

# THE INVADER

MARCH 2002



<http://www.historicalaircraftsquadron.com>

## OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE HISTORICAL AIRCRAFT SQUADRON, INC.



*An all-volunteer, non-profit organization dedicated to the restoration, display and operation of former military aircraft*

MEETING NOTICE- THE MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS HAVE BEEN MOVED TO SUN. AT 1:00 AND INCLUDE A SOCIAL HOUR. A BRIEFING OF ACTIVITIES BY THE PRESIDENT AND THEN ACTIVITIES.

### SQUADRON GETS A M5A1 STUART TANK

Thanks to the work of Speedy and the help of the Company Wrench and Brill's Towing & Recovery, they delivered a WWII Stuart M5A1 light tank to our hanger on Saturday Feb. 2, 2002. With the donation of time and equipment by the Wrench Co. and Brill's Towing they went to Nashville, Tennessee to acquire the tank. Support these companies as they support H.A.S.

Brill's Towing & Recovery  
614-833-9735  
Company Wrench  
866-262-4181

6810 Stuarts were built between 1942 and 1945. It is a light tank with a 5.7 liter V-8 Cadillac gasoline powertrain. It has a 161 mile off road range. Top speed of 58 km. A 37mm gun is mounted in the turret. 360 degree traverse at 15 seconds. Carried 147 rounds. Overall height is 7.5 ft.

Looks like we've got our next restoration project as soon as the other projects are completed. Thanks Speedy. Stop by and see it.

If you'd like to sponsor a newsletter call Bob at 614-846-2876.

#### INSIDE.....

- Call for volunteers.....2
- Squadron contacts.....2
- Mac's story- FINAL CHAPTER...3
- Birthday bash.....2
- Upcoming events & history.....4



*The Stuart M5A1 on arrival day February 2, 2002.*

*The Stuart light tank was one of the type of tanks that landed at Normandy due to it's light weight and ability to go after Nazi machine gun nests. It was well suited for that.*

*Photo above B. DeLay  
Photo left W. Swisher  
HAS webmaster*

*Our website is donated and maintained by Crissy at a savings of \$600 startup and over \$200 annually to the squadron. Many thanks Crissy. Crissy is offering \$100 cash to the squadron for each referral who purchases a web page with her.*

## A-26 IS 57 YEARS OLD- Squadron celebrates on Sunday Feb. 24 at airshow meeting and featured a buffet dinner.



Members gather for the Wings of Victory Airshow meeting. Afterwards the troops chow down and top it off with a 57th birthday cake to celebrate the A-26 which is nearing the final restoration stages. We are lining up details and volunteers.

Members of the squadron gathered to celebrate the A-26. A birthday cake was shared for the occasion. Members were able to see the new Stuart tank and to participate in the Airshow meeting where details were unveiled.

Wings of Victory airshow is shaping up to be an exciting event. A vendor coordinator will assure an even and profitable mix of vendors. HAS will be sole vendor for the Ice Cream, water and Snow Cone sales.

An emphasis on WWII aircraft and military vehicles will include a mass flying demonstration of WWII aircraft. This should be a real media and crowd pleaser. Sign ups are called for to work at the show. Call the president.

### AIR SHOW MEETINGS BEGIN -

The last Sunday of each month at 1:00 p.m. It's a potluck so bring a dish. Wings of Victory airshow will be the second weekend of July. (13th and 14th) Call Steve to volunteer if you can't make it to the meetings.. It's time to get started. SEE YOU THERE.  
Hanger Dance in works for June or July  
**BT-13** will be next restoration project after A-26  
Less mechanical crew needed for **Huey helicopter**.  
This will be simple stuff. Disassembly, clean and put back together. **Things are happening...Let's Roll!!!**

### VOLUNTEER REQUESTS

Still need volunteers to prep planes for the airshows next spring. Crew for simple prep of the Huey helicopter for static display at the hangar. It's easy work. Come help.  
Call NOW !! Art Moose 740-454-7058 S2F Tracker  
Branson Rutherford 740-756-4136 A-26  
Also still looking for a few good men or women to help with the grounds keeping next spring. We still need more help to keep the hangar in ship shape.  
Call Steve Clapper 877-9872  
**Oscar Watson** reviewing fund raising for squadron.

### THE INVADER STAFF

Bob DeLay, Editor;  
and Graphic Design  
5764 Hartford St.  
Worthington, Ohio 43085  
614-846-2876  
CDeLay12@aol.com

To contact us send mail to:  
Invader, P.O. Box 156  
Carroll, OH 43112  
Hanger Phone-740-653-4778  
(answered only when someone is there) A-26 project leader-  
Branson Rutherford 740-756-4136

**E-mail us at:**  
hasnews@aol.com

**WEB SITE:**  
www.HistoricalAircraftSquadron.com  
MEETINGS-Open board meet 2nd Tues.  
at 7:00 pm  
Membership 4th Saturday at hangar.

### SQUADRON CONTACTS

#### Steve Clapper, President

1805 Stahl Road  
Orient, Oh 43146  
(614) 877-9872

#### Melinda Rutherford, Treasurer

6830 Winchester Rd.  
Carroll, OH 43112  
(740) 756-4136

#### Sue Boden, Secretary

1166 Green Meadow Ave.  
Lancaster, OH 43130  
(740) 653-9169

#### Diane McDaniel, Membership

7333 Havens Rd. Blacklick, OH 43032  
(614)-855-2120

Wayne Swisher-740-653-8593

Branson Rutherford-740-756-4136

Kathy Ridgeway 614-899-9690

Robert George-614-491-8916

Jim Belshe-614-833-9561



Haven't paid your dues yet? Now is the time to do so. It's time to "thin the herd" and stop sending newsletters out to those who are no longer paid up members. Full membership is \$50 and Assoc. membership is \$25.

If you'd like to continue to receive the newsletter and be a member of the Squadron, please send your check or money order made payable to "Historical Aircraft Squadron, Inc.:" to our post office box address. That address is: PO Box 156, Carroll, OH 43112

Thanks for your continued support.  
*NOTE: without paid dues the newsletter will not continue to you.*

## Willard "Mac" Magee and his story part 5 of a series The Final Chapter

as related to Bob DeLay

After departing the plane and looking back at the burning plane, Mac saw the real life version of his vision.

Waiting to the last possible moment to avoid enemy fire and sighting he pulled the cord and it deployed perfectly in low clouds. He hit in limber 25 foot tall bamboo trees which broke his fall.

He heard the plane impact about a 100 yards away and heard ammo cooking off. Then there were voices. Quickly he hid the shoot. Looking at his watch it was about 10 o'clock. He sat tight as the rain finally stopped and the voices also stopped. Casting good judgement aside he made his way down the hill. He found the B-24 with the nose gunner, pilot and co-pilot still in it but dead. An ugly sight. Limbs missing.

Mac felt the desperation of his plight. It was a situation that he struggled to deal with. He imagined Japs everywhere.

Then he heard voices coming across a stream from a trail. They spotted him and said, "American...MacArthur's Boys". However they spoke no other English. They were a rag-tag bunch and apparently guerilla fighters.

They led Mac to some grass huts where there was a lot of bowing and handshaking. Then they offered him a bowl of rice. Mac was allergic to rice. It made his ears itch uncontrollably and vomit fiercely. So hungry he couldn't refuse and then immediately began to vomit until the rice was gone and then dry-heaved

They were able to explain that they had rescued a bunch of the guys. The engineer that had went ahead of Mac was caught by the fighter planes and had his chute cut in half by a wing. The Bombardier was also followed by a fighter trying to shoot him. He got a speech impediment that lasted for a couple months because of this. We found out that they were actually German pilots who were there to train the Japanese pilots. One of the planes was shot down and the pilot was blonde and blue eyed.

The Pilipinos couldn't comprehend "allergy". They had very little food and insisted on serving me rice. Everytime they slipped a little rice to Mac he was sick all over again.

## SURVIVING THE JUNGLE

*Three weeks in the jungles tested Mac's survival skills. The worst part was the lack of good food.*



Back to Noemfoor USN photo

*Right- Mac stands along side of a North American B-45 at the Air Force Museum. One of the types that he later flew with SAC. Mac is a strong supporter of the U.S today, both politically and on an everyday basis. He well understands the value of our freedoms.*  
W. Magee photo



Throughout the whole ordeal, Mac kept remembering his survival skills and how his parents had helped build the instincts that kept him alive. The Filipinos contacted Hollandia and told them that we had survived. The airmen were then taken for a grueling 60 mile hike to the southern tip of the island where a sub was to pick them up. On the way down they picked up a rectangular piece of mirror and when they spotted two P-38's overhead they signaled. They passed close overhead.

Mac knew that when they went on missions there were usually a PB4Y nearby for pick-up of downed airmen. They would orbit with a couple of P-38's. Hopefully this was the case. The P-38's looked them over and soon a PB4Y approached and settled on the water about a mile out. Suddenly from nowhere a big Hawaiian type dugouts approached.

One of the guerillas claimed he was a representative of the island governor, had two 38 pistols. One had a bone handle and one a mother-of-pearl handle. He wanted to trade us for our 45's. They could get ammo for the 45's but not the 38's. Mac said, "I still had mine but didn't want to trade until I was sure I was out of there. As I departed the dugout, I traded it for the bone handled 38. The bombardier traded his watch for the mother-of-pearl. At last we were out of there."

On the way back they stopped at

Mindanao and picked up a fellow who had been on the Death March. From 1942 to 1945 he had escaped, captured, escaped, captured then escaped and was picked up by Mac's plane. They ate bananas on the way to Noemfoor.

Mac weighed only 98 lbs. when he got there. After that they went on to Australia and then to Washington for Interrogation.

Later Mac trained pilots, became part of the Strategic Air Command. Finally he was assigned to Lockbourne Air Force Base (now Rickenbacker). He eventually became a Lt. Colonel after 23 years of service.

By the end of his career he had received many awards to include: Air Medal with 2 Brass Oak Leaf Clusters, Asiatic Campaign Medal, Philippine Liberation Ribbon, American Campaign Medal, Distinguished Unit Citation, WWII Victory Medal, Army Occupation Medal, Air Force Reserve Medal, Korean Service Medal, United Nations Service Medal, Philippine Independence Ribbon, Distinguished Flying Cross and Air Force Longevity Service Award with 4 Brpmze Pal :eaf Clusters. He flew many planes including the B-45 and the B-47.

However with all this he still attributes his survival to the Boy Scouts and his parents.

## ATTENTION

### Schedule to date

**NOTE CHANGE** The Wings of Victory airshow will be held on August 17 and 18  
 Volunteers needed to work at the Squadron tables. Call Kathy Ridgeway 614-899-9690  
 All shows are 9 a.m. through 5 p.m. Saturdays and 9 a.m. through 4 p.m. Sundays  
 We had to cancel 2 shows due to lack of volunteers. Please sign up to help !!  
 Toledo Air Show Sept. 7-8 Toledo Airport featuring Blue Angels  
 WMAA radio control swap shop and show March 2 9 am to 3 pm Shriner's Temple



### This Month in History

March 31, 1931 Knute Rockene and his Notre Dame football team boarded a TWA Fokker F-10A trimotor at Kasas City after a train

ride from Chicago at 9:15 am.

Soon after the plane slammed into a hillside at Baazar, Kansas killing

8 people including Rockene. The Fokkers were grounded on May, 4 for investigation.

**BOB-ROYD LINCOLN-MERCURY**

1100 SOUTH HAMILTON RD.  
COLUMBUS, OHIO  
(614) 883-2899

Planes · Airplane Prints · Dye Cast Airplane Toys

Wholesale and Retail

**J & M NOVELTIES**

361 Rocky Fork Dr. N.  
Gahanna, OH 43250

LEWIS MAHR (614) 475-2509  
JOYCE MAHR FAX (614) 475-0262

J.M.NOVELTIES@WORLDNET.ATT.NET

**ABBOTT'S SUPER DUPER**  
Div. of Eastman Enterprises, Inc.

523 SOUTH JAMES ROAD  
COLUMBUS, OHIO  
Grocery: (614) 321-7270  
Meats and Deli: (614) 321-5144

Support our troops by flying the flag. Let the world know that we are united !!



C/O INVADER  
 HISTORICAL AIRCRAFT SQUADRON  
 P.O. BOX 156  
 CARROLL, OHIO 43112

*Address Correction Requested*



Dated Material Enclosed - Please deliver immediately

