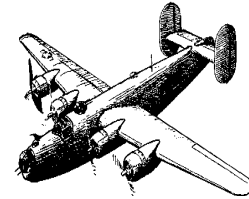


Plane Talk



**The Eighth Air Force Historical Society
Virginia Chapter Newsletter**

<http://www.8thaf-virginia.org>

VOLUME 19 ISSUE 2

September 2012



Greetings From Your President:

I'm writing this on Labor Day, 2012. Why have I never been able to celebrate a holiday, go fishing on a weekend, or just laze around having a vacation from work since I retired? Some advice to your young whippersnappers, don't ever retire.

Dues notices have not been mailed out to those who have not paid dues in 2012. I confess that I have fallen down on the job. If you know or think you have not sent \$10.00 to our Treasurer, Paul Adams, please just go ahead and do so. If you send dues money he will credit it to either 2012 or 2013 as the case may be.

Sadly I have to report that the grim reaper has struck our Chapter again. Kenneth Arnold Rowe passed away at his home on July 29, 2012. Ken has been a faithful member and had just recently been appointed as a Director pending an election. We will miss Ken.

Our second membership luncheon meeting for 2012 is scheduled for September 15th at the Stonehenge Country Club. Abe Firestone will show the film "Winning Your Wings" with Jimmy Stewart. It caused Abe to join the Aviation Cadet program when he first saw it.

I have a report about a trip to England by a teacher from Rocky Run Middle School this past July. He and 9 other teachers from the U. S. teamed up with 4 from the UK and visited Duxford, the Cemetery at Cambridge, and other WWII-related locations. They worked with a large group of English School Children studying about the American Airmen and the missions they flew. I also have a series of pictures of their visit that I plan to bring to our meeting. Both Vets and non-Vets should enjoy this.

Again, I close by saying, "LET'S KEEP 'EM FLYIN'!"

Lew Burke

WE NEED YOUR STORIES AND PICTURES! WE WANT TO KEEP *PLANE TALK* INTERESTING AND NEED YOUR HELP. PLEASE SEND YOUR STORIES AND PICTURES TO THE EDITOR.

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FOLDED WINGS

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Kenneth Arnold Rowe

Ken passed peacefully in his home on July 29, 2012 with family by his side. He was born in Kenosha, Wis., and served with distinction during two Aviation careers - one in the Military and one in Civil Aviation. His military career began in December 1942 and he became a 4-engine bomber pilot at age 19. He flew 13 combat missions from England in the 8th Air Force, was shot down twice and liberated from a POW camp at Moosburg, Germany when WWII ended in May 1945. After 21 years of active duty, he retired from the USAF in 1963 as a Major and Command Pilot with 5,451 flying hours. Upon retiring, he accepted a flying assignment with administrative duties in the Virginia Department of Aviation. He received the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with one OLC, the Purple Heart, the POW Medal and the Air Force Commendation Medal and was inducted into the Virginia Aviation Hall of Fame in 1994 by the Virginia Aeronautical Historical Society. He is survived by his loving wife, Loretta Rowe; sons, Mark Rowe and John Mertens; five grandchildren, Meredith Rowe, Tyler Rowe, Catherine Coday, Anne Smith and Tara Chevalier; and four great-grandchildren.



ODDS AND ENDS

Here are some interesting stories that you might want to check out. (Courtesy of "Milk Run," the newsletter of the Oregon Chapter of the 8th Air Force Historical Society.)

Pair of WW II Bombs Discovered

One bomb was discovered at Schiphol Airport in The Netherlands and the other in the Schwabing district in Munich, Germany. They blew up both of them (with lots of broken windows!). They have found 138 bombs in Germany this year.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/travel/article-2195137/Schiphol-Airport-closed-WWII-bomb-workers.html>

<http://worldnews.nbcnews.com/news/2012/08/30/13571443-thousands-told-to-evacuate-after-more-wwii-bombs-found-in-germany?lite>

DFC Awarded – 70 Years Later

Second Lt. Samuel Smith, who flew in the 360th Bombardment Squadron out of RAF Molesworth, England during WW II, was awarded his DFC that he earned on March 1, 1945 in a ceremony at Joint Base San Antonio-Rapdolph in Texas. "We flew 24 combat missions together and I was fortunate in that I was able to bring the same crew back home after the war ended in Europe. I honor them also, because us pilots without the support of your crew and ground personnel you can't do all the things that you do."

<http://www.avionics-intelligence.com/news/2012/08/30/world-war-ii-veteran-awarded-distinguished-flying-cross.html>

Maiden Flight for a WW II Mossie

After a seven year rebuild – a WW II Mosquito will be taking to the air in September.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/7440401/War-Mosquitos-maiden-flight>

B-17 Top Turret Gunner/Engineer Relates his Story (Video)

The odds were against Irving Rothman as soon as he stepped into a B-17 bomber bound for the deadly skies over Europe during World War II. Rothman, 89, said when he entered the war in late 1943, the Army Air Forces required each heavy bomber crew to fly at least 25 missions to complete a combat tour overseas. The reality was that "the average life of a crew was six to eight missions," Rothman added. "I was shot down on my eighth."

Flying and surviving as a B-17 gunner Irving Rothman was a top turret gunner and engineer on a B-17 during World War II, and spent more than 16 months as a prisoner of war after being shot down on his eighth mission.

http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2012/08/b17_gunner_irving_rothman_sho.html#comments

More From Mom



Heidi Nunnally shared a letter that her mother, Frances, sent to the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* in August:

Editor, Times-Dispatch:

I can identify with Correspondent of the Day Odette Cook. She writes about the horrifying events that befell nearly 15,000 men, women and children in Paris on July 16, 1942.

My brother Leopold was there, but because he worked underground, he escaped detection and deportation to the Auschwitz death camp on that day. However, in 1944 he was betrayed and thus began his odyssey through Hitler's concentration camps. First Auschwitz, then Mauthausen, Mittelbau Dora and finally Flossenburg.

My daughter Heidi and I have spent many years attempting to reveal my brother's final fate. Although his trail ends in Flossenburg, his name does not appear in the camp's official death book.

And so like millions of other men, women and children who met a cruel death at the hands of the Nazis, Leopold's final resting place will never be known.

Frances Nunnally

Hiding in Luxembourg

Ernie Gates, son of the late Ordway Gates (and the ombudsman for Stars & Stripes) was recently in Germany to hold a town hall meeting at Ramstein AFB. He took some personal time and went to Rambrouch, Luxembourg. He went to see the town, the house and the secret attic hiding place where Ordway Gates was hidden by the Claren-Rodesch family after his B-17 was shot down in July 1944. This was his second hiding place and where he spent most of the 3 months that he was hidden.

Ernie posted his annotated photographs at:

https://picasaweb.google.com/lh/sredir?uname=116449089914157762652&target=ALBUM&id=5750645220778365441&authkey=Gv1sRgC0ng7s_5qsG0IQ&feat=email

LONDON “LADIES”

by William R. (Bill) Greenwell, Jr.

As an experienced bomber pilot in the U.S. Army Air Corps, he felt good. He had twenty three of his thirty missions, a good crew, three Air Medals, and was on leave in London. Dressed in the Air Corps dark green blouse and army “pink” pants, he was looking for a little fun in blacked out London.

A slight guy just twenty three, a Captain in the Air Corps and money in his pocket, he had the world by the tail. He felt like a man in the midst of great accomplishments.

Walking through a blacked out Arcade, he heard a woman coming toward him, high heels clicking on marble passageway. As they passed, he lit a cigarette and offered her one and saw a beautiful, mature, young, overdressed, obvious lady of the night.

He had money (one of those rich Americans) so why not go for it. They looked at each other, in the light of the cigarette lighter. “Hi, what’s going on?” “Not much, kind of a slow night” she responded. With contact established, he continued. “How about you and me; what do you say we have a little fun?”

She looked him over closely, in the dark. Looked at the uniform, his slight young frame and size, making him uncomfortable at the thought of being evaluated/sized up by a hooker. After a few moments, she looked him straight in the eye and said “You look like a nice kid sonny. Go home and grow up before you try the street girls. You might buy trouble.”

With all his experience, flight training, combat missions, medals, and the Germans, he never felt as put down as he was by this London lady of the evening. She made a young man in a deadly business realize what he really was.



ANNOUNCEMENT

We are having our Fall meeting and luncheon on September 15th at Stonehenge Golf and Country Club in Chesterfield. The meeting will start at 11:30 with lunch at 12:30.

This is the second meeting scheduled for 2012. This is a great opportunity to see and talk with fellow vets and 2nd Gens. In addition to the luncheon and general meeting, Abe Firestone will show the film "Winning Your Wings" with Jimmy Stewart. It caused Abe to join the Aviation Cadet program when he first saw it. As always, Stonehenge Golf and Country Club will serve a great lunch.

The Chapter will pay for lunch.

James Harvell needs to give the club an approximate head count a couple of days in advance so that they can plan. Please give James a call at (804) 744-1764 if you plan to attend. He can also give you directions if you're not sure how to get to Stonehenge Country Club.



**PLEASE COMPLETE THIS
FORM AND RETURN IT TO
PAUL ADAMS IF YOU
NEED TO PAY YOUR
CHAPTER DUES FOR 2011.**



VIRGINIA CHAPTER DUES RENEWAL FORM

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

CHAPTER DUES \$10.00

My organization was the _____ Group or _____ Squadron
or Other _____

Please return to Paul Adams; 11813 Coolwind Lane; Richmond, VA. 23233-1413