

8th Air Force Historical Society Oregon Chapter

February 11, 2006

Meeting Opening

President Don Bourgeois welcomed everyone to the February meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance

Lead by Joe Conroy.

Reports

Treasurer Report - Jerry Andrew

All money given to the chapter above the \$10 annual dues is tax deductible. In 2005 \$420 extra money was sent to the chapter above the dues amount. The Chapter ended the year with \$50 more in the combined bank accounts than at the end of 2004.

Jerry read out the people who have not renewed.

Flight Line Editor - Jerry Ritter

Mailings came back from 3 people. Putting "Address Correction Service" on the mailings ensures we get correct address for people who have moved. It costs 75 cents per correction from the post office.

"Thank You" from Jerry for materials submitted for the Flight Lines Newsletter.

Stories from fighter pilots, crew chiefs, repair and armament personnel and other ground echelon staff is welcome!

Membership - Joe Conroy

111 veterans, non 8th AF vets, 65 non 8th AF veterans at start of meeting. 176 total members in Oregon and SW Washington.

1 new 8th AF Veteran joined at the meeting upping the totals by 1.

Robert Yomar who flew in the 306th from Toledo Oregon died recently. He was not a member of the club.

Web Site and Historical Archive

Secretary Tom Philo reported his progress in the preservation and accessibility of the material and continued building of the chapter's web site. Proceeding of the material is proceeding rapidly after experimenting with different scanning and storage techniques over the past few years.

Items are being scanned into Adobe® PDF format to allow them to be searched for words when on the web site by the various search engines as well as when placed on a CD/DVD disk that members can purchase.

26 different sets of information has been stored this way so far out of the 46 sets donated. Scanning them helps in preventing handling of originals which will preserve them better. Around 200 pages worth of materials has been scanned so far.

Items can be loaned to the chapter secretary, scanned, then returned to the owner so they can be passed on within their family if so desired. You can always donate them permanently to the chapter. Items are stored in archive quality storage containers to preserve them.

If you wish to have your material archived fill out the copyright authorization form and arrange the items to be delivered to Chapter Secretary Tom Philo.

General Notes

Evergreen

Eldon Bevins. The Evergreen (McMinnville) museum is just 1 of 5 different corporations that make up the whole museum. Due to the construction of the IMAX® they have learned that they will never again estimate when things will be completed!. They expect the IMAX theatre will be finished by June 2006.

A new area of museum space will be freed up for use after the I-Max theater is finished.

The museum now has 80 a/c.

Paul Armatrout wrote a book about his history in a B-17. An interview with Paul was broadcast on Fox channel, Feb 19, 2006, on Oliver North's "War Stories" show.

An Art & Wine program at the museum that occurs soon.

Feb 24, 2006, annual model expo of R/C and free flight.

203,000 attendance last year at museum.

Restoration hanger across the street is open for visit during the week.

11th person on a B-17 was the PR guy.

95th BG Reunion

Aug 29-Sept 2 2006 in downtown Portland. Marilyn Gallagher is organizing it. McMinnville is the field trip - dinner dance at the convention hotel.

Bomber Museum

Charlie Gallagher. 1st Friday of every month is a meeting from 10:00 to 12:00. Around 35-40 people were there last month. Working on the B-17 restoration - need around \$250,000 to finish it. They are trying to restore it back to flying status. On McLoughlin Blvd. Art Lacey flew it there in 1947 right from the storage area. Was brand new.

Oregon Military Museum

Phil Richart. 1918 Liberty truck restoration completed.

WW I veteran Howard joined in 1918, and drove trucks from Sept 1918 till 1919 in France.

The museum is restoring a type 95 Japanese tank as the next project. After taking off the top US painted paint, they found yellow and green as the original colors. It is a "Piper yellow" type yellow and dark green. This tank came off the naval gunnery range in Fallon Nevada. Unsure if the engines will run. They have two engines to work with.

Collings Foundation

John Wilberding. Carl Guftasen has been the mentor and John taking over it. It will be stopping only in Salem this year. June 14-16 2006 - Wed, Thurs, Fri. B-25 may be along also. Then goes to Aurora 16-18th.

Research Announcements

Ian Hawkins is writing a book on the 15 BG and looking for materials.

A person in Germany is requesting info on a gun-camera film shot on 9 Sept 1943 by Leut. Honner of 11/NJG 1. Contact Tom Philo if you have info on what a/c and unit that it was in which was shot down by him.

Wreaths at Arlington Cemetery are placed on every grave there every year by a private individual. Been doing it for 20+ (?) years.

Guests

Around 20 guests were present at the meeting.

Don - who was a Marine.

Ervin Cliffe stationed from Mar 1941 at Portland Airbase - aka Swan Island, flying P-43s! Mid 1943 went to P-47s. Friend Bill was a ground member of the unit. Don Galarino. 5th AF 43rd BG 64sqd. "Dragon and Tail" B-24 aircraft (that the Collings foundation recently repainted to be from an 8th AF unit) was in his sqd. He was on I Shima when the Betty bomber flew in carrying the Japanese surrender team that was transported to the Philippines to negotiate the surrender (which led to the formal surrender that took place on the Missouri.) The military police escorts that flew along with them were all over 6' tall - think it was done to intimidate them. Roland Fisher of 63rd has complete set of photos of the Japanese surrender team as they walked from the Betty to the C-47 since he was there too.

Gary Smith - uncle was Johnny Magnes, P-38 pilot out of 5th AF in New Guinea. 14 mile airstrip 39th sqd 35th FG. Dec 27 1942 got his first Kill. Jan 8 1943 MIA over Lae, New Guinea. Flew with Richard Bong. Officially three kills, reportedly got two more while saving a B-17 from attack as reported by that crew which was in trouble but since he was killed never confirmed.

Jerry Pietrie.

Veron Dickie 8th AF 337th BG POW Stalag Luft 1.

Han Runnings. 12th and 5th Combat Engineer battalion during Battle of the Bulge.

George Bickford, Cmdr, US. Navy (Ret).

Michael Glenn, grandfather was a tail gunner in B-24s.

Cass Hutchines, works at the Oregonian. 22 years in Navy Hospital corps and nurse corps. Has flown in B-17s.

Larry Dennis, 17th Airborne, friends Berkley Biddel, Howard Ackers, both were pilots at Spirit Lake Idaho. Brother was RCAF flying Spitfires.

Jan Riguard, husband was a fighter pilot (helped train the Doolittle raiders). On 17Mmay 1944 he was interviewed by Edward R Marrow. KIA two days later on the 19th of May over the English channel.

Each of the guests at the meeting stood up and introduced themselves and gave a short history of their, or relative's, experiences. This took around 35 minutes by the time the last person was finished speaking - and not all of the guests actually took a turn talking.

Displays

Don Keller had some of his items on display including aircraft engine plates, paintings and books.

Door Prize and Raffle - Jerry Andrews

Virginia Knight ran the sign-in table and raffle tickets.

Cold Cash Raffle Prizes - He gives money away too!

Door prize \$8 Eddie Linnum

Raffle prizes: \$10, 15, 25.

Vernon Dickie won the large calendar with scenes of the 8th AF.

Meeting Program

Due to the length that the introductions took from the guests, the board decided to cancel the panel discussion due to lack of time. It will occur at the next meeting instead.

Adjournment

The meeting ended at 2 PM.