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PROP WASH

Newsletter of the Dallas/Fort Worth Wing of the Commemorative Air Force
Lancaster Airport, Lancaster, TX



JANUARY 2012

WING LEADER REPORT

JANUARY 2012

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE!! I hope you all had a great holiday season.

If you didn't make it to the Christmas party you missed a good time. We had a guest speaker, Gifford "Giff" Marr, that told about the recovery of the B-24, Lady Be Good. It was a very interesting story.

The last information about the BT, was that it flew, but the prop wasn't functioning properly. Hopefully, this is something that can be repaired quickly.

The R4D is in the hangar going through its annual. Don't know the extent of the work to be done.

One of the goals this year is to replace the chairs in the meeting room. There is a fund already started to get this project done. If you would like to contribute it would be greatly appreciated.

The first Wing meeting will be Saturday, January 14, 2012. The meeting will start at 1:30pm.

See you at the hangar,

Steve Bennett





From the Adjutant

The first phase of the changeover in the dues payment process has been completed. Four separate rounds of reminder letters have been sent out to members, generally staggered based upon the member's previous renewal dates. Those reminder letters offered members a choice of paying either for the balance due for 2011 and for 2012, or just the balance due for 2011. In December, dues reminder letters were mailed to those members whose dues are payable in January, 2012. There are a few members whose dues payments will fall on different dates in 2012, and reminder letters will be sent to them to allow them either to pay for the balance of 2012 and 2013, or just the balance due for 2012. As always, if you believe that there is an error in when your dues are payable, please contact me and I will be happy to research my records and advise you of the results. As a reminder, all dues payments should be sent to our Wing Finance Officer, Col. Jim Breitenstine. On a monthly basis, Col. Breitenstine forwards me the dues payments received for the previous month, and this information is what I use to update our Wing roster, which includes a dues payment record.

It is also important that you notify us if your address, phone number/s, or e-mail address has changed, or if you anticipate a change of any of them in the near future. This will enable us to have the most current information available for contacting Wing members. Our roster information is also the source of all e-mail

addresses used to send out "broadcast" e-mails to members about coming events or other need-to-know information of interest to members.

Thanks for your continuing support of the DFW Wing and the CAF, and "Keep 'em flying!!"

Col. Curtis Green



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Interesting Events In History For January

Thanks to our Wing Historian

Col. Elaine Webb

Here are a few items of history for you that in occurred in January 1945:

9 January 1945 - U. S. Army troops landed on Luzon, Philippines. By the end of the first day the beachhead stretched approximately 20 miles long and 4 miles deep from Sual, Lingayen and Dagupan to San Fabian. 29 Medals of Honor were awarded to men who fought on the land and in the sky for Luzon, among them was USA Ace Thomas B. McGuire, Jr.

17 January 1945 - Soviet troops captured Warsaw.

26 January 1945 - Japanese troops in China retreated to the coast.

27 January 1945 - Auschwitz and Birkenau concentration camps were liberated by Soviet troops. This revealed the hundreds of bodies of the recently murdered, thousands of prisoners barely clinging to life and the human remains of approximately 1,000,000.

28 January 1945 - The Battle of the Bulge ended after American casualties of approximately 75,000 and German losses of 80,000 to 100,000. Hitler still believed Germany could win the war. Part of "The Burma Road" is reopened; supplies can once again flow into China.

30 January 1945 - The Wilhelm Gustloff, named for the head of the Swiss Nazi party and built as a 1,460 passenger ship, was sunk by submarine S-13.

In the deadliest event in maritime history. 5,348 persons were officially entered in the log for the journey however in the last moments hundreds crowded aboard. It has been estimated that 8,000 - 9,400 people were killed. Most of the victims were civilian women, children and elderly male refugees and about 1,200 wounded German soldiers. Last to board was the mayor of Gotenhafen (now Gdania, Poland) and his family.

Some other interesting events in January

January 1, 1942 - Twenty six countries signed the *Declaration of the United Nations*, in Washington, D.C., reaffirming their opposition to the Axis powers and confirming that no single nation would make a separate peace.

January 2, 1942 - During World War II in the Pacific, the Japanese captured the Philippines capital of Manila and the nearby air base at Cavite.

January 3, 1946 - An Englishman known during World War II as "Lord Haw Haw" (William Joyce) was hanged for treason in London. Joyce had broadcast Nazi propaganda via radio from Germany to Britain during the war.

January 6, 1941 - President Franklin Roosevelt delivered his State of the Union address to Congress asking for support for the lend-lease program aiding Allies fighting the Axis powers. Roosevelt also defined four essential freedoms worth defending; freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom from want, and freedom from fear.

January 14-23, 1943 - President Franklin Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill met at Casablanca in Morocco to work on strategy during World War II. At the conclusion of the conference, Roosevelt and Churchill held a joint news conference



at which Roosevelt surprisingly announced that peace would come "by the total elimination of German and Japanese war power.

That means the unconditional surrender of Germany, Italy and Japan."

January 17, 1945 - During World War II, Warsaw, Poland, was liberated by Soviet Russian troops.

January 20, 1942 - During the Holocaust, Reinhard Heydrich, Himmler's second in command of the SS, convened the Wannsee Conference in Berlin with 15 top Nazi bureaucrats to coordinate the Final Solution (Endlösung) in which the Nazis would attempt to exterminate the entire Jewish population of Europe, an estimated 11 million persons.

January 20, 1945 - Franklin Delano Roosevelt was inaugurated to an unprecedented fourth term as president of the United States. He had served since 1933.

January 22, 1943 - During World War II in the Pacific, Japanese resistance ended in New Guinea, resulting in the first land victory of the war for Allied forces.

January 23, 1943 - In North Africa, British forces under General Bernard Montgomery captured Tripoli in Libya. January 26, 1943 - Nazis began using Hitler Youths to operate anti-aircraft batteries in Germany following heavy Allied bombing of Berlin and other cities.

January 27, 1943 - The U.S. 8th Air Force conducted the first all-American bombing raid on Germany as 55 bombers targeted Wilhelmshaven,

losing three planes while claiming to have shot down 22 German fighters. The success of this first mission encouraged U.S. military planners to begin regular daylight bombing raids, which eventually resulted in high casualty rates for the American crewmen involved.

January 27, 1944 - Russian Army General Govorov announced the lifting of the Nazi blockade of Leningrad. During the 900-day siege, an estimated one million Russian civilians inside the city died of disease, starvation and relentless German shelling.

January 31, 1943 - German troops surrendered at Stalingrad, marking the first big defeat of Hitler's armies in World War II. During the Battle of Stalingrad, 160,000 Germans were killed and 90,000 taken prisoner, including the commander, Friedrich von Paulus, the first German field marshal ever to surrender. The captured Germans were forced to march to Siberia, with few ever returning to Germany.

January 31, 1945 - Eddie Slovik, a 24-year-old U.S. Army private, was executed by a firing squad after being sentenced to death for desertion, the first such occurrence in the U.S. Army since the Civil War.

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Aerial view of the first convoy to go from India to China



American soldiers of the 117th Infantry Regiment, North Carolina National Guard

Thomas B. McGuire, Jr. (rt.) & Richard I. Bong (lt.)
USAF Museum Photo Archives



Richard Bong & Thomas McGuire



Supplies on the beach on Lingayen Gulf



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