U.K. collectively sent. The democratic process put the Liberals back in power with a majority. We can expect exactly what they promised – a greater legacy of debt for us, our children and grandchildren. To get elected on a spend thrift mandate is alarming, but those who voted for the gravy train may someday realize that somebody has to pay for the excesses.

Finally, here is a little quiz I prepared for the staff of my law office that many of you may enjoy. If I suggested they may want to read a book or watch a Netflix movie on this hero, it would likely not have the same impact. Three of my staff solved the quiz. Can you?

The Quiz:

74 years ago today (December 7, 1941) brought _____ (a country) into the conflict known as _____ because of an attack on _____.

That conflict was shortened by about two years and saved an estimated 14 million lives as a result of the decoding of _____.

The "decoding" device created was the world's first _____. It was initially called the _____ game. Under the laws of the country in which this individual lived he became a criminal,

having been charged and convicted of _____. That charge was based on evidence that he was _____.

The judge that sentenced him gave him two choices, the first was two years in jail or _____. He chose the second and shortly thereafter committed suicide, a broken, broke and disgraced man. The world did not know his immense contributions until more than 50 years after the end of the great conflict that he helped shorten as everything he did was a "state secret". As partial recompense he was given a _____ by _____.

Who was this man? _____

Hints:

- "sometimes it is the people no one imagines anything of who do the things that no one can imagine";
- Sometimes it takes a machine to beat a machine.

Paul Shaw

Ontario Delegate