

## Bush Pilot

It was 1997 in Sioux Lookout, Canada. Ian Flenorry was one of the Stavrosians living there. At that time, he was running a Bush Pilot service flying sports fisherman up into the backcountry of northern Canada. He flew out of Sioux Lookout.

At one time he was a soldier in the Norwegian army. He was a test pilot on new concept aircraft. He retired in 1989. Soon after that he moved to Canada. Ian loved to fish so this soon led him to a life of a bush pilot. He flew for the next thirty years. He flew celebrities into fishing camps all across the backcountry. In 2020 Ian retired once again from flying at age 105 as the oldest bush pilot of that time.

His most memorable flight was in 1989. He was 72 years old at that time and Ian was taking a group of fishermen out one early morning. They had taken off from Sioux Lookout. Going northeast at the time, they were in the air for about 20 minutes when off to their left another craft was spotted. At first, no one was paying attention to it. In the air around there you would expect to see other bush pilots flying people out to fish camps.

Ian was keeping an eye on the other craft just to be sure it didn't cut in on their flight path. He could see the craft was following a parallel path to them. Ian tried to radio contact the craft without any luck. Ian tried to radio the closest tower for permission to fly higher. He couldn't contact anyone.

He kept it to himself to not cause concern to his passengers. At about 48 minutes into the flight one of the passengers took notice of the craft. It had come so close it could be seen clearly. Soon the plane was buzzing from everyone talking loudly. As they watched this thing outside the window, Ian knew this was not a bush plane. As a Stavrosian he knew it was not one from earth. Ian made a mental image of what he saw.

Once he was back on the ground, he felt he should report the encounter. The Canadian government took the report. When Ian tried to get a copy for himself, he was told that not only could he not have one, but if he continued to push it, he could be jailed. He was upset, but he wanted to keep his license to fly. He did not want to end up being investigated as a troublemaker. Ian did not want his Stavrosian connection to be found out.

Ian often wondered if what he saw could have helped the Stavrosian community. Could it have been looking for him? Ian never again told anyone about what he saw that day. He did tell his grandson Joe along with the Stavrosian secret. Joe reported the story in a letter to G, Wheaton in February 2022. Joe wanted to tell his grandfather's story before Ian passed away. Ian's health had declined as did his memory. In August 2022 Ian died at 107 years old.

Georgia sent Joe a letter of thanks in appreciation. It was read at their First Life Celebration on Lake Adambay. Most of the family still lives in that area.

Ian was laid to rest in the family cemetery near Adambay Lake outpost five hundred miles northeast of Sioux Lookout. This area fits the family need to stay out of the light.

S.G.L. Field Reporter  
Jim Abrams  
June 6, 2022

<https://stavrosianalienancestry.com/stavrosianarchives.html>