

COMBAT AIR MUSEUM

→ → → Plane Talk → → →

The Official Newsletter of the Combat Air Museum

June/July 2005 • Vol 21, No.4

Annual Pancake Feed is another success

We collected 382 tickets for the April 30 Celebrity Pancake Feed and raised over \$1365 for the Museum. Twenty-nine invited "celebrities" helped at the event flipping pancakes or serving sausage.

The morning was unseasonably cool, so those volunteers manning the coffee pots were busy throughout the morning. But it was a clear, sunny day and folks were having a good time eating, talking, and walking among the aircraft and exhibits.

Once again, **Bob Carmichael** of **Perkins Restaurant** provided his services, the grill, pancake batter, butter and syrup. He also provided on-the-job training to a number of the flippers.

This year we had a great sound system provided by CAM member **Jim Leighton**. We played music during the feed, and **Dick Trupp** used the system to announce our celebrity flippers.

See Pancakes, continued on page 3



A view of some of the pancake eaters who attended CAM's annual event



Bob Carmichael (right) and Steve Foreman (background) watch the technique of Brett Blackburn, Alexandra Blasi and John Nave (left to right)

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Combat Air Museum

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Museum Hours

Monday - Saturday
9 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.
Last Admission 3:30 P.M.
Sunday Noon - 4:30 P.M.
Last Admission 3:30 P.M.

Plane Talk, the official newsletter
of Combat Air Museum
of Topeka, Kansas,
is published bi-monthly.

Your questions and comments
are welcomed.

Any information for *Plane Talk*
should be submitted to CAM office.

Kids, make plans to attend one of the Combat Air Museum Aviation Education Classes this summer

Aviation Education Classes will be offered this summer June 6-9 and July 11-14 from 9 to 11:30 a.m. in The Jean Wanner Education Conference Room. The classes will cover the history of aviation, theory of flight, aircraft engines, and aircraft control systems. Tours of other aviation tenants at Forbes Field are also planned. The classes are geared for children ages 7 to 14. The fee for the class is \$30 per person.

Class sizes are limited, so sign up today.
Call Jane at 862-3303 to register. →

Your membership and support
are important to us.

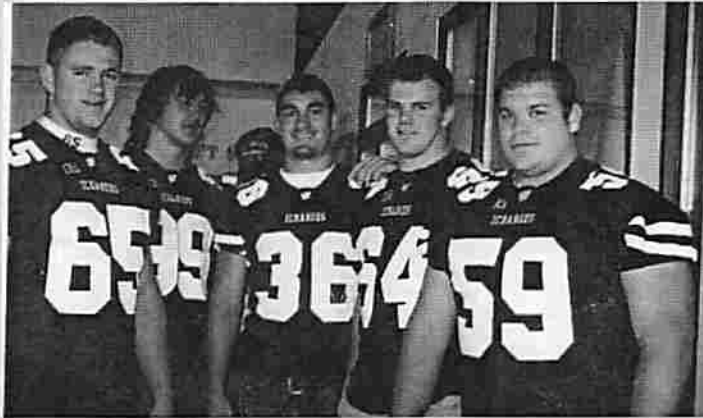
In Memoriam

Charles N. Yenkey

February 28, 1915 – March 20, 2005
Topeka, Kansas
#237

Art Toomay

August 12, 1922 – April 28, 2005
Topeka, Kansas
#10



These guys can flip pancakes anyway they want. Members of the Mineral Bowl Champion Washburn Ichabods football team assisted at the CAM Pancake Feed.

Pancake Feed, con't. from page 1

We thank all the Guest Celebrities for supporting this major fund raiser, and we certainly thank all our volunteers who set up the hangar, ran the event, did the clean up and take down afterwards, and put the aircraft back in place.

People really enjoy this event, and it is through the efforts of our members that it enjoys its success. →

Visit our website at
www.combatairmuseum.org

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Our Guest Celebrities

- Shawnee County Sheriff **Dick Barta**
- Channel 27 Weatherman **Steve Beylon**
- City Councilman **Brett Blackburn**
- Former Miss Topeka **Alexandra Blasi**
- KMAJ Talk Show Host **Jim Cates**
- County Commissioner **Ted Ensley**
- Heartland Park Topeka General Manager **Bill Griffin**
- Channel 13 Morning Show Host **Ron Harbaugh**
- KTWU Sunflower Journeys Host **Dave Kendall**
- Topeka Chamber of Commerce
President/CEO **Doug Kinsinger**
- Topeka Chief of Police **Ed Klump**
- State Representative **Ann Mah**
- Forbes Tower Manager **Jim Menge**
- Topeka Metro News Reporter **Peggy Mooney**
- City Councilman **John Nave**
- Heartland Park Topeka Media/ Public
Relations **Jamie Overocker**
- City Councilman **Jeff Preisner**
- Washburn University Head Football
Coach **Craig Shurig**
- KMAJ Radio Host **Steve Foreman**
- Director of Shawnee County Emergency
Communications **Bill Singer**
- Channel 13 Sportscaster **Bruce Steinbrock**
- Washburn University Assistant Football
Coach **David Trupp**
- Members of the Mineral Bowl Champion
Washburn University Football Team: **Adam Ewy,
Erin Beck, Jared Teuan, Grant Gould,
Zach Hemmerling, Andy Kavanaugh,
David Becker, and Jeff Rickard**

→ → →

Seaman High School students' presentations range from Code Talkers to Tokyo Rose, Axis Sally and Lord Haw Haw

Our guest presenters at the April luncheon were students from **Seaman High School**. The three students, **Jenna Sauls**, **Kara Schwerdt**, and **Taylor Dietz**, presented two programs based on their projects for the annual History Day competition. This year's theme was "Communications in History."

Taylor had a storyboard presentation and told us about the Navajo Indian Code Talkers used by the US Marine Corps in the Pacific Theater during World War II. He said the program initially started with 20 Code Talkers and eventually grew to over 400. Taylor found that five of the Code Talkers today reside on a New Mexico reservation, but declined to be interviewed. Taylor was able to find other primary resources to do his project and found the Code Talkers played a very important role in the Pacific War.

When asked if tribes other than Navajo were in the Code Talkers, Taylor replied that other Native American languages were tried, but none were as unique as the Navajo. He also said the Navajo Code Talkers used a code within their own language, making it that much harder for anyone to break the code. Taylor told us that besides the use of their native language, the Navajo were chosen because they had some resemblance to the Japanese enemy, the thought being they may be released if captured. All the Code Talkers were in the Marine Corps. They used field radios as the method of passing their coded signals and were in front line actions where a number of them died in combat.

Although a couple of Navajo Code Talkers appear briefly in the 1955 Warner Brothers release "Battle Cry," based on Leon Uris' novel, the acknowledgment of the Code Talker program and story of the Navajo Indians remained virtually secret after World War II. It was not until 1969 that the US Government released information and records about the Code Talkers, and the participating Navajo Indians received their due acclaim and awards for their war efforts.

Jeanna Souls and **Kara Schwedt** talked to the audience about the use of Radio Propaganda during World War II. Their project focused on Axis Sally, Tokyo Rose, and Lord Haw Haw. Jeanna and Kara produced a DVD (digital videodisc) about these three propagandists, including footage and audio samples from their respective radio broadcasts. Unfortunately,

our DVD player would not read the disc, and we were not able to see their production. They talked about their research and the lives of the three personalities and fielded a number of questions from the audience. Members of the audience were also asked if any had ever heard one of these propagandists giving a live broadcast. Several hands went up in the audience. Those members who commented said it was interesting to hear their units being welcomed by name or number into the theater, almost on the day they arrived. At least one commented that Tokyo Rose had good programming and music. None said they ever felt intimidated by the broadcasts and even found them amusing.

One thing Axis Sally, Tokyo Rose and Lord Haw Haw had in common, besides broadcasting for the Axis Powers, was they were all born in the United States.

Axis Sally, so named by American GI's, was born

**One thing Axis Sally, Tokyo Rose
and Lord Haw Haw
had in common,
besides broadcasting
for the Axis Powers,
was they were all
born in the United States.**

Mildred Sisk in Portland, Maine. As a child, her mother remarried and her last name became Gillars. Gillars studied drama at Ohio Wesleyan University but dropped out. She traveled to Europe in the early 1930's, first to France, then moved to Germany in the mid-1930's. There she initially taught English at the Berlitz School of Languages. Later, she acquired a job as an announcer and actress on German radio.

Teeming with a Max Otto Koischwitz in 1941, Gillars was part of a propaganda program called "Home Sweet Home Hour" where she broadcast by the name "Midge." She also had a disc jockey series called "Midge at the Mike" that included playing older American recordings, giving anti-Semitic readings, and reading the names of newly captured allied POWs. Gillars tried to convince US servicemen they were fighting a losing cause and that their girls back home were cheating on

them. Her efforts to demoralize American servicemen met with little success. Allegedly, Gillars thought she was only making regional broadcasts.

Gillars was captured after the war and returned to the United States in 1948 where she was tried on eight counts of treason. In March 1949, she was convicted of one count of treason and sentenced to 10 to 30 years in prison. She applied for and was granted parole in 1961. Returning to Ohio, Gillars taught English at a Catholic girls' school for a number of years. Mildred Gillars died in 1988.

"Tokyo Rose" was another nickname given by US servicemen to a collective group of English-speaking women who broadcast Japanese propaganda. But the name would eventually stick to a California-born US citizen named Iva Toguri (D' Aquino).

Toguri was born in Los Angeles, CA, raised and schooled in the US, and graduated from UCLA. In July 1941, she traveled to Japan to visit an ailing relative. She had no passport and was held up in returning to the US until the proper documents could be secured. Toguri was still in Japan when war broke out between Japan and the United States.

After war broke out, Toguri reportedly was pressured by the Japanese to renounce her citizenship, which she said she refused to do. But she did find work as a typist at a Japanese news agency, then later as a typist for Radio Tokyo.

In November 1943, American POW's forced to broadcast propaganda to their fellow Americans selected Toguri to run an hourly show called "The Zero Hour." While broadcasting that show, Toguri went by the radio name "Orphan Anne." The program was a mix of music and Toguri trying to convince US servicemen they would not win the war. Again, the overall effort was to demoralize the American fighting man. Actually, the Americans very much enjoyed the program and its music. They found it entertaining.

Toguri was arrested in September 1945 in Yokohama. She was placed on trial for treason when she attempted to re-enter the United States in 1948. By that time she had married Felipe D' Aquino, a Portuguese citizen of Japanese descent. She was eventually convicted of treason in September 1949, fined \$100,000 and sentenced to 10 years in prison. Throughout her trial, Toguri maintained her innocence. She served over six of her 10-year sentence and was released in 1956. Continuing to maintain her innocence, Toguri's case was later

reopened, and outgoing President Gerald Ford granted her a full pardon in 1977. Toguri (D' Aquino) is still living, and Jenna and Kara tried unsuccessfully to gain an interview with her.

"Lord Haw Haw" received his name from a journalist of the London Daily Express. He was, in fact, William Joyce, born in New York in 1906. At the age of three, his family moved to Ireland. There, the Joyce family was caught up in the Sinn Fein insurrections. Because of their conservative and pro-union views, the Joyce family was unpopular with the Sinn Fein rebels and suffered from their violence. They left Ireland for Great Britain in 1921, when William Joyce was 15. At 17, he became involved with fascist movements in the UK. One thing that soon became apparent was Joyce was not afraid to get into a fight, which he did often. He left his first fascist organization in 1925 and joined the Conservative Party for a short period. In 1932 he joined the British Union of Fascists (BUF) and remained with that group until 1937. His reputation as a fighter (literally) grew as did his outspoken anti-Semitic views. He was an admirer of Adolf Hitler and took any occasion to extol the Nazi Fuhrer. He broke with the BUF in 1937 and formed his own National Socialist league. It proved to be a politically weak but physically violent group.

About a week before war broke out in Europe, Joyce and his family fled to Germany. Within a few weeks, he was broadcasting German propaganda to England and had taken German citizenship. Although it was illegal at the time to do so, British citizens listened to "Lord Haw Haw's" broadcasts. For a period of time, his broadcasts were almost as popular as the BBC. But once the "Phony War" of 1939 ended and the war came to Britain's very doorstep with the Battle of Britain, "Lord Haw Haw" had a declining number of listeners.

Joyce made his last broadcast on April 30, 1945, warning Britain the war would leave them a broken country at the mercy of the Russians. He was captured after the war, receiving a bullet wound in the leg during his capture. Great Britain passed the Treason Act 1945 the day before Joyce was flown back to England, and amid much British press, he was charged, tried and convicted of treason. Unlike Mildred Gillars and Iva Toguri, William Joyce was not given a prison sentence. Instead, he was sentenced to death. Defiant to the end and blaming the war on Jews, Joyce was executed on January 3, 1946. →

Three new exhibits are added to the Museum

Three new exhibits have opened recently. **Tom Witty** completed an exhibit entitled "Coming Home." The case has a mannequin dressed in an authentic World War II service dress uniform of an Army Air Force Sergeant of the 20th Air Force. The Sergeant wears an honorable discharge patch above his left breast pocket, commonly known as "the ruptured duck," and service ribbons above the right breast pocket. He has his duffel bag with him, resting on a brick platform, and in one hand is a train ticket from Fort Worth, TX to Great Bend, KS on the Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad. Some readers may remember this as the "KATY" railroad. The ticket is a color photocopy of an original ticket dated December 1945 that Tom found in a pocket of the uniform. Prominent on the mannequin's face is a big smile – appropriate for the occasion.

Mounted on the walls of the case are color photocopies of a front page of the May 8, 1945, *The Topeka Daily Capital* proclaiming V-E Day and a similar copy of the August 15, 1945 *Philadelphia Inquirer* proclaiming the surrender of Japan. Tom also included labels describing the Discharge System; the number of "points" needed to go home, and the GI Bill of Rights. Color photocopies of period War Department pamphlets related to the discharge of veterans are also in the case. Notice we use a lot of color-copied items. With today's technology, the color copies are virtual reproductions of the originals. By using the copies, the originals can be safely stored away from damaging light.

Tom designed the layout and discussed the construction of a case with **Martin Moyer**. Soon Martin, **Amos Page**, **Dale Allen**, and Tom were building the exhibit case. Tom painted the interior and exterior and stained the trim. When it was completed Martin and Amos brought it over to the exhibit area at the rear of the Gift Shop, and Tom assembled the case on site.

Our second new exhibit got its start about two years or so ago, when **Mr. Donald Piland** of Lyndon, KS donated a home-built P-51 Mustang that had been mounted in his yard as a wind vane. This was not a run of the mill wind vane normally found on the roof of a house. The wingspan on this wind vane was over 95 inches, and the scale of the P-51 was about 1:4.

Mr. Piland transported the P-51 on a small trailer 25 miles to the Museum. As he made the turn onto the south entrance of Forbes Field, the trailer hit a bump and broke the right wing off the plane. We accepted the P-51 as was, and Mr. Piland asked only that we not remove his daughter's name from the fuselage.

The P-51 sat for about two years in Hangar 602 as other projects took priority and time. Then last winter, Martin Moyer, Amos Page and **Dale Allen** took it over to the carpenter shop to see what they could do to repair the broken wing. **Gene Howerter** volunteered to take on the project, and before he was done, the *Misty Lee* had taken on a whole new appearance.

Working some three months on the plane, Gene not only repaired and reattached the broken wing; he completely repainted the P-51. This included the re-application of the plane's markings in the proper scale, as well as adding new ones. He also altered the paint scheme to give a better appearance to the canopy. Gene had books from our library in the 604 workshop to study the details of the markings. He made several stencils for some of the markings and worked with member **Ted Nolde** to have others made as large decal sheets. Gene and Ted also worked together to replace the propeller blades with a clear plastic disc to give the impression of the blades turning.



The restored Pacer 1002 scooter

As the P-51 came back together, Gene offered that we not put it outside to be a wind vane again, but should hang it in 602. He worked on how to best suspend the model for safety and also give it a flying attitude. Finally the day came to hang the P-51 and a crew of seven people assembled on the Art Gallery deck. A 12-foot and six-foot stepladders were used as well as two large wooden crutches made by Gene to support and raise the plane high enough to attach its support cables to a pipe. Gene got the honors of going on the 12-foot ladder. **Dick Trupp** was on the six-foot ladder steadying a wing. **Martin Moyer**, **Don Dawson** and **Danny San Romani** manned the crutches. **Dave Houser** steadied the 12-foot ladder (it is a bit wobbly), and **Joe Higgins** moved tripping hazards out of the way of everyone. It all went smoothly, and today the Misty Lee flies nicely in the Art Gallery.

To the keen observer of World War II aircraft markings, Misty Lee looks remarkably like a real P-51 Mustang of the 78th Fighter Group, 8th Air Force named Big Beautiful Doll. And they would be correct. These are the markings Mr. Piland chose when he built the plane, substituting his daughter's name for the original.

Gene Howerter was also involved with the third new exhibit. This is an operable three-wheeled, motorized scooter once used by the US Air Force in the mid-1960's, called a Pacer 1002. **Elton Spena** donated the scooter to CAM, and Gene worked on it as a winter project. He and **Beattie Dickson** disassembled the main components of the scooter for repair and restoration.

Gene prepared the surfaces and repainted it from white to an overall Air Force blue. Gene and Beattie worked on the engine and accessories, and Don Dawson did some welding repair to the small truck bed. Elton Spena and **Vernon Failor** rewired most of the electrical system. As work on components was completed, the scooter was reassembled. Before the end of April it had been test driven up and down the ramp and is currently on exhibit in Hangar 604. Its first outings were scheduled for the May 14 American Legion Armed Forces Day parade and May 21 Armed Forces Appreciation Day at Heartland Park. ➔



"Coming Home" exhibit

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2005 Events Calendar

Events subject to change

June

4 - Family Appreciation
Day,
190th Air Refueling Wing
6-9 Aviation Education
Class

July

11-14 Aviation Education
Class

August

1-4 Aviation Education
Class



Letters and mission logs from Korea

Excerpts from letters and combat mission logs written from South Korea in 1952 by USMC Second Lieutenant John Walker Hatcher, who flew Corsair fighter-bombers. Times are based on a 24-hour, military clock. K-6 was a Marine airfield about 40 miles south of Seoul, South Korea. The text appears as originally written.

Mission #42 (K-6) 4 Aug

TARCAP(Munro)

**Armament 1 x 1000, 4 x 100#, 4 x 20 mm
TO - 0715 BL - 0805 Land - 1015**

We hit pre-briefed, a large bunker with reported 60 NKA. I got a direct hit with my 1000#er, demolishing bunker. Munro dropped Napalm, burning supplies in surrounding area. We then attacked and damaged road bridge. Estimated 30 KIA at bunker, strafed & bombed a few other places, nothing outstanding.

Mission #43 (K-6) 5 Aug

**RECCO Munro, Hutchings, Wilson
(Chunchon)**

**Armament 1 x 1000, 4 x 100#, 6 x .50 cal
TO - 0915 BL - 1000 Land - 1215**

Pre-briefed, supplies near Chunchon, obscured by clouds. We attacked several road and RR bridges, and bombed gun positions in Changyon. An average reconnaissance. Destroyed 2 bridges (IRR, 1 Road). I was 2nd section leader.

Mission #44 (K-6) 6 Aug

TARCAP(My lead)Pinksotn

**Armament 1 x NAP, 6 x 100#, 4 x 20 mm
TO - 0715 BL - 0810 Land - 1015**

I am now a t/c leader. First t/c lead. We saved our Napalm for a G. P. near Tinfoil to hit at 0900. Nothing there. We attacked and cut 2 road bridges, and destroyed 4 buildings in Changyon (my Napalm). Pinky dropped his Napalm on supply revetments NW Pungchon, damaging miss.

Excerpts from Letter No. 22 [K-6]

Wednesday 6 Aug

Dear Folks,

Sorry it's been so long since I've written, but I've really been working

my "fanny" off. Since we lost our Aviation Officer (rotation back to the States) and our Aviation Intelligence Officer (shot down, in hospital now), I have been carrying a good bit of the load in my section. For the past week, I've been working all day in the office, debriefing, target selection and dispatches. I'm there in the evening until 11 o'clock or so, finishing off the late dispatches. But things should improve now; we got a new Ground Officer in today. He will probably take over most of the load. I'm going to tell them I'll only do debriefing from now on (ha).

The heat has slacked off a little now, and for 3 days we had nothing but rain. Now it's fair weather again, and the temperature is climbing again. We average one hop a day, and now I have 45 missions. Slowly but surely I'm climbing toward that 100 mark. I'll be about ready to quit for awhile, then.

The food here is exceptionally good. The carrier's menu was very poor, but we have a nourishing meal always. Most of the time we have chicken or ham, and often steak and turkey. Lots of potatoes, beans, and very good desserts (ice cream every other day for dinner), with much apple & peach pies, etc. I'm not gaining any weight, but I'm surely eating well.

As I said before, we didn't get any publicity on the West Coast, and that really "pee'd" us, but we should get an occasional mention here, as Fifth Air Force "fighter-bombers."

That's all for now. I'll write in a few days.

Love,
Johnny

Mission #45 [K-6] 7 Aug

TARCAP-Lead (Alsip)

Armament 1 x 1000 VT, 4 x 100#, 4 x 20mm

TO - 1700 BL - 1755 Land - 1950

We attacked pre-briefed, gun positions in caves looking out toward Chodo. I got direct hit, but bomb was DUD, Alsip got near hit, skipped over ridge, was DUD. We damaged 2 road bridges with 100#ers. I got direct hit on a GP top of a hill NW Ulliyul, destroyed it. Nothing outstanding.

Mission #46 [K-6] 8 Aug

TARCAP - Lead (Mogenson)

Armament 1 x NAP, 8 x ATAR's, 6 x .50 cal.

TO - 1700 BL - 1750 Land - 2005

I attacked bunker-revetments NE Pungchon with Napalm, destroying 3. Fired ATAR, damaged 1 more. Moe dropped Napalm on Songwha, dest. 3 bldgs, dam. 1 bldg. I fired 2 rockets into Changyon, dest. 3 bldg, dam 2 bldg. We attacked and damaged 2 road bridges.

Excerpts from Letter No. 23 [K-6]

Sunday, 10 Aug

Dear Folks,

I've just returned from Church Services here, and feel a little "spiritually refreshed", you might say. It's good to keep in touch with religion, and I haven't been to services for quite a while.

It looks like relief is in sight for me in my labors at the "office"; our aviation ground officer has reported in, and I am getting him checked out on our reports, dispatches, targets, etc. In the future, he should be handling most of that work, and I'll do only debriefing and occasional dispatches. But it was quite a

struggle until he got here. (Good Experience, as they say, for Junior Officers)

We are not flying many missions now; just flying an occasional "recco", but concentrating our main efforts for the next few days in getting the new boys filed-carrier qualified. So we're bouncing the new boys quite a bit.

I have done my bit of "flying wing" now here, and have been leading most of the time. Naturally I like that better, since it gives you a chance to pick and hit your own favorite targets, exercise command, and also sharpens you up in your navigating. RIO [Reporting In & Out], etc. Out of my last 3 leads on Tarcaps, 2 of my wing-men have been Majors. How about that?

We haven't any hot scoop here (even though I'm in intelligence) on the truce talks, etc.. Might be speeded up by our raids on Pyong-yang, etc. We do get dispatches from covert intelligence groups in North Korea, and use the info for targets or strikes.

I'll write again soon.
Love. Johnny

Excerpts from Letter No. 24 [R&R-Japan] Tuesday, Aug. 12

Dear Folks,

I'm writing this from Japan this time, on R&R. I'm on my way to Kyoto, where I'm going to stay about 4 days at the Mikayo Hotel (strictly class), and do nothing but eat, sleep, sunbathe, and swim (they have a very nice pool there.) I might do a little shopping, but I think I'll hold off on getting china, etc. this trip. (I didn't bring a lot of moola.)

There might be another picture of me in the Gazette soon (a month or so); we just had our pictures taken for a "312 write-up" (along the same lines). Some fun, and get good publicity, eh? Well I'm off for the races now, will probably write in 4-5 days.

Love. Johnny

Excerpts from Letter No. 25 [Itami, Japan]

Sunday evening, 17 Aug

Dear Folks,

Well, here I am back at Itami after a pretty good R&R. We're supposed to get a plane back to K-6 tomorrow, but bad weather, typhoon, etc., will probably keep us here another day or two. Nasty break, eh? (I feel silly writing things like this, for when you all receive it I will already have been back at work for a week, maybe. What a time lag!)

Well, in a few days I'll have 4 months tour here, 4-5 months to go. I'll admit I enjoy the flying, experience, and excitement, but when I have too much time to think, I find myself wishing I was back in the states. I don't know exactly why, but this stuff gets old after a while. I think (I know, in fact) that 99% of the fellows over here are eager to get home, and they show it.

The first load of the 24th draft got here today, but I haven't seen any familiar faces. I'm expecting Dick Gould this draft; hope he gets into 312. You know his wife had a baby, and he got a stateside billet until she had it. Now he's on his way. Well, out of space!

Love, Johnny

Mission #47 [K-6] 20 Aug

TARCAP - Lead (Habash)

Armament 1 x 1000#, 4 x 260# Frag, 4 x 20mm

TO - 0610 BL - 0700 Land - 0910

We attacked 2 reported troop concentrations, with fair coverage, NDA. We also attacked 2 small villages, destroying or damaging a couple of buildings. Attacked 2 road bridges, no damage. A fair but not outstanding hop.

See Korea, con't. on page 10

New Supporters

Chuck & Connie Bradshaw
Beattie Dickson
Daniel Moore
Robert & Marjorie Van Camp

Renewing Supporters

Bill Davis
Wayne Dodson
Donald & Olga Fluke
Dr. Carl & Marguerite Fyler
Phil Hotzel
The Kincaid Family
Frank, Rebecca, Sam,
Sarah, & Zach
Martin Moyer
Amos Page
Dan Pulliam
Sharon Rosenow
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David, Jean, Connor, & Keira
The Trupp Family
Rick, Rhonda, Taylor,
Morgan, & Hailey
The Trupp Family
Robert, Andrea, Mariah,
Katy, & Adam



Korea, con't. from page 9

Mission #48 [K-6] 22 Aug
STRIKE - Lead Axtell (Col) Gentry (Maj) Alsip (Maj) SW Area
Armament 2 x 1000 VT, 2 x 260# Frag, 4 x 20mm
TO - 1700 BL - 1750 Land - 2005

This flight had 2 Leaders (me and the Col!). A fair hop, but a little too much kbitizing. We gave good coverage to 3 reported troops concentrations, 150 NKA each. We destroyed 2 CP's and about 10 bldgs, and gave good coverage on trenches. Col. Axtell bitched about (1) More than 1 run per target. (2) Not hitting exact coordinates - whether anything there or not. (3) Radio chatter. (4) Speed control on return trip. Other 2 Majors said flight was GOOD.

Excerpts from Letter No. 26 [K-6]**Sunday, 24 Aug**

Dear Folks,

...About 2 weeks ago, Kiser and I had the most exciting hop we've had out here. We were sent up early one morning to knock out some active AA positions that had shot down one of our planes the day before. When we got there, we found almost a dozen double-mounted 20mm positions firing at us from 2 adjacent orchards SouthEast of Pungchon. Kiser dropped his 1000# bomb, destroying one position and possibly damaging one. Then I made a Napalm run on one of the orchards, and was so low (right over the tree-tops, for better coverage) that I could actually hear the guns firing at me (POW-POW-POW). My napalm destroyed 2 of the positions. Then we began making runs on the guns that were still firing at us, dropping 100# bombs on them. I knocked out 2 more of the positions with my bombs, and Kiser damaged one. We made 8 runs apiece, and the AA fire was intense for the first 4 runs. Then it began to start tapering down to moderate after 6-7 runs, and on the eighth run we received little or no fire. Either we scared them pretty badly, after knocking off four of the positions and crews, and damaging 2 others, or else they ran out of ammo. Kiser and I felt like real "tigers", we usually do; I'm sure that none of the married pilots would have done what we did.

The weather here has been pretty poor lately, with much rain, and several typhoons ion the area. Now I only have 48 missions, but will probably have about 60 when I get a staff job.

Love, Son

Excerpts from Letter No. 27 [USS Sicily] Thursday, 4 Sept.

Dear Folks,

... We have now completed our carrier qualification (two landings for the old boys, and six landings for the new boys), and now are well situated on the Sicily (CVE-118). We held our qualifications on the 29th, returned to K-6, packed all our squadron gear in boxes, and one half of the pilots with all the gear and enlisted men left K-6 on the 2nd. Then today the 24 of us remaining flew our 24 planes out to the carrier. It was what we call a "group grope", trying to fly a column of divisions, with everyone jiggling around. It was the most planes I've flown formation with (You

see, on the qualifications we used only 12 planes, and switched pilots).

The Sicily is wider, cleaner, bigger, and more cooperative than the Bataan, from what I can tell so far. It should be a good ship. You all are probably wondering if we were in on the big raid to Pyong-Yang. No, that was the day we were qualifying aboard this ship. It sort of "pee'd" us off, because we missed the first big one on July 11 (we were in port in Sasebo). All of the other squadrons at K-6 (VMF-212, VMF-323, VMA-121) participated heavily on both strikes. We would have liked to, also, but no luck. I'm not certain yet, but I believe I'll go back to college when I get out. I'll have 36 moths (4 years) college training coming, at \$11 a month, out of which I pay for tuition and books and fees. The only deterrent I can see is losing this salary I've been drawing. I'll be 1st Lieutenant in about 26 days, and will get a small boost in wages. It will be hard to go to colleges and cut off that \$450 a month. I couldn't earn that on the outside, I don't think. Well, we'll see! Later.

... Well, I'm the only member of the 20th draft left in a squadron; the rest of the boys (Kiser included) have staff jobs. I requested one month more of duty, and luckily got it. That's all for now. Love, Johnny

Mission #49 (S.L.) (SICILY CVE-118) 5 September**STRIKE - (Folmar, Smith, Goery) SW Area****Armament 1 x NAPALM, 4 x 260 Frag****TO - 0815 BL - 0850 Land - 1015**

Folmar led half the hop, I led back. We hit camouflaged bldgs near Pt. X-ray

with Napalm, then proceeded north up coast. In attacks on 2 bunkers, I got the only 2 direct hits with 260# frags. Reccoed the coast back for boats, saw none. Average hop.

Mission #50 (Lead) [USS SICILY] (1 HOLE)**6 Sept.****TARCAP - lead (Gregory) S.D.****Armament 1 x 500, 6 x 5" HVARs, 6 x .50's****TO - 1615 BL - 1650 Land - 1835**

We had as our pre-briefed the camouflaged bldgs same as hop before this. I fire a rocket direct into one group of bldgs, other group was burned out. Then Sitting Duck gave us some gun positions in caves (boarded up) at base of cliff overlooking Chodo. We made low close runs, firing rockets right in there. I got 3 direct, Greg. Got 1. I dropped my 500# on storage barracks NE Chagyon, dest 2 dam 2. Greg. Dropped in village, dest 3 bldg. No outstanding incidents. 1 HOLE.

Mission #51 (Lead) [USS Sicily] (5 HOLES)**7 September****TARCAP - lead (Wadsworth)****Armament 1 x 500# GP, 6 X 5" HVAR, 6 x .50 cal****TO - 1200 BL - 1245 Land - 1500**

I led a 4-plane division up to Abuse 4, but detached Col. Axtell & Maj. Wilson to work with

Abuse 4, then led t/c to area. We rocketed some gun positions

in caves in cliff on beach at 739693, then proceeded up by Chinnampo. Up there we found an oxcart convoy, and made one strafing run. Proceeding by Sariwon & Chaeryong, I checked the condition of RR bridges along the way, then bombed a village, destroying 5 bldgs. My wingman dropped on a small RR bridge, but his bomb was a DUD. On the way back to ship, his engine quit, and he called me on Guard Standby, but that channel was out on my radio. As soon as I missed him (1 min) I turned around, orbited, started search. Tinfoil has heard his call; soon a DUMBO and 2 PEDRO's were searching with me. We found him okay, and I returned base.

I had 5 holes (4 were 20 mm), and we assumed that my wingman got shot in his oil line.

Mission #52 (Lead) [USS Sicily] 8 Sept.

CAP (Hutchings)

Armament 1 ADSK-1, 4 x 20mm

TO - 1400 Land - 1615

Mostly an "on station" hop. 2 intercepts. Nothing exciting. Good hop, though. Easy.

Mission #53 (Lead) [USS Sicily] 9 Sept.

CAP (Lewandowski)

Armament

TO - 1630 Land - 1830

What another CAP? WOW!

Mission #54 (Lead) [USS Sicily to K-6] (2 HOLES)

10 Sept.

STRIKE-L (Cleeland) Chinnampo Area

Armament 1 x 500, 4 x 260# frag, 4 x 20mm

TO - 1330 BL - 1400 Land (K-6) 1648

We hit a village south of Chinnampo with our frags 2 rep. 300NKA, destroyed 3 bldgs. Dispatch 42 KIA, 36 WIA. Hit a road bridge NW Chaeryang with 500#.

I damaged & cut south end. Received fire from this point. Had one hung 260# frag, base said land K-6. On landing had 1 flat tire - result of 20mm.

Mission #55 (Leader) [K-6] (2 HOLES) 11 Sept.

STRIKE - lead (Cleeland) North of Haeju

Armament 1 x 1000# GP, 4 X 100# GP, 4 x 20mm

TO - 0820 (K-6) BL - 0900 Land - 1000 (Tinfoil)

Rearmed & repaired at K-6. Hit road bridge joining 2 big highways. On pullout, was almost overcome by gas fumes; went on oxygen. Had wingman check my plane, he informed me I was leaking a lot of gas. I jettisoned my wing bombs and headed for Tinfoil (Paengnyang-do). When I reached the island and landed on the beach, I had 10 gallons of gas left. British mechs repaired my plane, and I flew back next day to Sicily. Had one hole in battery compartment that cut main fuel line (20mm), and one hole (.50 cal) entered tail section.

Excerpts from Letter No. 28 [USS Sicily]

12 Sept. 52

Dear Folks,

... Well, I just got back today after being away from the carrier for 2 days. Day before yesterday, I had a 260# fragmentation bomb hung on my rack, so I flew to K-6 to have it taken off, rather than land here and risk it exploding when it came off on arrested landing. When I landed at K-6, I found that my right tire was flat, because a fragment of AA or a 20mm had penetrated my right wheel-well door and cut the tire. It was late in the evening, so my wingman (Major Cleeland) and I remained at K-6 for the night, while the plane was fixed (new tire), armed, etc.

Next morning, we took off with a 1000# GP and 4 x 260# frags each, to fly a mission from K-6 and then return to the ship. After I dropped my bomb on a road bridge (cutting it), I was hit in the battery compartment by a 20mm which did not explode, but did cut my main fuel line. I headed for Paengyang-do, an island right off the tip of land 75 mi. west of Haeju, where the coast starts to run north east, after running west of Haeju. See (look on map) where I mean? When I reached the island I had 40 gallons of fuel left, and after I was down (I landed on the beach where the sand was wet and hard-packed), I had 10 gallons left. Close, eh? The island is called Tinfoil, and is the center of one of our rescue networks. There were 3 British mechs there who were repairing a Sea Fury that had landed wheels-up, so they patched my plane up, and I spent the night there with the small Marine detachment. (I had invitations to sleep with the helicopter crew there, the Leopard group, (or head guerilla and espionage group), and on board a big LST-901 which was unloading supplies there. Very popular, eh). My plane was fixed up by this morning, so I took off and buzzed the place 3 times. My CAP joined with me on the last buzz, then escorted me out to the carrier. So here I am after an exciting 2 days. The Colonel seemed pretty pleased with the way I handled things, etc.

I told you all earlier that Capt. Folmar and I are the last of the 20th Draft left in the squadron. Well, day before yesterday, Folmar shot down one MIG out of 8 who were making passes on him and his wingman. After he shot the MIG down, another one shot him down, but he bailed out and was rescued by Dumbo. I saw him at K-6 yesterday morning (they took him there after his rescue) just before I left, and got the "hot scoop" from him. You see, the MIGs have been bothering us a little lately, but because of their speed we're unable to do much about it. They attack us and then pull away fast. Folmar got in a lucky burst of 20mm's, but as far as I know, he's the first Corsair pilot to shoot down a MIG. He hurt his right shoulder in bailing out, and they're fixing him up at K-6. The MIG pilot was burning as he drifted down in his chute, so he probably burned to death. One of our flights spotted a flight of 4 YAK-9s 2 days ago, but did not attack them because they still had their bombs on. If the Commies start sending propeller craft like that down here, we might have a little fun. I'm sure I could shoot a YAK-9 down in combat, but it would have to be a lucky shot to down a MIG.

Well that's all for now. We'll go into Sasebo in 2 more days, and will have about 7-8 days luxury. I'll write again when we get there, or a day or so later.

Love, Johnny

Mission #56 (S.L.) [USS Sicily] 12 Sept.
TARCAP—(L Macfadden, Cawfield, Moy) Bridges
Armament 1 x 500# GP, 6 x 100#GP, 6 x .50 cal.
TO—1615 BL—1700 Land - 1830

We attacked 2 bridges on N. Haeju line. Strong Wind, no direct hits. MIGs in area, we weaved

Mission #57 (Leader) [USS Sicily] 13 Sept.

CAP - Lead (Willis)

Armament 6 x .50's

TO—0600 Land—0630, 0900*

* After takeoff, my wing man informed me I was on fire, and advised that I bail-out. I throttled back, opened cowl-flaps, and fire went out. At higher power settings, firesarted again; I got it out and landed aboard. (It was caused by no damper cap on oil pump lines, etc)

I got in another plane, was launched, and flew the remainder of an unusual CAP.

Mission #58 (S.L.) [USS Sicily] 13 Sept.

TARCAP—(Clarkson, Wilson, Boggs)

Armament 1 x 500, 6 x 5" HVAR's, 6 x .50 cal.

TO—1330 BL—1400 Land - 1600

We hit a bridge near the Anak reservoir with or 500#; 5 very close hits, but were amazed to find little damage. Bridge was concrete. Then hit a CP with rockets near Pungchon, and hit 2 cam. gn positions near Taetan with remainder. A fairly good, smooth hop.

Excerpts from Letter No. 29 [R&R—Sasebo, Japan]

Tuesday, 16 Sept.

Dear Folks,

This is our second day in port, and some of us are tired of it already; I should say that there isn't much to do, and I have already made the rounds, so I'll divert my efforts to the correspondence at hand.

...I'm at a loss already for something to write, except perhaps to say that I'm still enjoying the flying and the carrier work. I now have 69 carrier landings, which is quite a few for a 2nd Lt. With only 750 hours flight time.

Don't look for me, but I might be home for Christmas. It's only a small chance, but I hope it works out!

I'll write again soon.

Love,

Johnny

Excerpts from Letter No. 30 [USS Sicily]

Tuesday, 23 Sept.

Dear Folks,

Here we are, starting out on our second cruise aboard the Sicily. It should be a pretty good cruise, and from what I've heard, the ship seems pretty pleased with our work on the first cruise (even though we did lose 6 airplanes—2 catapult, 2 shot down, 2 barriers). I guess they have to expect a certain amount of operational damage.

I was interested and glad to get the clipping about Folmar and the MIG; it was fairly accurate reporting for a change, and we were genuinely surprised. That was about the first publicity we've had, but it should improve in the future. Marguerite Higgins, the female correspondent for the New York Times (or some such deal), has requested (and tentatively is preparing) to come aboard on the 24th or 25th to do an article on the Checkerboard squadron. Well, tra la la! Some thrill!

...Well, we start operating tomorrow, and we're all "hot to go". However, as you all should know, I'll be careful, because I want to get back as much as you want me back.

Love,

Johnny

Mission #59 [USS Sicily] 25 Sept.

CAP (Doering)

Armament 1 ADSK-1, 4 x 20mm

TO—600 Land - 0900

Average CAP

Mission #60 Leader [USS Sicily] 25 Sept.

STRIKE (McFadden, Daniele, Smith, Cawfield) Valley of 20,000

Armament 2 x 350# Depth Charges, 4 x 260# frag, 4 x 20mm

TO—0615 BL—0650 Land - 0800

McFadden scheduled as leader, but his transmitter went out, so I assumed the lead. We proceeded to the "valley of 20,000" NORTH of HAEJU and hit it with depth charges, napalm, and 500# bombs.

We estimated 80% coverage, but it was too dark (the sun had not come into the gorge, which had vertical walls, really steep) to see anything definite. We hit our secondary target, a troop concentration East of Chaeryong near a railroad bridge estimating 5 bldgs destroyed. We had Bandit Tracks in the area on the way back, and we spotted Bogies, but they did not press any attacks.

Mission #61 [USS Sicily] 26 Sept.

TARCAP (Elias, Baker, Jerominski) Ulllyul.

Armament 1 x 500# SAP (4-5 delay) 8 x 5" HVARs, 6 x .50 cal

TO—1300 BL—1330 Land - 1600

First 2 men had "Tiny Tims", second section had 500# SAP, with 4-5 second delay. Jerominski and I reccoed near Hill 297, where he got a direct hit on a CP on top of the hill. I hit a warehouse (direct) and destroyed it, west of Ulllyul. I spotted 2 camouflaged long huts, and upon firing 2 rockets into them, about 100 people (NKA') ran out.

We strafed, expended remainder of ordnance. Est. 20 KIA, 20 WIA. Good hop. NBR pass.

Mission #62 (S.L.) [USS Sicily] (1 HOLE) 27 Sept.

STRIKE (Jero, Watson, Doering) XB area

Armament 1 x 500# GP, 8 x 5" HVAR's, 6 x .50 cal's

TO—0600 BL—630 Land - 0900

We worked with Abuse 2 supporting a guerilla landing.

Investigating one area, I spotted some troops (camouflaged) in a ditch, etc. When I made a firing run, they opened up with a machine gun (.30 cal – I could hear it) so I put 2 rockets there, destroyed it. Approx. 200 soldiers ran out; we rocketed & bombed, and estimated 50 KIA, 50 WIA. Covered our troop's retreat then NGF spot for Brassplate. Good hop.

DISPATCH-150 KIA.

Mission #63 [USS Sicily] 28 Sept.
STRIKE (Jero, Armstrong, Boggs) east Haeju
 Armament 1 x NAPALM, 6 x 100# GP, 4 x 20mm
TO – 0830 BL – 0900 Land - 1200

Worked in support of another guerilla landing, controlled by Condamine (poor radio contact). Covered withdrawal of troops, strafed trenches estimated 5 KIA, 5 WIA. I spotted troops in trenches, and Boggs and I bombed them, estimated 20 KIA, 20 WIA, 1 bldg damaged. I napalmed a food supply dump (reported 1500 bags rice), destroyed 1 bldg, dam 1 bldg.

Mission #64 (S.L.) [USS Sicily] 28 Sept.
TARCAP (Haskell, Boggs, Wadsworth) Chinnampo
 Armament 1 x NAPALM, 8 x WP, 6 x .50 cal
TO – 1330 BL – 1350 Land - 1600

A fair hop. Hit supplies on docks south of Chinnampo with Napalm, reccoed the coast for "Sitting Duck", and searched for secondary targets. Dumped remainder of load at estuary n.e. of Bloodstone (new code for Tinfoil). Very gusty wind, even up to 5,000".

Mission #65 [USS Sicily] 29 Sept.
CAP (Gregory)
 Armament 4 x 20mm
TO – 0830 Land - 1100
 Average CAP. 4 Intercepts.

Mission #66 [USS Sicily] 29 Sept.
TARCAP (Axtell, Armstrong, Wadsworth) Armament 1 x 500# GP, 6 x 5" HVAR's, 4 x 20mm
TO – 1330 BL – 1350 Land - 1615

Attacked a CP of 24th Regiment near Songwha, with the majority of our ordnance, NDA. Reccoed Taedong-Gang, attacked and damaged about a dozen odd boats. Nothing outstanding.

Mission #67 (S.L.) (1 HOLE) [USS Sicily] 30 Sept.
STRIKE (Haskell, Cleeland, Pinkston) Changlon
 Armament 1 x 500# Daisy Cutter, 6 x 100# GP, 4 x 20mm
TO – 0615 BL – 0640 Land - 0745

Hit a radio Station NW of Changyon in a small valley. Then dumped remainder of load on a bridge west of Chanyon. No time for Recco, rushed back to base.

Mission #68 (S.L.) [USS Sicily] 30 Sept.
TARCAP (Stokoe, Cleeland, Hutchings) NW of Chinnampo
 Armament 1 x 1000# GP, 4 x HVAR's, 6 x .50 cal

TO – 1100 BL – 1140 Land - 1330

We hit a road bridge (damaged it) NW of Chinnampo with 1000#ers. Then we reccoed the coast for Sitting Duck. We hit the 2 camouflaged CP's west of Uillyul that I spotted earlier, and strafed some boats west of there. Bandit tracks reported in area, no contact. Fair hop. →

To be continued in the next issue of *Plane Talk*

Join the Combat Air Museum!

June/July Calendar of Events

June

Saturday, June 4

Family Appreciation Day
 190th Air Refueling Wing
 12 – 4 p.m.

Monday, June 13

Membership Potluck Luncheon
 Jean Wanner Education Conference Center
 (JWECC)
 11:30 a.m.

Monday – Thursday, June 6-9

Aviation Education Class
 JWECC
 9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

July

There is no Membership
 Luncheon in July.
 The next luncheon is
 Monday, August 8.

Monday – Thursday, July 11-14

Aviation Education Class
 JWECC
 9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

→ → →

**Volunteers needed to staff a CAM booth
at the Kansas Air National Guard's
Family Appreciation Day
June 4**

On Saturday, June 4, the 190th Air Refueling Wing, Kansas Air National Guard is holding a **Family Appreciation Day**. We have been invited to set up an Information Booth, or possibly our Gift Shop booth. The okay to set up a Gift Shop booth has not yet been given at the time of this writing. We may also take a couple of static exhibits (vehicles) to the event. The event goes from noon until 4 P.M..

Whether it is an Information Booth or Gift Shop booth, we will need volunteers to set the booth up, staff it, and take it down. Because of security measures we need to know in advance who our volunteers will be at the event, and those names will be given to the 190th Security Force.

If you can help out with this event, please call the Museum during weekday hours and let Jane or Danny know. ➔

Visitors

During **March**
the Museum had
918 visitors
from **34 states**
and
Canada
Great Britain
Italy
Japan
Netherlands

During **April**
we had
738 visitors
from **36 states**
and
Canada
France
Germany
Netherlands
Sweden
Switzerland

➔ ➔ ➔



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