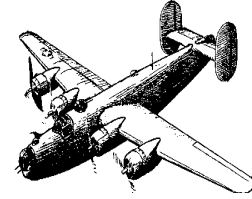


Plane Talk

The Eighth Air Force Historical Society
Virginia Chapter Newsletter



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Greetings From Your President:

First, let me say that August General membership meeting was attend by 14 curious individuals. It was held at Bottoms Up Pizza on Dock Street in Richmond. Even though the name implied that it would serve pizza it offered a fine assortment of other cuisine. Before, during, and after the meal we heard from almost everyone in attendance, This made for a pleasant and entertaining affair. Present were Jim Boehling, Lew and Lillie Burke, Bill Byrd, Gordon Caulkins, Abe and Ernestine Firestone, Mel Hanes, Neil November, Bob and Mae Nozliglia, Bill and Ruth Reiss, and Ken Rowe. By the way, Abe Firestone did the leg work to set up the visit.

Following the luncheon we visited the Richmond Holocaust Museum on East Cary Street. (Some of us did not that there is a Holocaust in Museum.) The presentation and guided tour was an education. It also reminded us about the cruel fate of millions of Germans after Hitler came to power. We were cautioned that a similar fate could befall any country if its citizens are not informed and vigilant in its selection of political leaders.

We in the United States have a Constitution that limits the power of those who hold power in our Nation's Capitol. The first ten amendments to that document guarantee human rights that make us the envy of the world and a magnet for others who want to share in our freedom and opportunities. However, those guarantees are only as good as we Americans make them. That means that each generation needs to know the content of our Constitution. The citizenry can not preserve what it doesn't understand. I fear that many of our are not being taught well by today's education community.

I believe that our youth need this important knowledge. The saying "the price of freedom is eternal vigilance" is at least as true today as it was generations ago. Maybe we old codgers need to take every opportunity to educate our younger generations about this important document and their responsibility to preserve it and our country.

I promise to work towards more imaginative meetings in the coming year.

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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Edward Coryell Ewen (1919 – 2008)

Edward Coryell Ewen, 88, of Hanover, Pa., formerly of York, Pa. and Williamsburg, Va., passed peacefully on Tuesday, September 23, at Homewood at Plum Creek. He was the loving husband of 61 years to Elizabeth Kerr Ewen, who passed away on February 29, 2008. He was born December 17, 1919 in Brooklyn, N.Y., the son of the late Albert Edward and Edith May (Smith) Ewen. Mr. Ewen proudly served his country during World War II as a B-17 pilot, flying 35 missions and attaining the rank of first lieutenant. He graduated from Springfield College of Springfield, Mass. and obtained a master's degree from Columbia University in New York City. He served the YMCA from 1941, taking on roles as physical director and executive director and directing many successful YMCA fund-raising campaigns with campaign associates in the United States and Canada. Mr. Ewen served YMCAs in Lebanon, Pa., Westfield, N.J., Orange, N.J., Haverhill, Mass. and York, Pa. He retired from the YMCA in 1985 after 44 years of service. While living in Williamsburg, Va., he helped to establish the Williamsburg YMCA and was a very active member of the Williamsburg United Methodist Church. He also was past president of the Virginia Chapter of the Eighth Air Force Historical Society. After moving to Hanover, he became a member of the First United Methodist Church. Always willing to help others, he and his wife went on mission trips with their church, delivered Meals on Wheels, and were active in other community services. He is survived by his daughter, Barbara Jacoby and her husband, Michael, of Seven Valleys, Pa.; his son, the Reverend James Ewen and his wife, Ellen, of Sunderland, Mass.; his sister, Alberta May Vosburgh of Bridgewater, and his grandchildren, Michael Jacoby and his wife, Jennifer, of Dallastown, Pa., Jennifer Smitka and her husband, Joseph, of Chambersburg, Pa. and Christopher Ewen of Alexandria Bay, N.Y.

Virginia Chapter Member Honored

In a special action taken by the national 8th Air Force Historical Society's Board of Directors, John Pearson has been designated as a permanent Board Emeritus member in honor of the years of dedication he has given to the Society, many of them serving as Secretary of the board. John lives in Virginia and flew 8th Air Force missions with 457th Bomb Group.

(From "8th AF News" December 2008.)

A Visit to the Virginia Holocaust Museum

by A.J.Z. (Abe) Firestone

Feb. 2, 1945 and April 5, 1945 – Nuremberg, Germany - I participated in two bombing missions on Nuremberg as an unwelcome guest and a lead radar navigator/bombardier of the 8th Air Force, 4th Squadron, and 34th Bomb Group (H).

August 23, 2008 – Nuremberg Courtroom, Richmond, Virginia - The combined Virginia Chapter of the 8th AFHS was at a Luncheon meeting at the “Bottoms Up Pizza” restaurant with a visit to the Virginia Holocaust Museum on East Cary Street in Richmond. The museum is located in an old tobacco warehouse located in Historic Shockoe Bottom which was donated by the Virginia State Legislature.

Our outstanding tour of the Museum was by the docent Alexander Lebenstein. He is the sole surviving member of the Jewish community of the town of Haltern-am-See, Germany. At the time of *Kristallnacht*, Alex was only eleven years old. Alex endured life in two ghettos, two concentration camps, and four slave labor camps before liberation in 1945.

For the past 12 years, Alex has spoken on the Holocaust and Tolerance to schools both in the United States and Germany.

In 2008 Alex had the honor of *Ehrenburger*, or honored person, bestowed upon him by the city of Haltern am See as well as having the city’s middle school renamed the *Alexander Lebenstein Realschule*. He is the first living person to have a school named for him.

The Museum boasts 28 permanent life size exhibits depicting prominent themes and events from the Holocaust. Many of the exhibits were based on the experiences of our docent Alex Lebenstein. The newest exhibit, The Nuremberg Trials Courtroom Exhibit, officially opened May 1, 2008 and is the only existing replica of the famous courtroom that set the standard for modern international law. It is a full sized replica of the original courtroom with wax figures of all participants including defendants, prosecutors, judges, guards, etc. The courtroom, and the museum, has to be seen to be fully appreciated.



REFLECTIONS ON THE VIRGINIA HOLOCAUST MUSEUM

The Museum has spent years accumulating relics and testimony regarding this disgraceful portion of civilization's worst experience. The number of Jews and other non-Aryan "undesirables" that were victimized and killed in this period by the Nazis is an atrocity generally known to most of us, but here you can see and feel the extent of this dark portion of the human experience.

The museum recently added a special exhibit that was most interesting to all of our group. The Museum had the Nuremberg Trial Courtroom duplicated. It is true in its dimensions and has lifelike presentations of all the participants. You can almost feel as though you are there. It is one of the most realistic presentations I have ever seen. Testimony, statements, and judgments are there to be studied and appreciated. It is terrific.

Bob Noziglia

My wife, Ruth, joined me on the visit to the Museum. Ruth is a survivor of the Nazi's holocaust. Both of us and Ruth especially, appreciated the Museum's intelligent, sensitive, and meaningful design. As we entered the Museum's stark entrance way Ruth was quickly reminded of the dreadful Nazi rule of her home in Leipzig. Our guide during the visit provided a thoughtful and realistic presentation which allowed us to make an important connection to that dreadful historical epoch.

William Reiss

I just want you and those who were not there to know that the visit to the Holocaust Museum at the last meeting was both touching and very meaningful. The exhibits were indeed graphic and descriptive of the worst of humanity's treatment of humanity and overwhelming evidence of the reason we were in World War II.

Jim Boehling



SCENES FROM THE VIRGINIA HOLOCAUST MUSEUM



HELP 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: Good Feeling.

DUTIES: Set up and operate a Virginia Chapter website!

INVESTIGATOR: Your Chapter President needs eyes, arms, and legs in Richmond to help scout locations for meetings.

PAY: The President's Gratitude.

IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN EITHER JOB, CONTACT PRESIDENT LEW BURKE!



PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND RETURN IT TO PAUL ADAMS IF YOU TO PAY YOUR CHAPTER DUES FOR 2009.



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
