



SCHAF Newsletter for December 2013

Seasons greetings from everyone at the South Carolina Historic Aviation Foundation; hope you had a good Thanksgiving and that the Yuletide season will be a good one. Was a busy November and December is shaping up to be active also.

Foundation Happenings-

The evening of Saturday, October 9th members of SCHAF, EAA Chapter 242 and other friends joined together at the SCHAF hangar at Hamilton/Owens Airport in Columbia to watch a live stream Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio of the final reunion of the Doolittle Raiders. At this final ceremony the three surviving raiders who were in attendance broke open a bottle of cognac and toasted their comrades who have gone before them and also the memory of Gen. James Doolittle, leader of an intrepid group of singular heroes. The special guest of the evening locally was Martin Crouch, son of Horace "Sally" Crouch, Crouch was the navigator and bombardier for crew #10 of the Doolittle Raiders, the heroic airmen who in April of 1942 launched their B-25 Mitchell bombers off the deck of the U.S.S. Hornet and struck the Japanese homeland only months after Imperial Japan had attacked Pearl Harbor thus bringing the United States into the Second World War. Martin Crouch offered the toast in memory of his father and the other raiders who inspired a nation during some of the darkest days of the war.



Horace "Sally" Crouch

First picture below is of some of the folks in attendance. The second one is of Ted Podewil and Martin Crouch and the third one shows SCHAF member Niall McLaughlin with Martin Crouch.



The stream from Wright-Pat experienced some problems and a computer guru in the audience said it was probably due to server problems at their end and nothing locally. SCHAF President Cantzon Foster read out some of the names of crewmen before the toast including another South Carolinian, Lt. William Farrow, who was captured and

executed by firing squad by the Japanese. The toast was given with Hennessey Cognac just like the three remaining raiders at the ceremony in Ohio. It was a truly enjoyable evening for everyone and a moment to reflect on those who have helped make this country great.

Link to an article in The Guardian (UK) about the final reunion:

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/nov/10/veterans-doolittle-raiders-honored> .

Another link to article about the Doolittle Raiders on the Real Clear site, includes video:

http://www.realclear.com/history/2013/11/09/wwii_doolittle_raiders_making_final_toast_3979.html . Also link to a story from NPR which includes audio:

<http://www.npr.org/2013/11/11/244452597/doolittle-raiders-dwindle-in-numbers> .

SCHAF held its monthly open house on the morning of Saturday, November 9th. A couple of church groups visited and learned the story of GF-2 and about the goals and work of the foundation. SCHAF members present were Cantzon Foster, Ken Berry, Ron Skipper, Xen Motsinger, Niall McLaughlin, Mary McIntosh and myself.



Open House, November 9th, 2013

The next SCHAF open house takes place Saturday, December 14th and some great things are planned. Plans are for a sort of Saturday morning general membership meeting with snacks and refreshments. Our special guest will be Lt. Col. Dan Rossman. Lt. Col. Dan Rossman was the student pilot(then Lt.)in the left seat of the SCHAF B-25C airplane on the day it was lost in Lake Greenwood on D-Day, June 6, 1944. He finished his B-25 training and flew combat in the Pacific. He continued his flying career in the Air Force Reserves and the Pennsylvania National Guard flying numerous aircraft. He and his wife Sylvia currently reside in Roswell, Ga. Col. Rossman has very interesting and enlightening thoughts regarding his recollections of D-Day, 1944, his flying career and his involvement with our rare B-25 airplane since it's recovery from Lake Greenwood in 1983.

The board of directors of SCHAF met at the hangar at Hamilton/Owens Airport on Thursday, November 21st. Most of the discussion dealt with preparations for the December open house. We need volunteers to help put things together that morning. We also would like to see a good turnout. See you there.

Something new at the SCHAF website; on the multimedia page audio of a conversation I had with John Eads of the Liberty Foundation which brought the "Movie Memphis Belle" to Hamilton/Owens Airport in early October. Also a conversation during the final toast event at Hamilton/Owens Airport with Martin Crouch, son of Horace "Sally" Crouch, a South Carolinian and one of the Doolittle Raiders. Page also has a YouTube video from the Doolittle Raiders Reunion Dance in 2009. Features SCHAF members Anna Amick and Tom Savage. Here's the link: <http://www.schistoricaviation.org/multimedia.htm> .

Also, if you've missed any of the foundation's e-mail newsletters or want to catch up on things if you've joined recently, newsletters are now being archived at our website. Here's the link: <http://www.schistoricaviation.org/downloads.htm> . Credit for the additions to the website goes to webmaster Bill Smith. Thanks Bill.

SCHAF member Niall McLaughlin made yet another trip to Canada for Battle of Britain Memorial Day in Ottawa on September 15th and as always he came back with some really great pix. Below are a couple.



By the way, the first picture of a B-25 Mitchell in RCAF markings was taken by Niall from an Avro Lancaster. Niall was part of the aircrew. Second picture is of the "Lanc" that Niall was on for Battle of Britain Memorial Day.



New sign on Ron Skipper's truck. Looks great

Want to mention that SCHAF member Ken Berry turned 50 in November and a surprise birthday party took place on Saturday, November 23 at Hamilton/Owens Airport. Great food, great people and fellowship; hope you don't mind me mentioning the big 5-0 Ken.

Would like to welcome some new members of SCHAF: Everett McMillian, Bob Philp and David Moxley, thanks for joining up. You'll find there are a lot great things to get involved with.

Something for the season-

Probably the best aviation story I've ever read is the novella *The Shepherd* by Frederick Forsyth, author of such thrillers as *The Day of the Jackal* and *The Odessa File*. It takes place Christmas Eve of 1957 and suddenly a young pilot in the Royal Air Force finds himself facing death as he wings his way back to Britain. He needs a miracle. He needs a shepherd to guide him home. It's a story of renewal, and getting a fresh chance at life; just what the Christmas season is about. The book came out in the 1970's and has become a Christmas tradition in Canada where each year the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation airs a reading of Forsyth's book. Here's a link to an article from the Vintage Wings of Canada website where a father writes about how much the story means to his family.

<http://www.vintagewings.ca/VintageNews/Stories/tabid/116/articleType/ArticleView/articleid/206/language/en-CA/The-Shepherd--a-Canadian-Christmas-Classic.aspx>

And here's a link to the reading of *The Shepherd* on YouTube as read by Al Maitland of the CBC.

[The Shepherd read by Al Maitland](#)

Historical Notes-

It was on December 7th, 1941 that the Japanese launched the infamous sneak attack on Pearl Harbor in Hawaii thus bringing the United States into the Second World War. Here's a link to a page on the Old Time Radio website that has links to audio of news reports telling the world what had happened the morning of December 7th. The links are in the story, just click the blue buttons with white arrows. An interesting journey back to another era: http://www.otr.com/r-a-i-new_pearl.shtml .

On December 2nd, 1943 the dean of American broadcast journalists, Edward R. Murrow of CBS flew as an observer in "D for Dog" an Avro Lancaster of RAF Bomber Command on a mission to Berlin, Germany. On December 3rd he broadcast his report on the experience calling it an "orchestrated hell." Here's the link:

http://www.otr.com/ra/news/murrow_43_12_3.mp3 . You may need Apple Quicktime to listen to the link. If you don't have Quicktime here's another link: <http://beemp3s.org/download.php?file=8236285&song=Orchestrated+Hell> .

In December of 1941 the mood of the United States was downbeat, to say the least. The Japanese had attacked Pearl Harbor and severely wounded the United States Pacific Fleet and injured the nation's pride. Yet, out of the gloom a gallant band of Americans flying under the flag of another country gave people reason to hope. Claire Chennault's American Volunteer Group, the Flying Tigers, a part of the Chinese Air Force, took to the skies over the Orient and suddenly people knew all was not hopeless. Somewhere there were Americans fighting back and winning. On December 20th, 1941 over Kunming, China, the Flying Tigers, in their P-40s with shark's teeth painted the cowlings, would first tangle with the enemy and send the Japanese bombers home licking their wounds. In those dark days a rag-tag band of adventurers under the leadership of a man known as "old leather face" would give inspiration to the free world and become a legend. In the coming months the AVG would best the Japanese at almost every turn while operating under primitive conditions. In July of 1942 the 'tigers' would become part of the United States Army Air Force and continue to give Japanese pilots all they could handle. And remember, Chennault's Executive Officer for the AVG and the China Air Task Force was a South Carolinian, Claude "Skip" Adair, from Columbia.



Link to an interesting article about the Flying Tigers in Burma from a 1942 issue of Life Magazine: http://cbi-theater-1.home.comcast.net/~cbi-theater-1/flyingtigers/flying_tigers.html .

Good Reads-

[Dogfight- The Greatest Air Duels of World War II](#), edited by Tony Holmes. Sometimes you can run across real treasures on the specials tables of the major, big box type of book stores and this is one. Five parts: first one, Spitfire vs. Bf 109E during the Battle of Britain, second one P-47 vs. Bf 109G/K during the USAAF bomber offensive, third part, P-40 Warhawk vs. Ki-43 "Oscar" over China. The fourth part pits the P-51 Mustang vs. the FW-190 over Germany and the final part has the Supermarine Seafire vs. the A6M Zero. Link above is for Amazon but check a local chain bookstore and you might find it for less. All airplane buffs and tacticians should want this one.

Odds and Ends-

The Marion DuPont Scott Colonial Cup in Camden in recent years has made a point of honoring America's military and veterans by providing free tickets members of the military and their families as well as veterans. The cup also has special opening ceremonies honoring vets before the internationally renowned steeplechase event. This year in November during the 2013 Colonial Cup the Carolina Cup Racing Association recognized Dr. LeRoy Bowman, the last living South Carolinian who was a pilot with the famed Tuskegee Airmen. Dr. Bowman was a guest of SCHAF earlier this year during one of our open houses.

A column by Bob Greene on the CNN website saying that Congress should honor the Doolittle Raiders, I agree. Link: <http://www.cnn.com/2013/11/03/opinion/greene-doolittle-medal/index.html> .

A touching story from the UK; recently a veteran who had been a ground crewman in 617 Squadron, the Dambusters, passed away at the age of 99. He had no survivors, few relatives and no close friends. Yet, hundreds would turn out for his funeral. Link to an article in the Daily Mail of London: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2500051/Hundreds-attend-Remembrance-Day-funeral-Bomber-Command-veteran.html> . Also a story (with video) from Sky News UK: <http://news.sky.com/story/1167029/harold-percival-wwii-veterans-funeral-held> .

An article from earlier this year in the Orangeburg Times and Democrat about an aviation club with a 75 year tradition, the South Carolina Breakfast Club, here's the link: http://thetandd.com/news/local/aviation-club-started-in-orangeburg-keeps-up--year-old/article_a87f04c2-32ef-11e3-a859-0019bb2963f4.html .

Our trivia question from last month: who first referred to the 325th Fighter Group as "the Checkertail Clan, during the Second World War. The answer: none other than the infamous "Axis Sally." At least that's according to an apocryphal story told by members of the 325th. The following comes from a website about the 319th Fighter Squadron which was part of the 325th Fighter Group.

According to one member of the group, "Axis Sally" was the first person to call the group the "Checkertail Clan". He said the incident that drew her attention to the group was a mission in which twenty Nazi airplanes were shot down. He said, "She was on the air calling us Checkertail Butchers, plus a few other uncomplimentary names." She ended up saying, "We will remember you boys in that old Checkertail Clan." That, to the best of his recollection, was the first time that they were ever referred to as the Checkertail Clan, which is how to this day they are recognized worldwide.

Here's a link to a page about the 319th in World War II: <http://www.319th.com/wwII.htm>

Now here's our trivia question for this month. Given that the Yuletide season is about families and children our question deals with a man who became famous as probably one of, if not, the greatest children's authors of the 20th century. A number of his books are classics and many of them have been made into movies. Before becoming a noted writer for young people he flew Gloster Gladiators and Hawker Hurricanes for the RAF in North Africa and Greece during World War II. He also worked with British Intelligence for part of the war. Here's a hint; after the war he married a famous actress.

In Closing-

Again, want to make mention of the December open house. The date is December 14th and we'd love to have a great turnout. Come out and honor our veterans and support the work of SCHAF. It'll be a great way to spend a Saturday morning.

Well, that wraps up this month's SCHAF newsletter and it also wraps up what has been an active and busy year for SCHAF. The newsletter appears to have been a big success. We've spoken to a lot of groups and started the successful monthly open houses. With the New Year approaching you might be thinking of resolutions. Here's one; get involved with SCHAF. We have a lot going on and more is planned. Just get in touch and see how you can help. There's so much to be done and all it takes is standing up and saying "I'm here, what can I do?" In 2014 make it a point to become involved with SCHAF. The sky is the limit (pun intended). **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.](#) Another thought, if you're looking for a great Christmas gift for a friend or relative why not consider giving them a membership in SCHAF. It would be the perfect gift for a young person looking to develop an interest in aviation.** As always your support of SCHAF is greatly appreciated.

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Merry Christmas to everyone from the folks at SCHAF

