

8th Air Force Association Historical Society Oregon Chapter

February 5, 2003

Meeting Opening

Elden Bevens

Treasurer Report

Jerry Anderson

Ended up in the year \$700 more in our account than last year. The increase in dues will help keep our chapter solvent. As always the books are always available to be looked at.

Flight Line Editor

Bob Miller had a mild stroke, so Jerry Ritter assisted in getting it out this quarter. If anyone has articles to submit please send them into Bob. Also note that Carl Gustafson and Roberta Beck also helped in putting out the newsletter.

Program Director

Don Keller

On display this meeting was a hand carved model of a B-17 (Square B unit) and a commercial hand carved wood version of a B17 (no unit markings). Photographs, books, maps of the 8th bases, B-17 cockpit switches and other bits and pieces of aircraft were placed on display / sale by Don Keller. 10% of the monies of the selling price goes back to the chapter.

Food Call-In

Be sure to call in with the number of people who will be eating at the meeting. Please call or e-mail the person listed in the meeting announcement with the number of people who will be eating at the meeting.

Evergreen

West Coast Bank

Establishing a education center with some education demonstration attractions

A-26 coming in across the street, F4 coming up form Eugene, and other a/c coming into the area. Future helicopters can be added into the collection. Coffee shop being redone.

New monument for the Purple Heart winners there.

Bomber Complex

Working on being a non-profit status. Will be dropping the flying status effort and will work to putting it back to flying but static display. Redoing lots of items.

"Cafe Friday coffee" at the bomber in Milwaukie starting at 10 AM. 1st Friday of each month. 80 members and growing. 20 to 30 members every Friday.

A 12 year old is going to be the guest due to his display on a B-17 at state fare and got the reserve champion for it.

Oregon Military Museum

New display of a L-3 Bird Dog from Korean war.

Roster

Charles Gallagher please notify when your e-mail changes. It saves the chapter roughly \$2 from not having to mail it when he can e-mail it out to the membership.

VP

Thomas was president of 385 when Eldon was head of 390th. He has been putting out the Hardlife Herald for the past few years. The call sign of the group was Hardlife Square G and Red Checkerboard visual IDs.

Historians

5 Historians in the group and are getting organized.

Trips

Roland Fisher

Reported of the new museum at Dulles airport. Space shuttle and the Enola Gay is on display there. Also, he was a speaker at the Seattle museum of flight. He talked about the B-24 and reported that the plane has shrunk since he was last in it.

Virginia et al replacements

Would like to have someone replace them. Been doing it for a long time.

Guests

Seven new guests.

Applause for the 25 wives or so that were here for this special meeting geared to them.

New Business

Nothing.

Old Business

Jerry needs help in alternating in selling the raffle tickets.

Door Prizes

Meeting

The tables were decorated with heart shaped chocolate candies along with the normal coffee and water that is always on the tables. Piano music performed by Jack Muller from the war years was played before the meeting started and while the food was being acquired in the chow line. Then he played tunes for the song quiz section of the program.

Door Prizes

Raffle items

Jerry ran the raffle. In addition to the normal prize money a 2004 Golden Age of Flight Calendar was awarded.

Jack Allen won 8 for the door prize.

Special Program

Stan Greer ran the special women program

Opened with a few jokes (8 donuts for \$3.89 limit 3).

\$50 in one dollar bills ready to be awarded. Jack Miller played a song with various themes. Like song played then the what color does the song have associated with it. First was done by tables.

"Like to see your armpits girls!"

One person at each table, the first one to correctly identify the color, got the dollar. Men were still trying to get in on the action. Stan had to constantly remind them that they were not allowed!

"How much did this comedy act practice?" was heard from the audience.

In addition they played music to identify radio programs, states that the songs are about, name of the song or the band name.

Last song was "Praise the Lord and pass the ammunition."

The ladies who passed out the hearts were thanked.

Speaker

Stan Richardson of the 55th Fighter Group

1st Berlin Mission 3 March 44 in P-38s.

Weather Briefing stated that clouds on top were 10,000, at 25,000 they came out on top. Only 16 were finally assembled. However, the mission was scrubbed but they never got the recall. Colonel Jack Jenkins (from Texas) was the Fighter Group Commander and the mission leader. When they looked down they found Berlin. A few enemy fighters came up but flak was heavy so no attacks were made by them. Over Berlin he got hit in the right engine. Saw oil streaking out and headed back over 500 miles. at the time longest distance single engine return.

Landed at an RAF base in a foot of snow when he returned.

His P-38 (class 26 is write-off) a friend of his flew on a combat mission and was damaged and on return with single engine gear and flaps down a B-17 pulled out in front of him so he pulled up gear and flaps and skidded down next to the runway. Stan came back from London and his friend showed him his aircraft. Due to invasion stripes being painted all planes were grounded so he could not test hop his new a/c.

On D-Day he flew his first mission that day all 38s were assigned since being twin boomed very easy to ID and their orders was to shoot anything that came through was to be shot down.

He flew three missions that day. In the movie The Longest Day Pips Priller supposed to have strafed the beaches but he never saw that. Heard that 1 JU-88 came over and was shot down.

Different rules of engagement than now, everything was fair game, trucks, trains, staff cars, airfields etc.

The 55th destroyed most locomotives than any other group.

C channel was the one used to talk to bombers out of the 4 total on the VHF channel.

on c channel heard that a 60 box of B-24s were under attack. 23 had been shot down and when they came in low under them and shot down 19 of them. After shooting down a plane near the ground he was coming up back to the fight he saw a German in his parachute and slid off to the side and waggled his wings. As he flew by the German saluted him as he flew by.

His CO shot down Herman Lange, who had shot down 172 enemy a/c. 17 in a single day. Three FWs had bounced them and in turn they shot down all three FWs.

Re-Called during Korea war and wrote to Pappy Boyington to advise of an opening for a fighter group instead of transport. Learned how to party in the Far East. He was a group level air material officer and maintain fighter armaments, equipment etc.

he was a Captain at the time and had majors working for him. 8th FG flying F80Cs. He let them run the show and kept him out of trouble. 80th FT Sqd "Headhunters" in a T-33 . He had never flown in a jet. Found a brown bar to get him up. Need to keep positive Gs in order to keep fuel flow going.

Just observed what was going on.

Spent a lot of time studying where everything was so when he found an instructor to sit in back. Went up with/Instructor and after going over what the brown bar had down the instructor told him to shoot three landings,

taxied over to refuel, jumped out and told him "no sense of both of us getting killed." Take-off at 90 IAS.

F-80 was already outmoded in 1950.

the 8th was a Frt-bomber group. "Mud Movers" to help out the people on the ground. No two-seat when the F-86s around. Studied the cockpit, taxied around, then jumped out.

F-86 would exceed Mach 1.

Saw Migs once in a while. Never on a routine basis did they see Migs due to the nature of their missions. when the target went under the wing they rolled over and down onto the target. Gun sight was used to line up on target. 15-16k down to 5K pull-out. 1 Fuel tank and 1,000 lb. 435 gas internal. 50 minutes out.

51st or 4th when high going N to Mig alley, but once they went down they knew they were dive bombers.

Russians had a good ratio. 16:1 was overall, but Russian shot down more F-86s than they lost Russian pilots.

On way down someone called break and he went right. Looked over and saw them coming down. Once the speed brakes were in then F-86 picked up speed. Mig was coming in fast and Stan turned into him and thus Mig overshot. rolled back and got a shot at him and reported it but was not credited with damage or kill as since it went into a cloud.

During WWII no rules, in Korea, there were various targets that could not be hit due to various political reasons.

Two rules for Stan:

- 1) When going to war was to kill the enemy
- 2) Rule two was read rule 1

Corporate pilot after military and had good fortune to meet the Apollo astronauts. Not buddy buddy but acquaintances. Flew with GTE, flew Bob and Deloras hope on a few occasions. Nancy Reagan (not particular liked her). Harry Stooldriver was at Notre Dame of the Famed Four Horsemen from Knute Rockney. Flew him quite a few times.

Footnote to Stan:

Rick Muford was mission commander. Charlie Gallagher stated that the radio man stated that it was a fake recall since the recall was 1 digit off so some bombers did continue on though most came back due to the recall. Other units relayed this to units and thus most turned back. Only a few groups made it there but due to cloud cover no fighters were seen and no bombers were lost.

Random Notes

5x5 meaning: signal strength on the meter was from 1 to 5. 5x5 meant the receiving station had the meter pegged at the 5 spot throughout the transmission.