

## SCHAF Newsletter for February 2015

**Reminder: The next SCHAF Open House will take place Saturday, February 14, 2015. 10am-1pm at Hangar Y-1 Hamilton/Owens Airport.**

### Foundation Happenings-

Greetings to members and friends of the South Carolina Historic Aviation Foundation. After the holidays things have started to pick again up again and it's shaping up to be a very busy 2015. Let's dive in and see what's been happening.

One weekend in January Ken Berry and Niall McLaughlin traveled to Canada to pick up an important donation to SCHAF from the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum. The donation included a turret for GF-2, yokes for the cockpit, rear hatches, brake assemblies, a hydraulic jack, compasses and more. Our thanks to our friends in Canada for helping out with the restoration of SCHAF's B-25C. Below is a picture of the hangar at the CWHM.



Below is a picture of Niall helping load crates with the donated parts. The picture below that one shows Niall and Ken with Bill Rouw, who is the crew chief for CWHM's airworthy B-25 along with David Rohrer, president and CEO of the Canadian Warplanes Heritage Museum. Again, to our friends in Canada, thanks.





Would also like to mention that Bill Rouw and his friend Shirley Salomone, who visited Columbia last year and saw GF-2 became recent members of SCHAF, making us an organization that is developing an international reach.

The restoration of GF-2 is proceeding nicely. Gary Byrd suggested that any SCHAF member who might have equipment, parts or material that can be used in the project to consider a donation to the foundation. Gary is currently looking for parts for the radio system. Anyone who has something that might be of help, please get in touch.

Niall, as I've mentioned before was part of the support crew for the visit to the UK by the CWHM's Avro Lancaster "Vera" as it toured the UK with "Thumper," the Avro Lancaster of the RAF's Battle of Britain Memorial Flight. Niall informed me recently that a documentary is being made of the trip and that plans are to release it this summer with possible airing on an American cable channel. Niall pointed me to the trailer for the documentary called *Reunion of Giants*. Here's the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5O12rem6d3g>. Listen closely, the third voice you hear at the beginning is Niall. Go check out the trailer, it is truly worth watching and if it's any indication of how the final product will look *Reunion of Giants* is going to be something very special.

Want to make mention of a recent donation to SCHAF. The donation was made by Lucy Maxwell and Walter Maxwell in memory of their stepfather Rueben Maxwell. Rueben was a talented artist who attended the University of South Carolina and would later teach art in the University of Georgia system as well as at a number of other schools. During the Second World Rueben was in the Army Air Corps and stationed in the South Pacific. His job was to produce artwork documenting the wartime experience of American servicemen in those far away islands as they pushed back the Japanese. The foundation now has an interesting collection of artwork and other items telling the story of Americans in World War II and their experiences in the South Pacific. If you have items of historical interest think about possibly contributing them to the foundation.



*Some of the pictures of Rueben Gambrell*

The South Carolina Historic Aviation Foundation held its monthly open house on Saturday, January 10, 2015 at Hamilton/Owens Airport. Low turnout due to the cold weather but a number of SCHAF members showed up and it was a good chance for folks to chat and catch up on things.

The board of directors of SCHAF held their month meeting on Thursday, January 22, 2015 at Hamilton/Owens Airport in Columbia. Board members present were Ken Berry, Ron Shelton, Cantzon Foster, David McIntosh, Scott Linaberry, and Xen Motsinger. Also present were Niall McLaughlin and Mary McIntosh.

The board heard a report on Ken and Niall's recent trip to Canada to receive B-25 parts donated by the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum. There was discussion on the continuing restoration of GF-2, the foundation's B-25C and reimbursement of members for the purchase of parts. Also discussion about submitting an application to the Richland County for the next round of grant funding. Also discussion of securing blueprints and manuals for the B-25 and fabrication of parts for the ongoing restoration project.

Ken Berry reported that he has delivered a letter the Richland County Airport Commission expressing SCHAF's interest in playing a role in the possible restoration and use of the Curtiss-Wright Hangar at Hamilton/Owens Airport. Ken will be at the March meeting of the commission to discuss SCHAF's interest and involvement.

There was also discussion about events later this year at Hamilton/Owens Airport. Later this year Hamilton/Owens will mark its 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The South Carolina Historic Aviation Foundation (SCHAF) is observing Women's History Month by hosting a visit from the first African- American female in the history of the National Guard to be promoted to general officer. Aiken native Dr. Irene Trowell-Harris retired as Major General of the Air National Guard. She later served as Director of the Department of Veterans' Affairs, Center for Women Veterans. She will be at Hamilton-Owens Airport Saturday, March 14 at noon during SCHAF's regularly-scheduled monthly open house to "inspect" the vintage B-25 bomber the aviation foundation currently is restoring to display standards. She will receive a special greeting from members of the Spann Watson Chapter, Tuskegee Airman. A Tuskegee Airman chapter located in Upstate New York is named for Trowell-Harris. She presently lives and works in Washington DC.

On Sunday, March 29<sup>rd</sup>, a special ceremony commemorating the first US Army (Airborne) Division/Regimental size parachute drop in 1943 takes place at 2pm at the 82nd Airborne/505th monument at the Invista plant on US Highway 1 in Lugoff. SCHAF member Ted Podewil is one of the folks helping put the ceremony on. If you want more information you can e-mail Ted at [army44d3@live.com](mailto:army44d3@live.com) or call 803-356-0611. This will be an event worth attending.

Wanted to make mention that over the Christmas holidays Ron Shelton heard from both Hope Bloom and Lynn Gunzenhauser, daughters of the late Col. Dan Rossman, who was an enthusiastic member of SCHAF and was left seat student pilot of GF-2 the day she ditched in Lake Greenwood, June 6, 1944. It was nice to hear from you ladies. Your father is greatly missed.

## Historical Notes-

An item from a time when taking an airplane was a more refined sort of experience. The ad below is from the 1950's for Trans World Airlines Lockheed L-1649 Starliner, the last of the Constellation series of prop liners. TWA called their Starliners the Jetstream. Other airlines that used the Starliner included Air France and Lufthansa. The plane was meant as a competitor of the Douglas DC-7C "Seven Seas." Remember, people used to dress in their best to take an airplane trip. Ahhh, a more civilized and refined time. An example of the final flowering of the propeller driven airliner.



A good article about the leading fighter pilot in the U.S. Navy, David McCampbell, who would end World War II with 34 kills to his credit. McCampbell was one of the pilots who took part in "the Great Marianas Turkey Shoot" which put the final nail in the coffin of Japanese naval aviation.



*David McCampbell*

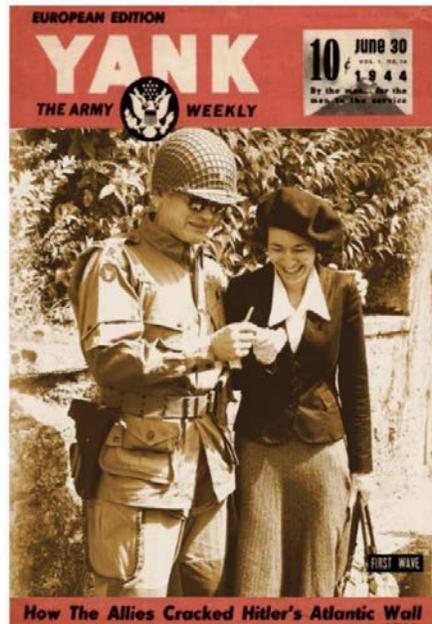
Follow this link: <http://www.thehistoryreader.com/modern-history/october-24-1994-david-mccambell-downed-enemy-aircraft-naval-aviator-ever/> .

An item from the news, it was announced in January by the Department of Defense that the USAF will be pulling out of three bases in the United Kingdom that have hosted the air force since World War II; RAF Mildenhall, RAF Molesworth and RAF Alconbury. Many who served with the USAF in the UK will be familiar with Mildenhall since it was a gateway for Americans stationed in the UK. Molesworth is of historical importance since it was from that base in East Anglia that the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force on July 4, 1942 launched the USAAF's first mission against Nazi occupied

Europe when B-17 bombers hit the rail yards in Rouen, France. Alconbury was also another base that would reverberate to the thundering roar of warplanes taking to the skies in their quest to defeat the Nazi war machine. For over 70 years Mildenhall, Molesworth and Alconbury have played an important role in the projection of power in an effort to make the world a safer place. Already numerous individuals and groups in East Anglia have issued statements thanking America for its presence and stating the United States Air Force will be missed in that part of the UK. The USAF will remain at another major base, RAF Lakenheath. Here's a link to the BBC's story: <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-suffolk-30725366> .

Here's a good article on how Supermarine Spitfires from World War II are restored in New Zealand. These guys are real craftsmen. A look at what we hope to be one day in SCHAf. If you look at one of the pictures these folks also appear to be restoring a P-40. Here's the link: [See How Spitfire WWII Planes are Restored in New Zealand.](#)

Thanks to SCHAf member Ted Podewil who sent in this image. It's the cover of an edition of *Yank*, the magazine published in World War II for American servicemen. Thanks Ted.



## Good Reads-

One of the keys to victory in World War II was the massive industrial might of the United States and the speed with America made the change from a peace time economy to a war one. Not only were we able to supply our needs but the needs of Britain and the Commonwealth countries, the Soviet Union, and other allies. How did we do it?

[Freedom's Forge](#) by Arthur Herman tells the story of two amazing men "Big Bill" Knudsen and Henry J. Kaiser. Not all of the book deals with aviation but in its pages you'll find out how /American industry was able to turn out B-24 Liberator bombers at an amazing rate and how the Rolls-Royce Merlin engine, produced under license by Packard would power the P-51 Mustang, the outstanding fighter that played a role in sweeping the Luftwaffe out of the skies of Europe. Herman, author of *To Rule the Waves*, and *How the Scots Invented the Modern World* (both really good books) is at his best here telling the story of how the sleeping giant became the "arsenal of democracy." Pick it up. You won't put it down.

## Odds and Ends-

Last month for our trivia question we wanted to know who coined the term "joystick" for the device that controls an airplane. There some disagreement with three people named as the person who came with the term. A.E. George, James Henry Joyce and Robert Loraine have all been mentioned as first using the term "joystick." The name Robert Esnault-Pelteria also comes up. Dr. John Moncure, headmaster of the Montessori School in Camden provided that answer. The answer we were looking for was Robert Loraine since many articles credit him. Truthfully it might be one of those questions without a definitive answer.



*Robert Loraine*

Loraine seems to have been quite an interesting character; not only was an aviation pioneer, and a bit of a ladies man, he was also a successful stage actor who knew a number of famous people including George Bernard Shaw. Link to an article in the Daily Mail of London about Robert Loraine, aviator and actor:

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2602398/Story-WW1-flying-ace-Robert-Loraine-set-string-flying-records.html> .

Here's our trivia question for next month. Who was the first person to fly an airplane in Australia? The answer might surprise you. I'll give you a hint. He was world famous as an escape artist. Answer next month.

In Closing-

Well, that wraps up this month's SCHAF newsletter. If you have something you would like to share please [e-mail](#) me or any of the board members for inclusion in future newsletters. Also, get involved with the foundation. There's so much going on and so many areas to become involved with. **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

Till next time

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