

SCHAF Newsletter for January 2014-

Foundation Happenings-

Hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and that the new year is a happy one. A resolution for this year to put at the top of your list is getting involved with SCHAF.

On Saturday, December 14th SCHAF held a very special open house. Our guest of honor was LTC. Dan Rossman, who was the student pilot in GF-2, the foundation's B-25C Mitchell bomber on June 6th, 1944, when it ditched into Lake Greenwood. Col. Rossman and his wife Sylvia came over from Atlanta and had a chance to meet and talk with other members of SCHAF. Col. Rossman also spoke to the audience about the true circumstances that resulted in GF-2 ending up at the bottom of Lake Greenwood and also about his career in the service. Everyone was impressed by his sharp wit and sense of humor and enthralled as he recounted his experiences during the Second World War and afterwards. Approximately fifty people showed up, enjoyed refreshments, socialized and all in all had a great time. Best open house we've had thus far. I think it got everyone into the holiday mood.

SCHAF president Cantzon Foster flew Col. and Mrs. Rossman from Atlanta to Columbia that weekend and one of the really cool things is that Col. Rossman took the controls of Cantzon's plane for part of the flight. Cantzon says that Col. Rossman did an excellent job of piloting his aircraft and has not lost any of his touch of flying.



Col. Rossman chatting with friends



Speaking to the audience



Col. Dan Rossman



Col. and Mrs. Rossman with Larry Yon

Cantzon Foster and Ron Shelton took the Rossman's out to dinner the Friday evening before and on Saturday evening Ken Berry and his mother Virginia Berry had the

pleasure of dining with the Rossmans. All in all a great weekend for everyone. Also credit should go out to EAA 242 and Ted Stambolitis of the Flight Deck Restaurant for supplying sandwich trays for the open house. Thank you very much. A number of other members also contributed food and refreshments. Thanks to all of the SCHAF members who helped make our December open house an outstanding success.

Things are happening with the foundation. With the assistance of grant writer, Jim Toner, SCHAF president Cantzon Foster has sent an application to the Wolf Aviation Fund Foundation for funding which would be applied to the continuing project to restore GF-2. SCHAF members Ron Shelton and Scott Linaberry assisted Cantzon in the preparation of the application.

Historical Notes-

During the Second World War flyers of other countries trained in the Palmetto State before heading overseas to play their part in defeating the enemies of freedom. British pilots trained at Woodward Field in Camden and Free French pilots trained at the Hawthorne School of Aeronautics in Orangeburg. Below is a plaque honored the pilots who flew planes bearing the Cross of Lorraine. In a future newsletter we'll have a more in-depth article regarding the Frenchmen who trained in Orangeburg and flew for "fighting France."



Good Reads-

[Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo](#) by Ted Lawson and edited by Bob Considine. I use the word classic a lot of times but this book is truly a classic. Written by one of the Doolittle Raiders, later made into a classic (there's that word again) movie starring Spencer Tracey and Van Johnson. This link will take you to a reprint of the first edition with the original cover. I read it as kid and loved it. I've read it again and it's still just as good. Read and stand in awe of the Doolittle Raiders and recapture a bit of your youth at the same time. Want to feel good about the kind of people America produces, regular folks who do their duty and get the job done. Read or re-read this one and feel good.

Historical Notes-

Here's another South Carolinian who made a contribution to our nation's aviation history; Marine Corps General William O. Brice. Brice was born in Columbia and served in the army in World War I. After the war he would attend The Citadel, graduating in 1921 when he commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps. In 1924 after flight training at Pensacola he was designated an aviator. In 1927 he was sent to China as part of a squadron protecting American interests during the Chinese Civil War. He would later be stationed in the Philippines and would also serve on the U.S.S. Saratoga. For part of World War II he would command U.S. Army, Navy and Marine Corps bomber, search and torpedo units as well units of the Royal New Zealand Air Force based in New Zealand. He would receive the Distinguished Service Medal as well as the Order of the British Empire and a Bronze Star. In the early fifties he was named the Marine Corps

Director of Aviation. Upon retirement he was awarded his fourth star. He would die at in 1972 at Moncrief Army Hospital at Fort Jackson in Columbia.



Gen. William O. Brice

Odds and Ends-

The answer to last month's trivia question is Roald Dahl. Dahl was born in Wales to Norwegian parents who had emigrated to the United Kingdom. The start of World War II found Dahl in Tanganyika working for Shell Oil. He was commissioned an officer in the King's Africa Rifles. Later that year he joined the Royal Air Force as an enlisted man and traveled to Kenya where he underwent flight training. After advanced training in Iraq he was assigned to a squadron flying Gloster Gladiators, the last bi-plane fighter used by the RAF. He crashed in Egypt and after recovering flew Hawker Hurricanes in the Greek campaign and took part in the Battle of Athens. He was then sent back to Egypt. In 1942 he found himself in Washington, D.C. as Assistant Air Attache and wrote an article for *The Saturday Evening Post* entitled "Shot Down Over Libya" describing the crash of his Gladiator bi-plane. While in Washington he was assigned to British Intelligence and after the war would write a history of MI5, the British Security Service. He left the RAF in 1946. He would go on to write such children's classics as *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (one movie version was called *Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory* and a later movie version under the original title starred Johnny Depp), *James and the Giant Peach* (also made into a movie), and *The B.F.G.* (made into an animated film). Oh, I had mentioned last month that he married a famous actress. In 1953 he married actress Patricia Neal (remember *The Day the Earth Stood Still* with Michael Rennie). They divorced in 1983. Dahl passed away in 1990.



Congratulations go out to Rachel Haynie who had the right answer. She even got the part about Patricia Neal. Sorry, no prize for getting the right answer. Maybe that's something I need to work on in the coming months. Again, thanks Rachel.

Glad you still like the newsletter. By the way, I've mentioned it before but it's worth repeating, Rachel is the author of [Cornfield to Airfield: A History of Columbia Army Air Base](#), a great history of Columbia Army Air Base which includes the story of the formation of the Doolittle Raiders at CAAB. Want to learn more about South Carolina's contribution to victory in World War II, this is a good place to start.

Here's our trivia question for this month. Below are some pictures. What are they? No, they're not surveying marks and no, they're not signage or traffic signals for spaceships or anything like that. I will tell you this much, they are aviation related. Anyone know? Answer next month.



In Closing-

Well, that wraps up this month's SCHAF newsletter. With the New Year here you might be looking for a resolution. Here's a suggestion, get involved with SCHAF. We have a lot going on and more is planned. Just get in touch and see how you can help. If you have an idea or an area of interest let folks know. Maybe you're interested in some of the South Carolinians mentioned in a newsletter and would like to research their lives and contributions. Do you have stories to share, remembrances or a friend or relative with a story? Write it down, contribute a few paragraphs to a future newsletter. Do you have a skill in wood or metal-working? That can be put to use in helping restore GF-2 or putting together displays. In 2014 make it a point to become involved with SCHAF.

If you have something you would like to share please [e-mail](#) me or any of the board members for inclusion in future newsletters. **Oh, and by the way, if you have not renewed your membership, do so at your earliest convenience. [Go to the SCHAF membership page on the foundation's website.](#)** Your support of SCHAF is greatly appreciated

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Happy New Year to everyone from the folks at SCHAF

