WINGS



NEWS

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October 2020 Meetings October 5, 2020



Murray Perl

Pandemics Then and Now

A look back at the Pandemic of 1918 and lessons for COVID-19 a century later

- Presented by Murray Perl -

On October 5, 2020, Murray Perl gave a presentation about how the 1918 Spanish Flu pandemic developed.

In January of 1918, a very severe case of influenza was reported in Haskell County, Kansas. Three of the victims showed symptoms suddenly and died within hours. Near to Haskell County was Camp Funston, one of the 32 training camps built in the United States for the hundreds of thousands of recruits for World War I. Some recruits traveled from Camp Funston to Haskell County and back in February of 1918. Soldiers at Camp Funston came down with this severe influenza, and within two weeks, 1100 soldiers received the virus, and 34 died. As troops traveled to ports where they would be shipped off to Europe, they infected civilians throughout the country.

However, the Sedition Act of 1918 restricted the outbreak's reporting, and major newspapers never mentioned it. Now that the troops were in Europe, soldiers in France received the virus and spread to other European countries. Spain was the first country where newspapers actively reported on the outbreak, and due to this, the influenza was named the Spanish Flu.

Around July of 1918, the number of cases died down, but in September, the second wave hit very hard, originating in Camp Devens, Massachusetts. Hospitals were overwhelmed, and many of the hospital staff got infected. Plus, many doctors were in Europe to assist the military, so they had a shortage of doctors to treat patients.

The flu spread from the Massachusetts area to Philadelphia. The press in Philadelphia continued to downplay the virus, stating that no new cases appeared, and the enormous Liberty Loan Parade was held in Philadelphia on September 28th. Within a week, the number of Spanish Flu cases shot up, and 2,600 people died from the virus. Within six weeks, 12,000 people died from the virus. Philadelphia was soon shut down, and other cities followed.

The third wave came when many people went outside to celebrate Veterans Day, but this wave did not hit as hard as the second. The pandemic eventually ended, as those who did not have immunity unfortunately died, those who survived gained immunity, and some people had natural immunity to begin with.

(Continued page 2)



Photo from Zoom presentation

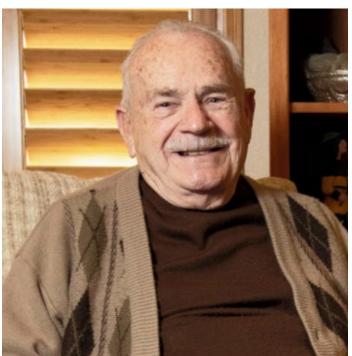
In 1951, Johan Hultin and University of Iowa professors traveled to Brevig Mission, Alaska, to dig up graveyards in permafrost to receive tissue samples since the bodies buried under permafrost would preserve the tissue. On the trip back, they ran out of dry ice to preserve the samples, and ultimately the virus could not be grown inside a chicken egg as they intended. In 1997, Hultin went back to the graveyard and extracted more tissue. This time, the CDC reconstructed the virus and discovered why it was so deadly because it could reproduce 40,000 times faster than ordinary influenza.

Why the 1918 virus was so deadly

- The particularly virulent genetic makeup of the virus
- Mobilization of troops placed a large number of men in close quarters
- Government policies prevented the dissemination of public health information to the population.
- Living conditions were crowded and often lacked sanitation.

Murray then discussed the virus outbreaks that have occurred since 1918. In 2003, in China, the SARS outbreak caused 774 deaths. But, this virus did not leave the China area, and the outbreak was contained. In 2012, MERS broke out in Saudi Arabia, causing 850 deaths. Finally, he said the COVID-19 epidemic has ravaged the entire world. To date, it has caused 1.15 million deaths worldwide. Although some countries did well in preparing and handling the virus, America is still suffering.

October 12, 2020



Courtesy of Col. Joseph Peterburs, USAF (Ret)

Col. Joseph Peterburs, USAF (Ret)

On October 12, 2020, Col. Joseph Peterburs shared the story of his extensive journey in the United States Air Force.

Col. Peterburs began his training at the age of 18 in 1943. He started flying at Cochran Field in Douglas, Georgia. During his training, he flew planes such as the Vultee BT-13, Beechcraft T-6, Douglas A-24, and Curtiss P-40N before finishing training by November of 1944.

He was sent to the European Theater of Operations at Kings Cliffe RAF Station, England, in November of 1944 to help fight in WWII. Joe was assigned to the 55th Fighter Squadron.



(Continued page 3)

He had his first encounter with enemy fighter planes in January of 1945 while escorting B-24s to Germany.



Joe also shared his journey during his last mission in WWII. After shooting down some fighter jets, he made an emergency landing in a field in Germany. He was immediately captured and was interrogated for three days. After the interrogation, he was sent to Camp Stalag in Luckenwalde, Germany.



After a week at the camp, he escaped and joined a Soviet tank column. He traveled and fought with the Soviets until they reached Wittenberg, Germany, where he got back with the US Infantry and traveled to Halle.

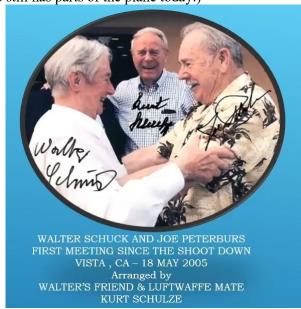
At Halle, he found a friend that also got shot down three months earlier, and they went back to New York. He married in June 1945.

As a Captain, he served in the Korean conflict flying the P-51. He was assigned to Viet Nam for a year from October 1967 to 68 as a LtCol.

Joe was promoted to Colonel in 1969, and he served in Germany as Commander 601st Tactical Air Control Group.

In 1996, Colonel Peterburs traveled back to the field

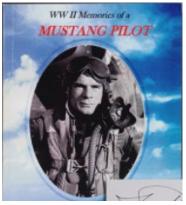
where he made the emergency landing in 1945. A local German group performed a dig to find parts of his plane. (He still has parts of the plane today.)



As a result of the publicity of the dig, German historians determined that Joe had shot down German Ace fighter pilot Walter Schuck. They met in 2005 and toured California.



In 2007 Joe and Walter visited and spoke at a Wings Over Wendy's meeting. Many of our members know Joe from the Wings Over Camarillo Air Shows. He has a table in the Veterans Booth next to our members where he sells his book "WWII Memories of a Mustang Pilot" and prints of the pictures.



October 19, 2020



Image from Zoom

Frank Abagnale "Catch Me If You Can"

On Oc tober 19, 2020, we watched a talk by Frank Abagnale. Frank, born and raised in Westchester County, began his adventure of a lifetime when he was just 16.

He was removed from his school classroom and driven to the local courthouse to face a Family Court Judge. Without looking up, the judge told him that his parents were getting a divorce, and he was asked to choose which parent he wanted to live with.

Overwhelmed and saddened by the situation, he ran away from home to live on his own in New York City. At first, he got minimum wage jobs, but he did not make enough money to sustain himself. The only way for him to keep afloat was cashing checks from a checking account he possessed. Eventually, he started to lie about his age to get better jobs with better pay. This was successful, and he still continued to cash in checks from his account, even after his account ran out of money. He never saw his father again and rarely saw his mother.

Police began to pick up on bogus check cashing and were on the search. He plotted ways to get out of the city. Eventually, he came up with the idea to disguise himself as a pilot and travel everywhere for free. He called Pan-Am and obtained authorization for a pilot uniform. Then, he forged a fake ID by talking to a manufacturing company and using his face as a "sample ID." He did the remaining

decoration by taking stickers from a Pan-Am model plane and placing it on his card. Pan-Am estimates that he flew over a million miles on over 260 different airplanes, traveling to over 26 countries in the two years before he turned 18.

He always avoided flying on Pan-Am flights out of fear of getting caught. Due to his pilot benefits, he could stay at hotels for free and cash in as many checks as he wanted at airline desks. Eventually, he was arrested in France for forgery when he was 21. He served time in French prisons, and afterward, he was convicted of the same in Sweden. He served time in Sweden, then served more time in a US prison. He was let out of prison 8 years before his 12-year sentence was finished under the terms that he would work for a federal agency to serve as an undercover agent.

When his parole ended, he started a 40+ year-long career in the FBI, where he still works today. He teaches classes on fraud and cybersecurity.

He is a strong advocate for credit cards and lectured us on not using debit cards. Frank sees the success of people on their credit score. Using credit cards rather than cash helps individuals built a high credit score. Of course, he recommends that people still keep charging within a budget they can afford.

Frank recommended that parents co-sign a credit card for their children when they go to school with a set limit. The child builds credit, and the parent monitors how they spend their money.

He concluded the talk by focusing on the importance of parental presence for a child's well-being and how divorce can crush a child.

Frank looks back, not liking how he lived, thinking what he did was immoral, and how although he was living a seemingly fun lifestyle, he was deeply saddened by it and feels good about his personal redemption.

<u>October 26, 2020</u>

The Dambusters

THE TRUE STORY BEHIND ONE OF WORLD WAR II'S MOST DARING BOMBING MISSION

Photo from Zoom

On October 26, 2020, we watched a documentary on the Dambusters, also known as *Operation Chastise*. Starting in the early 1930s, the Nazi party of Germany came to power. One of the first things they did was strengthen Germany's military, to the surprise of the neighboring Europeans.

(Continued page 5)

England, fearing the power Germany could gain, began to devise ways to attack them if necessary. One conclusion they came to was that they needed to cut off the water supply required for German steel production, as steel was the basis for all kinds of equipment used in the military.

Three major German dams were targeted by England: the Mohne, Eder, and Sorpe dams. Scientists began to brainstorm ways to destroy the dams, as dams are very strong and rigid. Although self-propelled bomb skimmers could have worked, Germany set up water barriers to prevent this.

Another option was to drop a very heavy bomb from a high altitude, which could work, but no bomber could achieve that accuracy.



Barnes Wallis discovered that if backspin was applied to spherical bombs, they could bounce along the water. Tests of the bouncing bomb began in late 1942. The final bomb, named *Upkeep*, was a steel cylindrical bomb that weighed around 6,500 pounds. It would be carried by the Avro Lancaster. The bomb bay would feature motors that spun the bomb around very quickly until it was dropped, as backspin would prove to help the bouncing of the bombs.



On May 16, 1943, aircraft were sent out for the three dams. At each dam, German defenses were ready to attack, as there was immense gunfire at each dam. The first three attempts to breach the Mohne were not successful, but the fourth bomb that was dropped breached it.



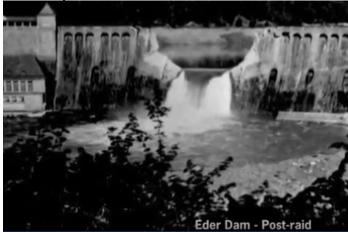
At the Eder dam, the first two bombs did not breach the dam, but the third attempt worked.

Only one Lancaster even reached the Sorpe dam, and the dam was never successfully broken.

At the end of the mission, eight of the 19 Lancasters never returned, and 53 crew members died.



In Germany, the destruction of the Mohne alone killed over 850 people, damaged or destroyed over 100 factories, and submerged over 2,800 hectares of land. The water coming out of the Eder dam flooded locations up to 250 miles away.



Although the operation took years of extensive planning to work and it caused many issues, the final result was satisfactory: two major dams in Germany were destroyed, slowing steel production, and lot of damage was caused.

Wings Over Wendy's

in the News

Los Angeles Daily News

Sunday, October 9, 2020

Stories of heroes aboard submarine in World War II surface

Radarman Bill Dillion from Topanga recalls battle with Japanese Navy in 1943



George Rocek (left) and Bill Dillon.

Dillion was a radarman on the submarine USS Swordfish (SS 192) that sunk a Japanese carrier, Chuyo, in WWII. Rocek was one of 21 POW's onboard the Chuyo, and the only POW to survive. The men met for the first time at a reunion of submariners in 1987. (Courtesy Photo)

By **DENNIS MCCARTHY** |

PUBLISHED: October 9, 2020 at 12:26 p.m.

They were a couple of tough, old World War II submariners meeting for the first time at a reunion in 1987 when small talk turned serious, and they realized they had shared one hell of a night 44 years earlier in the middle of a typhoon off the southern coast of Japan.

"He was getting sunk and I was trying to sink him," Bill Dillion said. You can't get any clearer than that.

Dillion was a radar man on the USS Sailfish (SS 192)

— a submarine tracking the Japanese carrier Chuyo, escorted by two destroyers, as it headed back to port fully loaded with fighter planes.

"Intercept and sink," the orders came down.



Bill Dillion in 1945 stands in front of the sub's conning tower, behind which the sub's captain issued his commands for firing torpedoes when they were on the surface. (Courtesy Photo)

No one on the Sailfish knew there were 21 American POW's on board the Chuyo who had served on the USS Sculpin (SS 191), her sister submarine that went down during an attack on a Japanese convoy weeks earlier. George Rocek was one of them.

Now, here they were having dinner more than four decades later — two men who joined the Navy and volunteered for the submarine service, the most dangerous duty in the military in WWII — reliving that night again through each other's eyes.

You would think when the first torpedo hit the carrier, then the second, there would be a sense of dread among the POW's on board who had just cheated death on their own sub, now staring at it again.

(Continued page 7)

Instead, they cheered, Rocek said. They began jumping up and down, and yelling, "Sink the SOB," even though they were on it. They were sealing their own fate, but it didn't matter. Only sinking that 20,000-ton carrier did

They knew what they were getting into when they joined the submarine service. Casualties were high, but so were results. Submarines comprised less than 2% of the Navy, yet accounted for more than 55% of all enemy ships sunk in the war. They were about to add one more.

Aboard the Sailfish, there was no cheering when the order came to fire, there was only apprehension. If they missed, those destroyers only two football fields away would be dropping depth charges on them they couldn't out run.

With the weather this bad, missing the target was a real possibility. They were in the middle of a typhoon with 30-foot high waves. It was pitch black, two o'clock in the morning. Their periscopes were useless. They couldn't get a visual sighting on the target.

"We had to use radar, which had just been installed in our sub in January 1943," said Dillion, a Topanga resident. "This was Dec. 3 of the same year, and we had never used it. This was the first time. All I saw were blips on the screen to tell us they were out there, but exactly where?

"When we got within 2,500 feet, the blips grew larger, and we started loading the torpedoes, but we couldn't hold any depth. We were up 30 feet one minute, down 60 feet the next. There were no seatbelts.

"The guys in the torpedo room were hitting their heads on the ceiling, then slamming down on the floor. It took them hours to load those four torpedoes. We heard two booms. We knew we had hit something, but what?"

Meanwhile, on the Chuyo all hell was breaking loose, including the POWs. Suddenly, guarding prisoners of war wasn't that important. It was every man for himself. Rocek jumped overboard, and was later picked up by one of the enemy destroyers. All the other POW's drowned.

He was brought to Japan where he worked in the mines until the end of the war in 1945. He died in 2007 at the age of 86, and Dillion wanted to pay his respect to his old friend and all the World War II submariners still alive.

They signed up for the most dangerous duty in the war, the least we can do is remember that.

"It took us more than nine hours and 11 torpedoes to sink that carrier," the 96-year-old Dillion said. "The POWs on board went through hell again after losing their submarine, and still they cheered, wanting that carrier sunk. What amazing courage."

By dawn the next morning, the typhoon had passed and the skies were clear. The periscope on the USS Sailfish went up just as the Chuyo was going down. Dennis McCarthy's column runs on Sunday. He can be reached at dmccarthynews@gmail.com.

Zoom Meetings

We have now held twenty-six Zoom Meetings. Over 250 people have attended not just locally but from Arizona, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Virginia, Georgia, Florida, Texas, Minnesota, Wisconsin, San Diego County, Orange County, and Ventura County. We have had City Councilmembers, Congressmen, Policemen, and Congressional staff attend.

Bob Eisenhart has worked hard to schedule outstanding speakers every week, but many of our members that attended physical meetings have not yet attended the zoom meetings.

I ask all of those who have attended Zoom meetings to contact your friends and tablemates to encourage them to attend.

If they don't have the equipment to participate to see our faces, we can help them get online.

For Help with your Zoom Connection Contact Charles Scott (818) 448-1737

pcinfoman@gmail.com.

The link to the WOW Zoom Equipment GoFundMe account is: gf.me/u/x9pst6.

Charles has offered to help Wings Over Wendy's members with their computer problems for **FREE**.

Monday Zoom Meeting Agenda

The URL is always the same:

 $\frac{https://us04web.zoom.us/j/661372701?pwd=NEZCWjlM}{UTArRW1tREtWUWRLNmpDQT09}$

- Meet & Greet starts at 8:00 am.
- The formal meeting starts at 9:30 am.
- Visitors and guests interviewed about 9:40 am.
- The presentation starts around 10 am

Meeting ID: 661 372 701 Password: 200220

The Meeting ID & Password are Always the Same!

In Other News

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Veterans and Gold Star Families Will Soon Have Free Admission to All National Parks

Military.com | By Amy Bushatz

National Parks, wildlife refuges and other federal lands will all be free for veterans and Gold Star family members to use starting Veterans Day, Interior Department officials announced.

The change extends to veterans and Gold Star families the existing free admission policy already in play for activeduty troops and their families, as well as Guard and Reserve members. It waives both entrance and day use recreation fees for lands managed by the Department of the Interior nationwide.

While not all of the system's 2,000 public recreation areas charge entrance fees, many of the more popular destinations do, such as Yellowstone National Park and Grand Canyon National Park. The fees vary by location. Instead of paying individual entry fees, visitors can purchase an annual "America the Beautiful" pass for \$80. Seniors over age 65 can purchase a lifetime pass for \$80.

Disabled veterans qualify for the Access Pass, which gives free admission and a 50% discount on some costs such as camping or boat launch fees. Other pass holders pay out of pocket for those costs.

The new program expands free park access to millions of honorably discharged veterans. To gain access, veterans can present a DoD ID card; a Veteran Health Identification Card; a Veteran ID card; or a state-issued card displaying veteran status, according to the release.

While the free pass for active-duty troops can be used by their dependents, the new free-access rule for veterans does not extend to their immediate family members.

That means that at parks where entrance fees are paid per vehicle, veterans and their families will be able to enter free using the veteran pass. At parks where admission is paid per person, however, only the veteran will be able to enter free.

Free entrance for Gold Star family members is limited to those designated as "Gold Star" by law. To meet the definition, families must be the "next of kin of a member of the United States Armed Forces who lost his or her life in a 'qualifying situation,' such as a war, an international terrorist attack, or a military operation outside of the United States while serving with the United States Armed Forces,"

according to the release.

But Gold Star family members will not be required to produce proof of qualification -- at least for now.

"For the time being, we will be using an honor system," Ben Goldey, a spokesman for Interior told Military.com in an email. "An individual who identifies themselves as a Gold Star family member at an entrance facility will be thanked for their service and sacrifice and admitted free of charge."

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LAUSD likely won't reopen before January at earliest, teachers union affirms

PUBLISHED: October 30, 2020 at 3:07 p.m.

Schools in Los Angeles Unified likely won't reopen until January at the earliest, the head of the teachers union said Friday, Oct. 30, affirming a timeline that school board members are said to support.

"Given L.A. County's rising COVID infections, we believe the earliest possible date for a safe and academically sound physical return to school is the beginning of the second semester — January 2021," Cecily Myart-Cruz, president of United Teachers Los Angeles, said during her weekly message to union members.

She noted that school board President Richard Vladovic and Vice President Jackie Goldberg also told the Los Angeles Times they do not foresee schools reopening before the new year, citing scheduling and other logistical challenges of switching back to in-person instruction so close to the end of the fall semester.

Superintendent Austin Beutner has repeatedly said the county's COVID-19 transmission rate remains too high for schools to reopen safely and that other urban districts with lower infection rates have opted not to reopen yet.

But some parents want more in-person services. A recent survey conducted by the advocacy group Speak UP found that about three-quarters of parents said their children, who are in special education, aren't learning or making progress while distance learning and about an equal number said their children have regressed in their behavior. Additionally, 36% said their children aren't receiving services specified in their Individualized Education Plans.

Despite mounting pressure for schools to reopen, Myart-Cruz said health metrics do not support this move and insisted that the union would base its decisions on safety, not "outside political pressure."

NOTE: WOW cannot start meeting in person until the ECRCHS North Campus is approved to reopen

The National Museum of the US Army Finally Has an Opening Date



National Museum of the United States Army.

Army photo by Duane Lempke

18 Oct 2020

Military.com | By Richard Sisk

The story of the American soldier will finally have a home for the telling when the National Museum of the United States Army opens on Veterans Day.

Exhibits will include Gen. Douglas MacArthur's famous cap; the "tinpot" helmet worn by World War I Medal of Honor recipient Sgt. Alvin York; and a WWII Sherman tank called the "Cobra King," which was the first to break through German lines to help besieged troops at Bastogne.

During a virtual Association of the U.S. Army event Oct. 15, Paul Morando, chief of exhibits, ran through a short list of the treasured artifacts that will be on display when the museum finally opens Nov. 11, including a "Higgins" boat from the D-Day landings.

But he allowed that he has a favorite: the sword carried by Capt. John Berry in the War of 1812 against the British at the battle of Fort McHenry near Baltimore. That battle inspired Francis Scott Key to write the "Star-Spangled Banner."

The museum, located about 20 miles south of Washington, D.C., on a publicly accessible area of Fort Belvoir, Virginia, will be open to the public for the first time on Nov. 11.

Information on ticketing, directions, COVID-19 restrictions and other details are available at the museum's website.

"It's been a long time coming," Morando said of the long-delayed opening.

Back in 1814, Congress passed a bill directing the

Army to preserve its history, he said, but planning for the museum began only in the past decade.

The opening was delayed several times, then scheduled for June 4 of this year. But that date had to be put off because of the pandemic.

Before the COVID-19 outbreak, the Army had projected that the museum would attract about 750,000 visitors annually. The plan was to have it stay open seven days a week year round, except for Christmas.

The museum's projected \$200 million cost was raised by private donations to the nonprofit Army Historical Foundation.

The 84-acre site at Fort Belvoir includes the 185,000-square-foot main building to house the Army Art Collection, artifacts, documents and images. It has a stainless steel entryway meant to portray Army strength. A parade ground, grandstand, amphitheater, memorial garden and an Army Trail are also on the site.

In a statement Monday, Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville said the museum "is designed to tell the compelling and heroic stories of our people and take visitors on an exciting journey through the history of the U.S. Army as told through the American soldier's point of view."

If it could speak, the "Cobra King" would have a particularly compelling tale of Army resilience and against-all-odds grit.

The 38-ton Sherman tank with a V-8, 500-horsepower engine was first in combat in France in 1944 but was knocked out of action by German fire in November of that year. After repairs, the tank was back in action in December 1944 with a new crew -- commander 1st Lt. Charles Boggess, driver Pvt. Hubert Smith, co-driver Pvt. Harold Hafner, gunner Cpl. Milton Dickerman and loader Pvt. James Murphy.

The Cobra King was assigned to Company C , 37th Tank Battalion, 4th Armored Division, which was leading the way for Gen. George S. Patton's Third Army in the race to relieve the surrounded troops of the 101st Airborne Division in the Belgian town of Bastogne.

On Dec. 26, 1944, the tank blasted its way through the village of Assenois and then bulled past the German lines at Bastogne. At first, the Cobra King's crew was leery of the first troops in U.S. uniforms they saw. They had heard that the Germans had donned U.S. uniforms to aid their advance in the Battle of the Bulge, according to Army histories. Then, an American GI walked up alongside the tank and shouted, "Glad to see you," at Boggess.

Old black-and-white photos show the Cobra King with "First In Bastogne" written in chalk on its side.

The Cobra King was knocked out of action again on March 27, 1945, in a failed raid to free prisoners of war from a prison camp.

(Continued page 10)

The battered tank was recovered from the battlefield and used as a "gate guard" display at several U.S. bases in Germany after the war until its history was discovered.

In 2009, the Cobra King was shipped back to the U.S. and put in storage at Fort Benning, Georgia. It arrived at the museum site in August 2017 aboard a flat-bed trailer and was put in place before construction started. The museum was built around it.

Richard Sisk can be reached at R<u>ichard.Sisk@Military.com</u> ナナナナナナナナナナナナナナナナナナナナナナナナナナナナナナナ

As Utah's Candy Bomber turns 100, his sweet story remains timeless

By Lee Benson, Columnist Oct 4, 2020, 3:00pm MDT



Gail Halvorsen, the Berlin Candy Bomber, poses for a photo in the backyard of his Provo home days before his 100th birthday. Lee Benson, Deseret News

PROVO — It's a sweet story that doesn't grow old, and the same might be said about the man telling it.

Gail S. "Hal" Halvorsen needs no prodding to talk about something he's been talking about for 72 years.

Relaxing in the shade of an apple tree in the backyard of the house he built in 1974 when he retired from the U.S. Air Force and returned to Utah, he enthusiastically launches into a retelling of the time he was called on the carpet by his commanding officer in the summer of 1948.

He had just returned to his airbase after flying a C-54 cargo plane to Berlin. Three years after the end of World War II, Germany was a divided country, the east part communist, the west part free. Berlin, the capital, was also divided, but with the geographic misfortune — at least for the free part — of being located in the east.

When the Soviet Union, East Germany's landlord, decided in June of 1948 to starve the landlocked free Berlin

into submission by closing the roads and railways from West Germany that supplied the city with the necessities of life, America, Great Britain and several other allies, recognizing that the Soviets couldn't close the skies, launched the Berlin airlift.

Halvorsen, 27 years old and a World War II vet, was one of hundreds of C-54 pilots who daily filled the skies ferrying groceries and fuel from their base in West Germany to the Berliners.

But Halvorsen was also ferrying something else. The children of Berlin, he'd noticed, didn't have any sweets to munch on. The Soviet siege not only caused severe shortages of flour and coal, but also of candy.

He'd made a deal with the kids who hung around the Berlin airport. On his approach he told them he'd wiggle his wings — a sign that he and his crew were about to throw several small parachutes from his plane filled with chocolate and gum.

For nearly a month he'd been at it, to the glee of an increasing number of German kids.

He hadn't asked for permission, on two grounds: 1) He suspected the bureaucratic red tape he'd have to negotiate would cause huge delays, and 2) they might say no.

But now, the jig appeared to be up.

On his return from Berlin, he was told that Col. James R. Haun, the commanding officer of Rhein-Main Airbase, wanted to see him in his office.

Here, Halvorsen, sitting in his Provo backyard and wearing the same uniform he wore back then, picks up the narrative.

"'Halvorsen,' the colonel asked when I came in his office, 'What in the world have you been doing?'

"Flying like mad, sir,' I told him.

"I'm not stupid. What else have you been doing?" Here, Halvorsen pauses for effect.

"That's when I knew they knew. I got chewed out real good," he says before flashing his trademark smile. "But at the end, the colonel said, 'That's a good idea. Keep doing it. But keep me informed.""

The Berlin Candy Bomber had the clearance he needed to carry on.

Over the course of a little more than a year, from July 1948 to September 1949, Halvorsen and his successors would drop some 21 tons of candy on Berlin. That was a tiny portion of the 2.3 million tons of food and supplies delivered during that same period of time. But the candy drop drew an inordinate amount of worldwide attention, shining a spotlight on a spontaneous, voluntary act of selfless service that has inspired millions ever since.

Books have been written, documentaries have been filmed, poems have been composed, all in tribute to the Berlin Candy Bomber, a man who grew up hoeing sugar beets on his father's farm in the little northern Utah town of Garland.



The last time Gail Halvorsen flew an airplane was this past December, shortly after he turned 99. Granted, he was the co-pilot. He's not above making some concessions to the aging process. But there he was, in the cockpit of The Spirit of Freedom, a genuine C-54, just like the planes he flew to Berlin, landing at the Wright Brothers airstrip in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, as part of the special Candy Bomber reenactment that is held every Christmastime.

He plans to be there this December as well.

But first, there's a birthday bash. Saturday, Oct. 10, the Halvorsen family planned a big party at a reception center in Mapleton. Originally, the guest list included friends from near and far, including a contingent of "kids" from Germany, long-ago candy recipients who are now in their 80s. But the COVID-19 pandemic has reduced the event to a family-only, mask-wearing affair.

Still, there will be plenty of fuss. Halvorsen's posterity numbers close to 100, counting five children, 24 grandchildren and 60-plus great-grandchildren. The festivities included songs from the grandkids, the performance of a composition from a German composer, Steffen Schmidt, called the "Hal Suite," a ballroom dance exhibition, and, of course, a parachute candy drop.

The candy will be dropped from a helicopter flown by Jim Stewart of the Halvorsen Family Foundation. As for Halvorsen, this time, instead of being the pilot, he'll have a front-row seat to watch the goodies fall from the sky.

"I'm really looking forward to it," says the original Candy Bomber, who can't quite believe he's about to turn 100.

"Time flies so fast," he says. "And it gets a bigger jet engine every year."

Asked for the secret to living a long time, he says he's not sure what that is. He has more to say about the keys to a happy life, however. "Always have something to do," the Candy Bomber advises. "And watch for things you can do that make a difference.

"If you see a need, do something about it. It's the little things in life that put your footsteps where you end up."

In Memoriam

During October 2020, we learned one member of Wings Over Wendy's "that Flew West."



Photo courtesy of Susan Goldarreh

Thomas E. Curtis **January 16, 1919 to October 27,2020**

Thomas E. Curtis entered Heaven peacefully at 2:34 pm Tuesday (10/27/20) at age 101 and 10 months. Joanna, the hospice nurse, was holding his hand. She said he was relaxed and peaceful as he breathed his last breath.

Tom was a greeter at Shepherd Church for over 8 years and wore a badge that identified him as the "Hug Collector." It was given to him when he was a greeter for 25 years with his wife at Calvary Chapel, Prescott, AZ.

He's been in assisted living for 3 years and, ultimately, the VA's memory unit for almost 3 years, as he suffered from severe, progressive dementia.

Tom served, ultimately as Chief Quartermaster, earned many medals in both WWII & Korea, including a Purple Heart because he was on the USS Wasp when it sunk due to a torpedo. He was also on the USS Lexington when it got hit by a Kamikaze aircraft.

He will be transported to Arizona to the National Veteran's Cemetery, where he will be interred next to his wife. Because of COVID protocols, he will get military honors with taps, but only the local family will attend.

Prayers

Unfortunately, several of our most active members were hospitalized or are either in Nursing Homes or at home recuperating from their injuries or illnesses. Our prayers are for a speedy recovery and a return to our meetings.

Barry Chapman Mike LaVere Morris Litwick Ed Marino Ed Phillips

November Birthdays

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TIOVOIDE	Dir tiresty 5
Alex Strouzer	November 01, 1946
Phil Aune	November 04, 1935
Glenn Fairly	November 07, 1948
Ray Rodriguez	November 09, 1939
Skip De Young	November 11, 1946
Sam Schultz	November 11, 1923
Terry Duddy	November 12, 1950
Maria Rodriguez	November 14, 1946
Guy Chookoorian	November 15, 1923
William Marshall	November 15, 1955
Jamie Pellegrini	November 18, 1959
George Rothman	November 21, 1925
Arnie Schwartz	November 23, 1941
Arthur Hershey	November 27, 1934
Gerald Detamore	November 29, 1947

New Members & Guests

We welcomed the following new members, guests, friends, and relatives to our Zoom meetings during October 2020:

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Jack Darrow Murray Perl Joseph Peterburs Ruth Plucinski Mark Schneider

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Wings News Patrons

The following is a list of WOW members who have contributed \$10 to fund the publication for 12 months.

Steve Andersen Dave Anderson
Lillian Anderson Shirley Andrews
Lee Auger Phil Aune

Mark Ax **Peggy Jean Bassett Tom Bates Bob Bermant Darlene Birgel** Karl Boeckmann **Ron Boggess Paul Boghossian** John Boiko Marge Callahan **Barry Chapman Patrick Daly Duc Dao Howard Davis Stanley DeCovnick Gerald Detamore**

Skip DeYoung Malcolm Dipperstein
Bob Donovan Jan Edwards
Bob Eisenhart Anarg Frangos
Roscoe Frazier David Freeman
Midge Gisel Anita Green
David Greenberg Richard Gross
Dick Guyer Connie Hein

Peter Helm Richard Hernandez
Manny Iglesias Fred Kaplan
Jerry Knotts Andy Kopetzky
Larry Kushner Hal Landy
Boots LaVere Mike LaVere
Robert Lee Camille Levee
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Bob Stiles
Howard Swerdlick
Karen Vegtel
Tony Velarde
Howard Waldman
Jimmy Weldon
Avery Willis

ANA Meetings
MOAA/MOWW Meetings
Non WOW Events
Operation Gratitude Events
WOW Events/Tours
WOW Meetings

WOW Events Calendar Additions

Because of the high participation by Wings Over Wendy's members in their events, the **teamup.com WOW Events**Calendar has been extended to include: ANA Meetings, MOAA/MOWW Meetings, and Operation Gratitude Events.

The key is: kswpwdaeovnb1jans4



PIERCE FLORIST Lori Brainard 10621 Victory Boulevard North Hollywood, CA 91606 (818) 761-4280

They donate the flowers in the name of Wings Over Wendy's when they are notified of a member's funeral.



LALEH FRAZIER

Wife of ROSCOE FRAZIER Retired US ARMY

Pinnacle Estate Properties 17327 Ventura Blvd #100 Encino, CA. 91316

Cal BRE # 01017497 Cell: (818) 804-6615 REALTOR®

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Wings News Staff

Publisher: Ed Reynolds Editor: Ed & Judy Reynolds Reporter: Rex Roche

Photographers: Larry Kushner, Ken Mayer, Paul Boghossian, Ed Reynolds, Howard Swerdlick,

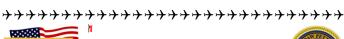
Alan Hill, and Michael Sugar.

Video: Mike LaVere

Secretaries: Marion Lovelace & Shirley Andrews

Speakers: Bob Eisenhart **Tours**: Warren Weinstein **Treasurer**: Barry Chapman

Hats, Shirts & Name Tags: Howard Swerdlick Raffle Tickets & Decorations: Fred Kaplan Technical Assistance: Charles Scott







First up in our two joint ANA, Zoom meetings starts at 1:00 PM on Wednesday, the 12th of November. Grampaw Pettibone Squadron invites you to log-in and meet and chat with new and old friends.

 $Log\ in\ \underline{https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5940753229}$

Meeting ID: 594 075 3229 (no Passcode required)

Then on the following Thursday, Two-Block Fox Squadron will have its Zoom meeting at 7:00 PM on Thursday the 19th of November.

Log in:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4041566382?pwd=dGtMTnVUNXNSV1RmRndkRlhSdVFzdz09

Meeting ID: 404 156 6382 Passcode: ANATBF











