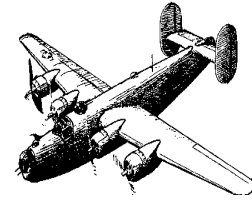


Plane Talk

The Eighth Air Force Historical Society
Virginia Chapter Newsletter



VOLUME 15, ISSUE 2

JULY 2008



Greetings From Your President:

On Saturday May 10th your Board met at Bob Noziglia's Stonehenge Country Club to discuss several subjects. Foremost among them was the "none" bus trip. In view of the fact that even less interest was expressed for the proposed Armed Forces Day trip for the two previous ones, the bus trip idea is obviously a flop. As the one responsible for the plan, I am surprised and, of course, disappointed. I still believe that it would have been pleasant and entertaining.

Your Board still intends to schedule at least three luncheon meetings each year. We are planning to have the next one in the Richmond area and will be trying to make this meeting more than just a luncheon.

By the time you receive this copy of *Plane Talk* dues notices will have been mailed to those still not paid for 2008. We have had much improved receipts of dues this year even without the usual reminder. If the mailing label on this issue still has no date or a 2007 above your name, we urge you to send \$10 to Paul Adams at 11813 Coolwind Lane, Richmond, VA 23233-1788.

We discussed the illness of both Tom Hughes and Jim Trask. The Board signed and sent a card to Tom. We did not know the details of Jim's situation at that time. (Jim was contacted later, was doing well, and expected to return home the next day.) Both of these individuals have been active in Chapter activities in the past.

Our Chapter was mentioned in the March issue of the *Eighth Air Force News*. If you still have your copy, look at the top right hand corner of page 26. I wish to thank whoever provided the info that was printed there.

On April 24th I attended the "Oral History" day at my local middle school. WWII vets sit at a table and 6 to 8 students ask questions for 50 minutes. Then another group does the same thing. Most of the groups get interview up to five veterans and they ask some very interesting questions. Any vet in the Northern Virginia area who is interested in participating should contact me. I will pass your name and address on to the school.

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

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 EDITORS.

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THE CO-PILOT

By Bob Stevens (and modified by Lew Burke)

I'm the co-pilot, I sit on the right.
It's up to me to be quick and bright.
I never talk back or I'll have regrets.
I have to remember what the Captain forgets.

I make up the flight plan and study the weather,
Pull up the gear and stand by to feather.
Make out the forms and do the reporting,
And fly the ol' crate while the Captain is courting.

I take the readings and adjust the power.
Put on the heaters when we're in a shower.
I give him readings on the darkest nights
And do all the book work without any lights.

I call for my Captain and buy him a coke.
And always laugh at his corniest jokes.
And oh so often when his landings are rusty,
I always remark "By gosh but it's gusty.

So all in all, I'm a general stooge
As I sit on the right of ol' man "Scrooge."
I suppose you think that it's past understanding,
But maybe some day he'll give me a landing.

(Modified somewhat to fit my career as a co-pilot!)

ATTENTION TO ORDERS!

Recently Abe Firestone and Bob Noziglia met and explored the possibility of combining the August Luncheon/Meeting in Richmond with a visit to the Holocaust Museum on East Cary Street. We could have lunch at the "Bottoms Up Pizza" restaurant which is on Dock Street just south of East Cary Street. This seems like an interesting activity!

We will be sending out additional information when we nail down the date and other details.

This following letter was received in response to a request for stories and pictures in the January issue of Plane Talk.

Dear Sir,

Sitting in her armchair in the living room, this aged grandmother is expected to be watching the “Food Channel” or the Lifetime tear jerker movie. But – NO – she’s tuned in the “Memphis Belle.” Her teas cools on the table beside her as her thoughts stroll back to World War II and the dramas unfolding over England’s green countryside.



Yes, I was there. First in London during the Blitz when the Luftwaffe pounded England’s cities in rubble. The later, in Bury St. Edmunds, East Anglia as a member of the ATS, the women’s section of the British Army.

We were stationed in Gibraltar Barracks, a huge training center for British Troops. Our platoon consisted largely of refugee girls from Hitler’s Nazi occupied Europe. At dawn, we were awakened by the roar of the Fortresses taking off on missions over the Continent. At night we jitterbugged at the local “Corn Exchange” to the popular tunes of the times.

The winters were long and hard. But the cold we felt in our hearts was not due to the ice and snow on the parade ground outside. We trembled at the thought of what would happen if the Nazis would be able to invade England after all. And our families back home were constantly on our minds. Were they still alive? Were they hungry, cold, sick?

But the Royal Air Force boys by night and the Eighth Air Force boys by day kept the enemy at bay. And finally turned the tide. VICTORY!

My own way gradually led back to Vienna, my former hometown. I crossed a continent in shambles, with cities reduced to rubble, and displaced persons everywhere. In Vienna I stood outside the house where I was born and grew up, and felt the emptiness all around. My family was gone, their last resting places known to none.

But life went for us went on and the years passed. There were children, grandchildren, and even great-grandchildren. Yet, clear as crystal, the memories remained. We think of the many thousands of fine young men who gave their lives to defeat the EVIL that threatened to engulf the world.

Thank you, Mighty Eighth!

Sincerely,

Frances Nunnally

WANTED: WEB MASTER

Some other Chapters as well as several Bomb Groups have web sites. Very interesting information can be found on these sites. They are accessed by offspring of veterans, researchers and students as well as those who are just curious about the "Big War." Well maintained sites often contain dairies, mission details and other history and provide links to other sites. Ours could be a great source for posing our personal histories and "war stories." Look at these examples to see what is possible: www.8thafhsoregon.com, www.303rdbg.com, www.95thbg.org, or www.398th.org.

QUALIFICATIONS: Some computer literacy as well as home computer and appropriate software. (The Chapter will pay any site fees.)

HOURS: Indeterminate.

PAY: Personal Satisfaction.

DUTIES: Set up and operate a Virginia Chapter website!

IF YOU'RE INTERESTED, CONTACT PRESIDENT LEW BURKE!



**PLEASE COMPLETE THIS
FORM AND RETURN IT TO
PAUL ADAMS IF YOU
HAVEN'T PAID YOUR
CHAPTER DUES FOR 2008.**



VIRGINIA CHAPTER DUES RENEWAL FORM

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

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
