

## Cloth souvenirs of old Gander

(by Robert G Pelley, 2017-09-25)  
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Quite often people going through an airport terminal will purchase a souvenir such as spoon or a cup to remind them of a business trip, a holiday or perhaps even a honeymoon. It might even remind them of an emergency landing.



(Novelty Booth, old terminal, 40s-50s)

It could also have been a situation where a group of some sort has taken fairly permanent residence and wished to underline their presence.

In Gander's case, the number of passengers that were through the terminal from the end of the war up to the 60s was phenomenal. Gander handled up to 13,000 aircraft annually and quarter million passengers – this made for a lot of souvenirs.

As well, the military forces stationed in Gander during the Second World War had their particular mementos.





The next photo is military oriented. It shows a pillowcase in honour of the Royal Canadian Air Force. There is no date – however the crown tells us a lot. It is known as a “King’s crown”, as opposed to today’s “Queen’s crown” of Queen Elizabeth 2 as shown just below.



This is therefore necessarily pre-1952, when the Queen was crowned. Also there is mention only of Newfoundland and not of Canada, making this most likely WWII.



The next pillowcase is from 1942 or earlier, before Nfld Airport became Gander. It would be poignant in any circumstances, as some obviously young man sends some loving words to his mother.

### ***Mother***

*Each petal represents a flower  
Each bud a kiss for you  
Each stem an arm entwined about  
My Mother dear and true*



But this pillowcase also shows quite prominently on the top an American B-17 bomber. These airplanes were used either in anti-submarine work or were en route to Europe to eventually bomb Europe. In either case it was highly dangerous work - who knows if he ever got home to say it personally?