

93rd BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION

Washington, D.C. Reunion

October 18th - 22nd

Webcast transcripts

6 hours, 50 minutes

0

00:01:01.640 --> 00:01:03.220

George, I arrived.

1

00:01:03.220 --> 00:01:07.930

George John is our Assistant Ball of Fire editor. And, uh,

2

00:01:08.480 --> 00:01:12.340

Chaplin, Pam Kawashima.

3

00:01:12.340 --> 00:01:16.320

Where's Pam, Pam helped us out this share with the fundraising committee.

4

00:01:18.290 --> 00:01:21.720

And most importantly, well,

5

00:01:21.720 --> 00:01:25.200

me had also Jean Kosnarek could not be here. She is our membership chair.

6

00:01:25.200 --> 00:01:29.600

You've maybe seen her name as well as Nancy Strangers, our assistant treasurer.

7

00:01:29.810 --> 00:01:33.920

She's, uh, couldn't make so make the reunion. But most importantly, let's, uh,

8

00:01:34.030 --> 00:01:37.200

introduce our veterans, bill Brown. Bill. Hi, bill,

9

00:01:38.470 --> 00:01:39.303

just arrived.

10

00:01:44.850 --> 00:01:47.960

Wayne Baker Wayne's right here at this table. Hi, Wayne.

11

00:01:52.540 --> 00:01:55.120

And you don't need to stand Glen, but wave your hand. Glen,

12

00:01:55.190 --> 00:01:56.440

Glen Martin from Houston.

13

00:02:02.250 --> 00:02:06.740

Well, we have a fabulous reunion plan. Uh, if you have not read yet registered,

14

00:02:06.740 --> 00:02:10.380

which I think most everybody has, please do, please do. So, uh, there's a,

15

00:02:10.380 --> 00:02:10.980

I wanna point out,

16

00:02:10.980 --> 00:02:14.460

there's a sticker in the front of your registration pack that has our emergency

17

00:02:14.460 --> 00:02:17.380

phone numbers. So the officers I just mentioned are listed there.

18

00:02:17.380 --> 00:02:19.500

If you have any problems, hiccups, issues, questions,

19

00:02:19.500 --> 00:02:23.860

please call one of us and will be glad to help. Uh, also, one of our important,

20

00:02:24.160 --> 00:02:27.460

uh, attendees is one of the widows of our, uh,

21

00:02:27.460 --> 00:02:31.380

one of our key veterans is Alberta. Alberta Wager. Raise your hand there,

22

00:02:31.740 --> 00:02:32.573
Del Judas

23

00:02:37.910 --> 00:02:38.710
Represented tonight here.

24

00:02:38.710 --> 00:02:43.420
We have folks from 23 states across the us Everyone

25

00:02:43.420 --> 00:02:45.020
traveling in. Thank you for coming in.

26

00:02:46.160 --> 00:02:50.300
We are also streaming live again for our, I think our fourth year in a row.

27

00:02:51.170 --> 00:02:54.710
So you'll see cameras here and there, and Michael's running everything up front.

28

00:02:55.250 --> 00:02:58.110
Uh, but on our website as a schedule and for your friends and family,

29

00:02:58.290 --> 00:02:59.820
be sure and let them them know to, uh,

30

00:02:59.820 --> 00:03:03.780
look on the website and watch the live streaming. Uh, so we're live right now,

31

00:03:03.820 --> 00:03:05.620
I assume, right? It's going good. We're live.

32

00:03:05.640 --> 00:03:10.550
Can you tell how many people are looking right now, or not really? Okay.

33

00:03:10.550 --> 00:03:13.790

Well, usually you can tell them. All right. Um,

34

00:03:14.490 --> 00:03:17.230

so because we're streaming, obviously, uh,

35

00:03:17.230 --> 00:03:22.030

millions around the globe are watching, maybe not quite millions yet,

36

00:03:22.890 --> 00:03:25.710

but we wanna say hello to everybody. So wave to the camera. Say hello,

37

00:03:25.710 --> 00:03:30.580

everybody that's watching us. Here's one of the cameras,

38

00:03:31.000 --> 00:03:33.780

one of the ones over there, one's here. We got all, all kinds of cameras.

39

00:03:37.500 --> 00:03:40.120

We do have a short welcome video, and then we'll serve dinner.

40

00:03:40.380 --> 00:03:43.240

So make sure your, uh, stickers are out on the table for the, uh,

41

00:03:43.440 --> 00:03:45.520

catering staff. Following dinner,

42

00:03:45.520 --> 00:03:49.200

we'll begin our program with our guest speaker, Ms. Christine Cone,

43

00:03:49.920 --> 00:03:53.320

followed by a brief introductions of our new first time attendees. So,

44

00:03:53.320 --> 00:03:57.620

get ready, new attendees. Uh, and then we will, uh,

45

00:03:57.620 --> 00:04:00.660

obviously after dinner, we'll be available to, uh, to, uh,

46

00:04:01.380 --> 00:04:05.110

socialize here in the memorabilia room. So, with that,

47

00:04:05.110 --> 00:04:06.590

let's take a look at our video.

48

00:04:21.340 --> 00:04:26.320

He was a famous job, man, Chicago way. He had a movie, no one else was made.

49

00:04:26.320 --> 00:04:27.153

He was,

50

00:04:28.100 --> 00:04:30.360

Hey guys. Uh, Michael Kletz here.

51

00:04:30.880 --> 00:04:35.360

I would like to welcome you all to the reunion for the 93rd Bomb Group.

52

00:04:43.420 --> 00:04:48.200

Was contacted by the group a little over a year ago to take part in

53

00:04:48.200 --> 00:04:50.640

their documentary Hardwick Air Drill 1 0 4.

54

00:04:50.870 --> 00:04:55.000

This is the story of the 93rd bomb Group. The most traveled, most colorful,

55

00:04:55.390 --> 00:04:58.720

most efficient, most highly decorated bomb group of World War II.

56

00:05:05.250 --> 00:05:08.120

Uncle really brought him down cause he not,

57

00:05:08.380 --> 00:05:12.600

the captain seemed to understand because the next day the captain went out and

58

00:05:12.600 --> 00:05:16.800

got the fan. And now when he, he's the boogie, boogie

59

00:05:20.280 --> 00:05:23.160

attitude, he does eight to the bar in Boogie Rhythm.

60

00:05:23.380 --> 00:05:26.240

He can't a space guitar playing with,

61

00:05:28.340 --> 00:05:31.200

and the company, Justin, he's the Boogie.

62

00:05:42.220 --> 00:05:46.400

For all of those that we interact with some for the first time,

63

00:05:47.530 --> 00:05:49.220

it's a joy to see

64

00:05:50.960 --> 00:05:55.620

the pleasure that everybody has when somehow or other we put this same together.

65

00:05:56.680 --> 00:05:57.660

God bless you all.

66

00:06:16.200 --> 00:06:17.033

He needs

67

00:06:34.320 --> 00:06:35.153

the,

68

00:06:55.050 --> 00:06:56.970

I have a connection with, uh,

69

00:06:56.970 --> 00:07:01.730

world War II and War in Film through the H B O Mini Series Band of Brothers,

70

00:07:01.740 --> 00:07:03.690

where I play Denver, bill Rman.

71

00:07:07.720 --> 00:07:08.950

These reunions are amazing.

72

00:07:09.250 --> 00:07:13.990

The connection between the families and the veterans

73

00:07:14.450 --> 00:07:19.270

and still staying connected and sharing those stories is vitally important to

74

00:07:19.270 --> 00:07:23.630

keeping the, the history, um, of what actually happened at these events,

75

00:07:23.960 --> 00:07:28.030

going and going strong, uh, through love and commitment to each other.

76

00:07:28.520 --> 00:07:31.470

These stories will not be lost. And through projects like these,

77

00:07:31.780 --> 00:07:35.830

your stories will be told and people for generations to come will know what

78

00:07:35.830 --> 00:07:39.670

really happened. So thank you for letting me be a part of this. Uh,

79

00:07:39.670 --> 00:07:42.270

I hope you have a wonderful reunion, uh, cherish,

80

00:07:42.420 --> 00:07:45.390
cherish this time that you have with each other, and, um,

81
00:07:45.840 --> 00:07:49.630
we'll hopefully see you soon. Hello, I'm Tom Boka, NBC News in New York,

82
00:07:49.650 --> 00:07:51.430
author of The Greatest Generation.

83
00:07:52.190 --> 00:07:57.010
And I wanna extend my most heartfelt greetings to all of you who are members of

84
00:07:57.010 --> 00:08:01.530
the 93rd Bombardment Group. So, I salute you at this reunion,

85
00:08:02.230 --> 00:08:07.010
and I offer the grateful thanks of a nation that wouldn't be what it

86
00:08:07.030 --> 00:08:10.700
is today without your contributions. Have a great time.

87
00:08:12.080 --> 00:08:14.140
Hi. I was just call,

88
00:08:15.300 --> 00:08:19.740
I had the honor and privilege to with General Jimmy

89
00:08:20.960 --> 00:08:24.180
on April 18th, 1942.

90
00:08:25.580 --> 00:08:30.220
Welcome to your 90 bomb Union.

91
00:08:31.720 --> 00:08:32.900
We all had to,

92

00:08:33.880 --> 00:08:37.250
and you did you the most,

93
00:08:40.910 --> 00:08:43.170
you honor.

94
00:08:45.300 --> 00:08:46.570
Thank you for honor.

95
00:09:20.120 --> 00:09:21.860
Okay, how about that?

96
00:09:27.680 --> 00:09:28.920
A quick story. Dick Cole,

97
00:09:28.920 --> 00:09:31.080
if you don't know the history was one of the Doolittle's Raiders.

98
00:09:31.080 --> 00:09:33.600
He was Jimmy Doolittle's copilot. You heard him say that.

99
00:09:34.230 --> 00:09:38.840
He's the last surviving member at 103, just turned 103 in September.

100
00:09:39.970 --> 00:09:42.010
I was able to speak with him on Tuesday evening,

101
00:09:42.390 --> 00:09:44.090
and he recorded this Welcome to the group.

102
00:09:44.440 --> 00:09:48.420
Very special and very honored to talk to him. And, uh, quite a, quite an honor.

103
00:09:48.480 --> 00:09:52.510
So anyway, uh, uh, really pleased to have that, that segment here for everyone.

104

00:09:53.920 --> 00:09:54.810
Okay, at this point,

105
00:09:54.890 --> 00:09:57.770
let me ask Tom El to come up and say the blessing before dinner.

106
00:10:04.750 --> 00:10:07.970
You know, I'm honored that you would ask me to bless the food,

107
00:10:08.910 --> 00:10:13.230
but I feel like the woman at the well that Jesus said,

108
00:10:14.320 --> 00:10:17.790
asked her to, to draw some water for him. You know, she said, well,

109
00:10:17.790 --> 00:10:22.360
if you knew who I was, you wouldn't ask me. Said, but I do know who you were.

110
00:10:23.480 --> 00:10:27.060
You're not married now, and you're living, you've been, uh,

111
00:10:27.060 --> 00:10:31.670
living with five men. I feel the same way. Um, you know,

112
00:10:31.690 --> 00:10:35.640
I'm so grateful for this country where I can

113
00:10:37.260 --> 00:10:41.490
practice my religion and worship God in the way that,

114
00:10:41.600 --> 00:10:46.000
that traditional way. And, you know, it, it, it, um,

115
00:10:46.270 --> 00:10:50.770
when you came within a cat's whisker of not being able to do this,

116
00:10:52.030 --> 00:10:56.800

um, uncle Adolph and the boys,

117

00:10:57.380 --> 00:10:58.213

uh,

118

00:10:59.590 --> 00:11:04.130

made a big dent in the history of this world. Were still,

119

00:11:04.550 --> 00:11:09.380

uh, I think seeing the after effects and the shock of it.

120

00:11:10.420 --> 00:11:13.400

Um, but if it wasn't for these veterans,

121

00:11:14.660 --> 00:11:15.960

the ones that are still alive,

122

00:11:16.430 --> 00:11:20.210

that stood in the breach and stood up for us,

123

00:11:20.870 --> 00:11:24.420

and we're reaping the benefits now, even now, and you know, it,

124

00:11:24.460 --> 00:11:29.350

it hurts me when I see some of our pro athletes take a knee,

125

00:11:30.250 --> 00:11:34.310

uh, during Anthem. But you know what? It's their right to do that.

126

00:11:35.300 --> 00:11:40.240

And I'll tell you why. Cause a bunch of people, veterans like y'all,

127

00:11:40.860 --> 00:11:42.910

and the ones that that did make it back,

128

00:11:43.500 --> 00:11:47.590

paid the price so that they could do that. So they have the right to do that.

129

00:11:48.490 --> 00:11:52.720

And, um, I'd like to thank the Lord for this country.

130

00:11:53.830 --> 00:11:54.810

In the name of Jesus,

131

00:11:55.190 --> 00:11:59.090

we humble ourselves before the throne we're made acceptable in your sight

132

00:11:59.090 --> 00:12:02.930

through the blood of the Lamb. Father, we're so grateful. And Jesus sayeth,

133

00:12:02.950 --> 00:12:05.850

I'm the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except by me.

134

00:12:06.790 --> 00:12:09.450

We give thanks for this great country. Father,

135

00:12:09.450 --> 00:12:13.810

please bless it continually to be a beacon to the rest of the world.

136

00:12:15.000 --> 00:12:17.350

Um, uh,

137

00:12:17.370 --> 00:12:20.280

an ocean of freedom that will stand up

138

00:12:21.920 --> 00:12:25.660

to the belligerence, that stand to, um,

139

00:12:25.950 --> 00:12:29.610

stand to the way of democracy. Uh, father,

140

00:12:29.610 --> 00:12:33.210

we pray for our President to bless him in the cabinet,

141

00:12:33.790 --> 00:12:37.130

the Supreme Court, all of our branches of our government, father,

142

00:12:37.150 --> 00:12:39.930

to make the right decisions for this country. Father, we,

143

00:12:39.990 --> 00:12:44.650

we pray for this president that you guide him to make the right decisions to

144

00:12:44.880 --> 00:12:48.770

walk worthily in your sight. And we give thanks for what we're about to receive,

145

00:12:49.830 --> 00:12:54.130

um, spiritual food as well as nourishment.

146

00:12:54.870 --> 00:12:58.330

And we praise your precious and holy name in the blood of Jesus. Amen.

147

00:13:03.170 --> 00:13:06.360

Thank you, Tom. Now we're serving dinner and joy.

148

00:13:09.300 --> 00:13:13.120

We have, let's see, Richard Feal also at the same table.

149

00:13:17.030 --> 00:13:19.940

Let's see, uh, Deb and John Grove.

150

00:13:22.520 --> 00:13:23.353

Thank you

151

00:13:25.730 --> 00:13:30.310

Amanda. Mandy. Amanda, she was on the bus morning.

152

00:13:31.410 --> 00:13:34.950

Hi, Berg. Thank you. Welcome. Uh,

153

00:13:34.950 --> 00:13:39.590

we have Dawn or Dawn in the back there. Dawn, uh, Ja. Jaho.

154

00:13:40.960 --> 00:13:44.070

Thank you. Dawn. I misspelled your name. Uh, let's see. We have,

155

00:13:45.440 --> 00:13:49.580

and Ryan, is Ryan over there? Little Ryan. Ryan,

156

00:13:49.580 --> 00:13:53.630

somewhere running around. All right. Ryan Marks

157

00:13:55.560 --> 00:13:59.290

younger brother. There's Faith. Uh,

158

00:13:59.290 --> 00:14:03.210

did I miss anybody that's new for the first time? Oh, wait,

159

00:14:03.210 --> 00:14:06.490

maybe I didn't get to that page yet. Oh, I didn't. Hey, look, there's my sister.

160

00:14:06.490 --> 00:14:07.330

Cannot. Payne,

161

00:14:12.590 --> 00:14:17.010

you're on page four. The, under the Ps. I didn't get that far.

162

00:14:17.830 --> 00:14:21.090

My daughter Emmaline is arriving tonight at 10 o'clock or so.

163

00:14:21.890 --> 00:14:26.740

Richard and Linda Smith right there in the back. Fern's family.

164

00:14:26.810 --> 00:14:27.940

Fernley son, Richard.

165

00:14:34.030 --> 00:14:37.440

Oh, and Robert, Erman Robert. There he is.

166

00:14:41.250 --> 00:14:44.630

Now. Have I missed anybody? Let's see who else. Joe Massio is Joe in the room.

167

00:14:44.740 --> 00:14:45.710

Here we go. Thank you.

168

00:14:49.790 --> 00:14:54.300

That's it. Finally. All right. Did I miss anybody else? Amanda?

169

00:14:54.670 --> 00:14:57.300

How'd I do that stand? Amanda? Hello?

170

00:14:59.330 --> 00:15:04.260

Part of, uh, Glen's granddaughter, right? Grand. Grand.

171

00:15:04.560 --> 00:15:08.510

Yep. Oh, wonder I missed that one. Sorry. Anybody else I missed?

172

00:15:08.510 --> 00:15:09.710

Apologize if I missed you.

173

00:15:18.290 --> 00:15:22.870

Who? Jan. Oh, Jan Dondi. Thank you.

174

00:15:26.490 --> 00:15:31.460

And your husband? Beta. Okay, there we go.

175

00:15:33.000 --> 00:15:37.010

Who? I'm, boy that's pretty horrible.

176

00:15:37.970 --> 00:15:42.070

Oh, okay. I apologize. That wasn't a very good list for me to do, I guess.

177

00:15:43.100 --> 00:15:46.000

Anyway, should have done the mic thing. I guess.

178

00:15:46.000 --> 00:15:48.840

Usually we take the time to run the mic around, tell us your life story,

179

00:15:48.840 --> 00:15:52.120

where you're born, where you live, you know, what your favorite hobbies are,

180

00:15:52.120 --> 00:15:56.580

your favorite color, your favorite song. But John didn't wanna do that. No.

181

00:15:57.640 --> 00:16:01.820

Um, I'll blame John. No, it does take a lot of time. But, uh,

182

00:16:01.820 --> 00:16:05.580

certainly as a family, here comes Ryan, walking in. Now, we, uh,

183

00:16:05.760 --> 00:16:07.700

you'll get to know each other over the next couple days,

184

00:16:07.760 --> 00:16:10.740

so please feel free to introduce and talk to each other as we, uh,

185

00:16:10.740 --> 00:16:15.350

journey through this reunion. Uh, one very special introduction as well, that I,

186

00:16:15.570 --> 00:16:20.030

uh, wanted to mention. One of our veterans Window widows,

187

00:16:20.290 --> 00:16:23.230

Ray x Widow June, is here with us this year,

188

00:16:23.380 --> 00:16:25.870
also at the Ex Family Table.

189

00:16:30.430 --> 00:16:33.330
You know, when I first learned of, of your husband I've Ray passing,

190

00:16:33.690 --> 00:16:34.480
I would just,

191

00:16:34.480 --> 00:16:37.730
it's probably the first time I cried the hardest and longest and a long time.

192

00:16:37.750 --> 00:16:38.730
It was just very special.

193

00:16:38.950 --> 00:16:43.170
And he meant a lot to all of us in the Bond Group Association. Uh,

194

00:16:43.170 --> 00:16:45.450
outstanding person, outstanding, uh, history,

195

00:16:45.550 --> 00:16:49.450
and just a key part of our reunions every year, along with everyone else,

196

00:16:49.510 --> 00:16:51.690
but very special. So, June, thanks for coming.

197

00:16:51.720 --> 00:16:56.270
Even though Ray's in here with us, he's here in spirit, certainly Uncle Ray,

198

00:16:56.410 --> 00:16:57.510
we call him. Yes.

199

00:16:59.300 --> 00:17:02.720
Ray was also one of our veteran board members advisors to the,

200

00:17:02.860 --> 00:17:06.030

to the Bond Group Association. Okay. With that,

201

00:17:08.670 --> 00:17:12.700

Hey, yes. Hi, Glenn Bud. Bud.

202

00:17:13.530 --> 00:17:14.363

Good question.

203

00:17:17.350 --> 00:17:21.090

He couldn't make it this year, Glenn Bud and Charla. Uh,

204

00:17:21.470 --> 00:17:25.810

my understanding is they've been so busy with their quilting business that they

205

00:17:25.810 --> 00:17:27.210

weren't able to make it up this year.

206

00:17:27.330 --> 00:17:29.530

I think they're doing okay as far as I know health wise,

207

00:17:29.630 --> 00:17:33.570

but just wasn't able to break away. They've had really a good fall with a quilt.

208

00:17:33.570 --> 00:17:36.770

So Bud Winnet was a, uh, veteran, uh,

209

00:17:37.170 --> 00:17:41.010

actually with the 93rd bomb wing. Uh, wasn't one of the original veterans,

210

00:17:41.070 --> 00:17:44.410

but a very special veteran, always attending the reunions the last 10 years. So,

211

00:17:45.070 --> 00:17:48.090

uh, maybe he's watching. I don't know. Hi, bud, if you're watching in Charla.

212

00:17:49.140 --> 00:17:50.280
So thanks for asking Glenn.

213

00:17:54.060 --> 00:17:54.893
All right.

214

00:18:00.060 --> 00:18:02.270
Well, we have a, we're fortunate to have a very, uh,

215

00:18:02.270 --> 00:18:04.820
special guest speaker tonight. Ms.

216

00:18:04.820 --> 00:18:08.940
Christine Cohen is a historian for the Mediterranean

217

00:18:09.160 --> 00:18:10.580
multidisciplinary team.

218

00:18:12.190 --> 00:18:15.930
European Mediterranean Directorate, defense,

219

00:18:16.330 --> 00:18:21.300
P O W M I a Accounting Agency Office of the Secretary

220

00:18:21.300 --> 00:18:23.990
of Defense here in Washington. Ms.

221

00:18:24.000 --> 00:18:28.310
Cohen conducts research into non-covered or missing

222

00:18:28.670 --> 00:18:32.670
inaction servicemen from the Second World War from World War ii.

223

00:18:33.130 --> 00:18:36.270
Her area of responsibility, uh,

224

00:18:36.550 --> 00:18:39.710

responsibilities are Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean Theater.

225

00:18:40.330 --> 00:18:44.090

Her current focus is on Romania. Uh,

226

00:18:44.100 --> 00:18:46.650

we'll welcome Christine to come up and, uh,

227

00:18:47.330 --> 00:18:49.680

share her information and knowledge about her work.

228

00:18:50.180 --> 00:18:52.560

And we're excited to have you here specifically, uh,

229

00:18:52.560 --> 00:18:56.520

talking about the 93rd bomb group of veterans and missing in action.

So,

230

00:18:56.520 --> 00:18:57.640

Christine, we welcome you

231

00:19:05.620 --> 00:19:10.450

The YouTube first, or the PowerPoint? The PowerPoint first.

232

00:19:12.500 --> 00:19:16.350

Okay. You wanna click it? Double click it.

233

00:19:16.350 --> 00:19:19.750

Should Michael can help you. Okay.

234

00:19:21.250 --> 00:19:24.520

Thank you everyone for having me here. Um,

235

00:19:28.410 --> 00:19:33.190

um, I am with the defense, P O w Mia Accounting Agency.

236

00:19:33.970 --> 00:19:37.590

Um, we are like, as, um, Jim said,

237

00:19:37.590 --> 00:19:41.590

part of the Office of Secretary of Defense under the Department of Defense.

238

00:19:42.640 --> 00:19:44.100

But before I start, first,

239

00:19:44.280 --> 00:19:49.100

I'd like to say to any active military and veterans that we have in the

240

00:19:49.100 --> 00:19:53.900

room that we haven't here this evening. Step back. Yeah. Yeah.

241

00:19:54.210 --> 00:19:55.420

Okay. Um,

242

00:19:58.360 --> 00:19:59.100

Closer.

243

00:19:59.100 --> 00:20:03.540

I need to get closer. Okay. Closer. Okay. So,

244

00:20:03.700 --> 00:20:04.700

I am with the defense,

245

00:20:04.820 --> 00:20:09.740

P O w Mia Accounting Agency within the Office of Secretary of

246

00:20:09.740 --> 00:20:14.020

Defense in the Department of Defense. And before I start, um,

247

00:20:14.360 --> 00:20:18.740

I'd like to say to any active military and all of the veterans here this evening

248

00:20:19.450 --> 00:20:24.180

from me personally and from my agency, thank you for your service

249

00:20:26.240 --> 00:20:29.780

and to any of the families of active member, uh,

250

00:20:30.020 --> 00:20:32.380

military and veterans here with this,

251

00:20:32.450 --> 00:20:35.780

this evening from myself and my agency.

252

00:20:36.310 --> 00:20:39.540

Thank you for your sacrifices on behalf of our country.

253

00:20:41.690 --> 00:20:46.510

Now, as, um, Jim said, the dpa a a or the defense,

254

00:20:46.750 --> 00:20:48.780

p o w Mia Accounting Agency,

255

00:20:48.960 --> 00:20:53.860

was born out of the P Oow MIA Movement following the

256

00:20:53.860 --> 00:20:58.180

Vietnam War. Um, it was first part of the defense, um,

257

00:20:58.180 --> 00:21:02.540

intelligence agency, and it evolved slowly over time. And as it evolved,

258

00:21:02.540 --> 00:21:05.140

it picked up other wars, including the Cold War,

259

00:21:06.000 --> 00:21:10.660

the war in North Korea and World War ii. And so, we,

260
00:21:10.760 --> 00:21:11.660
as an agency,

261
00:21:12.220 --> 00:21:16.540
represent all of the unrecovered or unaccounted for service personnel
from all

262
00:21:16.540 --> 00:21:21.140
of those conflicts. And before we get to, into a PowerPoint that I
have,

263
00:21:21.300 --> 00:21:24.980
I wanna show a short video that tells you a little bit more about what
the

264
00:21:25.040 --> 00:21:29.900
agency is and, and how we go about, um, the work that we do. Um,

265
00:21:30.300 --> 00:21:33.260
I lied though when I talked to John and I said it was three minutes,

266
00:21:33.260 --> 00:21:36.940
because I thought it was three minutes. It's actually eight, but it's,

267
00:21:36.940 --> 00:21:40.220
it's a pretty good video. And I'll shorten the slides afterwards.

268
00:21:40.480 --> 00:21:45.160
So let me see if I can figure out how to launch.

269
00:21:45.880 --> 00:21:50.590
The video is, we're gonna go with the link here. Let's do,

270
00:21:55.010 --> 00:21:56.720
That's it. Okay.

271
00:22:18.270 --> 00:22:20.730
We write no last chapters.

272

00:22:22.870 --> 00:22:27.090

We close no books we put away.

273

00:22:27.110 --> 00:22:28.410

No final memories

274

00:22:30.470 --> 00:22:35.090

and end to America's involvement in Vietnam cannot come before we have achieved

275

00:22:35.710 --> 00:22:39.850

the fullest possible accounting of those missing in action.

276

00:22:46.750 --> 00:22:50.190

Why keep searching? The answer's simple.

277

00:22:51.010 --> 00:22:54.370

You never leave a fallen American behind

278

00:22:56.080 --> 00:22:59.740

the mission of the defense. P O w Mia Accounting Agency,

279

00:23:00.160 --> 00:23:04.660

or D P A A is to provide the fullest possible accounting for our missing

280

00:23:04.660 --> 00:23:07.380

personnel to their families and their nation.

281

00:23:10.870 --> 00:23:13.320

Strategically located in Arlington, Virginia,

282

00:23:13.390 --> 00:23:16.920

with major facilities at Joint Base, Pearl Harbor, Hickam, Hawaii,

283

00:23:17.300 --> 00:23:19.160

and Offit Air Force Base, Nebraska,

284

00:23:19.340 --> 00:23:22.800

the more than 600 person newly established defense agency,

285

00:23:23.420 --> 00:23:28.080

is jointly manned by soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines,

286

00:23:28.460 --> 00:23:31.640

and Department of Defense civilians with specialized skills,

287

00:23:33.200 --> 00:23:37.010

researching, recovering, identifying,

288

00:23:37.010 --> 00:23:39.650

and ultimately returning an individual to their family.

289

00:23:39.750 --> 00:23:42.290

Begins with analysis and investigation.

290

00:23:43.670 --> 00:23:48.260

The D P A A experts begin the search by studying all known information

291

00:23:48.260 --> 00:23:50.500

regarding the circumstances of each loss.

292

00:23:51.830 --> 00:23:55.220

Historians and analysts gather information from us veterans,

293

00:23:55.770 --> 00:23:59.260

foreign witnesses, archival records, and other sources.

294

00:24:00.410 --> 00:24:04.220

They then create a case file for each unaccounted for American.

295

00:24:05.140 --> 00:24:09.350

This file may include historical records, official correspondence,

296

00:24:10.340 --> 00:24:14.110
maps, photographs, daily activity logs,

297
00:24:14.210 --> 00:24:16.830
and medical and personnel records of the missing person.

298
00:24:17.710 --> 00:24:21.580
These files are continually updated until an identification is made.

299
00:24:22.840 --> 00:24:25.700
Uh, well, the research is done here. Once we have enough research,

300
00:24:25.700 --> 00:24:28.900
we get approval from our leadership, uh, either to do a,

301
00:24:29.460 --> 00:24:32.020
a small two person team, uh, investigation,

302
00:24:32.270 --> 00:24:34.380
which we call a research investigation team,

303
00:24:34.380 --> 00:24:37.820
where they just basically get on either canvas villages or, uh,

304
00:24:38.250 --> 00:24:41.020
conduct interviews in, in, in, uh, in, uh,

305
00:24:41.020 --> 00:24:44.660
smaller towns or cities to just gather enough information that would warrant us

306
00:24:44.840 --> 00:24:46.020
to do field operations.

307
00:24:46.770 --> 00:24:49.260
Once all available information is analyzed,

308
00:24:49.740 --> 00:24:54.340

a decision can be made to disinter individuals buried as unknown or conduct

309

00:24:54.340 --> 00:24:58.860

field investigations. During a typical investigation, mission,

310

00:24:59.450 --> 00:25:00.500

personnel interview,

311

00:25:00.500 --> 00:25:05.420

potential witnesses conduct onsite reconnaissance and

312

00:25:05.420 --> 00:25:08.220

survey terrain for safety and logistical concerns.

313

00:25:09.460 --> 00:25:13.490

Teams also try to generate new leads that may result in future recovery.

314

00:25:14.310 --> 00:25:18.650

The main goal of the investigation is to obtain enough information

315

00:25:19.470 --> 00:25:24.010

to correlate or connect a particular site with one or more missing Americans.

316

00:25:24.990 --> 00:25:27.130

If enough onsite evidence is found,

317

00:25:27.790 --> 00:25:30.730

the site will be recommended for recovery and excavation.

318

00:25:31.970 --> 00:25:34.890

Recovery sites range in size from a few square meters,

319

00:25:35.120 --> 00:25:39.730

such as in individual burials to areas larger than football fields for

320

00:25:40.010 --> 00:25:40.843
aircraft crashes.

321
00:25:42.130 --> 00:25:47.090
D P A may hire as many as a hundred local workers to help with the excavation

322
00:25:47.090 --> 00:25:47.923
process.

323
00:25:48.270 --> 00:25:49.770
As we're doing excavation,

324
00:25:49.770 --> 00:25:54.410
we want to be able to control all of the aspects of that excavation.
Uh,

325
00:25:54.590 --> 00:25:54.810
one,

326
00:25:54.810 --> 00:25:58.890
one of the things with archeology and excavation is you only get one chance.

327
00:25:59.360 --> 00:26:00.530
It's a destructive process.

328
00:26:01.110 --> 00:26:03.690
And so we need to make sure that we do it the right way,

329
00:26:03.900 --> 00:26:07.010
especially for cases like this, where it's forensic archeology.

330
00:26:07.390 --> 00:26:11.370
And these remains need to be, uh, properly handled for families. For me,

331
00:26:12.320 --> 00:26:15.370
this job as, as my primary occupation,

332

00:26:15.750 --> 00:26:20.490

is very important because I'm able to bring home these service members to

333

00:26:20.690 --> 00:26:23.810

families that have been waiting for 70 years. And,

334

00:26:23.870 --> 00:26:27.370

and that's really an amazing feeling to be able to, um,

335

00:26:27.600 --> 00:26:30.930

give something to a family that they never thought that they would even be able

336

00:26:30.950 --> 00:26:31.783

to have.

337

00:26:33.210 --> 00:26:36.490

Investigative and recovery missions in search of missing Americans.

338

00:26:36.520 --> 00:26:40.290

Take D P A A personnel to distant, remote,

339

00:26:40.950 --> 00:26:43.580

and often dangerous locations all over the globe.

340

00:26:44.610 --> 00:26:46.420

Rice patties in Southeast Asia,

341

00:26:47.490 --> 00:26:49.820

urbanized areas on the Korean Peninsula,

342

00:26:51.010 --> 00:26:55.980

16,000 foot mountaintops in the Himalayas and underwater

343

00:26:55.990 --> 00:26:58.300

sites off the coast of Papua New Guinea.

344

00:26:59.360 --> 00:27:03.140

And we still continue to search the battlefields of World War II throughout

345

00:27:03.140 --> 00:27:03.973

Europe.

346

00:27:04.880 --> 00:27:07.100

You know, if I could, I'd stay out here, uh,

347

00:27:07.100 --> 00:27:09.900

indefinitely until I could find them. And unfortunately, that's not,

348

00:27:10.000 --> 00:27:13.860

that's not possible. I just can't do that. But, uh, you know, if, if,

349

00:27:13.860 --> 00:27:16.540

if the opportunity arose where I was able to volunteer to come back out here and

350

00:27:16.540 --> 00:27:19.060

wouldn't, and, um, there's,

351

00:27:19.060 --> 00:27:21.580

there's a hundred different stories of where these guys might be. But, uh,

352

00:27:21.640 --> 00:27:24.180

the reality is, is that we'll continue to come out here and, uh,

353

00:27:24.280 --> 00:27:25.780

and scour the earth for the remains

354

00:27:26.910 --> 00:27:28.380

After a successful recovery.

355

00:27:28.880 --> 00:27:32.700

All evidence is then transported to the D P A A laboratories.

356

00:27:33.450 --> 00:27:34.860

Once they've arrived in the lab,

357

00:27:35.560 --> 00:27:39.200

the painstaking process of identification begins.

358

00:27:39.750 --> 00:27:44.320

This is the final step of the mission leading to the return of an individual

359

00:27:45.340 --> 00:27:46.320

in many of the cases.

360

00:27:46.500 --> 00:27:50.960

An important step in the identification process is DNA analysis,

361

00:27:51.290 --> 00:27:55.960

which is accomplished by cutting a bone sample that is sent to the Armed Forces'

362

00:27:56.100 --> 00:27:59.200

DNA identification laboratory for sequencing.

363

00:27:59.820 --> 00:28:04.800

One of the challenges D P A A faces today is the lack of reference samples

364

00:28:04.870 --> 00:28:07.280

from family members of those still unaccounted.

365

00:28:07.300 --> 00:28:12.120

For any person who is a relative of an unaccounted for American is

366

00:28:12.360 --> 00:28:17.120

encouraged to contact their service casualty office to ensure there is a D n a

367

00:28:17.400 --> 00:28:22.120

reference sample on file for that service member D P A

368

00:28:22.490 --> 00:28:26.640

makes an identification when all available evidence remains,

369

00:28:27.550 --> 00:28:30.640

artifacts and historical documents point to the same person.

370

00:28:31.380 --> 00:28:36.090

The ID process can take anywhere from a few months to several years to

371

00:28:36.290 --> 00:28:37.070

complete.

372

00:28:37.070 --> 00:28:41.010

Any unresolved cases are kept open with the hope that new evidence will be

373

00:28:41.020 --> 00:28:41.853

found,

374

00:28:42.030 --> 00:28:46.530

or new technologies will be developed to make a future identification possible.

375

00:28:48.250 --> 00:28:50.100

Once an American has been identified,

376

00:28:50.670 --> 00:28:55.140

there remains a return to their family through their respective service casualty

377

00:28:55.140 --> 00:28:55.973

office.

378

00:28:56.520 --> 00:29:01.490

They returned home with full military honors and given the respect

they earned

379

00:29:01.490 --> 00:29:04.050

through their service and sacrifice for their country,

380

00:29:06.560 --> 00:29:10.740

Oh, as a family member, this agency, to me, is doing

381

00:29:12.670 --> 00:29:16.670

phenomenal work. And in a very personal way,

382

00:29:17.820 --> 00:29:22.750

because when somebody loses somebody like

383

00:29:22.810 --> 00:29:25.990

my father, and you really don't know

384

00:29:27.540 --> 00:29:30.110

what the story is for 70 years,

385

00:29:30.930 --> 00:29:35.870

and then you find an agency that knows about him and keeps his,

386

00:29:36.570 --> 00:29:40.870

his memory alive, keeps the mission alive to try to find him,

387

00:29:43.240 --> 00:29:45.370

it's very meaningful in a very personal way,

388

00:29:46.520 --> 00:29:51.050

because it means you're not just doing this yourself alone.

389

00:29:51.910 --> 00:29:56.890

You have a whole body of people who are concerned about finding your dad

390

00:29:57.830 --> 00:29:59.170

and bringing him home.

391

00:30:01.640 --> 00:30:05.740

The men and women of the defense, P O w Mia Accounting Agency,

392

00:30:06.560 --> 00:30:10.220

are united in their effort to recover and return as many of our missing

393

00:30:10.250 --> 00:30:13.660

personnel as possible. One more patriot return,

394

00:30:14.400 --> 00:30:18.620

one more family that now has answers one more step

395

00:30:19.520 --> 00:30:21.180

in fulfilling our nation's promise.

396

00:30:32.590 --> 00:30:34.090

So thank you for bearing with that.

397

00:30:34.210 --> 00:30:36.650

I know it was a little bit longer than I thought, but, um,

398

00:30:37.560 --> 00:30:40.560

I wanted y'all to see a little bit better than I could explain how,

399

00:30:40.560 --> 00:30:45.400

what we do and how we do it. Um, and because I just

400

00:30:45.750 --> 00:30:46.583

Need help.

401

00:30:50.920 --> 00:30:51.960

I am not a Mac person.

402

00:30:52.420 --> 00:30:56.920

I'm, you wanna flip?

403

00:31:06.260 --> 00:31:06.940

Um,

404

00:31:06.940 --> 00:31:10.000

so I had just decided the last minute I'd asked permission to show that video

405

00:31:10.230 --> 00:31:15.200

just this, this morning. So, um, I have a set of slides that I wanna show you,

406

00:31:15.340 --> 00:31:17.160

but some of it is duplicative of that.

407

00:31:17.220 --> 00:31:21.560

And I wanted to try and focus the talk as much as I can for World War II and try

408

00:31:21.560 --> 00:31:24.400

to put it some of it onto the 93rd bomb group. So I'm gonna,

409

00:31:24.400 --> 00:31:25.400

if you'll just bear with me,

410

00:31:25.530 --> 00:31:29.280

we'll maybe move a little quickly through some of the slides, um,

411

00:31:29.280 --> 00:31:33.320

and then we'll focus on some of the ones that are more pertinent to what, um,

412

00:31:33.460 --> 00:31:34.640

you all are interested in.

413

00:31:34.740 --> 00:31:37.280

And then if there's any questions or you wanna go back,

414

00:31:37.280 --> 00:31:38.440

and then I'm happy to do that.

415

00:31:39.000 --> 00:31:43.960

I also wanna apologize because I have been traveling 41 in the last 50

416

00:31:43.960 --> 00:31:47.080

days, most of it for work, but some of it for personal.

417

00:31:47.180 --> 00:31:51.600

And I just landed yesterday from Europe. So if I fall asleep over here,

418

00:31:51.710 --> 00:31:55.960

then just shout at me or have Michael nudge me. Um,

419

00:31:57.060 --> 00:32:01.800

so, so let's begin. Um, that this is the defense pa,

420

00:32:02.400 --> 00:32:03.140

don't

421

00:32:03.140 --> 00:32:06.880

The resources, the money, whatever it takes. Cause these are our drugs.

422

00:32:06.950 --> 00:32:08.120

This is the sacred promise.

423

00:32:09.170 --> 00:32:10.750

I'm obviously not a clicker person either.

424

00:32:12.130 --> 00:32:13.390

What's up man? Roger, how you doing?

425

00:32:14.460 --> 00:32:15.750

I'll just kind of just use return,

426

00:32:16.330 --> 00:32:17.550

But I'm gonna ask you to take care

427

00:32:17.550 --> 00:32:19.270

Of one return. Yep.

428

00:32:19.620 --> 00:32:21.590

Okay. So just really quick,

429

00:32:21.670 --> 00:32:25.470

what I wanted to impress on everybody is what our mission is. And,

430

00:32:25.530 --> 00:32:28.270

and that is the fullest possible accounting.

431

00:32:28.890 --> 00:32:30.630

And so there's a lot of different,

432

00:32:30.630 --> 00:32:32.950

different definitions for fullest possible counting,

433

00:32:33.490 --> 00:32:35.750

but what we look at is that we do as much as we can.

434

00:32:36.250 --> 00:32:39.340

We look for as everything that we can do. Um,

435

00:32:39.400 --> 00:32:42.500

we have cases that are constantly being active.

436

00:32:42.600 --> 00:32:46.500

And if we can't resolve them now, we, we know that in the future,

437

00:32:46.720 --> 00:32:50.660

new things will turn up new scientific advantages. Um, um,

438

00:32:51.400 --> 00:32:53.780

new scientific methods will turn up for dna.

439

00:32:54.160 --> 00:32:58.420

So fullest possible counting is evolving and changing as we, as we

440

00:32:59.920 --> 00:33:03.130

be involved evolve. Um, real quick,

441

00:33:03.130 --> 00:33:06.770

for any of you that were aware of who we were before in 2015,

442

00:33:07.030 --> 00:33:11.410

we were merged from several smaller offices or

443

00:33:11.410 --> 00:33:16.370

organizations into a defense agency. These are just some of the, um,

444

00:33:16.550 --> 00:33:20.890

pieces that came together to make D P A A, um, jpac,

445

00:33:20.890 --> 00:33:24.650

which was the part of the lab that is still based in Honolulu and Hawaii.

446

00:33:25.390 --> 00:33:29.920

My office was originally D pmo, the defense, um, prisoner of war,

447

00:33:29.920 --> 00:33:34.440

missing Personnel action, um, office. So, and then Elsa,

448

00:33:34.440 --> 00:33:38.680

which is a life sciences and equipment laboratory. So that's just,

449

00:33:38.740 --> 00:33:42.480

if you'd heard some of these other acronyms before JPAC or D P O,

450

00:33:42.810 --> 00:33:46.360

we've all combined now to become an agency of D P A A.

451

00:33:48.100 --> 00:33:48.933

Um,

452

00:33:49.410 --> 00:33:54.190

and this just gives you an overview of who is unaccounted for from

453

00:33:54.190 --> 00:33:55.230

World War II forward.

454

00:33:55.970 --> 00:34:00.310

So we have almost 83,000 men and women still missing

455

00:34:01.100 --> 00:34:02.470

from all of the conflicts.

456

00:34:03.130 --> 00:34:07.420

72,857 are unaccounted for from World War ii,

457

00:34:09.000 --> 00:34:09.833

um,

458

00:34:10.150 --> 00:34:14.780

7,684 from the conflict in

459

00:34:14.780 --> 00:34:15.613

North Korea,

460

00:34:16.680 --> 00:34:21.340

1,594 from all of Southeast Asia. That's Laos,

461

00:34:21.580 --> 00:34:22.780

Cambodia, and Vietnam.

462

00:34:23.400 --> 00:34:28.260

We have 126 still missing from the Cold War and six current

463

00:34:28.620 --> 00:34:33.420

conflicts. Um, so that is who my agency is responsible for.

464

00:34:34.440 --> 00:34:35.740

But as you said, as you heard,

465

00:34:35.920 --> 00:34:40.300

I'm working in World War ii and I focus in the Europe,

466

00:34:40.330 --> 00:34:43.980

Mediterranean, um, area. And this,

467

00:34:46.310 --> 00:34:49.250

figure out the clicker, this is a little bit about the, how,

468

00:34:49.350 --> 00:34:52.650

how many people work for dpa. This is just about what we saw in the video.

469

00:34:52.760 --> 00:34:57.610

Approximately 600 people work for us. And it goes through, um,

470

00:34:57.750 --> 00:35:01.770

all the different kinds of specialties that that work for D P A A.

471

00:35:02.840 --> 00:35:06.170

This is a little bit about how we conduct case, um,

472

00:35:06.810 --> 00:35:08.610

investigations and resolve the losses.

473

00:35:09.900 --> 00:35:12.730

We'll go into a little bit more detail about this later. Um,

474

00:35:12.730 --> 00:35:15.090

I don't wanna get too far in the weeds. Um,

475

00:35:15.800 --> 00:35:20.210

this gives you an idea of where we conducted admissions for World War II only in

476

00:35:20.210 --> 00:35:21.890

2018. As

477

00:35:21.890 --> 00:35:23.450

You know, we're, we're a small team,

478

00:35:24.590 --> 00:35:28.890

But now I wanted to focus a little bit more on World War ii. So,

479

00:35:29.750 --> 00:35:33.770

um, I wanna take a step back, um, and tell you,

480

00:35:34.150 --> 00:35:38.140

go backwards a little bit in time and tell you what did happen in the post-war

481

00:35:38.140 --> 00:35:42.900

period. How do we get to 72,857 men from World War II still missing?

482

00:35:44.080 --> 00:35:47.420

Um, in the immediate post-war period from, um,

483

00:35:47.780 --> 00:35:52.220

1942 to 1945, we had American, we had gray registration units,

484

00:35:52.220 --> 00:35:56.220

which were organic to the units, um, on the ground.

485

00:35:56.520 --> 00:36:00.900

And they would, um, recover, for instance, in on land combat.

486

00:36:01.210 --> 00:36:04.900

They would, as soon as the forces move forward, the, um,

487

00:36:05.760 --> 00:36:06.740

the line move forward,

488

00:36:06.740 --> 00:36:09.900

these grave registration units would come in and recover what remains that they

489

00:36:09.900 --> 00:36:14.060

could. So that was happening concurrently with the battle.

490

00:36:14.520 --> 00:36:15.820

As the front lines were moving.

491

00:36:16.590 --> 00:36:19.940

After the end of the war from 1946 to 1951,

492

00:36:20.000 --> 00:36:24.660

we had something called the American Grays Registration Service and the American

493

00:36:24.660 --> 00:36:29.100

Grays Registration Command, the service worked primarily in the Pacific Theater,

494

00:36:29.240 --> 00:36:31.940

and the command worked primarily in the European Theater,

495

00:36:32.560 --> 00:36:34.740

but they were combined, um,

496

00:36:34.740 --> 00:36:39.340

later on into just the American Graves Registration Service or the A G R

497

00:36:39.700 --> 00:36:40.533

S.

498

00:36:40.560 --> 00:36:45.260

And the A G R S conducted literally a worldwide campaign to

499

00:36:45.260 --> 00:36:47.060

recover as many remains as they can.

500

00:36:47.200 --> 00:36:51.620

And they recovered nearly 80% of the casualties

501

00:36:52.050 --> 00:36:56.420

from World War ii. Uh, over 280,000, um,

502

00:36:57.060 --> 00:37:01.980

soldiers, sailors, airmen, uh, coast Guard were recovered.

503

00:37:03.450 --> 00:37:08.310

Um, they also recovered remains that they believed to be American,

504

00:37:08.810 --> 00:37:13.550

but could not be identified. And those are what we call unknowns.

505

00:37:13.970 --> 00:37:16.510

And I'll speak in a little bit more detail about them later.

506

00:37:17.210 --> 00:37:21.750

But they are also interred in American military cemeteries worldwide,

507

00:37:21.810 --> 00:37:23.710

the unknowns. And there were 8,000,

508

00:37:23.750 --> 00:37:27.350

a little bit more than 8,000 unknowns that they recovered. Um,

509

00:37:27.650 --> 00:37:31.310

out of that 280,000, um,

510

00:37:33.050 --> 00:37:37.590

in today's dollars, this is about 1.3 billion is what the,

511

00:37:37.590 --> 00:37:41.830

the expense was. The cost was of the effort for this. And it was, like I said,

512

00:37:41.830 --> 00:37:46.470

literally worldwide with hundreds of civilian and military, um,

513

00:37:47.470 --> 00:37:51.710

actively searching for World War ii qias Andia.

514

00:37:53.370 --> 00:37:56.470

Um, this just talks a little bit about the records that we use.

515

00:37:56.610 --> 00:37:58.310

And some of you have, um,

516

00:37:58.370 --> 00:38:01.710

if you had been ve if you are veterans or you have veterans in your family,

517

00:38:01.710 --> 00:38:05.750

you've heard of the official military personnel file or the O P pfs.

518

00:38:06.260 --> 00:38:09.670

When someone is deceased or missing during wartime, they, uh,

519

00:38:09.790 --> 00:38:14.230

a separate file is created for them called the Individual Deceased, um,

520

00:38:14.230 --> 00:38:18.750

personnel file, or the IDP f. And this is a cornerstone to the work that we do.

521

00:38:19.370 --> 00:38:20.590

Um, again, this is,

522

00:38:20.860 --> 00:38:24.470

it's a little bit more detail than what I wanna talk to you about,

523

00:38:24.470 --> 00:38:27.550

but I just wanna tell you about some of the records that we have available to

524

00:38:27.550 --> 00:38:32.270

us. So we use mission records, we use military records,

525

00:38:32.530 --> 00:38:35.660

we use unit records, and we use personnel files.

526

00:38:36.920 --> 00:38:39.220

Any of you that have been, um,

527

00:38:39.760 --> 00:38:43.060

in the military or have looked for your veterans, um,

528

00:38:43.350 --> 00:38:47.980

files and been frustrated, there was indeed a fire in 1973.

529

00:38:48.600 --> 00:38:51.980

Um, a large portion of the Army.

530

00:38:52.120 --> 00:38:54.420

And unfortunately for the 93rd Bomb Group,

531

00:38:54.930 --> 00:38:57.820

army Air Forces fell under the Army at that time.

532

00:38:57.960 --> 00:39:02.580

So a large part of the Army Air Force's records were destroyed, um, in the fire.

533

00:39:02.720 --> 00:39:06.500

So these these individual deceased personnel files that I mentioned on this slide

534

00:39:06.500 --> 00:39:09.940

earlier are some, sometimes the only file,

535

00:39:10.300 --> 00:39:14.860

actually often the only file that remains of that particular FA service nursing.

536

00:39:15.200 --> 00:39:19.180

So it's a really important piece of archival document that we use.

537

00:39:21.600 --> 00:39:26.260

Um, so as Jim said, I am part of the Europe Mediterranean Directorate,

538

00:39:26.630 --> 00:39:31.620

which for, because of the way the, um, agency was separated,

539

00:39:31.800 --> 00:39:34.740

it really is largely only World War II focused.

540

00:39:35.320 --> 00:39:40.300

The Asia Pacific or Indo-Pacific Directorate also has the Northeast Asia,

541

00:39:40.720 --> 00:39:45.300

the Korea War, the Southeast Asia Wars. But our focus is largely World War ii.

542

00:39:45.880 --> 00:39:50.500

And this just tells you a little bit about how we're separated. Um,

543

00:39:50.780 --> 00:39:54.860

I work in Mediterranean, Italy, um, north Africa,

544

00:39:55.010 --> 00:39:58.220

Eastern Europe. We have other historians,

545

00:39:58.220 --> 00:40:01.420

analysts that work in Western Europe and in Central Europe.

546

00:40:03.040 --> 00:40:06.980

Um, and this is just some of the activities that we have done in, um,

547

00:40:07.520 --> 00:40:10.780

in the last year. Some of the places that we have focused,

548

00:40:11.920 --> 00:40:16.700

and as you can see down in your right hand corner of the ESH

549

00:40:16.920 --> 00:40:21.740

oil fields, um, was a focus in f y 18. And,

550

00:40:21.800 --> 00:40:25.860

um, I actually was in Romania in November,

551

00:40:26.080 --> 00:40:30.700

and again for the entire month of September, looking for missing personnel,

552

00:40:31.050 --> 00:40:35.140

both from operation Tidal wave and from five separate losses in

553

00:40:35.340 --> 00:40:38.100

1944. So I will, um,

554

00:40:38.300 --> 00:40:42.780

I will tell you a little bit more about that as we move on. But the psh, um,

555

00:40:43.520 --> 00:40:48.300

and Romania losses were one of the key focuses for NI for

556

00:40:48.500 --> 00:40:51.180

19 2000 FY 2018.

557

00:40:54.160 --> 00:40:54.500

Um,

558

00:40:54.500 --> 00:40:57.660

I just wanna tell you a little bit about some of the successes that we've had in

559

00:40:57.660 --> 00:41:01.500

recent years. This is second Lieutenant John Mumford Mumford,

560

00:41:01.560 --> 00:41:04.100

who was a P 51 pilot, um,

561

00:41:04.170 --> 00:41:08.340

lost in June of 1944. And we,

562

00:41:08.680 --> 00:41:11.540

you can see some scenes from his actual recovery.

563

00:41:11.880 --> 00:41:15.020

We recently recovered his remains from the Ukraine.

564

00:41:17.130 --> 00:41:19.990

And we also have, secondly, Lieutenant Robert McIntosh,

565

00:41:20.650 --> 00:41:24.550

who was recovered recently from Italy, also a World War II loss.

566

00:41:26.170 --> 00:41:28.310

So this is just some of the work that we've been doing. This,

567

00:41:28.690 --> 00:41:30.270

you also saw a lot of this in the video,

568

00:41:30.450 --> 00:41:33.030

but some of that was more Pacific related.

569

00:41:33.240 --> 00:41:36.180

And I wanted to give you some examples of what we've been doing in Europe and

570

00:41:36.180 --> 00:41:40.060

the successes we have. But like I said, I wanna try and, and, um,

571

00:41:40.360 --> 00:41:42.940

put this a little bit more in what your interests are.

572

00:41:43.040 --> 00:41:45.860

And I know that the 90th three and Bob Group, um,

573

00:41:46.080 --> 00:41:49.100

was very active in the Operation Tidal wave,

574

00:41:49.240 --> 00:41:53.860

the large WA raid over the ESH oil fields in 1943,

575

00:41:54.280 --> 00:41:57.900

August 1st, 1943. And that was a focus.

576

00:41:58.800 --> 00:41:59.900

And so if you can see here,

577

00:41:59.900 --> 00:42:02.500

these are some famous pictures that I'm sure all of you have seen.

578

00:42:04.280 --> 00:42:08.580

Is that bothering you? That noise? Is it? Cuz it's bothering me. Back up some.

579

00:42:08.650 --> 00:42:11.460

Okay. Okay. Um,

580

00:42:13.590 --> 00:42:18.260

there are still 83 men missing

581

00:42:18.400 --> 00:42:21.340

in Romania, 78 of them,

582

00:42:21.440 --> 00:42:23.820

or unaccounted for from Ross's in Romania.

583

00:42:24.170 --> 00:42:27.820
78 of them are from Operation Tidal Wave on

584
00:42:27.820 --> 00:42:32.220
August 1st, 1940 3, 21 of those

585
00:42:32.220 --> 00:42:37.100
78 missing from Operation Tidal Wave are 93rd long group

586
00:42:37.100 --> 00:42:41.260
members. So that's one of the reasons why I wanted to focus on this.

587
00:42:41.960 --> 00:42:45.460
Um, the good news is we are having success.

588
00:42:46.760 --> 00:42:47.460
So second,

589
00:42:47.460 --> 00:42:52.180
Lieutenant William Hearth was recently identified in November of

590
00:42:52.180 --> 00:42:53.220
2017.

591
00:42:54.360 --> 00:42:58.340
He was killed during Operation Tidal Wave in August 1st, 1943.

592
00:42:59.320 --> 00:43:01.620
His remains were recovered,

593
00:43:02.400 --> 00:43:05.220
but buried as one of those unknowns that I mentioned earlier.

594
00:43:05.680 --> 00:43:09.100
And I'm gonna go into a little bit more detail in a minute about,

595
00:43:09.750 --> 00:43:12.380
about how we do that. But, um, second,

596

00:43:12.380 --> 00:43:15.500

Lieutenant William Hearth was returned to his family.

597

00:43:16.000 --> 00:43:18.900

He was given a full military funeral, um,

598

00:43:19.560 --> 00:43:22.220

at the cemetery of his family's choice,

599

00:43:22.220 --> 00:43:25.860

which happened to be in his hometown on April, 2018.

600

00:43:27.520 --> 00:43:31.710

We also recently identified, oh, okay.

601

00:43:34.410 --> 00:43:35.510

I'm not sure how that happened.

602

00:43:35.970 --> 00:43:37.510

Oh, whoa. Yeah. Papers.

603

00:43:42.710 --> 00:43:45.450

I'm a historian. I'm a historian, not a tech person.

604

00:43:48.710 --> 00:43:51.170

Um, staff sergeant, um, Vincent Palli,

605

00:43:51.830 --> 00:43:56.530

who Staff Sergeant Palli was with the 98th Bomb Group. Um, not the 93rd,

606

00:43:56.950 --> 00:43:59.090

but he was also identified from the unknowns.

607

00:43:59.110 --> 00:44:01.970

He was killed on August 1st, 1943 also.

608

00:44:05.490 --> 00:44:09.190

So what the focus of this talk was supposed to be and why I rushed through all

609

00:44:09.190 --> 00:44:13.350

of that was that I wanted to tell you a little bit more about what D P A A is

610

00:44:13.350 --> 00:44:15.910

doing with disinterment. Um,

611

00:44:17.130 --> 00:44:21.930

disinterment are primarily related to those

612

00:44:22.130 --> 00:44:23.730

unknowns that I mentioned earlier.

613

00:44:23.950 --> 00:44:28.690

So we had almost 8,000 unknowns that were recovered in the immediate

614

00:44:28.770 --> 00:44:33.100

post-war period that were buried in American military

615

00:44:33.540 --> 00:44:38.460

cemeteries in individual graves with headstones that said unknown,

616

00:44:39.080 --> 00:44:41.540

an unknown American soldier. Um,

617

00:44:41.840 --> 00:44:46.500

but we didn't know who they were from that particular, uh,

618

00:44:47.440 --> 00:44:48.380

set of remains.

619

00:44:49.120 --> 00:44:54.100

We have recently been given permission to move forward actively to try and

620

00:44:54.100 --> 00:44:55.980

disinter and identify who they are.

621

00:44:56.320 --> 00:44:57.900

So I wanna tell you a little bit about how the,

622

00:44:57.920 --> 00:45:01.820

how we go about that and what the challenges are and what the successes are.

623

00:45:03.470 --> 00:45:07.790

Um, some of the terms that we'll be talking about here are unknowns,

624

00:45:08.200 --> 00:45:11.310

which as I said earlier, are remains believed to be American.

625

00:45:11.650 --> 00:45:14.150

But the whom we couldn't identify for various reasons,

626

00:45:14.580 --> 00:45:18.390

they might have not had any identification on them. They may not have had any,

627

00:45:18.730 --> 00:45:20.590

um, American uniforms on them,

628

00:45:20.810 --> 00:45:23.870

or they may have had p o w clothes on clothing on them.

629

00:45:24.770 --> 00:45:27.350

So we believe for some reason they would be an American,

630

00:45:27.350 --> 00:45:30.150

but we couldn't be positive for an identification.

631

00:45:31.130 --> 00:45:35.870

An X file is a name of a file for

632

00:45:35.870 --> 00:45:39.870

that particular unknown. So, for instance, um,

633

00:45:39.890 --> 00:45:43.750

second Lieutenant Harth was recently identified,

634

00:45:44.770 --> 00:45:48.830

but he was originally buried as unknown ex

635

00:45:49.360 --> 00:45:51.990

51 92 Newville.

636

00:45:52.490 --> 00:45:57.150

So he was in a particular American cemetery in Belgium called, uh,

637

00:45:57.150 --> 00:46:00.110

called Newville. Now it's called the Dens. Um,

638

00:46:00.210 --> 00:46:05.030

and he was given an a file number in Luva name since we didn't know who he was

639

00:46:05.210 --> 00:46:06.043

at the time.

640

00:46:07.310 --> 00:46:10.230

I mentioned earlier about the American Grades Registration Command and the

641

00:46:10.430 --> 00:46:13.390

American Grades Registration Service. Um,

642

00:46:13.390 --> 00:46:18.070

these American military cemeteries that are throughout the world are called

643

00:46:18.790 --> 00:46:23.590

American Battle Monuments Commission Cemeteries or A B A B

644

00:46:23.790 --> 00:46:27.870

M C cemeteries. And they are fully staffed. Um,

645

00:46:27.870 --> 00:46:32.470

they're run by American. Um, they are an independent agency,

646

00:46:32.490 --> 00:46:37.300

but they are, um, run by Americans, um,

647

00:46:37.400 --> 00:46:40.460

in the separate foreign lands. Um,

648

00:46:40.800 --> 00:46:43.460

if you have a chance to go visit them. They're beautiful,

649

00:46:43.820 --> 00:46:47.220

peaceful memorials and full working cemeteries.

650

00:46:47.960 --> 00:46:51.300

And the unknowns are buried throughout these cemeteries throughout the world,

651

00:46:51.830 --> 00:46:56.100

along with their comrades who are named and buried.

652

00:46:56.520 --> 00:46:59.260

And so when a deceased person, uh,

653

00:46:59.460 --> 00:47:02.700

deceased soldier or airman or sailor was, um,

654

00:47:03.970 --> 00:47:06.090

identified in a foreign land,

655

00:47:06.270 --> 00:47:09.490

the family was given a choice of where he would be buried.

656

00:47:10.580 --> 00:47:13.950

They would either choose to bring them home and have them buried in their

657

00:47:14.190 --> 00:47:18.550

hometown cemeteries or in one of the American military cemeteries.

658

00:47:18.930 --> 00:47:23.070

And a lot of the families chose to have them buried in the lands that they

659

00:47:23.070 --> 00:47:25.830

fought for. So we have a lot of, um,

660

00:47:26.150 --> 00:47:30.380

deceased personnel that are buried with named Graves in the American Battle

661

00:47:30.660 --> 00:47:33.510

Monuments Commission Cemeteries. Um,

662

00:47:33.510 --> 00:47:37.230

we also know about the Veterans Administration cemeteries. Um,

663

00:47:37.230 --> 00:47:40.310

we have several of those throughout the, throughout the nation.

664

00:47:40.590 --> 00:47:43.350

I think most of you're familiar with some of those. Um,

665

00:47:43.420 --> 00:47:47.590

Jefferson Barracks is one Arlington National Cemetery. Um,

666

00:47:48.130 --> 00:47:52.190

we have one in Hawaii, the Punchbowl. Um,

667

00:47:52.910 --> 00:47:55.550

I talked about the IDFs and the MPFs.

668

00:47:55.610 --> 00:47:58.510

And then SN R is just search and recovery, that,

669

00:47:58.510 --> 00:48:02.230

that's kind of an obvious term that you might hear. Okay.

670

00:48:02.760 --> 00:48:04.960

I just talked a little bit about the cemeteries.

671

00:48:05.170 --> 00:48:09.360

There are 13 American battle monuments, commission cemeteries in Europe,

672

00:48:09.580 --> 00:48:14.440

one in North Africa, one in the Philippines, and one in Panama.

673

00:48:15.150 --> 00:48:18.690

Um, and then we have a number of other VA cemeteries that I talked about.

674

00:48:21.010 --> 00:48:23.590

So here's a little bit about how, um, the remains,

675

00:48:23.730 --> 00:48:25.590

how they became unknown remains. And,

676

00:48:25.650 --> 00:48:30.610

and what I want to impress upon everyone with this slide is that during that

677

00:48:30.610 --> 00:48:31.530

post-war period,

678

00:48:32.510 --> 00:48:36.850

the grades registration teams worked very,

679

00:48:36.850 --> 00:48:41.290

very hard to try and identify as many of these remains as they could.
Um, the,

680

00:48:41.430 --> 00:48:46.410

the anthropologists and the identification texts at the time would see
what

681

00:48:46.410 --> 00:48:50.810

they could do to try and identify remains. Maybe if they were found
with other,

682

00:48:51.550 --> 00:48:55.450

um, identified, say, identified airmen.

683

00:48:55.450 --> 00:48:58.730

They would see if there was anyone missing from that particular crew
that could

684

00:48:58.790 --> 00:49:02.810

be the unknown remains. Um, but when they couldn't do anything
obvious,

685

00:49:02.920 --> 00:49:07.820

then they would turn it over to a board of officers with the A G R S
who

686

00:49:07.820 --> 00:49:10.740

would agree that there was nothing more that could be done at the
moment.

687

00:49:11.240 --> 00:49:12.380

And re, um,

688

00:49:13.060 --> 00:49:16.980

proclaim or name the remains unrecoverable or nonrecoverable.

689

00:49:17.650 --> 00:49:22.180

This was then verified by another review with the memorial division,

690

00:49:22.720 --> 00:49:26.860

um, in the Army. Quartermasters was in charge of all, uh,

691

00:49:27.100 --> 00:49:28.620

deceased personnel for World War ii.

692

00:49:29.120 --> 00:49:33.540

And then in 1951 there was one more final review of all of the files.

693

00:49:34.160 --> 00:49:35.900

And if, if there would again,

694

00:49:35.900 --> 00:49:39.500

would determine that they could not be identified and they were, um,

695

00:49:39.720 --> 00:49:42.260

termed as unrecoverable or nonrecoverable.

696

00:49:43.310 --> 00:49:47.560

Just because someone is considered nonrecoverable and or

697

00:49:47.780 --> 00:49:52.730

non-identifiable doesn't mean that that's a permanent, um, status.

698

00:49:53.030 --> 00:49:54.930

It was the status of the time,

699

00:49:55.070 --> 00:49:57.690

but that is the status that my office is working to overturn.

700

00:49:57.990 --> 00:50:00.690

So if someone was nonrecoverable, meaning they're still missing,

701

00:50:01.150 --> 00:50:05.130

my office is still working to overturn that. If they were unidentifiable,

702

00:50:05.280 --> 00:50:06.810
meaning we didn't know who they were,

703

00:50:07.150 --> 00:50:10.890
my office is now working to try and overturn and identify them.

704

00:50:13.050 --> 00:50:14.450
I talked a little bit about the names.

705

00:50:14.720 --> 00:50:17.890
This is just a slide that tells you about how they go about naming them,

706

00:50:17.950 --> 00:50:22.770
why they're XFiles and why there's XFiles per cemetery. So the, uh,

707

00:50:22.770 --> 00:50:27.540
Newville cemetery could have X'S one through 5,000

708

00:50:27.760 --> 00:50:32.580
and another cemetery in the Netherlands could also have XFiles one

709

00:50:32.580 --> 00:50:33.500
through 5,000.

710

00:50:33.520 --> 00:50:36.940
So we also give them the X and the number and the name of the cemetery that they

711

00:50:36.940 --> 00:50:38.620
were originally, um,

712

00:50:38.860 --> 00:50:43.780
interred in those X numbers or file names often changed multiple times

713

00:50:43.850 --> 00:50:46.740
because as the a g AGS did their work,

714

00:50:46.740 --> 00:50:51.380

they concentrated the remains and slowly moved them into, um,

715

00:50:52.120 --> 00:50:55.820

lesser cemeteries. So it'd be a number of larger temporary cemeteries.

716

00:50:55.840 --> 00:50:58.660

And they concentrated them into the main cemeteries that we have now.

717

00:50:59.120 --> 00:51:03.300

So sometimes you'll see that the X numbers or the X file num names

718

00:51:04.120 --> 00:51:08.820

change as we go, as they remains worked through the process. Um,

719

00:51:09.160 --> 00:51:12.300

that's something that my office is, is aware of and that we keep track of.

720

00:51:14.880 --> 00:51:18.530

This talks a little bit about all of the unknowns in World War II cemeteries.

721

00:51:19.130 --> 00:51:23.850

I mean in York, Mediterranean cemeteries, um, for Europe,

722

00:51:23.850 --> 00:51:25.810

Mediterranean, remember I said there was a little bit,

723

00:51:25.810 --> 00:51:27.930

almost 8,000 missing from World War ii.

724

00:51:28.310 --> 00:51:32.850

2,864 are, um,

725

00:51:33.190 --> 00:51:33.650

in Europe.

726

00:51:33.650 --> 00:51:38.530
Mediterranean losses and cemeteries most of the time

727
00:51:38.680 --> 00:51:39.690
remains unknown.

728
00:51:39.690 --> 00:51:43.050
Remains would be put in a cemetery that was close to the area of loss,

729
00:51:43.150 --> 00:51:47.410
but not always. Um, usually it was in the same country as loss, but again,

730
00:51:47.410 --> 00:51:50.330
not always, especially if we weren't sure, um,

731
00:51:50.480 --> 00:51:52.490
exactly where they were recovered from.

732
00:51:56.200 --> 00:51:56.480
Um,

733
00:51:56.480 --> 00:52:00.140
so this talks a little bit about the disinterment operations and how we go about

734
00:52:00.140 --> 00:52:00.440
it.

735
00:52:00.440 --> 00:52:05.340
And so I wanted to talk a little bit more about this because this really

736
00:52:05.390 --> 00:52:09.420
talks about Second Lieutenant Hearth and my job. Um,

737
00:52:10.480 --> 00:52:15.260
so I said earlier that PLOS and the oil fields in Romania was a focus.

738
00:52:15.880 --> 00:52:20.580
And I also said that we had all of these unknowns, um,

739
00:52:21.810 --> 00:52:22.820
that were

740
00:52:25.540 --> 00:52:29.250
known to be recovered from certain areas. And, um,

741
00:52:29.630 --> 00:52:31.930
but we weren't really sure, um,

742
00:52:32.380 --> 00:52:36.890
where we had gotten from or who were they were from. Um, in 2015,

743
00:52:37.830 --> 00:52:41.290
the Secretary of Defense office, um,

744
00:52:42.620 --> 00:52:46.710
changed the criteria that we needed to use to identify

745
00:52:47.420 --> 00:52:51.990
remains and allowed us to move forward more actively

746
00:52:52.530 --> 00:52:54.390
on pursuing the unknown remains,

747
00:52:54.900 --> 00:52:59.700
because we know that if we have 83 missing in Romania,

748
00:53:00.240 --> 00:53:02.940
um, some of those are probably unknown remains.

749
00:53:04.040 --> 00:53:08.980
We have 87 sets of unknown remains that

750
00:53:09.080 --> 00:53:10.460

are from Romania.

751

00:53:11.080 --> 00:53:14.700

So I know that I have 87 sets of unknown remains for eight from Romania,

752

00:53:14.760 --> 00:53:19.620

and I have 83 men missing. So again, I said I wasn't a tech person,

753

00:53:19.760 --> 00:53:22.100

I'm not a math person, but that seems to make sense.

754

00:53:22.280 --> 00:53:26.980

And so I was told I was placed on a project just to

755

00:53:26.990 --> 00:53:31.860

focus on this discrete set of unknown remains that were

756

00:53:31.860 --> 00:53:34.820

recovering Romania. And those missing were from Romania.

757

00:53:35.210 --> 00:53:37.660

This was after the 2015, um,

758

00:53:38.680 --> 00:53:41.620

change in decision and policy. Uh,

759

00:53:41.920 --> 00:53:45.300

so for second Lieutenant Hearsh, for instance,

760

00:53:45.720 --> 00:53:48.780

he was one of the ones that are missing one of the 78.

761

00:53:48.800 --> 00:53:52.220

At that time it was actually that were missing from Romania.

762

00:53:53.240 --> 00:53:58.210

And I began this research project where I looked at all of the unknown

763

00:53:58.210 --> 00:54:01.010

remain files, all of those X-files that I talked about,

764

00:54:01.310 --> 00:54:03.370

and I looked at all of the missing files,

765

00:54:03.590 --> 00:54:05.530

all of those I DPFs that I talked about.

766

00:54:05.910 --> 00:54:10.490

And I tried to find some way that I could match them up and give them to our D

767

00:54:11.010 --> 00:54:14.250

D N A lab in, um, AFDI and in, uh,

768

00:54:14.420 --> 00:54:17.930

Offit in order to try and match up the d a. Um,

769

00:54:18.300 --> 00:54:20.410

after I'd done my historical work,

770

00:54:21.990 --> 00:54:26.430

I came up with a list of people that I thought were would

771

00:54:27.540 --> 00:54:31.550

missing that were going to match with a particular unknown remain.

772

00:54:32.330 --> 00:54:35.590

And I would write, then I would put that forward as a suggestion.

773

00:54:35.910 --> 00:54:38.470

I think for this one unknown remain,

774

00:54:39.360 --> 00:54:43.870

these 1 37 missing soldier airmen could be

775

00:54:44.340 --> 00:54:49.110

that match. And I would put that forward for analysis.

776

00:54:50.090 --> 00:54:54.260

Um, that would then go, um, can I go backwards?

777

00:54:56.360 --> 00:54:58.380

I'm just, do the error. Go back. Okay. Um,

778

00:54:58.450 --> 00:55:02.220

that would then go on to the anthropologists who would go through and look over

779

00:55:02.240 --> 00:55:04.460

my work and decide from a scientific point of view,

780

00:55:04.790 --> 00:55:06.460

could this be something that would work?

781

00:55:06.520 --> 00:55:09.420

Do they see anything scientifically that matches up with what I found

782

00:55:09.740 --> 00:55:10.560

historically?

783

00:55:10.560 --> 00:55:14.100

Did that make sense to them that this particular set of remains was the right

784

00:55:14.100 --> 00:55:16.620

height or had the right age or was the right, um,

785

00:55:18.090 --> 00:55:20.930

physical makeup that could, um,

786

00:55:21.030 --> 00:55:25.770

relate to whom I was proposing that they'd be identified to. And then finally,

787

00:55:25.910 --> 00:55:28.330

if there were any dental records of dental remains,

788

00:55:28.620 --> 00:55:32.530

those records would be examined by an odontologist, which is a forensic,
um,

789

00:55:32.530 --> 00:55:37.210

dentist. So this is the process that I began looking for,

790

00:55:37.310 --> 00:55:41.530

for all of the unknown and missing from the plesh tidal wave,

791

00:55:42.230 --> 00:55:45.040

um, rate, um,

792

00:55:45.990 --> 00:55:49.260

which is what I've just outlined here. Once I did that,

793

00:55:49.300 --> 00:55:53.900

I would put it forward and then supervisors would say, yes, we should
disinter.

794

00:55:54.440 --> 00:55:57.420

We can go ahead and excavate and try to do that testing, or No,

795

00:55:57.420 --> 00:56:01.620

we need more proof, or let's hold to see if we have enough proof.

796

00:56:02.120 --> 00:56:05.420

One of those pieces of information that they would use to decide if
they could

797

00:56:05.420 --> 00:56:09.820

be forward for excavation was whether there was any dna, um,

798

00:56:09.850 --> 00:56:11.420

available within the remains,

799

00:56:11.420 --> 00:56:14.780

which is something that the anthropologists and their dermatologists would weigh

800

00:56:14.780 --> 00:56:15.460

in on,

801

00:56:15.460 --> 00:56:19.860

whether they had any DNA reference samples to weigh that against.

802

00:56:20.480 --> 00:56:23.500

So for instance, for Second Lieutenant Hearth,

803

00:56:23.970 --> 00:56:28.900

were there any family members who had submitted DNA reference samples to

804

00:56:29.210 --> 00:56:33.860

compare the DNA from the remains that I had recommended to be, um,

805

00:56:34.200 --> 00:56:37.940

to, to determine who this might be. Um, this also,

806

00:56:38.250 --> 00:56:42.710

this family reference samples that were collected

807

00:56:43.170 --> 00:56:47.030

was also part of the project as it was envisioned in the beginning,

808

00:56:47.460 --> 00:56:49.670

this Romania Disinterment project.

809

00:56:50.690 --> 00:56:55.040

The service casualty offices in this case would've been the Army Service

810

00:56:55.040 --> 00:56:59.200
casualty offices. This was contacted and said, can you find the next
of can,

811
00:56:59.340 --> 00:57:01.970
can you find a, a, a,

812
00:57:02.990 --> 00:57:07.890
the proper kind of relationship kin member that could relate

813
00:57:07.950 --> 00:57:12.730
to all of these men that are missing from losses in Romania and gather
DNA

814
00:57:12.730 --> 00:57:13.610
samples from them.

815
00:57:13.830 --> 00:57:17.210
And they were able to do that with all of the missing from Romania,

816
00:57:17.460 --> 00:57:21.170
which is why this project was also so successful. Um,

817
00:57:21.310 --> 00:57:24.250
so that is something that we call FRS for Family Reference Sample.

818
00:57:24.630 --> 00:57:28.250
And one of the criteria that we use is that we have enough of that to
identify

819
00:57:29.010 --> 00:57:29.890
everyone that I've put forward.

820
00:57:30.070 --> 00:57:34.210
And so we did have that success for the Romania losses. Um,

821
00:57:34.800 --> 00:57:38.850
this talks a little bit about the science and the proba probabilities
of it.

822

00:57:41.300 --> 00:57:45.580

Um, just talks a little bit about how, um,

823

00:57:45.680 --> 00:57:48.780

how that's changed from 2015 to 2016.

824

00:57:49.280 --> 00:57:53.700

So the prob the point I wanna make between all of this is that this was until

825

00:57:53.700 --> 00:57:58.100

2015. The DNA seemed obvious to a lot of people,

826

00:57:58.240 --> 00:58:02.940

but we didn't have the policy behind it to allow us to move forward.

827

00:58:03.400 --> 00:58:08.100

And after 2015, we were able to, um, use the science,

828

00:58:08.480 --> 00:58:11.380

use the history, use everything that was in our, um,

829

00:58:11.730 --> 00:58:15.500

arsenal to move forward because the policy now allowed us to.

830

00:58:15.600 --> 00:58:16.500

And because of that,

831

00:58:16.840 --> 00:58:21.700

the ESH and the Romania project was the first discrete project to

832

00:58:21.700 --> 00:58:23.980

prove that we can do this with, um,

833

00:58:23.980 --> 00:58:28.620

historical anthropological forensic evidence. And so second,

834

00:58:28.620 --> 00:58:33.220

Lieutenant Hearsh was the first successful identification from this large

835

00:58:33.220 --> 00:58:37.060

project that came out of the policy change from 2015.

836

00:58:43.080 --> 00:58:43.913

Um,

837

00:58:44.120 --> 00:58:49.020

so prior to the 2015 change in 2001

838

00:58:49.020 --> 00:58:51.900

is when we had our first disinterment. Um,

839

00:58:52.080 --> 00:58:54.660

so far we've disinter over a hundred graves,

840

00:58:55.160 --> 00:58:59.900

but a large part of those 200 identifications that we did in f y 18,

841

00:59:00.390 --> 00:59:02.060

which was a landmark number for us,

842

00:59:02.210 --> 00:59:06.740

came from the identifications and disinterment of unknowns.

843

00:59:07.730 --> 00:59:11.660

This disinterment process, um, even though we call it disinterment,

844

00:59:12.040 --> 00:59:16.940

it involves also the identification of any unknown remains that we have.

845

00:59:17.080 --> 00:59:21.780

And so many of you have heard on the news about the Korea war remains that were

846
00:59:21.940 --> 00:59:23.820
recently turned over from North Korea.

847
00:59:24.890 --> 00:59:28.180
That is something that's also part of this disinter tournament project.

848
00:59:28.970 --> 00:59:31.820
Even though we didn't physically disinter them ourselves,

849
00:59:32.210 --> 00:59:35.340
even though those remains were not an American military cemeteries,

850
00:59:35.570 --> 00:59:39.820
they were turned over as unknown or unidentified remains.

851
00:59:40.360 --> 00:59:44.100
And so our labs were able to use the processes that we, um,

852
00:59:44.160 --> 00:59:47.780
put in place with the Romania project and the policies that were put in place

853
00:59:47.980 --> 00:59:52.300
starting in 2015 to work to identify those remains. And so far,

854
00:59:52.300 --> 00:59:56.220
we have made some identifications from that set of remains that were turned over

855
00:59:56.650 --> 01:00:00.260
from North Korea to us just a few short months ago.

856
01:00:00.720 --> 01:00:04.580
And we have a full staff of anthropologists and archeologists that are working

857

01:00:05.010 --> 01:00:07.380
only on those remains as we, as we speak.

858
01:00:07.760 --> 01:00:12.710
So they're working to disin to identify as many as they can. Um,

859
01:00:14.210 --> 01:00:16.910
so basically I wanted to,

860
01:00:17.380 --> 01:00:21.710
part of what I wanted to do is to stress how the 93rd Bomb Group

861
01:00:21.740 --> 01:00:26.510
Association can help us identify work to identify those

862
01:00:26.510 --> 01:00:30.350
21 that are missing from Romania and Plesh,

863
01:00:30.920 --> 01:00:35.710
along with the almost 170 other 93rd

864
01:00:35.710 --> 01:00:39.070
bomb group airmen that are still unidentified and or missing.

865
01:00:39.730 --> 01:00:43.230
And there are several ways you all can help us with that. Um,

866
01:00:44.340 --> 01:00:47.560
if you have letters, if you have photographs, um,

867
01:00:48.060 --> 01:00:50.880
if your loved one was in the 93rd bomb group,

868
01:00:52.020 --> 01:00:54.680
all four of the squadrons have men that are missing.

869
01:00:55.260 --> 01:00:59.320
So all for the squadrons are, um, of valuable information to us.

870

01:00:59.420 --> 01:01:03.280

So if you have anything that you don't think is important,

871

01:01:03.580 --> 01:01:04.560

please let us know,

872

01:01:04.560 --> 01:01:08.040

because sometimes you might have a copy of a letter that says,

873

01:01:09.170 --> 01:01:13.740

so-and-so crashed yesterday and the plane crashed in this area,

874

01:01:14.320 --> 01:01:17.620

and three people survived and the rest went down.

875

01:01:17.720 --> 01:01:21.100

But that one piece of information that tells us where the plane crashed is not

876

01:01:21.100 --> 01:01:25.700

something that we have in our own records. Or you may find that,

877

01:01:25.700 --> 01:01:27.940

that some of the, especially some of the, um,

878

01:01:28.800 --> 01:01:32.900

pilots might have kept logs of their air flights,

879

01:01:33.000 --> 01:01:36.100

and so they may have information about some of the losses and some of the

880

01:01:36.100 --> 01:01:37.380

missions on some of the losses.

881

01:01:38.130 --> 01:01:41.940

Sometimes letters were written home to family members. Um,

882

01:01:41.940 --> 01:01:46.340

crew members who survived would write letters home to those who did not survive,

883

01:01:46.360 --> 01:01:48.300

or to those who were captured or, or missing.

884

01:01:48.850 --> 01:01:53.820

They would write home to their families saying, I know Bill, I saw him.

885

01:01:53.920 --> 01:01:56.580

We were in the plane together. Um, you know,

886

01:01:56.580 --> 01:01:58.580

this is what I know about what happened to him.

887

01:01:58.640 --> 01:02:02.740

That's information that the family might have, but that we don't have.

888

01:02:03.280 --> 01:02:06.620

So that's very important. Any information like that that you have, um,

889

01:02:06.760 --> 01:02:08.460

any photographs that you have,

890

01:02:09.280 --> 01:02:12.990

especially if we're working to identify remains photographs help the

891

01:02:12.990 --> 01:02:15.510

anthropologists to help identify remains.

892

01:02:15.510 --> 01:02:19.780

They'll look at photographs using pictures of the, of the lost, um,

893

01:02:19.780 --> 01:02:22.180

missing man's teeth, and they'll be able to use that.

894

01:02:22.180 --> 01:02:26.140

If they don't have dental records, they'll be able to use, um,

895

01:02:26.690 --> 01:02:31.020

photographs that could give them an idea of height and stature to help to

896

01:02:31.020 --> 01:02:35.100

correlate the remains to that particular person. So photographs are important.

897

01:02:35.250 --> 01:02:40.220

I've seen a lot of wonderful photographs here and many of the photographs

898

01:02:40.320 --> 01:02:43.980

are of men that I know are missing that I have worked on personally in Romania,

899

01:02:44.320 --> 01:02:48.060

and they're photographs I've never seen before. So they're very, very valuable.

900

01:02:48.500 --> 01:02:51.740

I know they're valuable to you all as families. They're valuable to us too,

901

01:02:51.740 --> 01:02:55.500

to help identify some of the men. We don't want originals.

902

01:02:56.040 --> 01:03:00.060

We are happy with copies. If you can just scan it and send it to us,

903

01:03:00.250 --> 01:03:03.740

take a picture or send it to us, and that would be wonderful. Um,

904

01:03:04.040 --> 01:03:07.820

any health information that you have about any of the missing men.

905

01:03:07.880 --> 01:03:10.820

So if some of you have, again, if you have letters that,

906

01:03:10.890 --> 01:03:15.500

that tell us something about an information about a man. So and so was ill,

907

01:03:15.840 --> 01:03:18.740

he was on the crew. Um, you know,

908

01:03:18.970 --> 01:03:22.740

I've talked to veterans who told me that they know a pilot shouldn't have flown

909

01:03:22.740 --> 01:03:26.780

because he was ill that day, but he got the surgeon to write him a, um,

910

01:03:27.730 --> 01:03:31.950

an A, um, you know, write, write him a, a permission slip to go, I guess.

911

01:03:32.770 --> 01:03:36.310

And that makes a difference to me because it tells me that he probably suffered

912

01:03:36.310 --> 01:03:37.550

something that'll,

913

01:03:37.660 --> 01:03:42.510

that an accident in air and it mean it changes the way

914

01:03:42.510 --> 01:03:43.790

that that crash might have happened.

915

01:03:43.850 --> 01:03:47.310

So it changes the way that I'm gonna look at how and where that crash might be

916

01:03:47.310 --> 01:03:50.870

and how it might have crashed. So those pieces of information are important.

917

01:03:51.250 --> 01:03:55.510

And then obviously if you know anybody who has a loved one who's missing from

918

01:03:55.510 --> 01:03:58.030

the 93rd bomb group who is, who is not recovered,

919

01:03:58.740 --> 01:04:03.600

then ask them to step forward and share their DNA if they haven't already.

920

01:04:03.910 --> 01:04:07.920

Because I know for a fact that we have all of the DNA family reference samples

921

01:04:08.020 --> 01:04:09.880

for the ESH and the Romania losses,

922

01:04:10.060 --> 01:04:14.360

but not for all those who are missing from the 93rd bomb group. Um,

923

01:04:14.870 --> 01:04:19.360

what you can tell them is that they can contact the service casualty office.

924

01:04:19.420 --> 01:04:22.880

And again, for the 93rd Bomb group, even though this is the Army Air Forces,

925

01:04:23.660 --> 01:04:26.760

it is, um, it fell under Army during World War ii.

926

01:04:27.100 --> 01:04:31.200

And so Army still takes responsibility for that. So you can have the,

927

01:04:31.380 --> 01:04:33.640

if you have any information to give, you can,

928

01:04:34.060 --> 01:04:38.960

or if you have anyone who's a family member of a missing or Unrecovered airman,

929

01:04:39.300 --> 01:04:44.240

you can have them contact the Casualty and Mortuary Affairs operation Division

930

01:04:44.340 --> 01:04:47.520

of Army in the past conflicts branch.

931

01:04:47.580 --> 01:04:50.120

And this is their email address and their phone number.

932

01:04:51.220 --> 01:04:55.520

And you can have them contact them and tell them you have information to share.

933

01:04:56.300 --> 01:05:00.920

That's also who I would urge you to contact if the loved one of a missing

934

01:05:01.260 --> 01:05:03.880

an unrecovered service person, um,

935

01:05:03.880 --> 01:05:08.600

would like more information because they will then in turn come back to my

936

01:05:08.600 --> 01:05:09.433

office and say,

937

01:05:09.800 --> 01:05:14.320

a family member's asking for information and we will then do research into their

938

01:05:14.320 --> 01:05:17.830

case and give them as much information as we can. Um,

939

01:05:18.170 --> 01:05:22.550

so that was a quick, quick, um, version. I,

940

01:05:22.910 --> 01:05:24.470

I appreciate y'all sitting through that.

941

01:05:24.510 --> 01:05:26.750

I kind of got lost in the middle of it a little bit,

942

01:05:26.810 --> 01:05:29.510

but I hopefully I didn't lose too many of you. Um,

943

01:05:29.700 --> 01:05:34.400

does anybody have any questions? Yes, sir.

944

01:05:44.790 --> 01:05:49.040

Right? Mm-hmm.

945

01:05:55.440 --> 01:05:59.520

19 46, 19 46,

946

01:06:00.620 --> 01:06:05.440

uh, the American Graves, um, commission came mm-hmm. Found, found those bodies.

947

01:06:05.460 --> 01:06:09.470

Mm-hmm. Uh, moved them to Newville. Mm-hmm.

948

01:06:09.690 --> 01:06:11.950

I'm surprised it's still in operation.

949

01:06:12.180 --> 01:06:14.750

It's now the Orden, it's one of the largest cemeteries. Yes.

950

01:06:14.940 --> 01:06:18.990

Okay. And then 1951, uh,

951

01:06:19.120 --> 01:06:23.270

eight years after, uh, the plane crashed. Mm-hmm. And by the way,

952

01:06:23.270 --> 01:06:25.990

it was a horrific crash. Mm-hmm. Burned,

953

01:06:28.430 --> 01:06:33.230

they buried the remains of that crew and apparently another

954

01:06:33.340 --> 01:06:38.070

crew mm-hmm. At the Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery outside of St. Louis

955

01:06:38.450 --> 01:06:39.310

As a group burial,

956

01:06:40.900 --> 01:06:44.710

There's a, there's a stone there with 13 names on it. Mm-hmm.

957

01:06:46.160 --> 01:06:50.900

When we visited there, um, not too long ago, we,

958

01:06:51.130 --> 01:06:55.620

through circumstances happened to be taken to the grave site mm-hmm.

959

01:06:55.960 --> 01:06:59.900

By the person who was in charge of, of the burials in that cemetery.

960

01:07:01.270 --> 01:07:06.020

And there were five plots and there were 13 names. Mm-hmm.

961

01:07:08.060 --> 01:07:11.320

And what's going on here. Mm-hmm. I mean, he, well,

962

01:07:11.320 --> 01:07:15.120
he said most likely, obviously he wasn't there when it would happen.

963
01:07:15.750 --> 01:07:19.360
Most likely there were five sets of remains

964
01:07:21.360 --> 01:07:24.730
without DNA, had no idea. So that's where they put him.

965
01:07:25.830 --> 01:07:26.690
Here's my question.

966
01:07:29.430 --> 01:07:33.880
More and more people were asking them to disinter

967
01:07:34.100 --> 01:07:34.933
mm-hmm.

968
01:07:35.100 --> 01:07:40.070
Do the DNA so they could have their own private at Stone Grave.

969
01:07:40.170 --> 01:07:43.070
Mm-hmm. Okay. Now,

970
01:07:43.090 --> 01:07:47.430
if someone of the 13 buried with my uncle,

971
01:07:48.520 --> 01:07:52.570
if he, even if five remains were even his mm-hmm.

972
01:07:53.680 --> 01:07:55.150
Wants to dig him up,

973
01:07:57.590 --> 01:08:00.770
and I object to that as his oldest living relative mm-hmm.

974
01:08:01.370 --> 01:08:03.290
I don't want him dug up. Mm-hmm.

975

01:08:04.770 --> 01:08:09.190

Is there policies to take care of that? Not that it'll happen.

976

01:08:09.450 --> 01:08:13.550

Mm-hmm. But the way he talked, it happens more and more, but with dna.

977

01:08:15.790 --> 01:08:16.230

So,

978

01:08:16.230 --> 01:08:18.450

See, do, do you get my question? Yes. Yes. Okay.

979

01:08:18.450 --> 01:08:23.290

Thank you. So a couple questions. I mean, a couple, a couple things.
One, um,

980

01:08:23.710 --> 01:08:27.330

it is not our office policy to

981

01:08:28.170 --> 01:08:29.970

Disinter Group remains.

982

01:08:30.390 --> 01:08:34.690

Our policy is that those remains are identified.

983

01:08:35.710 --> 01:08:40.130

We know who they are, they are the, those particular 13 names.

984

01:08:41.480 --> 01:08:46.310

That's not our policy. Second, I believe, and I,

985

01:08:46.610 --> 01:08:48.110

and I can verify this for you,

986

01:08:48.110 --> 01:08:51.670

but I believe that the Army's policy

987

01:08:53.820 --> 01:08:57.960

in something that is now called what we now call a named grave, so that's a,

988

01:08:57.960 --> 01:09:02.200

that's a named grave. And that named grave then is,

989

01:09:03.800 --> 01:09:04.633

um,

990

01:09:04.950 --> 01:09:09.420

let's say under the direction of the family of the named person.

991

01:09:10.320 --> 01:09:15.020

Um, I believe that it would be the Army's policy that you'd have to have full

992

01:09:15.500 --> 01:09:17.840

approval. So, um,

993

01:09:18.560 --> 01:09:22.460

I don't know off the top of my head of any

994

01:09:24.470 --> 01:09:27.550

examples of that occurring or it's come up.

995

01:09:28.390 --> 01:09:29.950

I don't wanna mislead you,

996

01:09:30.450 --> 01:09:34.720

but I don't think that that is something that will happen in the near future.

997

01:09:35.020 --> 01:09:38.360

And I don't think that it is something that would happen without your knowledge.

998

01:09:39.220 --> 01:09:41.560

And I'm fairly certain that it wouldn't happen.

999

01:09:42.360 --> 01:09:45.960

Whoever is the next of kin, and I don't know if that's you or not.

1000

01:09:46.400 --> 01:09:49.720

I don't believe that that could happen without your permission.

1001

01:09:50.420 --> 01:09:54.320

But I know who would be able to give you the full answer is the, um,

1002

01:09:54.980 --> 01:09:59.800

is the, um, army Casualty Affairs Office.

1003

01:09:59.990 --> 01:10:02.440

They would be able to tell you that. But again,

1004

01:10:02.680 --> 01:10:04.720

I believe that that's a named grave. And I,

1005

01:10:04.720 --> 01:10:07.720

and I can think of some examples where we've had to,

1006

01:10:08.460 --> 01:10:13.080

we have Disinterred named Graves because we

1007

01:10:13.510 --> 01:10:15.760

were convinced that there was, um,

1008

01:10:16.320 --> 01:10:21.040

a misidentification and then we had to have full approval of the family

1009

01:10:21.420 --> 01:10:23.200

of the named Graves. So I I,

1010

01:10:23.260 --> 01:10:27.630

I'm pretty confident that that won't happen without full approval.

1011

01:10:30.950 --> 01:10:34.950

Probably it's not gonna happen, but I do run through that scenario.
Right.

1012

01:10:34.970 --> 01:10:35.803

You know what if.

1013

01:10:36.000 --> 01:10:38.510

Right. Thank you. And, and right now we're, we're,

1014

01:10:38.510 --> 01:10:43.390

we're so excited that we can focus on Disur the unknowns who

1015

01:10:43.390 --> 01:10:46.510

have not been identified, because we know that eight,

1016

01:10:46.510 --> 01:10:50.670

those 8,000 that are not identified are part of those

1017

01:10:50.670 --> 01:10:54.830

72,800 that are missing. And so that's,

1018

01:10:54.890 --> 01:10:58.190

that's really important to us because first of all,

1019

01:10:58.250 --> 01:11:02.950

it will identify unknown remains. Second of all, it will bring back,
or,

1020

01:11:03.090 --> 01:11:04.750

or not bring back, but I,

1021

01:11:04.770 --> 01:11:09.270

it will account for unaccounted for

1022

01:11:09.700 --> 01:11:10.910

remains. And then third,

1023

01:11:10.910 --> 01:11:15.420

it will make my job easier because it will make the pool of missing smaller

1024

01:11:15.960 --> 01:11:19.060

and I'll be able to focus more on those. So I,

1025

01:11:19.300 --> 01:11:22.940

I can't imagine that this is going to be, um, a focus of anyone.

1026

01:11:23.360 --> 01:11:26.100

But if the families would come together and choose to do that,

1027

01:11:26.300 --> 01:11:28.340

I think that that would be something they would be allowed to do.

1028

01:11:33.090 --> 01:11:33.923

Yes, ma'am.

1029

01:11:38.120 --> 01:11:41.560

Um, my dad was, uh, uh,

1030

01:11:41.560 --> 01:11:46.280

burned alive over at Hardwick on the end of the runway with four other men.

1031

01:11:46.340 --> 01:11:49.520

Mm-hmm. I was told that, uh, by my mom,

1032

01:11:50.150 --> 01:11:55.010

that the only thing that was put in the grave in Cambridge was a brick and, uh,

1033

01:11:55.470 --> 01:11:56.730

was at an army practice.

1034

01:11:57.750 --> 01:11:58.810

Not that I'm aware of.

1035

01:11:59.180 --> 01:12:02.890

There was no remains to be left of, of any of the five men. I mean,

1036

01:12:02.890 --> 01:12:04.050

they were totally toast.

1037

01:12:04.710 --> 01:12:09.490

If there were no remains, then they should be considered unaccounted for.

1038

01:12:10.520 --> 01:12:14.420

So are they accounted for or are they missing three?

1039

01:12:15.080 --> 01:12:18.860

The, the three airmen, I have no idea what was done with them. Mm-hmm.

1040

01:12:18.880 --> 01:12:22.740

My father and, and the pilot, uh, that died with 'em were,

1041

01:12:22.740 --> 01:12:25.670

were buried at Cambridge. And, uh,

1042

01:12:25.740 --> 01:12:29.230

when it was time to bring the bodies back, my mother said,

1043

01:12:29.230 --> 01:12:33.950

there's no sense to it. There's nothing but a brick in the box. Mm-hmm. And

1044

01:12:36.410 --> 01:12:40.470

So, and this was your father? Yes. Yes. So I

1045

01:12:43.360 --> 01:12:48.140

do not, I, I can actually find information for you about what was in,

1046

01:12:48.210 --> 01:12:51.380

what was in that coffin, if you'd like, so we can talk later.

1047

01:12:51.800 --> 01:12:56.460

But I do not believe that they would have interred and

1048

01:12:56.460 --> 01:12:59.440

buried and accounted for, uh,

1049

01:12:59.580 --> 01:13:04.340

anyone if they did not have remains. That is what my job is,

1050

01:13:04.360 --> 01:13:08.940

is to look for those remains. And so he would still be considered, um,

1051

01:13:09.010 --> 01:13:11.860

unaccounted for or missing. So, we'll,

1052

01:13:11.990 --> 01:13:15.700

we'll talk afterwards and I'll get his actual name and I'll look at my records

1053

01:13:16.080 --> 01:13:18.540

and let you know. Um, and,

1054

01:13:18.800 --> 01:13:23.540

and there is a way to get ahold of his file so that you can actually see what

1055

01:13:23.540 --> 01:13:27.020

the, what the decision making process was and what was in the files.

1056

01:13:27.440 --> 01:13:31.380

And often in these individual deceased personnel files that I was talking about,

1057

01:13:32.000 --> 01:13:33.340

if there are remains,

1058

01:13:34.070 --> 01:13:38.700
often they'll give you a description and a diagram of what those
remains

1059
01:13:38.970 --> 01:13:42.820
consisted of. So we'll be able to tell you better what's in there.

1060
01:13:44.810 --> 01:13:45.643
Yes, ma'am.

1061
01:13:45.970 --> 01:13:49.150
Is this a process that's been going on, for instance,

1062
01:13:49.280 --> 01:13:53.270
since the end of World War ii or during the war for the last 70 years,

1063
01:13:54.050 --> 01:13:58.710
and how many sites around the world are doing, um,

1064
01:13:58.730 --> 01:14:01.310
you know, looking for remains at any one point in time?

1065
01:14:01.700 --> 01:14:03.870
Okay, so that's a good question, and I,

1066
01:14:03.950 --> 01:14:06.910
I probably didn't do a very good job of explaining it. So, um,

1067
01:14:07.160 --> 01:14:11.300
after 1951 for World War ii,

1068
01:14:11.650 --> 01:14:16.260
largely there was no active proactive searching

1069
01:14:16.840 --> 01:14:19.780
for unrecovered. Unaccounted four remains.

1070
01:14:20.840 --> 01:14:24.020

If anything would turn up, if a farmer in,

1071

01:14:24.240 --> 01:14:28.020

in France would come across, um, remains,

1072

01:14:28.760 --> 01:14:32.420

he would turn them over to the Americans. Um,

1073

01:14:33.080 --> 01:14:37.660

and we would then, if possible, identify him, bring them home and bury them.

1074

01:14:38.000 --> 01:14:42.620

So that is a possibility that might have happened between 1951. And,

1075

01:14:42.880 --> 01:14:46.900

um, the, the 20, the 21st century, um,

1076

01:14:48.890 --> 01:14:53.600

world War II was added to the defense P O W M I a

1077

01:14:53.600 --> 01:14:58.480

accounting agency in its previous form as D P M O and JPAC

1078

01:14:58.620 --> 01:15:01.360

in 2010. In 2010,

1079

01:15:01.460 --> 01:15:05.320

we were charged with by Congress of actively seeking out, um,

1080

01:15:06.710 --> 01:15:11.220

conducting research into World War II remains. So prior, from,

1081

01:15:11.250 --> 01:15:13.620

from 1951 to 2002,

1082

01:15:13.720 --> 01:15:17.460

it was ha it would happen if something would turn up,

1083

01:15:17.680 --> 01:15:21.860

but we weren't actually actively going out to search for them. Since 2010,

1084

01:15:22.240 --> 01:15:26.660

we have been doing that since the merger in 2015.

1085

01:15:27.160 --> 01:15:29.900

We have been very, very active. Um,

1086

01:15:29.900 --> 01:15:34.620

and that's why we had two over 200 identifications across all the conflicts,

1087

01:15:34.650 --> 01:15:39.100

over 200 identifications in f y 18 ending

1088

01:15:39.200 --> 01:15:42.940

2000, uh, September, 2018. Um,

1089

01:15:43.600 --> 01:15:45.460

in terms of your question about the sites,

1090

01:15:45.760 --> 01:15:49.340

I'm not sure if you're asking if there's other countries that do that or if that

1091

01:15:49.340 --> 01:15:52.220

we do this all over the, the world. Um,

1092

01:15:52.420 --> 01:15:55.980

I skipped over the regions for the Europe, Mediterranean, and the,

1093

01:15:55.980 --> 01:15:57.220

and the Pacific. But that was,

1094

01:15:57.220 --> 01:16:01.860

that breakdown is what gives us a better ability to

1095

01:16:01.950 --> 01:16:06.780

focus. And that's also since the merger in 2015. So for instance,

1096

01:16:06.780 --> 01:16:08.220

because I focus on Europe,

1097

01:16:08.250 --> 01:16:13.220

Mediterranean in the Mediterranean and Eastern Europe and North Africa

1098

01:16:13.220 --> 01:16:16.580

field, I become more knowledgeable and, um,

1099

01:16:16.660 --> 01:16:21.460

I pay more attention because I'm only looking at losses in these areas. And so,

1100

01:16:22.480 --> 01:16:25.980

um, we, I will conduct research into these areas.

1101

01:16:26.160 --> 01:16:30.060

And so I recently was in Romania, I was in Italy in February.

1102

01:16:30.720 --> 01:16:33.780

So I'm working on these cases that I am responsible for.

1103

01:16:34.070 --> 01:16:38.940

Other analysts and historians are working in cases in, say, France and in, um,

1104

01:16:39.320 --> 01:16:42.420

Poland and in Russia. So,

1105

01:16:43.140 --> 01:16:44.800

as to what sites we are doing,

1106

01:16:44.860 --> 01:16:49.680

we are doing all the sites where we have unrecovered men and women

1107

01:16:50.030 --> 01:16:52.400

from all of the conflicts. That's what we're doing.

1108

01:16:53.440 --> 01:16:58.180

We can't do all of them all at once, all year long. Um, we're not,

1109

01:16:58.270 --> 01:17:02.500

we're just 600 people is not enough to do that. So some focus,

1110

01:17:02.770 --> 01:17:04.180

some areas have different focus,

1111

01:17:04.200 --> 01:17:08.140

and that's why I was saying Romania was a focus of FY 19. Um,

1112

01:17:08.140 --> 01:17:12.960

and we try to move through the fo the areas in a measured and

1113

01:17:13.120 --> 01:17:17.080

balanced way. But there's always gonna be someone that isn't, you know,

1114

01:17:17.120 --> 01:17:21.040

a country that isn't focused on this time or a particular loss that has to wait

1115

01:17:21.040 --> 01:17:23.800

till the next year or the year after. Does that answer your question?

1116

01:17:30.210 --> 01:17:33.110

See, I'm better when I talk to y'all and not when I try to give a PowerPoint.

1117

01:17:36.680 --> 01:17:41.270

Would you talk a little bit about the family updates that happened for people

1118

01:17:41.340 --> 01:17:42.470
that have missing in action?

1119

01:17:42.580 --> 01:17:44.550
Yeah, I thank you. And I glossed over that.

1120

01:17:44.650 --> 01:17:47.990
And part of these slides is kind of a compilation of what we do for that.

1121

01:17:48.050 --> 01:17:52.830
So part of my job as a historian is to search for and,

1122

01:17:53.090 --> 01:17:56.510
um, to search for, to conduct research into,

1123

01:17:56.610 --> 01:18:00.590
and to recover and identify, if possible, help identify, um,

1124

01:18:00.690 --> 01:18:04.870
any unrecovered, um, or unidentified remain from World War ii.

1125

01:18:05.380 --> 01:18:10.230
Part of my job is to document everything that I find and

1126

01:18:10.250 --> 01:18:14.830
to relay that to the families. And so my agency, um,

1127

01:18:14.830 --> 01:18:16.910
conducts something called a family member update.

1128

01:18:16.930 --> 01:18:20.470
And we go around the country six or seven times a year,

1129

01:18:21.130 --> 01:18:25.350
and we rent out a hotel ballroom and for the weekend,

1130

01:18:25.410 --> 01:18:30.390

and we send out invitations for all of the next of kin that

1131

01:18:30.390 --> 01:18:35.230

we know of for a missing service person. So, um, so for instance,

1132

01:18:35.250 --> 01:18:36.910

if your uncle, um,

1133

01:18:36.910 --> 01:18:41.550

Lieutenant Smith is missing and we have record of you being the next of

1134

01:18:41.770 --> 01:18:43.510

kin, and you live in Chicago,

1135

01:18:43.770 --> 01:18:46.830

and we're going to the Chicago area in March,

1136

01:18:47.160 --> 01:18:50.070

we'll send you an invitation and we'll say, we're gonna be in your area.

1137

01:18:50.730 --> 01:18:51.670

If you'd like to come,

1138

01:18:51.930 --> 01:18:56.030

please RSVP and an analyst will meet with you and discuss your case.

1139

01:18:56.090 --> 01:18:56.950

And at that point,

1140

01:18:57.670 --> 01:19:02.430

I or one of my coworkers will work with whatever we have already collected,

1141

01:19:03.130 --> 01:19:04.550

try to find new information, if,

1142

01:19:04.610 --> 01:19:06.670

if it isn't a case that we've already been working on,

1143

01:19:07.080 --> 01:19:11.270

build a case packet for you. And then we'll sit down and we'll,

1144

01:19:11.290 --> 01:19:12.870

and we'll meet with you one-on-one.

1145

01:19:13.180 --> 01:19:16.830

It's a full day of meetings for the family members. Um,

1146

01:19:16.830 --> 01:19:20.190

there's no charge except that they will have to get themselves to the,

1147

01:19:20.290 --> 01:19:24.390

to location. Um, it's usually within a two to 300, um,

1148

01:19:24.390 --> 01:19:26.770

meter mile. Sorry, I've been in Europe,

1149

01:19:27.070 --> 01:19:31.490

two to 300 mile radius of the location of the hotel. So, you know,

1150

01:19:31.490 --> 01:19:34.250

anyone that lives within 200 miles of Chicago, for instance,

1151

01:19:34.250 --> 01:19:35.970

would get an invitation and you,

1152

01:19:36.030 --> 01:19:39.450

the family member would have to get themselves there. But other than that,

1153

01:19:39.520 --> 01:19:40.850

it's a, it's a free,

1154

01:19:41.070 --> 01:19:45.010

you'll see the video that I showed that came from the family member update.

1155

01:19:45.350 --> 01:19:49.170

You'll see, um, a, a video from the, the, um,

1156

01:19:49.170 --> 01:19:53.850

anthropologists and the scientists who actually do the DNA forensic work.

1157

01:19:54.270 --> 01:19:58.810

You'll see, um, videos about, and presentations about,

1158

01:19:59.670 --> 01:20:04.220

um, from the director. He's usually our director. Mr. McKee is usually there.

1159

01:20:04.220 --> 01:20:08.260

And he usually speaks about the policy and how he's moving forward and how he's

1160

01:20:08.260 --> 01:20:11.900

making changes and how he's fighting for us for money on Capitol Hill.

1161

01:20:12.480 --> 01:20:15.940

And then you'll see, um, parts of this, which I pulled out of,

1162

01:20:15.940 --> 01:20:19.820

of a World War II briefing that we're talking specifically about how we go about

1163

01:20:19.820 --> 01:20:20.980

conducting World War II research,

1164

01:20:21.090 --> 01:20:24.300

talk speci specifically about the kinds of records that we use,

1165

01:20:24.970 --> 01:20:29.340

talk about how we use historical, aerial, aerial imagery to pinpoint when a car,

1166

01:20:29.360 --> 01:20:34.020

uh, an airplane might have crashed today, as opposed to, you know, what,

1167

01:20:34.020 --> 01:20:36.660

what it looked like in 1944, what it looks like now,

1168

01:20:36.680 --> 01:20:40.380

so that I know where to go when I go look for those airplane crashes. Um,

1169

01:20:40.480 --> 01:20:44.180

and we'll sit with you and explain in the answer as many questions we can.

1170

01:20:44.180 --> 01:20:45.660

We'll go through the file for you.

1171

01:20:45.760 --> 01:20:48.460

So to make sure you understand what was in your I D P F,

1172

01:20:48.460 --> 01:20:49.700

understand what was in your records,

1173

01:20:49.770 --> 01:20:54.140

that you know exactly what was in your loved ones caskets if they were, um,

1174

01:20:54.490 --> 01:20:57.540

recovered. So that is something that we do for the family members.

1175

01:20:57.720 --> 01:21:02.700

If you have losses for Southeast Asia or if you have losses and missing

1176

01:21:03.000 --> 01:21:07.740

for Northeast Asia, which is the Korean War. In addition to these, uh,

1177

01:21:07.740 --> 01:21:09.620

events that we hold around the country,

1178

01:21:10.120 --> 01:21:15.060

we have annuals in Washington DC and they are invited to come to those.

1179

01:21:15.480 --> 01:21:15.700

Um,

1180

01:21:15.700 --> 01:21:18.500

that is something that the government actually pays for the next of kin to come

1181

01:21:18.560 --> 01:21:23.100

to those, and we are able to meet with them again and update them for that.

1182

01:21:23.680 --> 01:21:27.060

So the family member updates are where I get to meet with the family.

1183

01:21:27.740 --> 01:21:29.420

I get to tell them what I know about them.

1184

01:21:29.810 --> 01:21:31.740

They tell me what they know about their loved ones.

1185

01:21:31.740 --> 01:21:34.820

And that's often where I'll get copies of the photographs that I mentioned that

1186

01:21:34.820 --> 01:21:35.480

are so important,

1187

01:21:35.480 --> 01:21:39.460

or stories that I didn't know about that can add to the case history. And it's,

1188

01:21:39.530 --> 01:21:43.340

it's a, um, collaborative and shared event. So if you, again,

1189

01:21:43.580 --> 01:21:46.900

I would encourage you, if you have anyone that you know who has a loved one,

1190

01:21:46.900 --> 01:21:51.260

who's unrecovered, who's unaccounted for, um, have them contact.

1191

01:21:51.560 --> 01:21:53.500

If they're not Army or Army Air,

1192

01:21:53.850 --> 01:21:57.820

there's the same kind of service casualty office for Navy that I can get you the

1193

01:21:57.820 --> 01:22:01.740

phone number for, for the Coast Guard and for the Air Force. If it's say,

1194

01:22:01.810 --> 01:22:05.540

Vietnam, that's an Air Force loss as opposed to Army Air Force loss.

1195

01:22:06.240 --> 01:22:09.740

So that's something that we do for family members at their request.

1196

01:22:10.000 --> 01:22:12.180

If you can't make it to one of the family member updates,

1197

01:22:12.180 --> 01:22:15.140

but you still want to find information about your loved one who's missing,

1198

01:22:15.520 --> 01:22:19.580

you can just contact the service casualty and they'll tell me, Hey,

1199

01:22:19.580 --> 01:22:20.820
this person can't make it,

1200
01:22:20.840 --> 01:22:24.420
but they want a full packet and I'll give you everything I can. You just don't,

1201
01:22:24.420 --> 01:22:26.220
you just don't get me to explain it to you.

1202
01:22:29.980 --> 01:22:30.813
Yes, sir.

1203
01:22:32.250 --> 01:22:33.083
Christine?

1204
01:22:33.760 --> 01:22:34.520
Yes.

1205
01:22:34.520 --> 01:22:38.500
Two questions. One, specific to the DNA testing process.

1206
01:22:38.600 --> 01:22:42.020
You've got family reference dna, right?

1207
01:22:42.440 --> 01:22:44.860
You and her come up with dna. Is there,

1208
01:22:44.880 --> 01:22:47.420
is it always like an exact match or is it, yeah.

1209
01:22:47.810 --> 01:22:50.100
Does it have to be a certain percentage match or that type of thing?

1210
01:22:50.480 --> 01:22:53.860
So I kind of glossed over that too because it was too many numbers for me,

1211

01:22:53.860 --> 01:22:54.740
that lowly historian.

1212
01:22:55.080 --> 01:22:58.740
And I have my cheat sheet here on DNA cuz I'm not a scientist.

1213
01:22:59.100 --> 01:23:02.820
I tried to get one of the anthropologists to come with me tonight,
but, um,

1214
01:23:02.900 --> 01:23:06.000
I guess I'm just not a good, good salesperson. Um,

1215
01:23:06.960 --> 01:23:11.860
so that was part of the big change from 2015. Um, and big policy
change that we,

1216
01:23:11.880 --> 01:23:16.260
the Secretary of Defense's office, um, made that allowed us to move
forward.

1217
01:23:16.480 --> 01:23:19.420
So in the past we had a really high s uh,

1218
01:23:20.580 --> 01:23:24.580
standard that we had to meet a really high level of probability.

1219
01:23:25.160 --> 01:23:27.220
So if I would say, so for instance,

1220
01:23:27.220 --> 01:23:32.180
if I had said X 1 23 Newville I think is one of these five people,

1221
01:23:32.900 --> 01:23:37.220
I had to be pretty confident that it was one of these five people. Um,
it,

1222
01:23:37.280 --> 01:23:41.900
it was a really hard standard to accomplish because I can't see the

1223

01:23:42.060 --> 01:23:45.620

remains, I can only see the files. We don't know what's actually,

1224

01:23:45.800 --> 01:23:48.500

if what's in the remains or actually what's in, you know,

1225

01:23:48.520 --> 01:23:52.900

if it's was truly recorded, if those dental charts were done. Right.

Um,

1226

01:23:53.180 --> 01:23:58.090

I can't be certain because we're talking 75 year old records. And so it was,

1227

01:23:58.950 --> 01:24:02.930

we had very few disinterment happen in 2015.

1228

01:24:03.510 --> 01:24:08.090

The change in policy was that we could allow the threshold to be 50%.

1229

01:24:09.260 --> 01:24:14.200

So we had to say that we would make 50% probability that

1230

01:24:14.270 --> 01:24:18.360

were we to disinter this unknown set of remains. We could identify them.

1231

01:24:18.550 --> 01:24:23.120

It's probably 50% probability. It's one of those four that I think it is.

1232

01:24:23.580 --> 01:24:26.120

That's a much easier threshold for us to make,

1233

01:24:26.120 --> 01:24:30.280

especially if you're talking with bomb crews. Um, if a plane goes down,

1234

01:24:30.990 --> 01:24:35.530

there's, uh, unlike say, ground losses where someone could be missing anywhere,

1235

01:24:36.030 --> 01:24:40.730

uh, you know, on the Battle of the Bulge, it could be any missing anywhere,

1236

01:24:41.230 --> 01:24:44.250

um, in three different countries. So if plane goes down,

1237

01:24:44.590 --> 01:24:47.410

if we have identified two or three of the crew members,

1238

01:24:47.870 --> 01:24:50.890

we have this unknown set of remains. We don't know who it is,

1239

01:24:50.950 --> 01:24:52.130

we think it's part of the crew.

1240

01:24:52.360 --> 01:24:55.210

It's only a small set of people who are probably it.

1241

01:24:55.350 --> 01:24:58.770

So it's a much easier standard to make. Um,

1242

01:25:00.430 --> 01:25:05.210

one of the necessary pieces of information that we have to have in order to get

1243

01:25:05.210 --> 01:25:08.010

the approval to Disinter is again, like I said,

1244

01:25:08.010 --> 01:25:11.650

is we have DNA from family match, um,

1245

01:25:12.070 --> 01:25:16.360

the family reference sample, the dna, there are several different

kinds of dna.

1246

01:25:17.380 --> 01:25:21.040

Um, one of them is your basic nuclear dna.

1247

01:25:21.350 --> 01:25:24.920

It's a brother or sister or father or mother, you know, from the nuclear family.

1248

01:25:25.500 --> 01:25:30.450

That's one we have your, your, um, DNA that comes.

1249

01:25:30.560 --> 01:25:32.810

It's called, um, it's called,

1250

01:25:35.010 --> 01:25:36.990

let me see if I've got it. Um,

1251

01:25:42.530 --> 01:25:45.130

I don't wanna misspeak, but it's, um,

1252

01:25:45.520 --> 01:25:48.650

it's the one that goes through the Y and it's, um,

1253

01:25:48.650 --> 01:25:50.490

it's not unique to a specific person,

1254

01:25:50.550 --> 01:25:55.010

but it's unique to the family along the paternal line. That is, um,

1255

01:25:56.260 --> 01:25:59.190

it's, it's a little bit lesser refined method of dna.

1256

01:25:59.700 --> 01:26:01.470

It's not the one that we usually use.

1257

01:26:01.890 --> 01:26:04.060

We like to use the one that's mitochondrial dna.

1258

01:26:04.650 --> 01:26:09.300

It's only through the maternal line that gives us a more exact match.

1259

01:26:09.400 --> 01:26:12.340

It gives us a more definitive, um,

1260

01:26:13.090 --> 01:26:16.270

way to go about identifying people.

1261

01:26:16.890 --> 01:26:21.190

The d that mitochondrial DNA isn't always,

1262

01:26:21.850 --> 01:26:24.330

um, even though it's more exact,

1263

01:26:24.330 --> 01:26:27.610

it still isn't always possible for some reasons. Um,

1264

01:26:27.830 --> 01:26:31.530

and we will then go to what we call next generation sequencing.

1265

01:26:31.550 --> 01:26:35.330

And there are several different levels of that that are beyond my ability, um,

1266

01:26:35.330 --> 01:26:38.530

scientifically about my ability to explain to you. But what it is,

1267

01:26:38.530 --> 01:26:40.530

is just a more refined, um,

1268

01:26:41.050 --> 01:26:45.930

higher level of comparison and match this next generation sequencing.

1269

01:26:46.370 --> 01:26:46.650

I mean,

1270

01:26:46.650 --> 01:26:51.250

it also may involve a different type of donor of the family breakfast sample.

1271

01:26:51.750 --> 01:26:55.450

So I always tell families, uh, if you gave, and if your mother gave,

1272

01:26:55.830 --> 01:26:59.610

and if your sister gave, I still want everybody else's in the family.

1273

01:26:59.670 --> 01:27:03.770

We still wanna get as many family reference samples as we can of DNA because

1274

01:27:03.770 --> 01:27:08.690

we're not really sure which particular type of DNA matching we will

1275

01:27:08.720 --> 01:27:09.553

need.

1276

01:27:09.670 --> 01:27:13.130

The other problem that we have with a lot of the remains for World War II is the

1277

01:27:13.130 --> 01:27:16.450

way that the remains were treated at the time that they were originally buried

1278

01:27:17.150 --> 01:27:21.490

or the way, or the types of soil that they sat in if they were not buried.

1279

01:27:22.030 --> 01:27:24.810

Um, if they were, say in an isolated burial, if a,

1280

01:27:24.910 --> 01:27:29.770

if a farmer buried them at the corner of his yard under a tree and not in a ca

1281

01:27:29.950 --> 01:27:33.900

coffin or a casket. Um, so some of those soil types,

1282

01:27:34.050 --> 01:27:35.100

some of those conditions,

1283

01:27:35.210 --> 01:27:39.260

some of those types of ways that they treated the remains have, um,

1284

01:27:39.900 --> 01:27:44.860

rendered the d n A in the remains as as yet ineffective that

1285

01:27:44.860 --> 01:27:48.100

we can't actually get sequences out of them. But again,

1286

01:27:48.160 --> 01:27:52.380

I'm hopeful that science is evolving, that we'll be able to get further. Um,

1287

01:27:53.400 --> 01:27:56.780

we will advancements in science that we'll be able to be able to get some of

1288

01:27:56.780 --> 01:28:00.140

these, um, that we can't get now at a later date.

1289

01:28:00.520 --> 01:28:05.180

So DNA for a lot of, uh, layman, myself included,

1290

01:28:05.430 --> 01:28:08.420

seems like, um, the obvious easy answer.

1291

01:28:08.770 --> 01:28:11.140

It's not as easy as it looks in television.

1292

01:28:11.330 --> 01:28:15.420

It's exciting to us because it's much better than what we've had five or 10

1293

01:28:15.420 --> 01:28:19.980

years ago, but it still has some challenges and still has some, um,

1294

01:28:20.680 --> 01:28:23.440

you know, roadblocks among it. So

1295

01:28:29.290 --> 01:28:30.590

My second question

1296

01:28:32.880 --> 01:28:34.460

has to do long-term strategy.

1297

01:28:34.660 --> 01:28:38.500

I saw obviously in the YouTube clip leaving no American behind. Yeah.

1298

01:28:38.520 --> 01:28:40.020

But realistically, is there a long term?

1299

01:28:40.320 --> 01:28:43.420

And so goal or strategies sound like this could take hundreds of years.

1300

01:28:43.690 --> 01:28:47.300

Yeah, and I, and I also kind of glossed over that as well. Um,

1301

01:28:48.480 --> 01:28:52.390

lemme see if I, so, um, lemme see if I can find, um,

1302

01:28:57.050 --> 01:29:01.300

uh, no, I, I don't know if I have anything in there. It's a long term strategy.

1303

01:29:01.520 --> 01:29:02.860

So for instance, um,

1304

01:29:04.350 --> 01:29:09.050

the Romania project that I talked about with the 85 sets of unknown

remains

1305

01:29:09.230 --> 01:29:13.130
and the, um, 83 unidentified, um,

1306

01:29:13.790 --> 01:29:18.210
or the 83 unknown remains and the 83 unrecovered unaccounted for men,

1307

01:29:18.350 --> 01:29:21.810
that's a discreet pro project. That's discrete number.

1308

01:29:21.910 --> 01:29:25.010
And it's relatively small, 83 85.

1309

01:29:25.390 --> 01:29:28.130
And our projected timeframe for that is five years.

1310

01:29:29.180 --> 01:29:33.470
Five years for disinterment, five years for DNA testing. Um,

1311

01:29:33.810 --> 01:29:36.430
and at, and that's partly because of a couple things,

1312

01:29:36.760 --> 01:29:40.190
these unknown remains that are buried in American military cemeteries.

1313

01:29:41.040 --> 01:29:45.760
These cemeteries are cemeteries and they're also memorials.

1314

01:29:46.380 --> 01:29:48.920
And these remains are somebody's loved ones.

1315

01:29:49.060 --> 01:29:53.560
And so we take great care in dissenting unknown remains. Um,

1316

01:29:53.560 --> 01:29:56.320
and so we don't wanna disinter them until we're,

1317

01:29:56.610 --> 01:30:01.560

we're confident that we have time and the resources to do the testing.

1318

01:30:02.220 --> 01:30:05.440

Um, so we'll bring those remains back to us when we, when we distance to them,

1319

01:30:05.440 --> 01:30:08.680

we'll bring them back to the us, we'll put them in our lab at off at Nebraska.

1320

01:30:09.620 --> 01:30:10.480

And at that point,

1321

01:30:10.490 --> 01:30:15.120

we'll the clock starts ticking and we have only so much time in order to work

1322

01:30:15.120 --> 01:30:19.440

with those remains and identify them or else they'll have to be, um, reinter.

1323

01:30:21.170 --> 01:30:22.790

We also, um,

1324

01:30:24.260 --> 01:30:29.200

have to give the DNA analysis process a great amount

1325

01:30:29.200 --> 01:30:31.920

of time. It, it, again, it's not as fast as it seems on tv.

1326

01:30:32.420 --> 01:30:37.000

And so I've had remains that were tested for dna,

1327

01:30:39.490 --> 01:30:43.550

um, over a year ago, but we still haven't gotten results back.

1328

01:30:43.970 --> 01:30:48.390

So we're still waiting on those results to come back from the lab. Um,

1329

01:30:48.530 --> 01:30:51.790

so that's, so that's a lengthy process. And then

1330

01:30:53.810 --> 01:30:58.420

the other piece of all of that is after those remains are

1331

01:30:58.660 --> 01:31:01.020

identified out of those, um,

1332

01:31:01.020 --> 01:31:05.180

this ploj project that out of that set of remains,

1333

01:31:05.480 --> 01:31:10.340

I'm not confident that all of the unaccounted for from the tidal wave from

1334

01:31:10.600 --> 01:31:13.780

PSH will be identified. I'm not confident,

1335

01:31:13.780 --> 01:31:16.140

even though the numbers look like they match up,

1336

01:31:17.560 --> 01:31:19.400

I don't believe that they necessarily will.

1337

01:31:19.400 --> 01:31:23.960

And so I think that we'll still have missing unaccounted for men from Operation

1338

01:31:24.120 --> 01:31:28.160

Tidal Wave after we've worked through all of the unidentified remains from

1339

01:31:28.190 --> 01:31:32.760

Romania. So at that point, we'll start with field, um,

1340

01:31:33.320 --> 01:31:33.860
investigations.

1341
01:31:33.860 --> 01:31:37.840
At that point we'll start looking for the crash sites of those particular

1342
01:31:37.840 --> 01:31:42.600
losses. And that process often takes several years because of resources,

1343
01:31:42.600 --> 01:31:45.000
because of funding in order to get, um,

1344
01:31:45.320 --> 01:31:48.160
approval to go out and look for crash sites and then to excavate them.

1345
01:31:48.420 --> 01:31:53.280
So that's just 83 missing Madden and it's gonna take at least five or six

1346
01:31:53.280 --> 01:31:56.830
years just to get to that point. Again,

1347
01:31:56.830 --> 01:31:59.460
we don't have that much ti money. We don't have that many,

1348
01:32:00.160 --> 01:32:03.050
much personnel and we don't have that much, um,

1349
01:32:03.680 --> 01:32:08.650
time in a 12 month year to do a lot of the field investigations that we do.

1350
01:32:09.310 --> 01:32:11.690
So I said that I was in Romania recently.

1351
01:32:11.770 --> 01:32:16.490
I was also looking for five airmen that were missing from five

separate Bob, um,

1352

01:32:16.600 --> 01:32:21.170

five separate air aircraft crashes in Romania. Um,

1353

01:32:21.400 --> 01:32:24.570

each one of those took four or five days for us to investigate.

1354

01:32:24.570 --> 01:32:28.850

We went out to the field. Um, based on what I knew historically, we found the,

1355

01:32:28.910 --> 01:32:30.930

the crash, what I think is the crash location.

1356

01:32:31.230 --> 01:32:34.050

We took ar I took an archeologist and a whole team with us.

1357

01:32:34.470 --> 01:32:38.610

We conducted a survey. We, um, identified the area.

1358

01:32:39.310 --> 01:32:43.650

Now I have to go back, I have to, um, present that to my superiors,

1359

01:32:43.670 --> 01:32:47.570

get it approved for excavation. So that's gonna take another year or two,

1360

01:32:47.570 --> 01:32:50.890

and then they'll go out and possibly excavate. Then once they excavate,

1361

01:32:50.890 --> 01:32:54.000

if they do find remains, which is wonderful,

1362

01:32:54.630 --> 01:32:58.120

then those remains have to come back to the lab and go through the same amount

1363

01:32:58.120 --> 01:33:01.440

of testing that the unidentified and the unknowns come back through.

1364

01:33:01.540 --> 01:33:04.520

So that's again, a long process. Um,

1365

01:33:05.630 --> 01:33:10.330

one of the reasons why I said that Romania was a focus is because it is one of

1366

01:33:10.330 --> 01:33:14.330

the ones that we are throwing a lot of our resources at that we are trying to

1367

01:33:14.330 --> 01:33:15.570

pay a lot of attention to.

1368

01:33:15.990 --> 01:33:20.690

But that means that then areas in Italy might not get as much attention or areas

1369

01:33:20.830 --> 01:33:22.530

in Germany might not get as much attention.

1370

01:33:22.910 --> 01:33:25.930

So we've tried to pick four or five areas, um,

1371

01:33:26.000 --> 01:33:30.770

each fiscal year to focus on, but it's a long term ongoing project.

1372

01:33:31.700 --> 01:33:32.750

That answer your question?

1373

01:33:38.800 --> 01:33:39.790

Thank you very much,

1374

01:33:41.900 --> 01:33:43.550

Christine. Yes. Oh, okay. Thank you.

1375

01:33:46.170 --> 01:33:48.430

On behalf of the 93rd Bomb Group Association,

1376

01:33:48.430 --> 01:33:52.470

we have a complimentary gift for Christine for coming here tonight to copy of

1377

01:33:52.470 --> 01:33:56.190

our history book. Wonderful. Published by Cal Stewart, Ted's Traveling Circus,

1378

01:33:57.230 --> 01:34:00.950

a uh, copy of the, uh, history card as well as the Hardwick, uh, card.

1379

01:34:01.050 --> 01:34:03.390

So thank you very much. Thank you very much. Appreciate for fascinating.

1380

01:34:03.520 --> 01:34:04.080

Thank you.

1381

01:34:04.080 --> 01:34:06.270

Stand for a picture as well. Yes. Yeah, thank you.

1382

01:34:09.060 --> 01:34:12.350

Okay, well let's get started. We're pleased and excited to have our, uh,

1383

01:34:12.350 --> 01:34:15.590

second education session here centered around our three veterans that are with

1384

01:34:15.590 --> 01:34:16.423

us this year.

1385

01:34:16.890 --> 01:34:20.790

And our host and mc for this portion of the program is Dee Friesen has done an

1386

01:34:20.790 --> 01:34:23.030

outstanding job over the years, uh,

1387

01:34:23.030 --> 01:34:26.150

with our veterans and with our education session. So thank you Dee for that.

1388

01:34:26.150 --> 01:34:27.470

And with that, I'll turn it over to him.

1389

01:34:27.850 --> 01:34:30.590

And if you do have questions when we get to the questions part,

1390

01:34:30.590 --> 01:34:34.940

please use the microphone. Wait for the microphone, right? Yeah,

1391

01:34:35.440 --> 01:34:36.900

we are streaming live still.

1392

01:34:37.560 --> 01:34:42.290

People online can't hear it unless we have the microphones on. So again,

1393

01:34:42.290 --> 01:34:45.210

please use the microphone if you have questions. Here's d Thank you. I

1394

01:34:45.210 --> 01:34:46.970

I've got a microphone. Okay.

1395

01:34:46.970 --> 01:34:50.330

The way we're gonna do this this morning is if you don't have a mic,

1396

01:34:51.130 --> 01:34:55.690

I will repeat your question. That way we can answer it the way we want.

1397

01:34:56.730 --> 01:35:01.040

You know, rephrase the question. So let's get going here.

1398

01:35:03.920 --> 01:35:08.740

We have three veterans today that are here. And as you know, in the past,

1399

01:35:08.800 --> 01:35:10.820

it keeps getting smaller and smaller,

1400

01:35:11.800 --> 01:35:15.780

but the knowledge gets bigger and bigger as their memories get better,

1401

01:35:16.210 --> 01:35:19.260

just like we can relate to. So I think we're gonna have a good session.

1402

01:35:19.440 --> 01:35:20.860

So let me introduce the three,

1403

01:35:20.890 --> 01:35:24.520

even though you probably know them over on your left,

1404

01:35:25.970 --> 01:35:27.910

we have Glen Mill Glenn Martin.

1405

01:35:29.110 --> 01:35:33.500

He was the flew 34 missions when he was

1406

01:35:33.500 --> 01:35:34.660

23 years old.

1407

01:35:36.480 --> 01:35:41.340

And he also is distinguished because he was on the staff of Timberlake,

1408

01:35:41.950 --> 01:35:43.300

which he's gonna talk about.

1409

01:35:44.190 --> 01:35:47.090

And so he was a pilot and we welcome him back.

1410

01:35:47.170 --> 01:35:51.210

I think this is your third reunion. What? Your third time here?

1411

01:35:51.910 --> 01:35:55.550

First time? No, third. Third. You were in, uh,

1412

01:35:56.110 --> 01:35:58.990

Omaha I think was the first time. Yeah, this was my third time. Okay.

1413

01:35:59.570 --> 01:36:03.940

Then we have, uh, bill Brown. Everybody knows Brown. He is got all the browns.

1414

01:36:03.940 --> 01:36:05.900

Raise your hand please. There you go. All right.

1415

01:36:06.370 --> 01:36:08.020

They always sit in the back of the room.

1416

01:36:09.030 --> 01:36:12.970

So Bill flew 35 missions when he was 24 years old,

1417

01:36:13.710 --> 01:36:16.620

and he is gonna talk to us about something called darkie.

1418

01:36:17.870 --> 01:36:19.290

And then we have Wayne Baker.

1419

01:36:19.900 --> 01:36:24.480

Wayne Baker was an engineer in the three 30th through his first me

1420

01:36:24.480 --> 01:36:27.560

15th mission on the 23rd of May, which is gonna talk to us about.

1421

01:36:27.940 --> 01:36:31.360

And you were 19 years old, so you're kind of the young guy in this group here.

1422

01:36:31.430 --> 01:36:34.580

Well, I turned 19. Let's use the mic, please.

1423

01:36:36.120 --> 01:36:39.360

I, I turned 19, uh, toward the end of my missions.

1424

01:36:41.260 --> 01:36:43.040

Can you imagine that 18 years old,

1425

01:36:43.040 --> 01:36:45.520

you're going over to a place that you've never seen or heard of,

1426

01:36:45.520 --> 01:36:48.760

you're gonna go to war. That took a lot of guts. I think that's pretty,

1427

01:36:48.760 --> 01:36:52.240

pretty good deal there, Wayne. So appreciate that. So let's get started.

1428

01:36:53.810 --> 01:36:57.630

Um, I've given some thought as to what should we ask these people.

1429

01:36:58.250 --> 01:37:03.190

And the way I'd like this to work is your interests are what make this

1430

01:37:03.190 --> 01:37:06.190

important cuz that brings the information out of them.

1431

01:37:06.690 --> 01:37:08.950

I'm gonna have a couple questions to begin with,

1432

01:37:09.210 --> 01:37:12.990

but then we'll answer your questions as we go. And we've got a lot of time,

1433

01:37:12.990 --> 01:37:15.310

we've got an hour plus, and we only have three vets.

1434

01:37:15.310 --> 01:37:16.510

So that should give us a lot of time.

1435

01:37:17.170 --> 01:37:21.750

So I'm gonna start out by asking them to talk about the

1436

01:37:21.970 --> 01:37:23.670

smells that they remember.

1437

01:37:24.480 --> 01:37:28.100

You can probably all relate to the fact that you've been somewhere doing

1438

01:37:28.100 --> 01:37:33.010

something, you smell something and it brings back a memory. I know for me,

1439

01:37:33.120 --> 01:37:36.410

I'll smell mud and I think of the ditch with the crow, deads and the pasture.

1440

01:37:37.240 --> 01:37:41.830

So we all have our own memories. So we'll start with you. Uh,

1441

01:37:42.380 --> 01:37:43.213

Glen,

1442

01:37:43.300 --> 01:37:47.310

when I say the smells of the airplane or the smells of your war experience,

1443

01:37:47.310 --> 01:37:48.350

what comes to your mind?

1444

01:37:51.560 --> 01:37:54.400

I feel like I'm in a police lineup here. And I hope

1445

01:37:57.200 --> 01:37:58.740

Gentle with us today.

1446

01:37:59.960 --> 01:38:04.270

Now what I need to tell you that I didn't tell you last year?

1447

01:38:04.500 --> 01:38:08.750

Well, you can tell us the same thing. That will be fine. Tell us what you,

1448

01:38:08.750 --> 01:38:12.230

what smells do you remember? You go to the airplane, what would,

1449

01:38:12.230 --> 01:38:15.070

what do you remember you smell anything? Gunpowder, fuel, oil.

1450

01:38:15.380 --> 01:38:18.550

Come around where I can see your lips. I'm hardly hearing. All right.

1451

01:38:20.630 --> 01:38:22.120

What did you other, what was it,

1452

01:38:22.470 --> 01:38:24.920

What would you smell when you got in the airplane?

1453

01:38:25.940 --> 01:38:29.870

Smell. Mm-hmm. Smell, fuel.

1454

01:38:31.120 --> 01:38:33.110

Smell a lot of fuel. Yeah.

1455

01:38:34.610 --> 01:38:36.430

Not much else right Now,

1456

01:38:37.540 --> 01:38:41.270

Once, once you got taxing and airborne, would that smell go away?

1457

01:38:41.930 --> 01:38:44.830

Um, well, I didn't realize it yet.

1458

01:38:44.910 --> 01:38:48.830

I had other things to think about and pretty interesting.

1459

01:38:49.170 --> 01:38:52.590

We can push those things out of our memories as we concentrate on other things.

1460

01:38:52.590 --> 01:38:56.520

Yeah. How about you, bill? What'd you use the mic, please?

1461

01:38:59.570 --> 01:39:00.130

Well,

1462

01:39:00.130 --> 01:39:05.130

I remember the apu when I'd climb in

1463

01:39:05.130 --> 01:39:05.600

the aircraft

1464

01:39:05.600 --> 01:39:06.690

Auxiliary power unit.

1465

01:39:08.150 --> 01:39:12.880

It was, it had its own definite smell.

1466

01:39:16.200 --> 01:39:18.150

Every time I smell that

1467

01:39:19.890 --> 01:39:21.470

brings back old memories.

1468

01:39:23.030 --> 01:39:24.570

Can you describe the smell?

1469
01:39:27.320 --> 01:39:30.570
Well, it's mostly a fuel smell.

1470
01:39:34.190 --> 01:39:35.130
Do you remember that, Glen?

1471
01:39:38.040 --> 01:39:40.620
No. That's, that's about all I can tell you about that.

1472
01:39:40.880 --> 01:39:41.713
How about you, Wayne?

1473
01:39:44.610 --> 01:39:49.420
Well, I was around the hydraulics a lot. So I spelled, uh,

1474
01:39:50.650 --> 01:39:54.810
a v V 360 6, a hydraulic foot.

1475
01:39:56.380 --> 01:40:01.010
Still remember the number and, and mainly, uh,

1476
01:40:01.770 --> 01:40:04.570
a, uh, fuel smell of the gasoline.

1477
01:40:06.670 --> 01:40:10.050
Did, did the hydraulic fuel then smell like it does today?

1478
01:40:12.720 --> 01:40:17.050
Well, it's, no, it, it's a rather pleasant smell.

1479
01:40:17.160 --> 01:40:17.993
It's not bad.

1480
01:40:18.490 --> 01:40:23.010
I happen to have an occasion in my Cessna that, uh,

1481
01:40:23.730 --> 01:40:28.130

I recognized the smell when I, uh, I broke a,

1482

01:40:28.570 --> 01:40:33.370

a hydraulic line and couldn't lo couldn't lower my landing gear on my Cessna.

1483

01:40:35.110 --> 01:40:37.050

Did you have an alternate extension method?

1484

01:40:38.590 --> 01:40:43.170

Uh, well, you had a wobble pump. You had electric pump to on the,

1485

01:40:43.390 --> 01:40:48.290

uh, on the Cessna. But, uh, of course on, on the B 24,

1486

01:40:49.070 --> 01:40:52.730

it was an all an enclosed system, but, uh,

1487

01:40:52.730 --> 01:40:55.400

they'd always spill some and it was quite a,

1488

01:40:55.970 --> 01:41:00.720

quite a strong smell, so it, it stayed in the airplane.

1489

01:41:03.060 --> 01:41:06.810

Thank you very much. Wayne. You had mentioned you wanted to talk about your 15,

1490

01:41:06.830 --> 01:41:09.570

oh, I'm sorry. Go ahead. No, did you wanna say something else?

1491

01:41:09.830 --> 01:41:14.730

Say he was an a engineer and they were so indispensable

1492

01:41:15.590 --> 01:41:20.010

and they usually served also as a top turt gunner, isn't that right?

1493

01:41:20.550 --> 01:41:24.970

Yes. But anything that went wrong on the flight,

1494

01:41:25.390 --> 01:41:28.930

we would call the area, call the engineer and say, you know,

1495

01:41:28.950 --> 01:41:30.490

we got a problem here or there.

1496

01:41:30.990 --> 01:41:35.370

But they were also so very intelligent and well trained,

1497

01:41:35.670 --> 01:41:39.410

and yours was probably like mine. Uh,

1498

01:41:39.510 --> 01:41:44.090

he just knew everything about the B 24 almost. Well,

1499

01:41:44.110 --> 01:41:48.090

you were required to take care of any, any problems you got,

1500

01:41:48.090 --> 01:41:52.400

whether you knew how, knew what the problem was or,

1501

01:41:52.780 --> 01:41:57.200

or how to do it. You were still responsible for taking care of

1502

01:41:57.200 --> 01:41:58.040

It. Well, Wayne,

1503

01:41:58.040 --> 01:42:02.320

that brings up the question of what was your training like as an engineer to

1504

01:42:02.320 --> 01:42:04.840

learn all those systems? How long was that training?

1505

01:42:07.550 --> 01:42:12.400

Well, uh, I don't remember how long it was,

1506

01:42:12.580 --> 01:42:16.200

but several months, uh, I, uh, uh,

1507

01:42:16.830 --> 01:42:20.760

went through California flyers, uh,

1508

01:42:21.640 --> 01:42:26.170

training school down in, uh, well just east of,

1509

01:42:26.990 --> 01:42:30.490

of where Lot LAX is at the present time.

1510

01:42:32.000 --> 01:42:36.060

Uh, there, there was airfield there and I, it was,

1511

01:42:36.240 --> 01:42:39.700

it belonged to one of the aviation manufacturers.

1512

01:42:40.080 --> 01:42:43.900

And we went there and went through complete training, uh,

1513

01:42:45.250 --> 01:42:46.740

both aircraft and engine.

1514

01:42:48.640 --> 01:42:50.830

Every, every time I went to a new airplane,

1515

01:42:50.850 --> 01:42:54.110

we would learn systems and we would get tested on the system.

1516

01:42:54.250 --> 01:42:56.670

Did you enjoy that experience of learning the systems?

1517

01:42:58.050 --> 01:43:02.950

Yes. I, I had been a, doing mechanical work, uh,

1518

01:43:02.950 --> 01:43:05.670
most of my life I had, yeah, so it fit right in.

1519
01:43:07.090 --> 01:43:09.390
So how did, how did you get selected for that?

1520
01:43:09.390 --> 01:43:12.110
Were you able to volunteer to do that or did it just happen?

1521
01:43:13.210 --> 01:43:17.510
Uh, I had a recommendation from, from a flyer,

1522
01:43:18.250 --> 01:43:22.830
uh, in, in my hometown of APT and Wyoming. And, uh,

1523
01:43:23.190 --> 01:43:27.590
I had a letter from him, uh, uh, when he knew I was going in,

1524
01:43:27.690 --> 01:43:32.310
he offered to give me a letter of recommendation. And,

1525
01:43:32.530 --> 01:43:37.270
uh, I don't know whether that influenced it any or not, but, uh,

1526
01:43:37.890 --> 01:43:40.990
uh, when I went into the Army Air Corps, they,

1527
01:43:41.420 --> 01:43:45.340
they gave me a quite a substantial test

1528
01:43:46.490 --> 01:43:49.950
on, uh, uh, on, well, knowledge,

1529
01:43:50.570 --> 01:43:54.710
on mechanics, on, uh, well,

1530
01:43:55.470 --> 01:43:59.630
I guess determine whether you are suitable for, for that type of job.

1531

01:44:00.250 --> 01:44:01.550

So they made a wise decision.

1532

01:44:02.940 --> 01:44:07.110

Well, hopefully, so yes, I survived. It

1533

01:44:07.110 --> 01:44:07.470

Worked out.

1534

01:44:07.470 --> 01:44:10.030

You're here. I'm, I'm here. So it

1535

01:44:10.030 --> 01:44:12.990

Worked. Let me ask the pilots, cause you, you know what I'm talking about.

1536

01:44:13.050 --> 01:44:16.390

How much systems training did you get? How much, uh,

1537

01:44:16.410 --> 01:44:19.070

do you remember that in your training? Just learning the systems?

1538

01:44:19.610 --> 01:44:20.443

Uh,

1539

01:44:20.530 --> 01:44:21.363

Use the mic please.

1540

01:44:21.530 --> 01:44:22.363

It was,

1541

01:44:22.900 --> 01:44:26.990

Well, about four, four months

1542

01:44:28.810 --> 01:44:33.790

before we went into the B 24 training. Yes. And I took a couple of months there,

1543

01:44:34.930 --> 01:44:35.763

but, uh,

1544

01:44:36.460 --> 01:44:40.630

it's something you never forget and you never will not be a pilot either.

1545

01:44:41.900 --> 01:44:46.350

Even, even I love flying today. I just love to go.

1546

01:44:46.530 --> 01:44:51.110

But it's amazing that nobody's shooting at us up there.

1547

01:44:55.180 --> 01:44:56.350

Depends on where you fly.

1548

01:44:56.570 --> 01:44:58.430

That's, that's the amazing part off

1549

01:44:59.900 --> 01:45:02.230

Bill, you wanna comment on that? I'm sorry.

1550

01:45:02.390 --> 01:45:04.750

I asked him if he wanted to comment on that Systems training.

1551

01:45:06.930 --> 01:45:07.680

Use the mic my please.

1552

01:45:07.680 --> 01:45:10.190

About two, we had about two months on systems.

1553

01:45:10.830 --> 01:45:15.290

We had about two months on systems and, uh,

1554

01:45:17.470 --> 01:45:21.160

more or less, it just how to start the engines and

1555

01:45:24.680 --> 01:45:26.100

little things like that.

1556

01:45:27.170 --> 01:45:29.540

Okay, let's move on. Wayne, I had started this,

1557

01:45:29.600 --> 01:45:32.420

you said you wanted to talk about your 15th mission.

1558

01:45:33.240 --> 01:45:34.420

You wanna share that with us?

1559

01:45:36.960 --> 01:45:37.793

Well, that,

1560

01:45:38.040 --> 01:45:41.170

That was quite an experience. My 13th mission that,

1561

01:45:41.170 --> 01:45:45.730

that's the one I remember the best and, and hated it, the worst.

1562

01:45:47.230 --> 01:45:52.130

Uh, it, it started out bad and ended up bad. Well,

1563

01:45:52.150 --> 01:45:55.090

not quite bad, but, uh, it, it, uh,

1564

01:45:55.790 --> 01:46:00.530

it was quite an experience. Uh, we, we, uh,

1565

01:46:00.530 --> 01:46:05.530

took off from the air base and, uh, climbed up and farmed up on a,

1566

01:46:06.710 --> 01:46:10.370

our lead plane. We came up on the, uh,

1567

01:46:10.800 --> 01:46:15.570

left wing of the lead plane. And, uh, uh,

1568

01:46:19.350 --> 01:46:23.850

my co-pilot always wanted to be a, be a fighter pilot.

1569

01:46:24.750 --> 01:46:25.583

And so he,

1570

01:46:26.430 --> 01:46:30.930

he wanted to stick our right wing in the

1571

01:46:31.280 --> 01:46:35.410

west or in the, uh, left, uh,

1572

01:46:35.410 --> 01:46:38.370

window of the, of the other plane. He,

1573

01:46:38.710 --> 01:46:42.650

he had to fly at least half, half overlap on the wings.

1574

01:46:43.800 --> 01:46:48.350

And, uh, so where he's, he's flying like a,

1575

01:46:49.100 --> 01:46:53.420

a fighter pilot and, and, uh, I'm busy, uh,

1576

01:46:54.120 --> 01:46:55.180

uh, uh,

1577

01:46:55.660 --> 01:46:59.620

synchronizing the props and setting mixture control and so on. And

1578

01:47:06.510 --> 01:47:10.650

I'm, uh, looking across the propellers to, uh,

1579

01:47:11.050 --> 01:47:14.750

synchronize the propellers, stop the shadow,

1580

01:47:15.910 --> 01:47:19.310

rotating in the propellers. And, and suddenly I,

1581

01:47:19.820 --> 01:47:23.150

something just brings my attention forward. And, uh,

1582

01:47:23.330 --> 01:47:25.350

here's an airplane out there,

1583

01:47:25.800 --> 01:47:30.190

right almost to us flying at our

1584

01:47:30.510 --> 01:47:32.870

altitude and, uh,

1585

01:47:33.490 --> 01:47:36.230

coming straight in at us.

1586

01:47:37.850 --> 01:47:42.270

And so I let out a yell and grabbed the, the co co-pilot.

1587

01:47:42.530 --> 01:47:46.910

He was flying it, grabbed his shoulder and shook it and pointed and,

1588

01:47:47.170 --> 01:47:51.110

and he immediately, he immediately rolled off to the left.

1589

01:47:51.930 --> 01:47:56.870

And as he rolled over, I saw the, the lead plane roll the other way,

1590

01:47:57.690 --> 01:48:02.560

and this other plane turned on its wing and went right between us.

1591

01:48:03.780 --> 01:48:08.720

So that was quite a bad experience. And, and, uh, anyway,

1592

01:48:08.780 --> 01:48:13.730

now we've got to reform and get back to altitude

1593

01:48:13.950 --> 01:48:16.290

and, and, uh,

1594

01:48:17.950 --> 01:48:21.770

so I'm pushed to, to get the engine set up again,

1595

01:48:22.370 --> 01:48:27.290

synchronized and all of that. So I'm a little late getting in my turret,

1596

01:48:28.110 --> 01:48:32.750

so I'm in a hurry. And I, uh, and to load the,

1597

01:48:34.510 --> 01:48:39.170

to start your, uh, string of ammunition into the, the gun,

1598

01:48:40.310 --> 01:48:44.930

you had to rotate. The controls were like a,

1599

01:48:45.330 --> 01:48:49.050

a set of hand handlebars, a little bit on a bicycle.

1600

01:48:50.190 --> 01:48:54.610

And you, you rotated your it down and,

1601

01:48:55.230 --> 01:48:57.810

and rotated your engine vertically to,

1602

01:48:58.150 --> 01:49:02.290

and then reached through the frame, uh, of the,

1603

01:49:02.480 --> 01:49:07.410

that held the guns to get to your ammunition box and then feed

1604

01:49:07.470 --> 01:49:08.270

the, uh,

1605

01:49:08.270 --> 01:49:13.250

get ahold of the belt of ammunition and bring it up and hook it over the pole,

1606

01:49:14.110 --> 01:49:18.920

uh, to start it feeding. Uh, as I did that,

1607

01:49:19.840 --> 01:49:23.800

I rotated the, in, uh, the, the guns vertically,

1608

01:49:24.830 --> 01:49:29.130

but I didn't wait for the Vickers unit to slow down and,

1609

01:49:29.990 --> 01:49:34.970

uh, uh, and stop, which was, was the right thing to do.

1610

01:49:35.070 --> 01:49:37.090

You rotated up and it takes,

1611

01:49:37.540 --> 01:49:40.930

takes a little time for the vicars unit to the hydraulic

1612

01:49:42.480 --> 01:49:44.890

pump or hydraulic motor that,

1613

01:49:45.400 --> 01:49:49.380

that controls the turret to slow down and stop.

1614

01:49:50.580 --> 01:49:55.540

I stuck my arm through there, and as I stretched, I was real small,

1615

01:49:55.800 --> 01:49:58.380

so I had to have a booster seat under,

1616

01:49:58.670 --> 01:50:02.380

under me to get me up high enough to see through the, the side.

1617

01:50:04.080 --> 01:50:08.780

And as I stretch, you wore your, your, uh,

1618

01:50:08.780 --> 01:50:13.540

parachute harm harness. We couldn't get our, couldn't,

1619

01:50:14.040 --> 01:50:16.180

uh, get our air,

1620

01:50:16.680 --> 01:50:20.510

our chute pack in the turt.

1621

01:50:21.410 --> 01:50:24.520

So we just wore the hor and, uh,

1622

01:50:25.020 --> 01:50:27.440

as I stretched it, hooked the,

1623

01:50:27.500 --> 01:50:31.720

hooked the controls and tip and brought that gun down on my,

1624

01:50:31.950 --> 01:50:34.600

that framework down on my arm,

1625

01:50:35.540 --> 01:50:38.680

and crushed my arm quite bad. Uh,

1626

01:50:38.860 --> 01:50:43.120

it didn't break my arm. I, I could tell it,

1627

01:50:43.420 --> 01:50:46.120

it didn't break anything, so I didn't say anything.

1628

01:50:46.360 --> 01:50:51.280

I didn't want to cause us toor, uh, abort the,

1629

01:50:51.580 --> 01:50:55.950

the flight. So as, anyway,

1630

01:50:55.950 --> 01:50:58.910
as we come up to altitude,

1631

01:50:59.810 --> 01:51:03.910
my arm really hurt it. Extreme pain.

1632

01:51:04.710 --> 01:51:07.590
I found out the reason for my,

1633

01:51:08.370 --> 01:51:13.070
for it hurting exceptionally bad

1634

01:51:13.290 --> 01:51:15.110
was, uh, lack of oxygen.

1635

01:51:16.390 --> 01:51:20.990
I found out at the end of the, when we got back home,

1636

01:51:22.310 --> 01:51:27.210
that I had used up less than,

1637

01:51:27.880 --> 01:51:32.370
less than a bottle of oxygen. See, the, uh,

1638

01:51:32.630 --> 01:51:36.850
the way I got my oxygen was I had a bottle,

1639

01:51:37.890 --> 01:51:42.890
a small bottle of oxygen on the bottom of the turt. And,

1640

01:51:44.030 --> 01:51:47.850
uh, when I needed, when my gauge would go down,

1641

01:51:48.290 --> 01:51:52.450
I would reach over with my toe and I could touch the shoulder

1642

01:51:53.110 --> 01:51:55.170
of the radio operator with my toe,

1643

01:51:55.830 --> 01:51:58.570
and then he would charge my bottles.

1644

01:51:59.850 --> 01:52:04.210
I found out that on that whole trip, he'd never charged my bottles.

1645

01:52:04.230 --> 01:52:07.010
And it was an eight hour trip. Oh.

1646

01:52:07.670 --> 01:52:11.330
And so I was with very little oxygen for the,

1647

01:52:11.530 --> 01:52:16.170
I I had to have gotten oxygen all the time because I survived it. But,

1648

01:52:16.870 --> 01:52:20.490
uh, I had very little oxygen on the trip. So

1649

01:52:22.040 --> 01:52:26.860
anyway, my, as we gained an altitude, my arm hurt worse,

1650

01:52:27.120 --> 01:52:32.020
and I was in a lot of pain. And, and so I,

1651

01:52:32.840 --> 01:52:36.110
as we went out across the den,

1652

01:52:36.260 --> 01:52:39.950
more peninsula out toward the, uh,

1653

01:52:41.130 --> 01:52:45.460
uh, south coast of Norway, uh,

1654

01:52:45.600 --> 01:52:49.900

we were over at the Baltic Sea. Uh, the,

1655

01:52:50.600 --> 01:52:54.940

the, uh, formation ahead of, of us called for,

1656

01:52:55.840 --> 01:53:00.700

uh, for fighter escort that he said they were being hit by German

1657

01:53:01.100 --> 01:53:03.820

fighters. And, uh, I,

1658

01:53:04.390 --> 01:53:09.340

later it was told that there was 90 German fighters hit this

1659

01:53:09.440 --> 01:53:13.940

one group. Well, the group was short one,

1660

01:53:14.080 --> 01:53:18.940

so they had 35, 35 in the group. And, uh,

1661

01:53:20.640 --> 01:53:23.060

uh, one made it back to England.

1662

01:53:24.280 --> 01:53:26.620

And we were right over

1663

01:53:28.260 --> 01:53:31.400

the plains when they were one minute ahead of us.

1664

01:53:31.500 --> 01:53:36.360

So we're right over 'em as they're hitting the Baltic Sea. And they opened my,

1665

01:53:36.540 --> 01:53:40.120

the, uh, Bombay, so I could see,

1666

01:53:41.160 --> 01:53:45.160

I was in a position to observe what was below me.

1667

01:53:46.000 --> 01:53:50.840

I could observe pretty much where the bombs were gonna hit. And so they,

1668

01:53:51.630 --> 01:53:54.480

they opened the Bombay. I look out between,

1669

01:53:55.070 --> 01:53:59.240

down between my legs and out of the Bombay, and I can, uh,

1670

01:53:59.740 --> 01:54:04.640

and here's, uh, planes going down on, on fire.

1671

01:54:05.100 --> 01:54:06.960

And, and I,

1672

01:54:07.090 --> 01:54:11.840

there was three B 20 fours appeared to be in perfect formation

1673

01:54:12.180 --> 01:54:16.480

in flat spins, going into the lots of,

1674

01:54:17.300 --> 01:54:21.220

uh, parachutes and, uh, wreckage fallen. And,

1675

01:54:21.720 --> 01:54:25.060

and of course, that scared the heck out of me,

1676

01:54:25.840 --> 01:54:30.100

scared me worse. And, and, uh, then we,

1677

01:54:30.760 --> 01:54:34.390

uh, we went into, uh,

1678

01:54:35.550 --> 01:54:37.710

Paulette, north Prussia.

1679

01:54:38.890 --> 01:54:43.830

And that was an oil refinery that was the primary source of

1680

01:54:43.890 --> 01:54:47.670

oil once they knocked out pty oil fields.

1681

01:54:48.930 --> 01:54:52.600

And of course, as we were coming in there, the,

1682

01:54:52.900 --> 01:54:57.000

the sky is just black with, with, uh,

1683

01:54:57.500 --> 01:55:00.710

any aircraft fire. And,

1684

01:55:02.390 --> 01:55:07.370

and you, you know, you're going to get hit. In fact, there was, uh,

1685

01:55:07.910 --> 01:55:10.290

two bursts, right, almost on our tail.

1686

01:55:10.350 --> 01:55:13.010

And you knew the next one was gonna get you.

1687

01:55:13.350 --> 01:55:18.210

And all the time, there's an airplane flying above us, uh,

1688

01:55:18.470 --> 01:55:21.250

uh, a straggler from another group.

1689

01:55:22.660 --> 01:55:26.690

They're sitting right, right above us. And, uh,

1690

01:55:27.550 --> 01:55:32.410

uh, when, when we got to our IP and opened the Bombay,

1691

01:55:33.070 --> 01:55:35.810

uh, he opened his Bombay right above our tail.

1692

01:55:36.790 --> 01:55:41.170

And so I called the pilot on, on the intercom and,

1693

01:55:41.550 --> 01:55:42.270

and told him,

1694

01:55:42.270 --> 01:55:46.060

and he moved over and they dropped their bombs right alongside of our tail.

1695

01:55:47.660 --> 01:55:51.080

And so that was pretty irritating.

1696

01:55:53.220 --> 01:55:57.760

And, uh, anyway, we, we, uh,

1697

01:55:58.410 --> 01:56:01.470

we went through the bomb run, dropped our bombs,

1698

01:56:02.250 --> 01:56:06.750

and you couldn't really tell where you, where you could hit because the,

1699

01:56:06.800 --> 01:56:10.070

there was so much smoke up there from the,

1700

01:56:11.100 --> 01:56:14.190

from the group that had hit, uh, before us,

1701

01:56:14.450 --> 01:56:18.600

and that you couldn't see anything. We turned,

1702

01:56:19.470 --> 01:56:23.440

made, made our bomb run, turned, and, uh,

1703

01:56:23.580 --> 01:56:27.000

and went out about the same, uh,

1704

01:56:27.740 --> 01:56:32.050

course as we'd come in. And,

1705

01:56:32.910 --> 01:56:37.210

uh, we crossed the Norway, uh,

1706

01:56:37.870 --> 01:56:42.290

uh, peninsula. And as,

1707

01:56:42.590 --> 01:56:46.370

as we, uh, when we were beyond Norway,

1708

01:56:47.710 --> 01:56:52.210

uh, the pilot started to making a, well, the whole group started to making a,

1709

01:56:52.590 --> 01:56:55.130

uh, a slow let down. Uh,

1710

01:56:55.760 --> 01:57:00.660

and I got down to lower elevation and, and, uh,

1711

01:57:00.700 --> 01:57:05.060

I got feeling better. My arm didn't hurt so much. And, and, uh,

1712

01:57:05.920 --> 01:57:09.020

so I was laying back in the tour,

1713

01:57:09.580 --> 01:57:11.860

probably dozing or whatever,

1714

01:57:12.800 --> 01:57:17.260

and suddenly I, I come to, and,

1715

01:57:17.440 --> 01:57:19.540

and here's a propeller blade right there.

1716

01:57:21.120 --> 01:57:25.980

And it scared me so bad. I tried to call the pilot, and I,

1717

01:57:26.260 --> 01:57:30.860

I couldn't, couldn't speak. I couldn't make a sound. And, and, uh,

1718

01:57:31.500 --> 01:57:36.300

I tried him a couple of times and, and, and he answered who's,

1719

01:57:36.630 --> 01:57:40.620

who's calling? And, and I, I couldn't answer.

1720

01:57:40.840 --> 01:57:45.660

So I pulled the emergency release on my turret,

1721

01:57:46.230 --> 01:57:50.700

which dropped the seat out where I dropped down on the flight deck,

1722

01:57:51.080 --> 01:57:54.420

and I just made a big dive. And I caught the,

1723

01:57:54.940 --> 01:57:58.940

I caught the control, uh, on both sides

1724

01:58:00.480 --> 01:58:03.340

and put the plane into a dive.

1725

01:58:04.140 --> 01:58:07.820

I don't know which one was flying it, but I,

1726

01:58:08.060 --> 01:58:11.900

I took it right away from him, put it in a dive. And as,

1727

01:58:12.400 --> 01:58:16.140

as we, as we, uh,

1728

01:58:17.040 --> 01:58:21.700
turned down, of course, our tail come up and,

1729
01:58:21.840 --> 01:58:26.660
and we hit, uh, and we hit the other airplane.

1730
01:58:27.280 --> 01:58:28.040
And of course,

1731
01:58:28.040 --> 01:58:32.300
the pilot and co-pilot didn't have any idea what we hit.

1732
01:58:32.300 --> 01:58:36.420
They knew we hit something, but, but they didn't know what it was.
And,

1733
01:58:36.800 --> 01:58:40.860
and I couldn't tell 'em. I, and so I sat back on the,

1734
01:58:41.520 --> 01:58:45.740
on the flight deck, laid back on the flack vest and,

1735
01:58:46.400 --> 01:58:50.580
and relaxed for a half an hour or so. And then I got where,

1736
01:58:50.760 --> 01:58:54.460
got my voice back and told them, uh,

1737
01:58:54.610 --> 01:58:59.580
told him what we had hit. We actually mashed in the,

1738
01:59:00.120 --> 01:59:03.950
the rudder on the, on our plane,

1739
01:59:05.170 --> 01:59:09.460
uh, 11 inches. It locked up the control.

1740
01:59:09.720 --> 01:59:14.020

So we had to land by control, uh,

1741

01:59:14.400 --> 01:59:17.660
by controlling by engines with no

1742

01:59:17.660 --> 01:59:18.780
Rudder. With no rudder,

1743

01:59:18.780 --> 01:59:22.260
Right? Yeah. So it, it, that was a,

1744

01:59:22.860 --> 01:59:25.140
a real bad day for me. No,

1745

01:59:26.700 --> 01:59:29.860
I think we can understand why you remember that once.

1746

01:59:30.510 --> 01:59:32.260
Let's give him a round of applause for that.

1747

01:59:36.200 --> 01:59:37.033
Yes,

1748

01:59:38.090 --> 01:59:40.280
Wayne, where, why didn you sit on the

1749

01:59:41.910 --> 01:59:46.380
Question was, Wayne, where did you sit on the B 24 as an engineer?
Where,

1750

01:59:46.390 --> 01:59:49.730
where do I sit? Yeah, what's your position? Where is it? In the
airplane?

1751

01:59:49.950 --> 01:59:54.390
Top Tur. In the top Turt is where? Yeah, there's a bubble top

1752

01:59:55.060 --> 01:59:59.330

Tour. The bubble top, just behind the pilot,

1753

01:59:59.950 --> 02:00:02.250

uh, pilot, co-pilot. Probably

1754

02:00:03.840 --> 02:00:06.220

six or seven feet behind that microphone.

1755

02:00:07.510 --> 02:00:10.940

Microphone. Repeat the answer, Wayne, on the mic.

1756

02:00:12.010 --> 02:00:12.843

Okay.

1757

02:00:13.270 --> 02:00:14.540

Where is the turt? Tell him where

1758

02:00:14.540 --> 02:00:15.500

The tur, the turt, the,

1759

02:00:15.720 --> 02:00:20.300

the Turt is probably six or seven feet aft of the,

1760

02:00:20.350 --> 02:00:23.700

where the pilot and co-pilot are sitting. Is that about right?

1761

02:00:27.770 --> 02:00:29.600

Where would you be for takeoff and landing?

1762

02:00:30.160 --> 02:00:34.480

I would be, uh, between the pilot and co-pilot calling, uh,

1763

02:00:34.840 --> 02:00:39.520

airspeed for them. Uh, they're pretty busy on takeoff and landing,

1764

02:00:39.860 --> 02:00:44.440

and I, I'm, I'm call calling out airspeed farm 'em, so that they know,

1765

02:00:45.220 --> 02:00:48.320

uh, they're, they know when it's the,

1766

02:00:48.470 --> 02:00:50.280

they're up to takeoff speed.

1767

02:00:50.420 --> 02:00:52.760

So you were on the flight deck between the pilots.

1768

02:00:52.820 --> 02:00:55.080

Did you have a seat or were you just sitting, standing? No,

1769

02:00:55.420 --> 02:00:57.520

You saw you needle down between,

1770

02:00:58.100 --> 02:00:59.080

So no seat belts

1771

02:00:59.080 --> 02:01:02.680

Or anything? No, no seat. No seat or no seat belt.

1772

02:01:03.100 --> 02:01:07.190

All right. Any other questions on that yet? Bill,

1773

02:01:07.450 --> 02:01:10.390

do you remember the pilot's name? Do you remember the pilot's name?

1774

02:01:11.090 --> 02:01:12.950

Yes. Bergenson

1775

02:01:14.710 --> 02:01:15.530

Question back there.

1776

02:01:15.530 --> 02:01:17.110

Cla Clarence Bergenson,

1777

02:01:18.710 --> 02:01:21.320

Yes. About your, your midair collision was the,

1778

02:01:21.760 --> 02:01:26.550

where did the rudder strike the aircraft

1779

02:01:27.790 --> 02:01:28.623

Station?

1780

02:01:29.170 --> 02:01:33.360

Where did the propeller hit the rudder and what was the other part of it? Well,

1781

02:01:33.580 --> 02:01:34.000

Strike

1782

02:01:34.000 --> 02:01:37.360

The aircraft above. Did it affect the aircraft above?

1783

02:01:37.900 --> 02:01:42.660

No. Uh, the, the propeller did not hit the airplane when,

1784

02:01:43.120 --> 02:01:47.180

uh, I, the airplane hadn't touched ours.

1785

02:01:47.840 --> 02:01:52.460

And so, uh, when, when I pushed the, uh,

1786

02:01:52.540 --> 02:01:57.340

controls forward, that raises up the tail, turns the nose down,

1787

02:01:58.200 --> 02:02:00.460

and it hit somewhere,

1788

02:02:00.840 --> 02:02:05.420

it would've hit somewhere about the aft uh, Bombay.

1789

02:02:06.000 --> 02:02:09.060

So you don't really know for sure where the other aircraft was hit?

No.

1790

02:02:09.250 --> 02:02:10.340

Okay. No, they,

1791

02:02:10.490 --> 02:02:15.100

they would w we reported it so they would know, uh,

1792

02:02:15.240 --> 02:02:18.780

we had the number of the airplane we had. Uh,

1793

02:02:18.920 --> 02:02:22.620

and so they'd have the evidence on the plane to show.

1794

02:02:23.280 --> 02:02:27.620

Do you, do you recall how concerned the pilots were about not having the rudder?

1795

02:02:27.640 --> 02:02:28.700

Did they talk about that?

1796

02:02:29.280 --> 02:02:30.140

Uh, they,

1797

02:02:31.290 --> 02:02:35.100

it's a good thing that plane was just a spec in the distance when,

1798

02:02:35.690 --> 02:02:37.020

when they found out.

1799

02:02:38.720 --> 02:02:39.580

So they weren't happy.

1800

02:02:40.240 --> 02:02:41.073

No, sir.

1801

02:02:41.200 --> 02:02:45.830

Any other questions on this before we move on? Okay. Uh, Glenn,

1802

02:02:45.870 --> 02:02:46.750

I want to ask you,

1803

02:02:47.330 --> 02:02:52.230

you had the unique experience of having served on Timberlake staff,

1804

02:02:52.890 --> 02:02:55.190

so you got to see him as a person.

1805

02:02:56.250 --> 02:02:58.810

Describe for us what it would be like when you'd go in in the morning.

1806

02:02:58.870 --> 02:03:03.330

Was he friendly? Would he say hi? Was he aloof? What do you remember about him?

1807

02:03:10.270 --> 02:03:11.470

I joined, uh,

1808

02:03:12.860 --> 02:03:17.380

general Ted's staff after I had completed, uh, missions.

1809

02:03:17.720 --> 02:03:22.660

And he had called me up to wing headquarters to serve as his, uh,

1810

02:03:23.210 --> 02:03:26.740

operation and training officer. That was in 44,

1811

02:03:28.490 --> 02:03:31.590

mid 44, of course,

1812

02:03:31.750 --> 02:03:34.350

I was obliged and, uh,

1813

02:03:34.350 --> 02:03:39.150

proud to be able to be with him up there in the

1814
02:03:39.150 --> 02:03:44.140
wing headquarters. Jim Ted was a stern man,

1815
02:03:44.240 --> 02:03:48.610
but he was approachable also.

1816
02:03:49.310 --> 02:03:53.050
And, uh, a good leader. And he would

1817
02:03:56.770 --> 02:04:01.470
listen to my suggestions and sometimes maybe

1818
02:04:01.740 --> 02:04:03.710
take 'em other times, maybe not.

1819
02:04:04.450 --> 02:04:07.790
But we had a good relationship and, uh,

1820
02:04:07.990 --> 02:04:12.910
I was impressed with his ability to really keep things

1821
02:04:12.960 --> 02:04:16.470
going and, and to monitor all the

1822
02:04:18.350 --> 02:04:22.960
three groups that he was in charge of. And, uh,

1823
02:04:23.100 --> 02:04:26.960
the one 93rd, which I was so proud of, and still am,

1824
02:04:28.190 --> 02:04:31.530
he didn't seem to have any favorites,

1825
02:04:32.150 --> 02:04:36.810
but he worked so hard and he was in contact with second division

1826
02:04:37.080 --> 02:04:39.540

all the time. And of course,

1827

02:04:39.690 --> 02:04:44.360

from second division we went up to eighth Air Force. And, uh,

1828

02:04:44.660 --> 02:04:49.470

orders usually came down through that, uh, uh,

1829

02:04:49.760 --> 02:04:53.910

suggestion there. But anyhow, the 93rd

1830

02:04:57.460 --> 02:05:00.890

group that we honored today that we come to

1831

02:05:09.460 --> 02:05:13.440

was in charge. It was General Ed, general, uh,

1832

02:05:14.620 --> 02:05:19.280

not general Ed, Colonel Leland, g Eagle.

1833

02:05:20.630 --> 02:05:22.010

His family is here today,

1834

02:05:22.460 --> 02:05:25.970

which all stand up or raise your arm or something.

1835

02:05:35.740 --> 02:05:39.700

Let me tell you. That is a special group

1836

02:06:25.130 --> 02:06:27.960

with him. And after each mission,

1837

02:06:27.980 --> 02:06:31.520

he would be usually standing up on the, uh,

1838

02:06:32.700 --> 02:06:34.720

top tier of the, of the, uh,

1839

02:06:34.910 --> 02:06:39.770

control tower of the rail there to hold onto counting the

1840

02:06:39.790 --> 02:06:40.623

planes

1841

02:06:49.920 --> 02:06:50.860

as they returned.

1842

02:06:54.870 --> 02:06:58.660

See, came back, didn't,

1843

02:07:01.100 --> 02:07:02.120

he was always there.

1844

02:07:02.140 --> 02:07:06.520

And then he would go into the critique room with us to ask about

1845

02:07:07.120 --> 02:07:11.900

Quest, see what we saw, what we heard, what we thought we saw,

1846

02:07:12.160 --> 02:07:16.420

or whatever. And he was always there for us in every mission.

1847

02:07:18.140 --> 02:07:23.000

The one thing I remember specifically about him was that he saved

1848

02:07:23.340 --> 02:07:24.173

my life

1849

02:07:27.440 --> 02:07:31.510

and the life of at least, well,

1850

02:07:31.670 --> 02:07:36.670

114

1851

02:07:39.190 --> 02:07:41.200

Crew members along with it.

1852

02:07:43.260 --> 02:07:46.520

You ever hear of Swineford, Germany? Anybody?

1853

02:07:49.150 --> 02:07:49.983

Okay.

1854

02:07:50.760 --> 02:07:54.970

Este got all the publicity about devastation and all

1855

02:07:56.080 --> 02:07:57.410

Swineford was worse.

1856

02:07:58.960 --> 02:08:03.660

We were crude and was in the air ready to go overseas over to

1857

02:08:03.660 --> 02:08:08.580

Germany. And, uh, Colonel Feal was leading the group.

1858

02:08:09.810 --> 02:08:14.180

Only 14 airplanes assembled out of all three groups.

1859

02:08:15.130 --> 02:08:18.720

And that was amazing.

1860

02:08:20.390 --> 02:08:22.890

Should have been a hundred maybe.

1861

02:08:24.510 --> 02:08:26.870

But while we were in the air,

1862

02:08:28.030 --> 02:08:32.970

we heard him say the mission has been aborted, returned to base.

1863

02:08:34.780 --> 02:08:39.290

Well, I didn't know why at the time. I didn't.

1864

02:08:39.530 --> 02:08:43.350

I never heard a sworn first you heard of swine for

1865

02:08:44.370 --> 02:08:47.500

that was the hub of making ball bearings.

1866

02:08:49.270 --> 02:08:50.103

Everything,

1867

02:08:52.840 --> 02:08:56.990

everything in the world works on ball bearings, airplanes,

1868

02:08:57.260 --> 02:09:01.110

automobiles, even submarines, your bicycles,

1869

02:09:01.110 --> 02:09:05.150

your tricycles, everything has to have ball bearings.

1870

02:09:05.290 --> 02:09:09.110

And he knew that. And Adolf Hitler knew that.

1871

02:09:10.670 --> 02:09:13.540

So he had that Swineford. Germany,

1872

02:09:14.600 --> 02:09:18.590

the hub of the ball bearing works really heavily guarded.

1873

02:09:19.340 --> 02:09:20.710

Well, Colonel Feal knew that,

1874

02:09:24.020 --> 02:09:25.760

and he knew if we went,

1875

02:09:29.620 --> 02:09:30.760

we didn't have a chance.

1876

02:09:33.250 --> 02:09:37.540

So we did return to base and later on we learned

1877

02:09:38.650 --> 02:09:41.140
that the B seventeens did go on in

1878

02:09:43.790 --> 02:09:47.830
and they lost 60 crews on that one mission,

1879

02:09:49.380 --> 02:09:53.440
600 million. And, uh,

1880

02:09:55.330 --> 02:09:55.970
we were,

1881

02:09:55.970 --> 02:10:00.770
we were so amazed that he had the intelligence and

1882

02:10:00.790 --> 02:10:01.623
the, uh,

1883

02:10:02.680 --> 02:10:07.420
wisdom to know that even though it wasn't nice

1884

02:10:07.520 --> 02:10:09.580
to come back with bombs loaded,

1885

02:10:09.720 --> 02:10:14.650
but we endured that mission and it was so special

1886

02:10:15.310 --> 02:10:16.143
to me.

1887

02:10:17.310 --> 02:10:18.620
Thank you for sharing that.

1888

02:10:26.080 --> 02:10:27.700
If you read any military history,

1889

02:10:27.700 --> 02:10:30.820

you know that there are times when commanders make tough decisions.

1890

02:10:31.400 --> 02:10:32.160

In this case,

1891

02:10:32.160 --> 02:10:36.820

it was the wise decision cuz it was a saving of resources for a better

1892

02:10:36.930 --> 02:10:40.160

time. And that's easy to say. When you look back.

1893

02:10:40.680 --> 02:10:43.920

I wanna move on and I'm gonna talk to Bill Brown.

1894

02:10:44.660 --> 02:10:46.360

We discussed this a little bit earlier.

1895

02:10:46.500 --> 02:10:50.600

You mentioned something to me about dark darkie, the radio system.

1896

02:10:50.600 --> 02:10:52.360

Would you describe that to us, please?

1897

02:10:54.310 --> 02:10:55.143

Well,

1898

02:10:55.260 --> 02:11:00.240

the English had a system that they called Darkie who

1899

02:11:00.240 --> 02:11:05.080

was a radio, uh, radio system. How are we doing on time?

1900

02:11:06.010 --> 02:11:10.880

Every 10 miles. They had a short range radio,

1901

02:11:11.240 --> 02:11:12.073

a minute warning,

1902

02:11:12.120 --> 02:11:12.240

I

1903

02:11:12.240 --> 02:11:14.280

Just broadcasting.

1904

02:11:16.380 --> 02:11:21.240

And it could be in a private house or it could be on an

1905

02:11:21.280 --> 02:11:22.113

airfield.

1906

02:11:24.050 --> 02:11:26.590

But if you came back and you were lost,

1907

02:11:29.840 --> 02:11:32.620

you could call this darky system on your radio

1908

02:11:35.190 --> 02:11:39.610

and your signal would only go 10 miles or about there.

1909

02:11:41.580 --> 02:11:46.360

And one of these stations on the ground would answer you back.

1910

02:11:48.120 --> 02:11:50.740

And you would know within 10 miles of where you were.

1911

02:11:54.120 --> 02:11:59.040

And if you were fortunate, an air base would answer to you.

1912

02:12:02.120 --> 02:12:04.020

And, uh, they would have you

1913

02:12:06.130 --> 02:12:10.810

give them a short speech over your radio while

1914

02:12:11.610 --> 02:12:15.420

they took a bearing on you. And then they would tell you

1915

02:12:17.360 --> 02:12:20.890

what the heading was to get to their air base.

1916

02:12:22.870 --> 02:12:24.490

But that's what Darky was about.

1917

02:12:28.410 --> 02:12:31.610

I experienced a darky one night, we came back in,

1918

02:12:31.610 --> 02:12:34.250

in the mission practice mission and the,

1919

02:12:34.670 --> 02:12:39.570

the whole area was followed in. That's not unusual in England.

1920

02:12:40.590 --> 02:12:45.240

And uh, I could not find my base. I could not contact it.

1921

02:12:46.610 --> 02:12:49.380

They called it Hello Dokey. Hello dokey.

1922

02:12:49.720 --> 02:12:54.530

And they do answer like Bill said, and it was a great system.

1923

02:12:55.870 --> 02:13:00.130

But what they did, they would call you back and,

1924

02:13:00.350 --> 02:13:04.930

and answer you and you could talk to them about every,

1925

02:13:05.200 --> 02:13:08.570

like he said, 10 or 12 miles. And, uh,

1926

02:13:10.460 --> 02:13:14.500

I told them what my problem was and I couldn't get back to my base.

1927

02:13:14.660 --> 02:13:19.580

I couldn't find the fog had closed in. He said, well,

1928

02:13:19.690 --> 02:13:24.460

what we're going to do is to effect you from one to another

1929

02:13:25.740 --> 02:13:29.050

along the ground with our search lights, relay 'em on the ground,

1930

02:13:29.070 --> 02:13:33.210

you can see 'em through the fog. And uh,

1931

02:13:34.080 --> 02:13:36.760

we did. And uh,

1932

02:13:38.560 --> 02:13:42.450

that would vector us around the garage balloons too.

1933

02:13:43.020 --> 02:13:44.810

Cause if you hit a garage balloon,

1934

02:13:47.440 --> 02:13:51.220

the cable would ride up your wing until you got to the top,

1935

02:13:53.090 --> 02:13:56.740

have, have an explosion there, blow your wing off.

1936

02:13:58.280 --> 02:14:03.140

So it was very normal to trust somebody like

1937

02:14:03.140 --> 02:14:03.440

that.

1938

02:14:03.440 --> 02:14:08.390

And they vectored us down through each place until we got to

1939

02:14:08.390 --> 02:14:12.320

the, almost to the southern end of England.

1940

02:14:13.760 --> 02:14:18.740

And, uh, the one of the bases came in, this is Beach line.

1941

02:14:20.100 --> 02:14:22.250

Beach line. You can land here.

1942

02:14:22.830 --> 02:14:27.730

And they gave us a heading to come to their base and we landed there and spent

1943

02:14:27.750 --> 02:14:28.583

the night.

1944

02:14:32.340 --> 02:14:33.980

I experienced this one time,

1945

02:14:36.560 --> 02:14:41.420

and fortunately for us, a airfield answered us.

1946

02:14:43.560 --> 02:14:48.470

And like I say, we gave 'em a long call on the radio.

1947

02:14:48.740 --> 02:14:53.710

They picked up a heading and told us what,

1948

02:14:53.900 --> 02:14:55.150

what heading to take.

1949

02:14:57.130 --> 02:15:01.630

And we followed that heading and we finally come to the airfield

1950

02:15:03.970 --> 02:15:07.390

and we landed there. And when we

1951

02:15:09.450 --> 02:15:10.283
got through

1952

02:15:12.350 --> 02:15:17.340
checking the airplane and that there was only 50 gallons of gas in the

1953

02:15:17.580 --> 02:15:18.413
aircraft yet.

1954

02:15:19.890 --> 02:15:24.080
So it was fortunate that we got darky to answer us.

1955

02:15:26.030 --> 02:15:30.010
How, how long could you fly on 50 gallons? How much, how many minutes
were left?

1956

02:15:31.120 --> 02:15:33.730
They usually burn about 200 an hour.

1957

02:15:35.120 --> 02:15:37.170
Okay, so not a lot of time.

1958

02:15:38.070 --> 02:15:41.050
So that'd be about about 15 minutes. Yeah.

1959

02:15:41.990 --> 02:15:42.823
Yes.

1960

02:15:50.420 --> 02:15:54.200
The question is, uh, these were private homes where the radios were,

1961

02:15:55.470 --> 02:15:58.720
What was their responsibility to identify the coordinates where

1962

02:15:58.720 --> 02:15:59.260
They were

1963

02:15:59.260 --> 02:16:03.400

Or Well, they could answer you and tell,

1964

02:16:03.790 --> 02:16:07.000

tell you where they were located or,

1965

02:16:07.540 --> 02:16:12.200

or that they were such and such a heading from an

1966

02:16:12.200 --> 02:16:13.033

airfield.

1967

02:16:14.300 --> 02:16:18.320

And then you could take up that heading and maybe find the airfield

1968

02:16:19.620 --> 02:16:23.800

or you could pick up another radio station.

1969

02:16:25.900 --> 02:16:29.980

How often would you say that on return, this dark e system was used?

1970

02:16:30.560 --> 02:16:32.460

One out of 10 missions? Half the time.

1971

02:16:35.080 --> 02:16:39.580

Either one of you. How often was darkie used? How often would coming back?

1972

02:16:39.580 --> 02:16:41.140

Would it be one out of 10 missions or

1973

02:16:42.060 --> 02:16:44.140

I wouldn't say there was that often. I,

1974

02:16:46.410 --> 02:16:50.880

maybe one out of how often? No, maybe one out of 25 or so.

1975

02:16:51.940 --> 02:16:56.040

How many you have heard of this before? This was new to me. Okay.

1976

02:16:57.140 --> 02:17:01.360

Any other questions before we move on? Questions?

1977

02:17:02.210 --> 02:17:06.650

I do. Yeah. I'm at to tell you, we got legal and feel here with us tonight.

1978

02:17:07.870 --> 02:17:08.703

His son,

1979

02:17:10.130 --> 02:17:10.963

Grandson.

1980

02:17:13.440 --> 02:17:18.060

So proud of you. Well, thank you. Okay. I have another question for the pilots.

1981

02:17:18.130 --> 02:17:21.430

Well actually for all of you, uh, Wayne I'll start with you.

1982

02:17:21.430 --> 02:17:24.510

When you would go out to the airplane to start a mission,

1983

02:17:25.090 --> 02:17:28.470

what's the first thing you had to do? What was your first duty?

1984

02:17:30.490 --> 02:17:32.920

Using mic. Pre-flight. The airplane. Using mic?

1985

02:17:33.660 --> 02:17:38.440

Yes. Pre-flight. The airplane, uh, the ground crew.

1986

02:17:38.750 --> 02:17:43.320

Pref, flighted it, but, but, uh, the engineer usually.

1987

02:17:43.620 --> 02:17:46.600

And, uh, I don't know. Sometimes the pilot,

1988

02:17:47.000 --> 02:17:51.960

I don't remember real well on that. But you, you walked around,

1989

02:17:51.960 --> 02:17:53.320

checked certain things, did

1990

02:17:53.320 --> 02:17:56.440

The external inspection? Yes. Okay. Did you have a checklist for that?

1991

02:17:57.020 --> 02:18:01.760

You made a really a just a walk around. You didn't really, uh,

1992

02:18:02.380 --> 02:18:04.240

wasn't a full flight inspection?

1993

02:18:04.460 --> 02:18:06.640

No. Yeah. Okay. Bill,

1994

02:18:06.640 --> 02:18:10.440

what would be the first thing you did when you got to the airplane?

Hand.

1995

02:18:10.510 --> 02:18:12.720

Hand in the mic, please. Yes.

1996

02:18:14.560 --> 02:18:19.320

I used to do the walk around. Look, look at,

1997

02:18:19.460 --> 02:18:24.230

uh, different things. See whether wheel was falling off or

1998

02:18:25.810 --> 02:18:30.190

things like that. Visible defects.

1999

02:18:32.120 --> 02:18:33.850

Usually we didn't find any.

2000

02:18:35.880 --> 02:18:38.650

Glen, you remember, what was the first thing you would do? Oh,

2001

02:18:38.750 --> 02:18:42.730

The ground. The ground crews were so great, uh,

2002

02:18:42.730 --> 02:18:44.810

where we were in 93rd.

2003

02:18:45.390 --> 02:18:50.250

You hardly ever found anything wrong with the plane before

2004

02:18:50.270 --> 02:18:54.980

you got in there? Uh, we would check, like Bill and him said,

2005

02:18:55.170 --> 02:18:58.700

we'd do a walk around and look at 'em, be sure the tires were up and,

2006

02:19:00.080 --> 02:19:02.940

uh, all the planes were permitted.

2007

02:19:03.640 --> 02:19:06.500

But after getting in the plane,

2008

02:19:07.570 --> 02:19:09.950

the next thing was to check all the instruments,

2009

02:19:10.600 --> 02:19:13.190

check the fuel supply that it was up,

2010

02:19:13.360 --> 02:19:17.440

check that was your problem too. And, uh,

2011

02:19:18.340 --> 02:19:23.000

be sure that everything was looked normal on the deck there, on the flight deck.

2012

02:19:24.080 --> 02:19:28.300

And, uh, after getting in,

2013

02:19:28.320 --> 02:19:32.220

of course the next thing to do was be to, uh,

2014

02:19:32.390 --> 02:19:33.380

start the engine.

2015

02:19:34.240 --> 02:19:39.100

You start number three first because that's where the hydraulic system

2016

02:19:39.120 --> 02:19:43.480

worked, right? And then three, and then one, two, and four.

2017

02:19:44.400 --> 02:19:47.700

But uh, the generator was too, sir.

2018

02:19:48.040 --> 02:19:52.860

That's where the generator was. Yeah. Yeah. And you needed that, didn't you?

2019

02:19:53.190 --> 02:19:58.180

Cause when your API went out, you had to use the generator. Uh,

2020

02:19:58.560 --> 02:20:00.660

but anyhow, that was what we did there,

2021

02:20:00.660 --> 02:20:05.230

mostly in wait for the ground crews to give

2022

02:20:05.290 --> 02:20:08.710

thumbs up and pull the chocks out from under the wheels and

2023

02:20:10.680 --> 02:20:11.513

taxi out.

2024

02:20:12.870 --> 02:20:14.570

Now I've often wondered the business out.

2025

02:20:14.570 --> 02:20:17.330

You got a mission and there's 40 aircraft taken off.

2026

02:20:17.870 --> 02:20:21.330

Did you have a procedure radio wise to check in with a flight lead?

2027

02:20:21.990 --> 02:20:22.823

How did that work?

2028

02:20:23.730 --> 02:20:26.860

Come around here. I you're wrong. See you. Yeah, I'm sorry. I didn't

2029

02:20:26.860 --> 02:20:29.780

Understand. No, no. You, you're, you're, you're, you're gonna start a mission.

2030

02:20:29.780 --> 02:20:33.940

There's 40 airplanes, you're number 28 in the formation. Okay. How did,

2031

02:20:34.000 --> 02:20:36.900

how would you check in, would, would lead that?

2032

02:20:36.900 --> 02:20:39.660

Check every airplane in on the radio. Oh yeah. Yeah.

2033

02:20:39.960 --> 02:20:41.740

Was that confusing or did that work?

2034

02:20:42.210 --> 02:20:45.760

Sure, it is. That was the, uh,

2035

02:20:46.490 --> 02:20:47.760

after mission. You mean

2036

02:20:48.430 --> 02:20:50.400

Getting ready to taxi and takeoff?

2037

02:20:50.900 --> 02:20:55.640

Oh, takeoff. Yeah. Well, of course you had the position in line,

2038

02:20:56.450 --> 02:21:01.290

maybe 30 or 50 planes. And, uh,

2039

02:21:01.560 --> 02:21:05.940

they would give you a takeoff number and, uh,

2040

02:21:06.660 --> 02:21:10.550

once you got to the, to the takeoff spot,

2041

02:21:11.420 --> 02:21:13.350

then you had to run up your engine.

2042

02:21:13.350 --> 02:21:16.990

You had to check 'em everything to see that, uh,

2043

02:21:18.280 --> 02:21:22.830

everything was working good before you, uh, really gave it to,

2044

02:21:23.210 --> 02:21:26.730

as I say, gave it to God. But then

2045

02:21:29.590 --> 02:21:30.350

after,

2046

02:21:30.350 --> 02:21:34.780

after he decided that a plane was airworthy and it was gonna take off,

2047

02:21:35.730 --> 02:21:40.070

you would then start moving the throttles forward

2048

02:21:40.730 --> 02:21:45.230

and your co-pilot would put his hand on yours and follow it all the way up

2049

02:21:46.600 --> 02:21:48.020

and then release the brakes.

2050

02:21:51.020 --> 02:21:55.970

We had to use all of the 4,800 horsepower we had to get

2051

02:21:55.990 --> 02:22:00.650

off the ground with 6,000 pounds of bombs and 2,700

2052

02:22:00.650 --> 02:22:05.450

gallons of high octane gasoline. And that's, that's how we made it.

2053

02:22:06.110 --> 02:22:09.130

And the rate of climb was about two,

2054

02:22:09.870 --> 02:22:14.280

two to 300 feet a minute, and nowadays, what do you think it is?

2055

02:22:15.720 --> 02:22:20.360

Straight up. But anyhow, that's, that's a takeoff procedure.

2056

02:22:21.180 --> 02:22:22.560

So when you did the run up,

2057

02:22:22.560 --> 02:22:27.420

were you already on the runway pointing down the runway when you ran the Yeah.

2058

02:22:27.520 --> 02:22:31.740

You were? Yeah. Okay. Any questions? Yeah. Yep. Or George

2059

02:22:32.390 --> 02:22:37.330

Wayne. Uh, I noticed when I seen the, uh,

2060

02:22:37.530 --> 02:22:41.840

P 24 witchcraft was now when they taxi,

2061

02:22:42.660 --> 02:22:46.630

seeing the guys sticking up out the cockpit,

2062

02:22:46.870 --> 02:22:50.400

probably with Hot Hatch standing there while they're packing.

2063

02:22:51.150 --> 02:22:54.050

Is that something that you, you did, or is,

2064

02:22:54.550 --> 02:22:56.290

is that a normal procedure or,

2065

02:22:57.110 --> 02:22:58.650

I'm not fully understanding.

2066

02:22:58.990 --> 02:23:03.970

The question was, uh, there, there's one B 24 that's still flying today,

2067

02:23:04.870 --> 02:23:07.370

and people have observed that when they taxi out,

2068

02:23:07.370 --> 02:23:10.730

there will be somebody with their head poking out of the top of the, that

2069

02:23:10.760 --> 02:23:14.050

That would, that would be my responsibility once

2070

02:23:14.050 --> 02:23:15.570

They use the mic. Please, Wayne?

2071

02:23:16.590 --> 02:23:20.930

Yes. That, that was my responsibility to, uh, uh,

2072

02:23:21.220 --> 02:23:22.410

stick my, well,

2073

02:23:22.710 --> 02:23:27.170

I'd be clear up to about here sticking out of the top hatch

2074

02:23:28.270 --> 02:23:31.370

and watching the wingtips and, uh,

2075

02:23:32.010 --> 02:23:35.650

advising the pilot if, if he's getting close to something. Yes.

2076

02:23:36.270 --> 02:23:39.290

Our taxi strips were so narrow there that,

2077

02:23:41.360 --> 02:23:45.290

that you pretty much had to be centered on it. Well,

2078

02:23:45.870 --> 02:23:48.210

the English come in and, and, uh,

2079

02:23:48.620 --> 02:23:53.050

built some of the taxi strips wider, but when I first got there,

2080

02:23:53.150 --> 02:23:56.570

the taxi strips were pretty narrow. You didn't have,

2081

02:23:58.000 --> 02:24:01.250

well, I, I would guess not over three,

2082

02:24:01.870 --> 02:24:06.530

two or three feet at the most on each side of the wheel of taxi

2083

02:24:06.620 --> 02:24:07.270

strip.

2084

02:24:07.270 --> 02:24:09.170

Did, did your wing tip ever hit something?

2085

02:24:09.990 --> 02:24:11.530

No. No. Neither

2086

02:24:11.710 --> 02:24:12.543

You did a good job?

2087

02:24:13.590 --> 02:24:14.450

No, I, uh,

2088

02:24:16.050 --> 02:24:20.090

I don't remember getting close enough that I had to advise the pilot,

2089

02:24:20.270 --> 02:24:22.290

but I was up there in case. Yeah.

2090

02:24:22.700 --> 02:24:25.370

Could, could you see the wing tips from the cockpit?

2091

02:24:26.110 --> 02:24:30.210

See the what wing tips from the cockpit? Yes. Yeah, you could. Okay. Yeah.

2092

02:24:30.750 --> 02:24:31.440

All right.

2093

02:24:31.440 --> 02:24:32.273

Sure. Could

2094

02:24:33.240 --> 02:24:37.070

Any other questions? We used to see? Go ahead, bill. We used to see

2095

02:24:37.230 --> 02:24:38.510

'em weaving in the breeze.

2096

02:24:41.090 --> 02:24:42.910

How much would they flex? Up and down

2097

02:24:43.320 --> 02:24:45.510

Quite a bit. When

2098

02:24:46.490 --> 02:24:47.590

Mic, when, uh,

2099

02:24:48.780 --> 02:24:50.390

When it's sitting on the ground, the

2100

02:24:50.440 --> 02:24:51.273

Wings are

2101

02:24:57.200 --> 02:24:58.090

more like this.

2102

02:24:59.020 --> 02:25:03.900

So it was a noticeable flex up? Yeah. Yeah. Okay. I guess

2103

02:25:04.620 --> 02:25:04.950

Everyone

2104

02:25:04.950 --> 02:25:09.510

Knows where we carried the fuel. It was in the wings.

2105

02:25:11.590 --> 02:25:16.100

That's why it's so important,

2106

02:25:16.720 --> 02:25:17.553

you know,

2107

02:25:17.760 --> 02:25:21.900

for the Germans to try to shoot the wings sometimes,

2108

02:25:21.930 --> 02:25:25.500

because that would cause an explosion. And of course,

2109

02:25:26.090 --> 02:25:28.900

wing would fly. But, uh,

2110

02:25:29.890 --> 02:25:34.870
once in a while on two missions that I flew,

2111
02:25:35.380 --> 02:25:36.310
they had to take

2112
02:25:40.840 --> 02:25:44.640
four, I think. I,

2113
02:25:45.080 --> 02:25:49.080
I think it was about to take some bombays out and put

2114
02:25:49.770 --> 02:25:52.160
extra tanks into of the Bombays.

2115
02:25:53.210 --> 02:25:57.540
They were rubberized type, uh, gas tanks,

2116
02:25:58.250 --> 02:26:00.940
because the mission for so long, two of them,

2117
02:26:00.960 --> 02:26:04.500
my flew was 11 and a half hours round trip

2118
02:26:06.180 --> 02:26:10.130
in formation the whole way. And, uh,

2119
02:26:11.750 --> 02:26:15.080
they didn't have any power on those B 20 fours.

2120
02:26:15.780 --> 02:26:20.400
No power steering, no, nothing like that. It was all manual labor and they,

2121
02:26:20.470 --> 02:26:22.560
they were pretty difficult to fly at times,

2122
02:26:22.730 --> 02:26:25.480

especially to stay in good formation.

2123

02:26:26.740 --> 02:26:31.560

On those long missions like that, would the pilots take turn flying formation.

2124

02:26:32.340 --> 02:26:34.840

And, and how long at a time would a pilot fly?

2125

02:26:35.760 --> 02:26:40.080

I can't say for any other pilots,

2126

02:26:40.140 --> 02:26:43.480

but I flew my plane the whole time. I did not,

2127

02:26:44.780 --> 02:26:49.060

I thought often we regretted not letting the copilot fly over.

2128

02:26:50.540 --> 02:26:51.450

Would they complain?

2129

02:26:53.100 --> 02:26:55.480

One time coming back from Africa,

2130

02:26:56.620 --> 02:27:00.930

I decided to take a nap and let him fly it.

2131

02:27:01.470 --> 02:27:03.960

And I woke up

2132

02:27:05.890 --> 02:27:09.670

and I thought we were climbing real fast, and I looked again,

2133

02:27:09.670 --> 02:27:13.590

and we were going down. The clouds were converged like this.

2134

02:27:14.570 --> 02:27:17.230

And it really scared me because,

2135

02:27:17.970 --> 02:27:20.270
and I never let him fly again.

2136

02:27:22.130 --> 02:27:26.110
It wasn't his fault. It was nature.

2137

02:27:27.810 --> 02:27:28.643
But, uh,

2138

02:27:29.270 --> 02:27:33.990
I didn't get to fly over with General Timberlake's 93rd bomb

2139

02:27:34.000 --> 02:27:38.960
group. I came over later by myself at night,

2140

02:27:39.780 --> 02:27:41.080
22 years old

2141

02:27:43.290 --> 02:27:45.420
with the Celestial Navigator

2142

02:27:48.320 --> 02:27:52.210
flew from Gander Lake Newfoundland to Pic Scotland,

2143

02:27:52.560 --> 02:27:54.850
another 11 and a half hour trip.

2144

02:27:56.350 --> 02:27:59.190
And if you ever heard that,

2145

02:27:59.190 --> 02:28:02.390
the shortest point between the,

2146

02:28:05.430 --> 02:28:07.970
the shortest way between de points is what?

2147

02:28:09.630 --> 02:28:14.410
Straight line not so we flew the great circle

2148
02:28:14.460 --> 02:28:16.250
route, you know that, didn't you?

2149
02:28:16.520 --> 02:28:17.353
Yeah.

2150
02:28:17.730 --> 02:28:20.470
That's where you change headings every so often.

2151
02:28:20.890 --> 02:28:24.860
You start out and you fly because of the curvature of the earth.

2152
02:28:24.960 --> 02:28:27.660
And we were so far north, uh,

2153
02:28:27.970 --> 02:28:30.820
that it's not always true.

2154
02:28:31.320 --> 02:28:35.580
So, so you were bringing a new airplane to Europe then you were bringing,

2155
02:28:35.580 --> 02:28:37.020
when you, on the flight,

2156
02:28:37.120 --> 02:28:40.940
you just talked about this was you were bringing a new B 24 to Europe.

2157
02:28:42.410 --> 02:28:45.420
Yeah, when I got there, they took it away from me.

2158
02:28:47.970 --> 02:28:51.540
When you did that, were you the only airplane or was it a formation?
That's

2159

02:28:51.540 --> 02:28:55.460

Right. I was the only plane flying across the Atlantic at 22 years old.

2160

02:28:56.320 --> 02:28:57.153

Uh,

2161

02:28:57.660 --> 02:29:02.070

They sent me to a place called C CRC 12.

2162

02:29:02.330 --> 02:29:05.550

It was a combat combat crew replacement center.

2163

02:29:06.610 --> 02:29:09.720

And I was there for a while,

2164

02:29:11.480 --> 02:29:14.060

and then they assigned me to the 93rd bomb group,

2165

02:29:14.760 --> 02:29:17.670

and my crew and I got secret orders

2166

02:29:19.490 --> 02:29:23.310

to take a train to Scotland,

2167

02:29:24.790 --> 02:29:27.570

not to open these orders until we were on the train.

2168

02:29:29.140 --> 02:29:31.720

And we got there and we were told,

2169

02:29:31.720 --> 02:29:36.590

we're gonna fly to Africa to join the 93rd bomb

2170

02:29:36.590 --> 02:29:41.560

group that was down there, the section of it there. Well,

2171

02:29:41.560 --> 02:29:43.920

when we got there, it was August the 10th,

2172

02:29:45.240 --> 02:29:50.240
1943.

2173

02:29:55.920 --> 02:29:57.650
Different experience with

2174

02:30:01.500 --> 02:30:02.333
Thank you, Glenn.

2175

02:30:02.690 --> 02:30:07.610
I had a different, different experience with formation flying.

2176

02:30:07.750 --> 02:30:12.730
You wanted to know if the pilot did all the formation flying or

2177

02:30:12.750 --> 02:30:17.120
not with Mike, co-pilot.

2178

02:30:17.790 --> 02:30:22.280
Fortunately, I had a good co-pilot. Um, in fact,

2179

02:30:22.400 --> 02:30:27.200
I think he was a better pilot than I was, but, uh,

2180

02:30:28.580 --> 02:30:32.840
we would take turns flying. I would fly 15 minutes,

2181

02:30:33.650 --> 02:30:38.220
then he would fly 15 minutes because that's hard work.

2182

02:30:43.120 --> 02:30:45.820
Can you tell us a story about when co-pilot, uh,

2183

02:30:46.480 --> 02:30:48.900
he was quiet and all of a sudden you're outta probation?

2184
02:30:51.280 --> 02:30:55.900
Oh, yeah. Well, we were on a mission.

2185
02:30:58.800 --> 02:31:03.590
Uh, we always flew the high left position. I'm gonna have to

2186
02:31:03.590 --> 02:31:05.830
Wrap up. Yeah. Did you wanna say something?

2187
02:31:07.090 --> 02:31:11.070
And my copilot was flying,

2188
02:31:14.090 --> 02:31:15.830
and all of a sudden I noticed

2189
02:31:17.390 --> 02:31:20.820
a bunch of B 20 is about a mile away.

2190
02:31:22.960 --> 02:31:25.300
And I was wondering who the devil those were.

2191
02:31:27.720 --> 02:31:32.300
And so I shook my copilot to ask him,

2192
02:31:33.480 --> 02:31:35.180
but he didn't respond.

2193
02:31:38.400 --> 02:31:41.260
So I shook him again.

2194
02:31:42.120 --> 02:31:46.460
And then I noticed that his connection for his oxygen hose

2195
02:31:47.240 --> 02:31:50.500
to his mask was undone.

2196
02:31:51.840 --> 02:31:55.900

So he was in Lala land, I guess you'd call it.

2197

02:31:57.720 --> 02:32:00.420

And that was our formation upstairs.

2198

02:32:03.560 --> 02:32:06.220

So I Did you catch him? So I had to, uh,

2199

02:32:07.610 --> 02:32:12.420

call my engineer and have him come up and hook him up while I

2200

02:32:12.420 --> 02:32:16.900

tried to catch up with the formation. Okay. But, uh,

2201

02:32:17.690 --> 02:32:22.140

like I said, we always flew, flew to the higher right. Evidently,

2202

02:32:22.850 --> 02:32:26.730

when he went out, we went off to the left.

2203

02:32:27.480 --> 02:32:30.490

What would've happened if we'd have gone to the right,

2204

02:32:30.840 --> 02:32:32.010

into the rest of the plane?

2205

02:32:34.960 --> 02:32:38.770

Such are the fortunes of war. Sometimes you're lucky, sometimes you're not.

2206

02:32:38.780 --> 02:32:40.290

Let's give the vets a good hand.

2207

02:32:54.240 --> 02:32:56.070

Thank you very much. This is fabulous.

2208

02:32:56.360 --> 02:33:01.110

Thank you guys for hanging on to talk to us. Uh, we are ready for

lunch.

2209

02:33:01.160 --> 02:33:04.150

Lunch is out in the lobby here. It's a buffet style. Grab your lunch,

2210

02:33:04.150 --> 02:33:08.230

bring it back into the tables here. And, uh, again, the buses leave at one.

2211

02:33:08.230 --> 02:33:10.430

We're asking everyone to be back, be, uh,

2212

02:33:10.430 --> 02:33:14.190

towards the buses by 1245 so we can get going on schedule.

2213

02:33:14.260 --> 02:33:16.350

John has one more announcement to make as well.

2214

02:33:57.840 --> 02:34:00.780

Ladies and gentlemen, may I have your attention, please?

2215

02:34:02.670 --> 02:34:06.670

I am Corporal Keppel of the third Infantry Regiment,

2216

02:34:07.170 --> 02:34:08.390

United States arm.

2217

02:34:09.650 --> 02:34:12.590

God of honor to of the unknown soul,

2218

02:34:14.050 --> 02:34:17.500

the ceremony that you are about to witness is a changing of the God

2219

02:34:19.010 --> 02:34:21.150

in keeping with the dignity of this ceremony.

2220

02:34:22.090 --> 02:34:27.020

It is requested that everyone remain silent and

2221

02:34:27.110 --> 02:34:30.140
stand. Thank you.

2222

02:34:41.990 --> 02:34:46.650
You are about to witness as an army replaying ceremony to con to be
conducted by

2223

02:34:46.870 --> 02:34:49.250
the 93rd Bomb group. Thank you.

2224

02:36:04.150 --> 02:36:04.983
Oh,

2225

02:37:32.450 --> 02:37:37.230
You could grab your seats. We'll get started. We got some ambient
noise.

2226

02:37:37.250 --> 02:37:39.310
We need to figure out where it's coming from. Hang on.

2227

02:37:42.020 --> 02:37:46.380
Somebody have a phone going. Thank you.

2228

02:37:46.480 --> 02:37:48.780
We could thought it was coming through the speakers here or something.

2229

02:37:51.810 --> 02:37:52.900
Well, good morning, everybody.

2230

02:37:52.900 --> 02:37:55.060
Have a good night of sleep and a little bit of rest, I hope.

2231

02:37:58.200 --> 02:37:58.620
Little

2232

02:37:58.620 --> 02:37:59.540
Bit, little bit.

2233

02:38:08.260 --> 02:38:12.150

Well, we're here for our business meeting. This is required by our bylaws,

2234

02:38:12.150 --> 02:38:14.510

our annual membership business meeting.

2235

02:38:14.570 --> 02:38:19.150

So we have a business stuff to go through. And, uh,

2236

02:38:19.150 --> 02:38:22.350

we have slide presentation with several people coming up to present from the

2237

02:38:22.350 --> 02:38:25.270

officers. And, uh,

2238

02:38:27.290 --> 02:38:29.450

I guess at this time, we'll by the official rules,

2239

02:38:29.450 --> 02:38:32.170

we need to ask for a call to to order here.

2240

02:38:32.170 --> 02:38:35.690

So the meeting is now officially called to order second,

2241

02:38:36.550 --> 02:38:38.450

and there's the gavel. I don't have a gavel.

2242

02:38:43.380 --> 02:38:46.550

Well, the first thing on the, on the agenda is just to review quickly and,

2243

02:38:46.810 --> 02:38:48.870

and approve the minutes from last year. Uh,

2244

02:38:48.870 --> 02:38:50.470

you had 'em in your registration package.

2245

02:38:51.460 --> 02:38:53.550

Hopefully you've had a chance to read through that from last year.

2246

02:38:53.550 --> 02:38:57.030

Knew attendees, obviously you were not here, but if you've read those,

2247

02:38:57.030 --> 02:39:00.110

gave you a flavor of the type of, uh, uh,

2248

02:39:00.110 --> 02:39:03.350

projects and type of business matters we cover. Uh, so with that,

2249

02:39:03.350 --> 02:39:07.880

I'll ask Nick just to briefly stand and, uh,

2250

02:39:07.940 --> 02:39:08.773

ask about the

2251

02:39:29.170 --> 02:39:31.460

Copy your packet.

2252

02:39:41.020 --> 02:39:45.110

There's the button. Okay. Got it. It's not even a button.

2253

02:39:47.050 --> 02:39:48.430

Um, so again,

2254

02:39:49.410 --> 02:39:52.390

in your packet is a copy of last year's annual meeting minutes.

2255

02:39:53.410 --> 02:39:57.190

And so I would ask if there's any corrections or additions to them.

2256

02:39:58.810 --> 02:40:01.250

I do wanna highlight one thing that we did last year.

2257

02:40:01.390 --> 02:40:06.350

We approved a go ahead with the funding for the remainder of the film.

2258

02:40:07.290 --> 02:40:11.870

Um, under Pam's leadership, a fundraising effort was,

2259

02:40:13.040 --> 02:40:17.810

it was launched and it was very successful. Thanks to all of you, by the way,

2260

02:40:17.950 --> 02:40:22.210

who participated in that. Um, at this time,

2261

02:40:22.280 --> 02:40:26.850

I'll entertain a motion to approve the minutes of last year, bill.

2262

02:40:27.260 --> 02:40:28.093

Thank you. Second.

2263

02:40:32.940 --> 02:40:33.773

Okay,

2264

02:40:35.440 --> 02:40:36.273

Very good.

2265

02:40:36.550 --> 02:40:41.420

So let's approve them. All right.

2266

02:40:41.520 --> 02:40:42.620

All in favor of All in

2267

02:40:42.620 --> 02:40:43.240

Favor.

2268

02:40:43.240 --> 02:40:45.740

Aye. Thank you, Jim. Very

2269

02:40:45.740 --> 02:40:49.500

Good. Thank you, Nick. I appreciate that formality for us. But necessary,

2270

02:40:51.980 --> 02:40:56.890

we're going to go through Officer reports, again, dictated by our bylaws,

2271

02:40:57.170 --> 02:41:00.370

communications, and membership report. I'll cover those too.

2272

02:41:00.900 --> 02:41:03.570

Wally will come up and talk about our treasurer's report in the audit,

2273

02:41:04.450 --> 02:41:07.310

our Ball of fire editor's, uh, report from Don,

2274

02:41:07.410 --> 02:41:10.320

and any comments from George while Don's up here,

2275

02:41:10.320 --> 02:41:14.600

he'll go into the historian report. Michael will update us on the website.

2276

02:41:15.710 --> 02:41:17.400

Then we move into current business,

2277

02:41:18.490 --> 02:41:23.380

which includes an update on the film from Michael. Uh, um, I'll speak,

2278

02:41:23.400 --> 02:41:27.430

uh, briefly to the hot stuff memorial dedication. Uh,

2279

02:41:27.430 --> 02:41:32.430

John will then come up and give us updates on this reunion here where we

2280

02:41:32.430 --> 02:41:33.263

stand,

2281

02:41:33.650 --> 02:41:37.750

as well as an update on next year's reunion scheduled in Dearborn in Detroit

2282

02:41:37.750 --> 02:41:41.770

area. New business includes, uh,

2283

02:41:42.250 --> 02:41:44.810

selection of the reunion, 4 20 20, the location,

2284

02:41:45.630 --> 02:41:48.290

and you have candidate cities in your registration package as well.

2285

02:41:49.380 --> 02:41:52.750

I'll cover our election of the officers for ne for the next two years.

2286

02:41:53.970 --> 02:41:57.470

We always ask for suggestions and for any comments from the veterans.

2287

02:41:57.930 --> 02:41:58.950

So that is our agenda.

2288

02:42:01.790 --> 02:42:03.250

Any comments or questions on that?

2289

02:42:05.880 --> 02:42:09.240

I don't expect it to take the full two hours, but you never know. So we'll see.

2290

02:42:09.240 --> 02:42:11.800

We might get a little break in there if we have to. So,

2291

02:42:12.240 --> 02:42:16.500

starting off with the reports, as far as communications,

2292

02:42:16.620 --> 02:42:20.900

I like to just remind everyone what we do as an officer's team. Uh,

2293

02:42:20.900 --> 02:42:24.970

we have a monthly conference call scheduled, uh,

2294

02:42:25.030 --> 02:42:29.450

and we also schedule special meetings when needed. But, uh, at the,

2295

02:42:29.450 --> 02:42:32.530

the standing agenda for the conference calls, typically, uh,

2296

02:42:32.530 --> 02:42:35.690

update on the reunion activities for that coming year.

2297

02:42:36.350 --> 02:42:39.090

Update on the special projects. So this year we had updates,

2298

02:42:39.090 --> 02:42:41.770

regular updates on the film and on hot stuff.

2299

02:42:41.770 --> 02:42:45.260

Those are our two main projects we've been working on. Uh,

2300

02:42:45.260 --> 02:42:47.940

if we have special committees, so for example, with Pam, as mentioned,

2301

02:42:47.940 --> 02:42:49.980

the fundraising committee this year, we update that.

2302

02:42:50.480 --> 02:42:54.900

We talk about education sessions and education throughout the year.

Uh,

2303

02:42:54.900 --> 02:42:58.260

we talk about the Ball of Fire newsletter quarterly, of course. And,

uh,

2304

02:42:58.260 --> 02:43:01.890

types of things that come up relative to the newsletter. Uh,

2305

02:43:02.090 --> 02:43:06.910

anything relative to the website. And again, always towards the end of the, uh,

2306

02:43:06.910 --> 02:43:08.670

year towards the closer to the reunion,

2307

02:43:08.670 --> 02:43:12.590

we're going into the details of the reunion itself. Okay?

2308

02:43:12.610 --> 02:43:16.070

So that's the bulk of our communication as a membership, as an officer's team,

2309

02:43:17.140 --> 02:43:21.600

we do, uh, occasionally have other contact with a,

2310

02:43:21.620 --> 02:43:24.360

the Force Historical Society. The Heritage League, you know,

2311

02:43:24.360 --> 02:43:28.080

we have connections with other bomb groups as well. So those, uh,

2312

02:43:28.220 --> 02:43:29.800

as needed or as things come up,

2313

02:43:30.500 --> 02:43:34.090

we get many of their other publications in their newsletter.

2314

02:43:34.150 --> 02:43:38.250

So always watching for information and things going on. So, uh,

2315

02:43:38.250 --> 02:43:42.530

that's the bulk of our communication work. Any questions on that or thoughts?

2316

02:43:45.550 --> 02:43:46.383

No. Okay.

2317

02:43:51.510 --> 02:43:55.060

Membership report. Jean could not be here with us, unfortunately, but, uh,

2318

02:43:55.060 --> 02:43:58.660

she gave me the information, which is current. We have, uh,

2319

02:43:58.660 --> 02:44:02.620

right now 36 veterans on the roster in our membership list

2320

02:44:03.520 --> 02:44:04.470

throughout the world.

2321

02:44:05.960 --> 02:44:08.980

158 non-veterans family members. Basically,

2322

02:44:09.520 --> 02:44:13.240

we have nine members that are either from, uh, England,

2323

02:44:13.660 --> 02:44:16.160

or a couple from Canada. One from the Netherlands.

2324

02:44:17.060 --> 02:44:21.430

And we have 25 new members this year into the association.

2325

02:44:23.330 --> 02:44:24.163

Yay.

2326

02:44:27.170 --> 02:44:31.680

So that's a grand total of 228 on our membership roster. Question bill?

2327

02:44:32.620 --> 02:44:34.560

Oh, I thought you started to say, um,

2328

02:44:36.730 --> 02:44:38.050

I always catch myself saying, um,

2329

02:44:38.480 --> 02:44:42.570

last year we embarked on a process to eliminate the donor perfect software.

2330

02:44:42.570 --> 02:44:45.960

It was became very expensive for the license for us. Uh,

2331

02:44:45.960 --> 02:44:50.710

we'd used that for maybe eight years. Very, um,

2332

02:44:51.940 --> 02:44:53.770

bulky, clunky, uh, take.

2333

02:44:53.800 --> 02:44:56.650

Took a lot of training on how to use that web-based system.

2334

02:44:57.310 --> 02:45:00.210

You may recall some of the dialogue last year about moving away from that,

2335

02:45:00.210 --> 02:45:03.410

which we successfully did. Jean did a wonderful job, Jean,

2336

02:45:03.410 --> 02:45:07.250

if you're looking Jean, thank you. Uh, but she actually took every

2337

02:45:08.810 --> 02:45:13.260

person in that roster, which was all almost 500 names,

2338

02:45:14.410 --> 02:45:18.000

which hadn't been updated in a long time. So, as we were in the process of,

2339

02:45:18.180 --> 02:45:22.320

or I should say the, the basic process was when we had added a new member,

2340
02:45:22.350 --> 02:45:25.680
we'd add 'em, but we'd never take anybody out. So this donor perfect,

2341
02:45:25.740 --> 02:45:30.600
had a huge database. So she did a tremendous job to clean it up,

2342
02:45:30.600 --> 02:45:35.240
quote unquote, uh, deactivate and, and make sure on our new roster.

2343
02:45:35.420 --> 02:45:37.280
We only kept what we call the active.

2344
02:45:37.280 --> 02:45:39.680
We still have the history and the comments, but, uh,

2345
02:45:40.060 --> 02:45:42.480
in the Excel spreadsheet she created now, uh,

2346
02:45:42.480 --> 02:45:45.520
we have the exact membership listing. So, uh,

2347
02:45:45.550 --> 02:45:48.960
that transition to Excel went very well and very successful.

2348
02:45:49.040 --> 02:45:52.760
And now it's no cost to the, to the association to manage that.

2349
02:45:52.860 --> 02:45:54.880
So we're pleased with that, uh, transition.

2350
02:45:57.730 --> 02:46:02.700
Any questions on that? No. Okay.

2351
02:46:03.510 --> 02:46:06.200
With that, I'm gonna turn over to Wally. Come on up, Wally, and give us the, uh,

2352

02:46:06.200 --> 02:46:07.360
update on the treasurer's report.

2353
02:46:16.260 --> 02:46:21.000
Good morning, Alberta.

2354
02:46:21.000 --> 02:46:24.160
It's great to see you here. Uh, last year in New Orleans,

2355
02:46:24.380 --> 02:46:27.240
Jim and I were packing up and he says, Hey, whoa, where's this go? I said,

2356
02:46:27.340 --> 02:46:29.680
how the hell do I know? Do I look like Alberta to you?

2357
02:46:31.300 --> 02:46:35.480
No coaching whatsoever. And how tight to roll the posters? It was, it was chaos.

2358
02:46:35.900 --> 02:46:40.040
It was chaos. So it's really good to have you back. No kidding.

2359
02:46:42.300 --> 02:46:45.840
Um, I was sitting next to, uh,

2360
02:46:47.440 --> 02:46:52.340
Ruth last night at the, she says, uh, uh, thank you very much.

2361
02:46:52.420 --> 02:46:56.570
I understand you had, uh, you're partially to blame for this hotel. She says,

2362
02:46:56.570 --> 02:47:00.790
I really like, I really like the hotel. And I said, well, you know, thanks.

2363
02:47:00.950 --> 02:47:04.350
I said, but I'm actually only, you know, I I shouldn't be thanked.

It's,

2364

02:47:04.350 --> 02:47:08.040

it's all marks. I says, I'm, it's actually my second choice.

2365

02:47:09.140 --> 02:47:13.080

So, uh, I'll, I'll tell you why. So we're going through, we're going through,

2366

02:47:13.080 --> 02:47:16.200

we looked at three different properties. One was, uh, embassy Suites,

2367

02:47:16.260 --> 02:47:19.950

and I think, was it a, was it Amanda? Was that I, okay,

2368

02:47:19.950 --> 02:47:22.950

I'm gonna call her Amanda. Amanda, we're, we're going through the little spiel.

2369

02:47:23.220 --> 02:47:25.590

Yeah, this is this, this is that. Here's where you'll eat.

2370

02:47:26.170 --> 02:47:31.070

And obvious was a lack of a, a proper sized meeting room. It just,

2371

02:47:31.070 --> 02:47:35.790

we knew it wasn't gonna fly. But, uh, we, we sat down,

2372

02:47:35.790 --> 02:47:36.630

we had a little meeting,

2373

02:47:37.090 --> 02:47:41.910

and everything was going fine until Amanda asked John a question

2374

02:47:41.920 --> 02:47:46.830

about the B 24. I know, I know. So, uh, I said,

2375

02:47:46.830 --> 02:47:50.990

okay, here we go. So, so he says, yeah, it was, um,

2376

02:47:51.070 --> 02:47:55.470

I believe it was July of 47 when India gained its independence,

2377

02:47:55.570 --> 02:47:59.430

and they had 37 B 20 fours refurbished. I said, oh, geez.

2378

02:47:59.830 --> 02:48:04.590

I look over at Amanda and her eyelids are getting heavy. And the head started,

2379

02:48:04.690 --> 02:48:08.270

Bob, and pretty soon she, she just gave up. She put her head down on the table.

2380

02:48:08.890 --> 02:48:12.830

Pretty soon, a little puddle of drool formed under her open mouth. And the, um,

2381

02:48:13.290 --> 02:48:16.830

the snoring got progressively louder to the point where John had to talk louder

2382

02:48:16.890 --> 02:48:20.670

and louder. And, uh, I look over at John and find, I says, John,

2383

02:48:20.850 --> 02:48:24.960

she sounded asleep. He said, no, Wally was August of 47.

2384

02:48:26.260 --> 02:48:31.120

So this, so anyway, that's, uh,

2385

02:48:31.820 --> 02:48:36.160

and so she splashed some water on her face, had a couple of cups of coffee, and,

2386

02:48:36.160 --> 02:48:37.920

uh, then she finished up the presentation. She said,

2387

02:48:37.920 --> 02:48:42.080

are you gonna join us tonight for, um, for cocktail hour? I said, I said,

2388

02:48:42.080 --> 02:48:46.160

I'm sorry. And she says, and she said, yeah, five o'clock every night,

2389

02:48:46.160 --> 02:48:50.400

we have free drinks in hor d'oeuvres. I said, oh, I didn't know that.

2390

02:48:51.100 --> 02:48:55.870

And so, uh, I'm looking at John, I'm saying, you know, with free drinks,

2391

02:48:56.010 --> 02:49:00.390

we really have to weigh how important a meeting room is to us.

2392

02:49:03.030 --> 02:49:04.910

I, I was thinking we'd go into Ruth's room,

2393

02:49:04.980 --> 02:49:09.100

push the bed to one side against the folding. It would've been fine. No,

2394

02:49:09.920 --> 02:49:12.580

no. Uh, but, uh,

2395

02:49:12.850 --> 02:49:17.580

Colonel Marks pulled rank on Sergeant Brown. Clearly, he got his meeting room.

2396

02:49:19.000 --> 02:49:19.833

Anyway,

2397

02:49:20.850 --> 02:49:21.520

Anyways,

2398

02:49:21.520 --> 02:49:25.790

But actually, I, I cut way back on way back on drinking since last year.

2399

02:49:26.010 --> 02:49:29.670

One health reasons. And my wife thought it'd be a real good idea

2400

02:49:33.420 --> 02:49:37.590

and, uh, say what

2401

02:49:37.940 --> 02:49:39.110

Said you out new material.

2402

02:49:39.110 --> 02:49:43.910

Yeah. How's it going? Yeah,

2403

02:49:44.100 --> 02:49:48.910

I'll get to it. I'll you get the whole package. All right. Um, oh,

2404

02:49:48.910 --> 02:49:53.250

where was I? Ah, the, the, uh, the drink, the drink

2405

02:49:56.340 --> 02:49:57.173

Slide.

2406

02:49:58.430 --> 02:50:02.050

No, but I, I figured you know, it, it's about time. Uh, you know, when you,

2407

02:50:02.050 --> 02:50:05.450

when you wake up some strange place, you don't know how you got there.

2408

02:50:06.000 --> 02:50:08.410

There's there, you don't know if it's day or night,

2409

02:50:08.520 --> 02:50:11.730

there's some kid with an accent playing with your feet. You know,

2410

02:50:12.310 --> 02:50:17.170
may maybe it's, maybe it's time for a change. You know? So,

2411
02:50:18.390 --> 02:50:19.223
so anyway,

2412
02:50:19.670 --> 02:50:21.690
Are you getting all this dick? Yeah.

2413
02:50:26.270 --> 02:50:29.170
But, uh, anyway, with the, uh, with,

2414
02:50:29.450 --> 02:50:32.250
I thought I'd give you a little warning here with, with the possible,

2415
02:50:32.320 --> 02:50:36.290
with the notable exception of my brother, my brother, Dick, and myself. Uh,

2416
02:50:36.760 --> 02:50:41.330
this is for you, new guys. Okay? You're in a room full of historians. Okay?

2417
02:50:41.470 --> 02:50:45.490
So nobody did this for me. Okay? You ask somebody a question,

2418
02:50:45.520 --> 02:50:49.690
they're gonna answer you, okay? They're gonna answer you. Okay? So,

2419
02:50:50.200 --> 02:50:53.250
what I thought, uh, you know, I was primarily here.

2420
02:50:53.250 --> 02:50:58.090
Dick and I were both here to, uh, uh, basically be a safety net for Bill.

2421
02:50:58.710 --> 02:51:01.850
Our Uncle Bill, you know, who's in, actually, I, I kid him,

2422

02:51:01.850 --> 02:51:05.850

but he's in remarkable condition for a man of his age, okay? Physical condition,

2423

02:51:06.280 --> 02:51:10.530

okay? There's still a couple mental issues we're working through. Uh,

2424

02:51:11.080 --> 02:51:15.610

bill, we're in a public setting. Keep your pants on. Don't get, don't get up,

2425

02:51:15.620 --> 02:51:18.250

don't get up. Uh,

2426

02:51:21.610 --> 02:51:22.770

I lost my place again.

2427

02:51:23.300 --> 02:51:27.610

Leave warm the crowd up.

2428

02:51:28.430 --> 02:51:32.450

But, uh, but be careful who you ask what cuz they're gonna answer you. Um,

2429

02:51:33.070 --> 02:51:37.610

so I thought I'd give you a couple of excuses that you could use to kind of bow

2430

02:51:37.630 --> 02:51:42.410

out to when you find yourself sitting next to someone going on and on,

2431

02:51:42.800 --> 02:51:45.690

okay? And you, you try to, you know, tried and true, you know,

2432

02:51:45.690 --> 02:51:49.770

can't think of anything else. I really have to pee. Okay? That, that,

2433

02:51:49.770 --> 02:51:50.690

that works. Um,

2434

02:51:51.310 --> 02:51:55.570

and excuse I got in high school when I asked girls out was for some reason, I,

2435

02:51:56.560 --> 02:52:00.960

I always ask girls out who insisted on really clean hair. They, they say,

2436

02:52:01.060 --> 02:52:05.000

oh really? I, I'd like to wash it. I gotta wash my hair. I said, well, damn it,

2437

02:52:05.100 --> 02:52:09.580

it's still wet, you know? Yeah. It was only one lather.

2438

02:52:09.580 --> 02:52:13.460

And I want to try this stuff for split ends. Okay? Next Saturday. No, here,

2439

02:52:14.280 --> 02:52:17.020

you know, this one girl agreed to go out with me,

2440

02:52:17.080 --> 02:52:20.340

but for some reason it had to be in the winter. I never, never got that.

2441

02:52:21.020 --> 02:52:23.860

I asked her out, she says It'll be a cold day when I go out with you.

2442

02:52:25.600 --> 02:52:29.020

I'm thinking February. But it's, uh, you know, it was Nebraska.

2443

02:52:29.020 --> 02:52:33.330

There's plenty of days to choose from. Never could pin her down, but,

2444

02:52:34.400 --> 02:52:38.050

okay. Treasurer's report. Uh,

2445

02:52:40.840 --> 02:52:43.290

okay, let's start out. Um,

2446

02:52:44.070 --> 02:52:48.930

the biggest the biggest change to this year's report is the reunion account

2447

02:52:49.030 --> 02:52:52.010

has been merged with the General Fund. Uh,

2448

02:52:53.190 --> 02:52:55.530

Gerald Veto was the custodian of that account.

2449

02:52:56.030 --> 02:52:59.530

He closed out the account because of, uh, illness primarily.

2450

02:52:59.890 --> 02:53:04.650

I received the check from that account, which the balance was 36, 99, 55.

2451

02:53:04.830 --> 02:53:09.770

Two days later he passed away. So I got the last check he overwrote. Anyway,

2452

02:53:09.790 --> 02:53:14.530

uh, membership, uh, 49 30. That includes both one year and two year memberships.

2453

02:53:15.150 --> 02:53:19.300

Uh, px, that is the PX income. Uh,

2454

02:53:19.300 --> 02:53:23.230

3 73 90, uh, film donations.

2455

02:53:23.330 --> 02:53:28.150

Now that's kind of a net figure, and it's, it's all over the place. Uh,

2456

02:53:28.150 --> 02:53:29.870
there's, uh, it costs,

2457

02:53:29.890 --> 02:53:33.510
it costs us 750 bucks to use the time life cover.

2458

02:53:35.090 --> 02:53:38.020
Okay? So that's, that's pulled out of there. There's also, uh,

2459

02:53:39.830 --> 02:53:41.290
and that's, that's not everything.

2460

02:53:41.630 --> 02:53:46.450
And there's 1500 bucks for the technical thing to show the film that we paid

2461

02:53:46.800 --> 02:53:50.690
goes. Yeah. So it'll be more anyway. So separate budget.

2462

02:53:52.770 --> 02:53:53.980
Yeah. Which Mike will cover.

2463

02:53:56.510 --> 02:53:59.900
There will be a separate accounting of, of all the film stuff. These,

2464

02:53:59.980 --> 02:54:04.740
I just write the checks. Um, okay. And so this is new this year.

2465

02:54:04.800 --> 02:54:07.590
The reunion registrations, uh,

2466

02:54:07.710 --> 02:54:11.600
I didn't account this last year because it was a separate account. So we're at,

2467

02:54:11.860 --> 02:54:15.880
uh, this was as of October 16th,

2468

02:54:16.230 --> 02:54:18.480

just before I left. So at that point,

2469

02:54:18.500 --> 02:54:22.800

we had 36 grand and change in, uh, reunion registration.

2470

02:54:22.820 --> 02:54:27.200

The checks you wrote to come here, 3 85 plus whatever, side trips, uh,

2471

02:54:27.200 --> 02:54:31.840

et cetera. And then the closing of the prior account, like I I told you earlier,

2472

02:54:32.030 --> 02:54:36.200

that came from, that was the balance of last year's reunion account.

2473

02:54:36.310 --> 02:54:39.240

That was a surplus left in the account after last year's reunion,

2474

02:54:41.650 --> 02:54:46.240

which gives us the total income, 69,000 and change expenses,

2475

02:54:46.790 --> 02:54:49.680

postage and printing. The biggest part of that is the, uh,

2476

02:54:51.010 --> 02:54:55.720

is George over here. Uh, he, uh,

2477

02:54:56.440 --> 02:54:58.180

the, the ball of fire is expensive to put out.

2478

02:54:58.180 --> 02:55:03.130

Printed copies of the ball of fire are expensive to put out. Uh, legal fees,

2479

02:55:03.840 --> 02:55:04.580

not much. Uh,

2480

02:55:04.580 --> 02:55:08.580

there's gonna be a lot more legal fees involved with the film other than what

2481

02:55:08.580 --> 02:55:12.580

you're seeing there. Uh, bank, bank and subscription fees,

2482

02:55:12.920 --> 02:55:16.740

self-explanatory reunion expenses, that's not even close.

2483

02:55:16.740 --> 02:55:20.740

That was as of as of October 16th. I,

2484

02:55:21.200 --> 02:55:22.220

as soon as I got here,

2485

02:55:22.220 --> 02:55:25.900

they were waiting desperately for me to show up with a checkbook.

2486

02:55:25.940 --> 02:55:30.460

I wrote a check for like 24 grand. So that's, that was as of the 16th,

2487

02:55:31.480 --> 02:55:33.180

uh, charity and Timberlake Awards.

2488

02:55:33.820 --> 02:55:37.670

I think there was a wreath we laid in Norwich. Okay?

2489

02:55:37.670 --> 02:55:41.230

And that includes that as well as last year's Timberlake awards. Uh,

2490

02:55:41.230 --> 02:55:45.390

and then PayPal fees, which is a little, little pet peeve of mine.

2491

02:55:46.130 --> 02:55:50.090

Um, we can, we just gave that money away. Okay?

2492

02:55:50.090 --> 02:55:53.730

Everybody have stamps and envelopes checks, okay, do it that way.

2493

02:55:54.160 --> 02:55:57.530

With the exception of Becky, she told me, I really like using PayPal.

2494

02:55:58.750 --> 02:56:03.690

So Becky, Becky's fine. No, it's convenient. Okay? But it's expensive.

2495

02:56:03.750 --> 02:56:08.530

So total expenses. And then that, uh, the bank balance of 75,000,

2496

02:56:08.530 --> 02:56:12.490

et cetera, that's gonna be considerably less by the time we leave this place.

2497

02:56:13.910 --> 02:56:17.690

So, oh, there was one other excuse I failed to mention. Uh,

2498

02:56:17.740 --> 02:56:21.730

tried and tried and true with one, with one exception. Says, boy, you know,

2499

02:56:21.950 --> 02:56:23.650

I'd really like to talk to you all night,

2500

02:56:23.790 --> 02:56:26.130

but I promised Paul I'd help him fold his laundry.

2501

02:56:31.190 --> 02:56:35.090

Now, the one exception to that is you might be talking to Paul. So,

2502

02:56:46.640 --> 02:56:47.473

Bubu

2503

02:56:52.130 --> 02:56:55.720

wally, I only have one thing to say to you. Don't quit your day job.

2504

02:56:57.830 --> 02:56:58.840

This jokes funny.

2505

02:56:59.460 --> 02:57:04.160

Oh, what? Oh, oh, come on. I got one later for you, Don.

2506

02:57:05.910 --> 02:57:09.610

Well, thank you all for the update. Um, he's done a tremendous job,

2507

02:57:09.610 --> 02:57:11.810

like all our volunteers taking on the, uh,

2508

02:57:11.930 --> 02:57:15.170

treasury role for us and streamlining some of the processes there and actually

2509

02:57:15.170 --> 02:57:18.930

keeping track and detail. So it is a fair amount of work and uh,

2510

02:57:18.950 --> 02:57:22.250

we appreciate you doing that, Wally. So thank you. Any questions on the report?

2511

02:57:22.530 --> 02:57:22.650

I

2512

02:57:22.650 --> 02:57:26.750

Move the before be approved. Second.

2513

02:57:27.630 --> 02:57:28.463

I have

2514

02:57:28.630 --> 02:57:31.350

A question, a comment on it. Okay, go ahead Nick. Uh,

2515

02:57:31.970 --> 02:57:32.803

What we,

2516

02:57:35.160 --> 02:57:37.900

John's gonna cover that in the, in the, one of the other slides, right?

2517

02:57:37.900 --> 02:57:41.740

You've got everything in the old business. He'll, he'll cover that for us,

2518

02:57:41.740 --> 02:57:45.840

Nick specifically. And also, uh, you know,

2519

02:57:46.170 --> 02:57:49.680

Wally mentioned a few of the items around the film that has its own budget as

2520

02:57:49.680 --> 02:57:51.240

well. Every project we do kind of,

2521

02:57:51.240 --> 02:57:54.240

he keeps his own budget even though we're pooling outta the same general fund.

2522

02:57:54.260 --> 02:57:55.120

But, uh,

2523

02:57:56.710 --> 02:57:59.600

Michael will make a note about the budget for the film as well.

2524

02:58:02.160 --> 02:58:05.660

How close are we? Where are we?

2525

02:58:06.320 --> 02:58:09.290

Michael will give you the update on that. There's info on the back. Uh,

2526

02:58:09.340 --> 02:58:12.690

gimme a percentage, approximate 50% paid for all the bills.

2527

02:58:13.790 --> 02:58:16.650

We keep up with the bills as we obviously, as we encourage specs,

2528

02:58:16.650 --> 02:58:20.890

as we try and keep it up. Well, he'll looks fine. Uh, probably 40,

2529

02:58:20.890 --> 02:58:24.650

50% if I had to guess, knowing the budget that we, and we do cover that budget,

2530

02:58:24.870 --> 02:58:26.490

uh, quite often in our officer's meeting.

2531

02:58:26.990 --> 02:58:29.690

So we keep on track with that and Michael's done a good job with that.

2532

02:58:30.150 --> 02:58:31.370

Any other comments or questions?

2533

02:58:32.200 --> 02:58:36.800

If not all in favor of approving the treasurer's report? Say aye. Aye.

2534

02:58:36.800 --> 02:58:41.190

Thank you very much. Okay, next up is the Ball of Fire newsletter.

2535

02:58:41.690 --> 02:58:45.190

Don, if you could come on up. Thank you.

2536

02:58:49.910 --> 02:58:51.710

I have no idea how it doesn't show the number.

2537

02:58:56.230 --> 02:59:01.150

The one I had sent over had the printed in the email numbers. Oh, well

2538

02:59:02.360 --> 02:59:02.950

Sorry.

2539

02:59:02.950 --> 02:59:07.910

I don't know how it happened. Um, okay. So long and short is,

2540

02:59:07.930 --> 02:59:10.030

uh, at the top where it says printed and emailed.

2541

02:59:10.130 --> 02:59:14.110

We had two different numbers there. Some are printed and some are emailed.

2542

02:59:15.990 --> 02:59:19.070

I have, I have no idea how that happened. Um,

2543

02:59:19.970 --> 02:59:23.710

unless it's in a different color somehow. But, uh, we are migrating,

2544

02:59:23.760 --> 02:59:27.190

we're getting more and more people wanting it electronically. That's a positive.

2545

02:59:27.650 --> 02:59:31.710

We still have some people that like it printed, which is fine. Um, cuz you know,

2546

02:59:31.710 --> 02:59:35.270

that's what our rates are based upon. So it's a, a good upside, not a downside.

2547

02:59:36.050 --> 02:59:39.130

Um, so that kind of answers that. And like we've already talked,

2548

02:59:39.190 --> 02:59:43.450

we have distribution in the us, UK, and Netherlands. Uh,

2549

02:59:43.450 --> 02:59:48.130

and then as well as they go up on the webpage so people can see it anywhere in

2550

02:59:48.130 --> 02:59:52.570

the world that goes to the webpage. And, uh, sorry,

2551

02:59:52.630 --> 02:59:57.530

I'm hearing like feedback. Um, just delay in my head. Um,

2552

02:59:58.270 --> 03:00:01.810

so that's that. Uh, as far as the newsletter goes directly,

2553

03:00:02.070 --> 03:00:05.410

we public publish articles and stories from the membership.

2554

03:00:05.870 --> 03:00:09.690

If you've got something that may be of interest, if it's interesting to you,

2555

03:00:09.960 --> 03:00:11.170

send it and we can put it in.

2556

03:00:11.170 --> 03:00:14.730

It can be something as short as a short paragraph and a photo,

2557

03:00:14.920 --> 03:00:19.770

just a short story to a multi-page thing that we wanna break

2558

03:00:20.000 --> 03:00:23.690

into, you know, a series through the ball of fire, whatever the story is,

2559

03:00:23.690 --> 03:00:26.050

we can adjust for that. Um,

2560

03:00:26.290 --> 03:00:29.250

I would prefer not to write all the articles and, you know,

2561

03:00:29.250 --> 03:00:32.610

fluff it up with airplane pictures. Well, Mary's not here,

2562

03:00:32.670 --> 03:00:34.570

but some people like the airplane pictures.

2563

03:00:34.570 --> 03:00:38.770

Some people say they don't like all the airplane pictures, so picture poison.

2564

03:00:39.510 --> 03:00:43.230

Um, um, you know,

2565

03:00:43.230 --> 03:00:45.990

the big thing is we try to keep distribution flowing.

2566

03:00:46.020 --> 03:00:49.790

There's a lot of stuff about the reunions just to keep people well informed cuz

2567

03:00:49.950 --> 03:00:53.270

everyone wants to ask that. So as soon as information comes up for next year,

2568

03:00:53.540 --> 03:00:58.200

John will put it in and then we just keep adding to it. Uh,

2569

03:00:58.260 --> 03:01:02.180

so people are well informed what's coming so they can make vacation plans,

2570

03:01:02.280 --> 03:01:05.270

et cetera. Um, and then, uh,

2571

03:01:05.650 --> 03:01:08.550

my job is I try to take it in from everywhere. Uh,

2572

03:01:08.620 --> 03:01:12.270

when we get a notice of someone passing away, we, I go get the obituaries,

2573

03:01:12.540 --> 03:01:15.630

work with that, try to find any other tidbits to put with it.

2574

03:01:15.970 --> 03:01:19.150

And then I work with the editing layout. And, uh,

2575

03:01:19.340 --> 03:01:23.070

then of course I get the submittals from the various officers for the thing.

2576

03:01:23.410 --> 03:01:27.430

And then I add any photos and facts that I can find. Um, again,

2577

03:01:27.730 --> 03:01:29.350

if you have something that's interesting,

2578

03:01:30.350 --> 03:01:34.800

I would love to see it cuz that's the hardest thing is trying to put something

2579

03:01:34.800 --> 03:01:38.880

in there that you wanna see without just me going back through my files and

2580

03:01:38.880 --> 03:01:43.080

putting airplane pictures in. Um, so that's about it. Um,

2581

03:01:43.140 --> 03:01:46.600

and then George provides a critical role for me.

2582

03:01:47.840 --> 03:01:49.760

I get it all pretty much done. Send it to George.

2583

03:01:49.760 --> 03:01:53.760

He does a final spelling and grammatical check and uh,

2584

03:01:53.790 --> 03:01:57.760

then he handles the emailing of the electronic and then the mailing of the

2585

03:01:57.760 --> 03:02:01.460

printed copies. So that's it for that.

2586

03:02:02.620 --> 03:02:03.453

Any questions?

2587

03:02:04.920 --> 03:02:05.770

Hard copy. And

2588

03:02:06.850 --> 03:02:08.140

It's between those two numbers.

2589

03:02:08.800 --> 03:02:10.980

The first number I'm looking for it. I

2590

03:02:11.960 --> 03:02:15.540

Gotcha. Molly? Uh, I don't remember top of my head. George, you,

2591

03:02:15.690 --> 03:02:19.000

Yeah, it's just about 50 50. Uh,

2592

03:02:21.300 --> 03:02:26.020

said more expensive. Copy.

2593

03:02:44.020 --> 03:02:46.590

You can just come up here. George. George

2594

03:02:52.410 --> 03:02:56.040

there. Now you get it to work. Switching on.

2595

03:02:57.230 --> 03:03:01.600

Okay, so as we were saying, uh, obviously email copy is a lot, uh,

2596

03:03:01.600 --> 03:03:03.280

less expensive to send out the hard copy,

2597

03:03:03.420 --> 03:03:06.560

but more than happy to send out hard copies. Uh,

2598

03:03:06.560 --> 03:03:10.760

the problem with the email copy is sometimes email addresses are incorrect,

2599

03:03:11.820 --> 03:03:15.440

so they get bounced back to me and then I have, uh,

2600

03:03:15.720 --> 03:03:19.040

I go to Jean and I said, I can't get hold of this person. She says, well,

2601

03:03:19.700 --> 03:03:24.320

it is what it is. So, uh, same thing with with har with addresses as well.

2602

03:03:25.580 --> 03:03:29.450

So especially for any, anyone who's, uh, a new member,

2603

03:03:30.550 --> 03:03:30.950

um,

2604

03:03:30.950 --> 03:03:34.650

we wanna make sure that you get your copy of the bowl of fire when it comes out.

2605

03:03:35.740 --> 03:03:40.210

Uh, so I'd like everyone who's who either, uh,

2606

03:03:40.650 --> 03:03:43.090

suspects that there, maybe they're not getting their copy or,

2607

03:03:43.230 --> 03:03:48.010

or is a new member to come see me and make sure I have your address and your

2608

03:03:48.220 --> 03:03:52.450

email address and to make sure I know which which you want,

2609

03:03:52.450 --> 03:03:55.490

whether it's an email copy or a hard copy. The thing,

2610

03:03:55.560 --> 03:03:59.670

good thing about the email copy is it's, it's in full color. So if, uh,

2611

03:03:59.670 --> 03:04:03.150

pictures that Don puts in, uh, our color pictures, you'll,

2612

03:04:03.150 --> 03:04:07.030

you'll get 'em on your screen and you'll be able to enjoy that. The,

2613

03:04:07.050 --> 03:04:12.020

the hard copy is all black and white to save on cost. Uh, so that's,

2614

03:04:12.040 --> 03:04:16.660

that's a difference between the two. But I, I said happy to send you either,

2615

03:04:17.440 --> 03:04:18.500

either one that you want,

2616

03:04:18.760 --> 03:04:23.020

but I have to be able to get hold of you and communicate with you. Uh,

2617

03:04:23.080 --> 03:04:25.540

so please come see me for that. Thanks,

2618

03:04:30.250 --> 03:04:31.083

Joe.

2619

03:04:31.870 --> 03:04:36.360

Not that I can tell on mixed company. Sorry, Wally.

2620

03:04:37.640 --> 03:04:38.840

I, the next slide,

2621

03:04:40.060 --> 03:04:44.550

Am I doing it or Okay, just page down. All right,

2622

03:04:44.550 --> 03:04:47.570

where's page down on? Okay.

2623

03:04:49.480 --> 03:04:52.330

Okay, so from the historian point of view, um,

2624

03:04:52.770 --> 03:04:56.630

I try to respond to any question I get in from veterans and or their families,

2625

03:04:57.570 --> 03:04:58.403

Um,

2626

03:04:59.510 --> 03:05:04.320

Through the old official channels, like a written letter that's really,

2627

03:05:04.380 --> 03:05:06.520

really rare anymore. Uh,

2628

03:05:06.750 --> 03:05:10.840

most of the stuff is really coming through people sending emails in, um,

2629

03:05:11.520 --> 03:05:14.860

try to watch like the different, like Facebook, things like that. Um,

2630

03:05:15.980 --> 03:05:20.080

I'm still searching for lost veterans and their families to share information,

2631

03:05:20.220 --> 03:05:21.480

us with them and them with us.

2632

03:05:22.140 --> 03:05:25.840

And every once in a while we still find people that are out there.

2633

03:05:25.840 --> 03:05:29.560

When you contact them, they're like, oh wow, I always wondered we've got this.

2634

03:05:29.780 --> 03:05:33.520

And you know, we go back and forth. Sorry. Um,

2635

03:05:34.060 --> 03:05:36.280

so it's still ongoing. Uh,

2636

03:05:36.500 --> 03:05:40.960

sad to say we're finding less veterans but more families. But it's good to see,

2637

03:05:41.060 --> 03:05:45.520

you know, some of the second generation in honor are interested. Um, I continue,

2638

03:05:45.550 --> 03:05:47.440

anytime I'm over this way, uh,

2639

03:05:47.480 --> 03:05:52.160

I try to hit the national archive just to get more copies of just general

2640

03:05:52.160 --> 03:05:55.440

additional information. But if there's particular questions,

2641

03:05:55.520 --> 03:05:59.680

I kind of keep a running list of questions and dates so when I go in,

2642

03:05:59.980 --> 03:06:04.080

if I can answer, if I can pull records that would benefit you particularly.

2643

03:06:04.700 --> 03:06:07.720

And then just the general information. We killed two birds with one stone,

2644

03:06:08.020 --> 03:06:11.120

so if you have questions, don't hesitate to ask. Um,

2645

03:06:11.460 --> 03:06:15.200

I'm always searching the internet for 93 related stuff. Um,

2646

03:06:15.860 --> 03:06:19.120

my wife is in a car right now, uh, which is a good thing. Uh,

2647

03:06:19.240 --> 03:06:20.520

I watch eBay a lot.

2648

03:06:24.170 --> 03:06:28.080

Don't bid against me, that's all I'm gonna say. Um, yeah,

2649

03:06:29.300 --> 03:06:33.320

my financial accounting will not be published in the ball of fire for this. Um,

2650

03:06:34.680 --> 03:06:35.440

I try to,

2651

03:06:35.440 --> 03:06:40.200

anything I find 93rd related I try to get and then I can scan copy and then a

2652

03:06:40.200 --> 03:06:42.960

lot of the pictures that even we showed, what was it yesterday,

2653

03:06:43.260 --> 03:06:44.840

the ones where I said are on the other side of the field,

2654

03:06:45.070 --> 03:06:48.440

that was a collection that went up. The guy bought it cheap,

2655

03:06:48.860 --> 03:06:53.040

busted it into like 50 pieces and was parceling it out. And I just kept buying.

2656

03:06:53.520 --> 03:06:56.700

I was getting like every single thing that was 93rd, I finally said, I go look,

2657

03:06:57.170 --> 03:07:00.780

just let's take all the rest, put it in a bucket, let's agree on a price.

2658

03:07:01.360 --> 03:07:04.820

And I wound up buying the whole kit and caboodle, but again,

2659

03:07:05.200 --> 03:07:07.620

my wife might see this at a later date. Um,

2660

03:07:09.000 --> 03:07:13.460

but I tried to do what I can to find it and get it to where it's accessible

2661

03:07:13.800 --> 03:07:17.340

by the veterans and their families as opposed to, you know,

2662

03:07:17.360 --> 03:07:21.980

put in some depository or locked away for investing purposes. Um,

2663

03:07:22.960 --> 03:07:26.740

try to stay pretty active on the social media. The Facebook is the one I part,

2664

03:07:26.740 --> 03:07:28.300

I don't do Instagram. Um,

2665

03:07:29.200 --> 03:07:34.010

on Facebook we do get a fair amount of traffic through the various sites. Uh,

2666

03:07:34.010 --> 03:07:35.210

people looking for information.

2667

03:07:37.810 --> 03:07:42.090

Personal process I have is if someone sends out this general ambiguous question

2668

03:07:42.090 --> 03:07:44.290

onto the 93rd page let's say, and says,

2669

03:07:44.650 --> 03:07:49.160

I wanna know everything about my grandpa and they don't even give you the name.

2670

03:07:49.730 --> 03:07:52.360

Makes it pretty tough. So then you gotta go back and say, well,

2671

03:07:52.360 --> 03:07:55.680

can you at least tell me their name? And I had one dialogue where it was like,

2672

03:07:55.880 --> 03:07:57.760

I finally got the name and I'm like, well,

2673

03:07:57.760 --> 03:08:01.080

can you tell me what you know and what you wanna know? And they respond back,

2674

03:08:01.280 --> 03:08:06.000

I know nothing. I want to know everything. So I said, well,

2675

03:08:06.000 --> 03:08:09.360

can you gimme your number? Says you've obviously got some clues in there. Like,

2676

03:08:09.360 --> 03:08:11.280

when was your oldest sister born? Well,

2677

03:08:11.360 --> 03:08:15.680

gimme an idea when dad went over or hopefully when he came back, um,

2678

03:08:16.110 --> 03:08:20.720
that was kind of a joke and no one laughed. Um, so yeah,

2679
03:08:20.720 --> 03:08:23.200
it's very tough room. Uh, so,

2680
03:08:23.580 --> 03:08:25.960
and then they responded to me that they don't give out their contact

2681
03:08:25.990 --> 03:08:30.600
information. So I'm like, I'm not on a wild goose chase here.

2682
03:08:30.860 --> 03:08:33.880
You know, if, if you have a particular question ask,

2683
03:08:34.180 --> 03:08:37.280
and I usually do that offline. If, if any of you're on Facebook,

2684
03:08:37.520 --> 03:08:41.200
I might get in there and say PM sent. And I'll send them a private
note and say,

2685
03:08:41.200 --> 03:08:44.200
you know, I'd like to talk to you offline. I won't publish your phone
number,

2686
03:08:44.620 --> 03:08:49.160
but we've gotta share some information so I can be a little more

2687
03:08:49.640 --> 03:08:53.240
targeted in my search as to, you know, the entire war, top to bottom,

2688
03:08:53.240 --> 03:08:58.160
left to right. Um, so that's kind of the way I handle that.

2689
03:08:58.380 --> 03:09:01.880
So, um, if you don't see a lot of dialogue from me responding to 'em,

2690

03:09:01.940 --> 03:09:05.480

I'm trying to take that offline and deal with them and put together a packet.

2691

03:09:06.060 --> 03:09:09.120

Um, recently I've helped several families. One of 'em, it was great.

2692

03:09:09.640 --> 03:09:12.960

I was in contact with the daughter and then the mother who's on the Facebook,

2693

03:09:12.960 --> 03:09:15.480

they're always posting. And uh, I sent,

2694

03:09:15.700 --> 03:09:18.920

put together a whole package of mission reports, a summary in Excel,

2695

03:09:18.940 --> 03:09:21.840

the veterans photos of all the planes all tied out.

2696

03:09:22.240 --> 03:09:24.800

I sent it over to the daughter, then she shared it with their mom.

2697

03:09:24.800 --> 03:09:27.520

Cuz I didn't have the mom's email. Well, the daughter immediately like, oh,

2698

03:09:27.520 --> 03:09:30.240

I gotta pay you for this. I said, no, no, no, I like doing it, it's fun.

2699

03:09:30.380 --> 03:09:34.640

And then the mother offered to send me a dozen roses. I'm like,

2700

03:09:34.770 --> 03:09:37.520

thank you so much. But I can't eat roses.

2701

03:09:37.520 --> 03:09:40.800

You don't maintain this physique not eating. Um, so, um,

2702

03:09:42.190 --> 03:09:44.800

it's fun to do. It's very rewarding. Um,

2703

03:09:46.560 --> 03:09:51.400

I personally just like, you know, when I get stuff in, it's my hobby.
Um,

2704

03:09:51.710 --> 03:09:55.700

when photos, whatever come in, I like just researching them basically
to ground,

2705

03:09:56.160 --> 03:10:00.580

you know, I want to figure out the plane, the date, the time where
it's at,

2706

03:10:00.870 --> 03:10:03.660

everything I can and identify as much as I can.

2707

03:10:03.840 --> 03:10:07.260

So it's just a fun hobby for me. You know,

2708

03:10:07.420 --> 03:10:10.900

I get stuff in and I sort it all out. Um,

2709

03:10:10.990 --> 03:10:15.460

supporting the film and Michael with photos, footage, questions, yada,
yada.

2710

03:10:15.500 --> 03:10:19.100

Y seems like no matter when he sends me a message question,

2711

03:10:19.130 --> 03:10:23.180

it's usually when I'm driving. So, um, it's like, okay, I'll get back
to you.

2712

03:10:23.240 --> 03:10:26.180

Let me stop. Um, and um, then I,

2713

03:10:26.200 --> 03:10:30.260

of course I help the Hardwick Museum anyway, I can, any questions, et cetera.

2714

03:10:30.680 --> 03:10:34.580

And when I'm over, I always stop in. So Any questions?

2715

03:10:37.960 --> 03:10:39.540

Um, Joe still helps out,

2716

03:10:41.030 --> 03:10:45.530

Right? Yeah. He's helping on the film answering stuff. Yep.

2717

03:10:48.600 --> 03:10:49.433

Okay.

2718

03:11:10.060 --> 03:11:12.560

Really appreciate the, the research and,

2719

03:11:12.780 --> 03:11:14.280

and the help you've done for this group.

2720

03:11:15.210 --> 03:11:16.043

Thank you.

2721

03:11:24.820 --> 03:11:27.000

Yes, I agree Bill. Everyone agrees. Don,

2722

03:11:27.000 --> 03:11:29.040

you're very valuable to the organization. No question.

2723

03:11:29.140 --> 03:11:34.040

And obviously part of our main legacy is to con or part of our mission and our

2724

03:11:34.040 --> 03:11:37.040

purpose of this association is to continue the legacy of the bomb group.

2725

03:11:37.060 --> 03:11:41.400

And that's the main way we can do it with the history, right? Uh, photos,

2726

03:11:41.510 --> 03:11:46.280

memorabilia, stories. So both you and, and Joe and the rest of everyone very,

2727

03:11:46.470 --> 03:11:50.900

very instrumental in keeping that history alive. So thank you. Okay.

2728

03:11:50.900 --> 03:11:52.740

I feel like we're at Comedy Central here too sometimes.

2729

03:11:52.880 --> 03:11:56.580

So I'm gonna say my joke for the last, it was the big, the big one.

2730

03:11:59.400 --> 03:12:03.460

Thanks. Next up is, uh, Michael's gonna give us the update on the website.

2731

03:12:05.290 --> 03:12:06.123

He was in the film

2732

03:12:06.430 --> 03:12:07.030

Actually.

2733

03:12:07.030 --> 03:12:11.210

Oh, was that after? Yeah. Okay. So website. Um,

2734

03:12:12.480 --> 03:12:13.650

because of the film,

2735

03:12:14.670 --> 03:12:17.690

the website kind of gets pushed off a little bit,

2736

03:12:17.690 --> 03:12:21.370

but I do maintain the website throughout the year. Uh,

2737

03:12:21.450 --> 03:12:24.650

I have a program that I go on and update things. Um,

2738

03:12:24.650 --> 03:12:28.450

if we get any folded wings, anything from George that comes in,

2739

03:12:28.550 --> 03:12:31.930

people just send us emails and say, Hey, this needs to be updated, this needs,

2740

03:12:32.190 --> 03:12:33.770

so I do that. Um,

2741

03:12:35.270 --> 03:12:39.210

but now that the film hopefully is,

2742

03:12:39.390 --> 03:12:43.850

I'm not gonna say it's gonna slow down, but uh, the bulk of it is complete.

2743

03:12:44.530 --> 03:12:48.130

I can get back on it. So the first, the new ideas are uh,

2744

03:12:48.130 --> 03:12:50.250

create a more interactive message board.

2745

03:12:50.310 --> 03:12:55.220

We have a message board up there and the way it works is people just enter

2746

03:12:55.220 --> 03:12:57.780

something and it posts. It's not like Facebook.

2747

03:12:57.780 --> 03:13:01.940

If you've been on Facebook where somebody posts something and then you can write

2748

03:13:01.940 --> 03:13:04.860

back to them immediately and it shows up on the screen. We don't have that.

2749

03:13:05.120 --> 03:13:08.420

We just have a message board. I'll ask some people,

2750

03:13:08.580 --> 03:13:12.140

I don't know if just posting something's better because we don't get any

2751

03:13:12.860 --> 03:13:14.100

questions. We don't get any fights,

2752

03:13:14.100 --> 03:13:17.580

we don't get anything over the message board. It just sort of,

2753

03:13:18.100 --> 03:13:20.860

somebody posts something. What it does do is it gives an email address.

2754

03:13:20.860 --> 03:13:24.620

You do have to enter email address and sometimes that's maybe how Don or I know

2755

03:13:24.840 --> 03:13:29.420

Joe Duran, they'll email that person back and then they'll go talk separately.

2756

03:13:29.520 --> 03:13:32.460

So I'm still playing with that, but it's an idea,

2757

03:13:32.560 --> 03:13:37.260

it is a way to get messages back quicker if it was interactive. Um,

2758

03:13:37.270 --> 03:13:38.140

films and photos.

2759

03:13:38.330 --> 03:13:41.780

It's another section on the website that I would like to update, um,

2760

03:13:42.050 --> 03:13:45.940

even with some of the videos that I have done over the years. Uh, and,

2761

03:13:46.000 --> 03:13:49.300

and that's literally just a page where you can go and click and watch movies and

2762

03:13:49.300 --> 03:13:52.500

stuff. There is, there is a a page on there right now,

2763

03:13:52.500 --> 03:13:55.780

but it needs to be updated. Um, search tools.

2764

03:13:56.780 --> 03:14:00.580

I played around with, uh, Google and their search software. Um,

2765

03:14:00.660 --> 03:14:05.360

I took it off because I just didn't think it was working that that, right?

2766

03:14:05.860 --> 03:14:10.520

Uh, but I would like to go in and try to fix that as well. So, uh,

2767

03:14:11.320 --> 03:14:11.950

research tools.

2768

03:14:11.950 --> 03:14:16.040

This is something with Don maybe I could talk about and maybe Joe and some other

2769

03:14:16.040 --> 03:14:20.630

people. Uh, it could maybe alleviate some one-on-one with people.

2770

03:14:20.790 --> 03:14:21.240

I don't know,

2771

03:14:21.240 --> 03:14:25.390

maybe there's a one-stop shop where it just has general information that you go

2772

03:14:25.390 --> 03:14:29.750

to this page and maybe that will help them out 75% of the way. Uh,

2773

03:14:29.750 --> 03:14:33.150

that's another idea. The other thing is, uh,

2774

03:14:33.240 --> 03:14:35.550

searchable Ted's traveling circus.

2775

03:14:35.770 --> 03:14:37.510

Now I thought this would be interesting to maybe,

2776

03:14:37.690 --> 03:14:42.310

and I don't know if we'd have to get Scott's approval, um, Scott Stewart,

2777

03:14:42.810 --> 03:14:43.400

uh,

2778

03:14:43.400 --> 03:14:48.190

Cal's son to actually scan Ted's traveling circus and

2779

03:14:48.190 --> 03:14:50.670

make it searchable by anything you want to find.

2780

03:14:50.690 --> 03:14:54.030

You could type in a word and it would go to that page or go to that section.

2781

03:14:54.700 --> 03:14:57.710

It's an idea. I don't think that book has ever been digitized.

2782

03:14:58.190 --> 03:15:00.550

I don't think it's available, so it's only,

2783

03:15:00.570 --> 03:15:03.390

you can only buy the book and you have to actually physically look at the book.

2784

03:15:03.410 --> 03:15:06.230

But it's an idea to maybe digitize, uh,

2785

03:15:06.350 --> 03:15:10.230

Ted's traveling circus that gets into like,

2786

03:15:10.340 --> 03:15:13.670

well then do they pay a fee to then get that digital file?

2787

03:15:13.790 --> 03:15:15.710

I would say they probably would because they have to pay for the book.

2788

03:15:16.330 --> 03:15:21.110

But it may be another resource to get the information out there.

2789

03:15:21.650 --> 03:15:24.950

And again, alleviate some of the, when people ask questions, say,

2790

03:15:24.950 --> 03:15:29.750

well go buy this file and just hit search and you might find some stuff. Um,

2791

03:15:29.750 --> 03:15:32.830

it's an idea. I just wanted to throw it out there. Um,

2792

03:15:32.830 --> 03:15:35.590

but I do think it would probably, you probably would need to pay for it.

2793

03:15:36.000 --> 03:15:37.150

Cause that would be some work.

2794

03:15:38.290 --> 03:15:39.120

The book make

2795

03:15:39.120 --> 03:15:40.210

Money. What's that?

2796

03:15:40.520 --> 03:15:41.890

Sell 'em the book and make the

2797

03:15:41.890 --> 03:15:44.880

Money? You can, but then there's the other side of like,

2798

03:15:44.880 --> 03:15:49.580

maybe they never want to get the book, but if they see a \$20 file,

2799

03:15:49.830 --> 03:15:52.700

which the book is around a hundred something I think or around there.

2800

03:15:52.700 --> 03:15:57.460

But if they see 70, okay, but if they see a file that's a little cheaper,

2801

03:15:57.720 --> 03:16:02.180

you may get more money that way and it might be easier. Um, but just an idea,

2802

03:16:02.840 --> 03:16:07.340

uh, under the hood. Uh, yes, Pete,

2803

03:16:08.440 --> 03:16:13.000

As far as that particular book, book Ted's Traveling.

2804

03:16:16.630 --> 03:16:17.463

There you go.

2805

03:16:18.070 --> 03:16:20.500

Check, check. Hey there I am, uh,

2806

03:16:20.660 --> 03:16:24.140

Ted's traveling circus is probably the most expensive thing I have to mail.

2807

03:16:24.920 --> 03:16:27.260

And to get cost on that,

2808

03:16:27.260 --> 03:16:30.580

it has has to set a price at \$129.

2809

03:16:31.920 --> 03:16:35.220

Now here at the reunion it's 70, that's the reunion price.

2810

03:16:36.160 --> 03:16:40.980

So I suggest if anybody wants to buy it, get it through the reunion please.

2811

03:16:41.870 --> 03:16:46.860

Right. Because like I say, it's a pricey book, pricey book to send out. And uh,

2812

03:16:48.290 --> 03:16:50.390

if you want, I'll, I'll volunteer to do this.

2813

03:16:50.460 --> 03:16:52.990

I'll contact Scott and see if we can digitize that.

2814

03:16:53.270 --> 03:16:54.270

I mean, it might be an idea.

2815

03:16:54.530 --> 03:16:57.710

Put it on our, put it on our website. Uh, I don't,

2816

03:16:57.750 --> 03:17:01.350

I don't see what harm it would cause at all. Um, and in addition to that,

2817

03:17:02.100 --> 03:17:06.790

most college libraries today are getting rid of all their books and

2818
03:17:06.790 --> 03:17:11.790
they're just printing all CDs, right? They're digitizing everything.
Um, cuz I,

2819
03:17:11.810 --> 03:17:15.190
uh, donated books that my fa father had written to, uh,

2820
03:17:15.890 --> 03:17:17.430
the college that, uh,

2821
03:17:18.030 --> 03:17:22.150
I instructed where the college I instructed for 36 years and they
asked,

2822
03:17:22.240 --> 03:17:25.470
first of all, for digital copy. Oh, there you go.

2823
03:17:25.470 --> 03:17:29.590
Because they don't store books anymore. Same thing is true at Central
Michigan.

2824
03:17:29.700 --> 03:17:34.390
Same thing is true at Vanderbilt. So if we can digitize anything like
that,

2825
03:17:34.390 --> 03:17:37.390
it would be relative to the history of the 93rd,

2826
03:17:37.390 --> 03:17:39.470
it would be most beneficial for us. Yeah,

2827
03:17:39.470 --> 03:17:41.710
That's a good point. And again, with Scott, he,

2828
03:17:41.730 --> 03:17:46.070
he may have files of the book already and we could just take that and
convert

2829

03:17:46.070 --> 03:17:48.670
it. We'd have to work with him definitely. But, uh,

2830
03:17:50.690 --> 03:17:51.523
what's that

2831
03:17:54.940 --> 03:17:57.890
outta the basement? Well that's the, yeah, you'd have to sell those books.

2832
03:17:57.890 --> 03:18:01.730
But as far as a digital file, we need to scan that book I think. But

2833
03:18:03.510 --> 03:18:07.490
he might, he doesn't. Jim says he doesn't.

2834
03:18:08.210 --> 03:18:09.043
I ask him that. He

2835
03:18:09.430 --> 03:18:10.830
Does. Okay. Anyway,

2836
03:18:10.830 --> 03:18:14.070
I wanted to put it out there so maybe our minds can come together and think

2837
03:18:14.070 --> 03:18:18.230
about it. Uh, under the hood for the website.

2838
03:18:18.510 --> 03:18:21.390
Redirect annual payments of the website. Uh, not I,

2839
03:18:21.430 --> 03:18:24.910
I think I'm putting it on my credit card and I can talk to Wally about that,

2840
03:18:24.910 --> 03:18:28.150
but I just need to kind of redirect. So every year I go, oh yeah,

2841

03:18:28.150 --> 03:18:30.830

I got charged for that. And then Wally pay me. Um,

2842

03:18:30.830 --> 03:18:34.070

maybe you can just go straight to Wally. Provide, uh,

2843

03:18:34.070 --> 03:18:38.790

update contacts for different departments. Uh, that's on the website maybe. Uh,

2844

03:18:39.190 --> 03:18:40.550

I think we've got it straight now,

2845

03:18:40.570 --> 03:18:43.790

but I know for a year or so I think Joanne was,

2846

03:18:44.210 --> 03:18:47.500

was on the website and we needed to take your email off of there.

2847

03:18:47.940 --> 03:18:49.180

I just wanna make sure that,

2848

03:18:49.320 --> 03:18:52.300

and you guys can jump on the website right now and just double check it that all

2849

03:18:52.300 --> 03:18:54.740

the contacts are correct. I think we have phone numbers on there.

2850

03:18:55.130 --> 03:18:59.420

Just double check that and I can change and update that. Um,

2851

03:19:01.000 --> 03:19:03.300

create options to register, pay for reunions.

2852

03:19:03.300 --> 03:19:06.420

This is a big one cuz this would require some organization,

2853

03:19:06.560 --> 03:19:09.180

but if you get it in the mail and you pay for it,

2854

03:19:09.380 --> 03:19:12.900

couldn't you go online and register for the reunion and pay for it?

2855

03:19:12.970 --> 03:19:17.060

Some people like to do that these days. Becky likes to use PayPal, so,

2856

03:19:20.400 --> 03:19:22.100

so anyway, it might be easier,

2857

03:19:22.240 --> 03:19:26.940

you might get people out there who thought about coming rather than they see

2858

03:19:26.940 --> 03:19:29.220

this packet or newsletter on the desk.

2859

03:19:29.250 --> 03:19:33.020

They may want to just go to the website really quick and punch in their stuff

2860

03:19:33.020 --> 03:19:37.900

and they're done. Then they have to go. Um, so that's an option there.

2861

03:19:38.120 --> 03:19:41.340

Uh, option to blast email members on events or news.

2862

03:19:41.820 --> 03:19:45.340

I thought it might be interesting that, uh, any information that we have,

2863

03:19:45.340 --> 03:19:48.220

and I know George is kind of the conduit for this right now,

2864

03:19:48.400 --> 03:19:52.420

but could we create, um, something either from the website,

2865

03:19:52.630 --> 03:19:56.540

maybe it's a sign up on the website that they'll get monthly updates,

2866

03:19:56.920 --> 03:19:59.140

almost like they do get the ball of fire,

2867

03:19:59.360 --> 03:20:01.260

but some people don't get the ball of fire.

2868

03:20:01.260 --> 03:20:04.860

They just go to the 93rd and look at the homepage and some of the updates there.

2869

03:20:04.960 --> 03:20:09.180

But it might be to create like a digital newsletter. Anyway,

2870

03:20:09.180 --> 03:20:13.890

I just wanna throw those ideas out. You can think about 'em. All right,

2871

03:20:13.890 --> 03:20:18.710

I gotta move on to the, okay,

2872

03:20:18.710 --> 03:20:21.800

yeah, the film. Do you want me to switch that for you?

2873

03:20:37.070 --> 03:20:39.050

Uh, Hardwick film. All right.

2874

03:20:42.790 --> 03:20:43.623

Uh, I won't go,

2875

03:20:43.730 --> 03:20:47.090

I maybe I'll go into a little detail here because when we play the film tonight,

2876

03:20:47.170 --> 03:20:49.930

I don't want to talk that much cuz it is 83 minutes long.

2877

03:20:50.190 --> 03:20:51.730

So we're already gonna have a dinner,

2878

03:20:52.180 --> 03:20:54.890

we're already gonna do all this and then we're gonna walk in there and watch it.

2879

03:20:54.990 --> 03:20:59.130

So I will talk here and if you have any questions let me know.

2880

03:20:59.830 --> 03:21:03.770

But, uh, right now the film is to a rough cut status and,

2881

03:21:04.920 --> 03:21:08.140

and the, the wor I use the word rough cut because it's not,

2882

03:21:08.840 --> 03:21:12.620

the audio mix is not the way it needs to be. It needs to be surround sound. Um,

2883

03:21:12.620 --> 03:21:16.300

there's a lot of sound editing that I'd like to do. Uh, color correct.

2884

03:21:16.300 --> 03:21:18.820

It needs to be color corrected properly. Um,

2885

03:21:19.580 --> 03:21:22.380

I would like to try to cut 10 minutes out of it,

2886

03:21:22.400 --> 03:21:27.300

try to get in the seventies time range. Uh, so I call it a rough cut.

2887

03:21:27.300 --> 03:21:30.730

When you guys watch it, you'll probably go, there's the movie,

2888

03:21:31.390 --> 03:21:35.170

but it looks polished, but it, it's polished enough for the screening and I,

2889

03:21:35.170 --> 03:21:38.770

and I sort of got it to that point, so, so anyway,

2890

03:21:38.770 --> 03:21:41.370

you can call it a rough cut or you can call it a preview screening,

2891

03:21:41.400 --> 03:21:44.930

however you wanna do it, but that's what we will watch. Um,

2892

03:21:45.330 --> 03:21:49.180

it's common in the industry, right? It's common. Yeah. The other thing too is,

2893

03:21:49.180 --> 03:21:51.900

which it'll lead into this and, and I know people ask like,

2894

03:21:51.900 --> 03:21:55.860

where are we with the film and have we paid for it? And yes and no.

2895

03:21:56.200 --> 03:22:00.220

The one mystery thing is like we make a call to Time Life and say, Hey,

2896

03:22:00.480 --> 03:22:04.540

the 93rd Bob Group was on Life Magazine back in 1943,

2897

03:22:05.210 --> 03:22:07.300

we'd like to use that. And they go, okay,

2898

03:22:07.300 --> 03:22:11.220

that'll be \$750 for film festivals only.

2899

03:22:12.290 --> 03:22:15.510

That's not to get it out and say if we talk to the top like Netflix,

2900

03:22:16.730 --> 03:22:20.070

Amazon say, where you guys could just click if you wanna do that,

2901

03:22:20.100 --> 03:22:24.790

that'll be \$1,500 for that four second

2902

03:22:24.980 --> 03:22:27.910

clip. That's literally, it goes four seconds in the film.

2903

03:22:28.730 --> 03:22:32.030

So those are some of the variables that we're working with.

2904

03:22:32.130 --> 03:22:35.590

So we've gone through some big stuff, uh,

2905

03:22:35.590 --> 03:22:40.390

but we need to go through everything and hopefully most people with films and

2906

03:22:40.390 --> 03:22:42.590

photos, they go, yeah, no problem.

2907

03:22:42.620 --> 03:22:46.830

They write their signature and they give it to us and we're fine. And we do,

2908

03:22:46.930 --> 03:22:51.110

you know, tout the nonprofit status. Uh, and I'll just give you an example,

2909

03:22:51.180 --> 03:22:54.390

another example, uh, which was probably even more high priced,

2910

03:22:54.810 --> 03:22:56.990

was a website called Critical Past.

2911

03:22:58.320 --> 03:23:02.160

I have a history section in the film that you guys haven't seen yet and it runs

2912

03:23:02.160 --> 03:23:04.840

about seven minutes. And a lot of that footage,

2913

03:23:05.150 --> 03:23:08.600

some of the footage that Don has given me and Joe has given me is a lot of early

2914

03:23:08.650 --> 03:23:10.960

stuff. Um, some later stuff.

2915

03:23:11.300 --> 03:23:16.160

But if we want to tell the actual story of the war and give the the idea of what

2916

03:23:16.160 --> 03:23:19.720

the 93rd was involved in, say in 1944,

2917

03:23:20.280 --> 03:23:21.960

I need footage and photos for that.

2918

03:23:22.340 --> 03:23:25.120

So I went to this website and it has everything.

2919

03:23:26.070 --> 03:23:30.680

It's like the one stop shop and it actually saved me a lot of time looking for a

2920

03:23:30.680 --> 03:23:34.520

lot of stuff and bugging Dawn every single minute, like in some St.

2921

03:23:34.620 --> 03:23:36.360

Don just doesn't have it, we just don't have it.

2922

03:23:36.740 --> 03:23:40.360

But this site has it and it has a lot of 93rd stuff in it.

2923

03:23:40.500 --> 03:23:45.320

You can see the planes flying through and if you want to see the 93rd

2924

03:23:45.420 --> 03:23:48.560

fly at Market Garden, there they are, they're at Market Garden. So,

2925

03:23:48.940 --> 03:23:53.320

but that costs money and that is one reason why we had the fund fundraiser

2926

03:23:53.750 --> 03:23:57.480

over the spring is to raise that money so we could buy these clips.

2927

03:23:57.700 --> 03:24:01.120

Now that website says if you buy these, you can use it for whatever you want,

2928

03:24:01.690 --> 03:24:06.320

commercial festivals, anything. So the price I think is worth it.

2929

03:24:06.980 --> 03:24:11.320

Um, and I think if we're going go this far with the film and try to shoot high,

2930

03:24:11.860 --> 03:24:14.120

we might as well go with a company like this. So,

2931

03:24:14.460 --> 03:24:18.680

so we've actually gone with that company. I've made that decision already. Um,

2932

03:24:19.380 --> 03:24:22.480

but you'll see it in there and it's some good footage,

2933

03:24:22.550 --> 03:24:25.160

it's amazing footage and it's uh,

2934

03:24:25.220 --> 03:24:29.480

it goes intermixed great with Don's photos, Joe's photos,

2935

03:24:30.180 --> 03:24:34.360

um, so, so it's a nice balance, but it did cost a lot of money.

2936

03:24:34.460 --> 03:24:37.080

And if you want those numbers in detail, I can give 'em to you later.

2937

03:24:38.300 --> 03:24:39.320

But on the back, on the,

2938

03:24:39.320 --> 03:24:44.260

have a board back there that shows you a real quick kind of budget and

2939

03:24:44.260 --> 03:24:47.020

the fundraisers that we have have done.

2940

03:24:47.720 --> 03:24:51.900

So will we need another fundraiser? Possibly? Uh,

2941

03:24:51.920 --> 03:24:55.060

the other issue would be is maybe we do,

2942

03:24:55.400 --> 03:24:57.900

we haven't done this yet because it's all grassroots, uh,

2943

03:24:57.900 --> 03:25:01.860

right now with just us donating the money. Uh,

2944

03:25:01.900 --> 03:25:04.940

but do we go to a Kickstarter or a GoFundMe type thing?

2945

03:25:05.080 --> 03:25:08.580

Do we go somewhere else and say, Hey people, now we have this film,

2946

03:25:09.130 --> 03:25:13.260

help us complete it and then we reach out to the greater public. So,
uh,

2947

03:25:13.260 --> 03:25:14.620
that may be an option too.

2948
03:25:14.620 --> 03:25:17.180
We may have to do it because when it comes down to it,

2949
03:25:17.180 --> 03:25:21.430
we still wanna make sure that this thing gets done. So anyway,

2950
03:25:21.430 --> 03:25:26.070
that's sort of the, the money talk. Um, really quick. So production,
uh,

2951
03:25:26.070 --> 03:25:28.190
drone shots. I went in 2017.

2952
03:25:28.750 --> 03:25:31.190
I went again in 2018 to Hardwick.

2953
03:25:31.450 --> 03:25:34.510
You'll see in the film there's even more drone shots. Uh,

2954
03:25:34.510 --> 03:25:37.870
and I actually brought my camera and shot some other footage as well.
Um,

2955
03:25:38.260 --> 03:25:42.190
that was needed. Um, but those are complete. Uh,

2956
03:25:42.210 --> 03:25:44.630
so I completed an entire rough cut of the film.

2957
03:25:44.630 --> 03:25:49.070
This is the post post-production side graphics. You will see graphics,

2958
03:25:49.090 --> 03:25:53.030
you'll see maps, you'll see other things in there. It's still ongoing.

2959

03:25:53.110 --> 03:25:56.550

I have a graphics guy that is working with me, very low cost.

2960

03:25:57.070 --> 03:25:59.030

I called him up one day and I said, Hey,

2961

03:25:59.390 --> 03:26:02.670

I know you've worked with Cuz on the side, he's worked with my company, uh,

2962

03:26:02.670 --> 03:26:06.150

just regular work. I said, would you be interested in doing this? He's like,

2963

03:26:06.150 --> 03:26:07.230

well, matter of fact,

2964

03:26:07.900 --> 03:26:12.070

this guy puts together a model World War II airplanes

2965

03:26:13.250 --> 03:26:17.660

and he has, and he took a photo when I was talking to him.

2966

03:26:17.800 --> 03:26:21.100

He has boxes and boxes in his room and he's like, oh,

2967

03:26:21.100 --> 03:26:24.460

I just got done with a B 24. I was like, you're the guy.

2968

03:26:25.800 --> 03:26:28.220

So anyway, he's helping me out. I do give him a little money,

2969

03:26:28.400 --> 03:26:32.020

but nowhere near what we would give a normal guy to do some of these graphics.

2970

03:26:32.280 --> 03:26:36.140

So he's helping out, he's helping out a lot. Um,

2971

03:26:37.720 --> 03:26:40.040

I, I mentioned the archival for films and photos.

2972

03:26:40.240 --> 03:26:43.270

I kind of already went over that. Uh,

2973

03:26:44.510 --> 03:26:48.670

complete final graphics. So I would like to complete the final graphics for, uh,

2974

03:26:48.670 --> 03:26:52.030

the fall coming up. So that's sitting down with him.

2975

03:26:52.420 --> 03:26:54.870

He's kind of now just seeing the entire film too.

2976

03:26:54.890 --> 03:26:57.310

So he's gonna go through with me and say, oh, maybe we could do this,

2977

03:26:57.310 --> 03:27:00.190

maybe we can do that. Uh, that's kind of what that line is there.

2978

03:27:00.370 --> 03:27:02.230

And then I mentioned the color and audio mix,

2979

03:27:02.230 --> 03:27:04.270

which I would like to do by the end of this year.

2980

03:27:04.330 --> 03:27:09.270

So that means we have to lock it and we have to get clearances and rights

2981

03:27:09.270 --> 03:27:12.790

for all films and photos before I get to the color and mix stage,

2982

03:27:13.490 --> 03:27:16.950

cuz that means everything is done. Nothing is gonna change.

2983

03:27:17.300 --> 03:27:21.590

Then we would do color and mix, um, other tasks, film, photos,

2984

03:27:21.610 --> 03:27:22.590

rights and clearances.

2985

03:27:22.590 --> 03:27:25.950

I already mentioned that we do have a legal team that Gene has helped us set up.

2986

03:27:26.570 --> 03:27:30.710

We are talking to them about some stuff that that comes up. Uh, legal wise,

2987

03:27:31.750 --> 03:27:33.120

there's a rating for the film.

2988

03:27:33.120 --> 03:27:36.480

We would have to look into that because I know it can't even play on military

2989

03:27:36.480 --> 03:27:39.400

basis. I think we found, which they'd probably do it for free,

2990

03:27:39.660 --> 03:27:44.340

but the only thing we would need is a rating. They have to get that, uh,

2991

03:27:44.340 --> 03:27:47.100

I don't know if this would be a G or a pg, I'm not sure. They,

2992

03:27:47.440 --> 03:27:51.220

you send it to this company and they put the official stamp on it of what the

2993

03:27:51.220 --> 03:27:55.660

rating is. If that happens, then if we do go, say we went to Andrews,

2994

03:27:55.660 --> 03:27:58.540

we could've maybe set it up in the theater over there and we're gonna watched

2995

03:27:58.540 --> 03:28:01.380

it, but they won't take it if it doesn't have a rating. So,

2996

03:28:01.720 --> 03:28:06.540

but it needs to be complete first to get the rating. Um, distribution options.

2997

03:28:06.920 --> 03:28:09.020

The ultimate for me would be to get it on,

2998

03:28:09.080 --> 03:28:14.060

say Amazon on Netflix where you can tell your family, your friends, anybody say,

2999

03:28:14.060 --> 03:28:18.540

oh, just search hardware, Pop it up and it'll play right away.

3000

03:28:18.850 --> 03:28:22.740

That would be the goal for me is to get into something like that. Um,

3001

03:28:23.040 --> 03:28:26.740

but I think festivals, even a road show, uh,

3002

03:28:26.740 --> 03:28:29.780

taking the film and going to maybe some big cities and say, Hey,

3003

03:28:29.780 --> 03:28:34.740

we're gonna play here or go to museums, go to air shows, go to places like that,

3004

03:28:34.810 --> 03:28:38.820

that people are enthusiasts that would say they go to an air show during the day

3005

03:28:38.880 --> 03:28:42.380

and then they're, oh, a film's playing in the hangar over here. Uh,

3006

03:28:42.380 --> 03:28:45.860

you might get a lot of people to come watch this film. So,

3007

03:28:47.260 --> 03:28:52.070

and that's the last line. Uh, I think that's all I got. So thank you.

3008

03:28:52.170 --> 03:28:55.670

And, uh, thanks for raising the money and we'll watch the film tonight.

3009

03:29:01.070 --> 03:29:05.430

I have a question over here from Nick first, or comment. Oh yeah. Is uh,

3010

03:29:05.490 --> 03:29:08.840

is it possible microphone, uh,

3011

03:29:13.550 --> 03:29:14.383

Yeah, that

3012

03:29:14.690 --> 03:29:15.840

Right show,

3013

03:29:16.170 --> 03:29:17.003

Right?

3014

03:29:18.070 --> 03:29:19.880

That, uh, to be honest with you,

3015

03:29:23.240 --> 03:29:25.190

We're gonna have to talk to the lawyers about that one.

3016

03:29:25.520 --> 03:29:29.510

We're gonna have to like, really, uh, cuz we're nonprofit status.

3017

03:29:30.610 --> 03:29:34.790

So we have to figure out how that kind of winds into, uh,

3018

03:29:34.830 --> 03:29:38.470

what we do here. I'm not opposed to that. And we'd have to,

3019

03:29:39.050 --> 03:29:41.430

cuz I think the way it's set up is with, uh,

3020

03:29:41.610 --> 03:29:45.390

me and the 93rd put this film together and the way the contract is,

3021

03:29:45.390 --> 03:29:49.350

is split in two. So we'd have to decide if money does come in,

3022

03:29:49.370 --> 03:29:54.230

how does that get distributed and is it okay to get distributed

3023

03:29:54.340 --> 03:29:57.510

that way? So that is a question out there. Yeah.

3024

03:29:57.810 --> 03:30:01.470

And it's a question that comes up a lot because I think the film will be at that

3025

03:30:02.010 --> 03:30:05.310

status of, even if it's two bucks, you know, they're,

3026

03:30:05.310 --> 03:30:08.430

they're at an air show and they wanna walk over here and we're not gonna charge,

3027

03:30:09.220 --> 03:30:12.030

well we just want to get something back for the group because that's,

3028

03:30:12.030 --> 03:30:15.590

that's what you put the money back in to do the next project. Uh,

3029

03:30:15.590 --> 03:30:18.230

that's really what it would be about. So, yep.

3030

03:30:18.970 --> 03:30:23.920

So is it possible it would help if Peter wrote timeline

3031

03:30:24.730 --> 03:30:27.430

and they got,

3032

03:30:30.930 --> 03:30:32.010

I mean, thank

3033

03:30:32.010 --> 03:30:32.490

You at

3034

03:30:32.490 --> 03:30:34.650

The end. I, I you could try, you know,

3035

03:30:34.650 --> 03:30:37.530

the big one other than Time Life is this Critical Pass website,

3036

03:30:37.590 --> 03:30:42.340

cuz I talked to them multiple times and said, we're a nonprofit, uh,

3037

03:30:42.520 --> 03:30:46.020

we, we have annual reunions. And the emails I got back,

3038

03:30:46.020 --> 03:30:49.980

I've got multiple emails back saying, we know we appreciate what you guys do,

3039

03:30:50.400 --> 03:30:51.980

but I got the,

3040

03:30:51.980 --> 03:30:55.500

but every time they say you're not the only one that's asked,

3041

03:30:55.890 --> 03:31:00.300

what they do is they give a 20%, I think it was 20% discount.

3042

03:31:01.840 --> 03:31:04.980

And that is because I sent that email. If I didn't send the email,

3043

03:31:05.180 --> 03:31:06.180

I wouldn't even gotten that.

3044

03:31:06.720 --> 03:31:09.700

So that's how they answer everybody is just do the 20%

3045

03:31:10.470 --> 03:31:11.303

Commercial.

3046

03:31:15.130 --> 03:31:19.260

Yeah. I mean, and Gene's tried. I've seen the emails back and forth.

3047

03:31:20.060 --> 03:31:22.220

I mean, she's tried, it's, it's, it's,

3048

03:31:22.340 --> 03:31:25.300

I think it went back at least two or three times where

3049

03:31:25.320 --> 03:31:26.860

You said it started a lot higher than

3050

03:31:28.510 --> 03:31:33.260

50. It did, it started a lot higher than 1500. Um, cuz again,

3051

03:31:33.260 --> 03:31:37.180

1500 is the mark to use that. If it, if it hits Amazon or Netflix,

3052

03:31:37.720 --> 03:31:41.370

we have to pay, we have to go back to them. We have to pay that. So,

3053

03:31:43.630 --> 03:31:45.670

Question, how did they get the right,

3054

03:31:46.670 --> 03:31:47.960

They went out and took it.

3055

03:31:51.320 --> 03:31:56.290

They showed up that day in July in 1943 at Hardwick

3056

03:31:56.790 --> 03:31:59.290

and they went up high. I don't know if they, where they were,

3057

03:31:59.290 --> 03:32:01.690

they were on a truck or something off a plane.

3058

03:32:02.070 --> 03:32:06.700

And the boys stood up right there and they snapped a couple photos and they put

3059

03:32:06.700 --> 03:32:09.740

that on Life, life magazine. So they own that photo.

3060

03:32:11.720 --> 03:32:16.220

So yeah. Anyway,

3061

03:32:16.220 --> 03:32:20.800

anybody have any other questions? Okay, great. Thank you

3062

03:32:21.870 --> 03:32:22.703

Michael.

3063

03:32:27.780 --> 03:32:31.680

And just a couple added comments about both the website and the film.
For me,

3064

03:32:31.750 --> 03:32:35.320

obviously the website is a tremendous value to us.

3065

03:32:35.740 --> 03:32:39.980

We are in the age of technology, right? Between Facebook, which we have,

3066

03:32:39.980 --> 03:32:44.180

I think close to 800 members now on Facebook and our bond group, uh, groups,

3067

03:32:44.740 --> 03:32:47.460

Facebook groups, and the activity on the website,

3068

03:32:47.520 --> 03:32:51.820

how many over a hundred thousand hits in the last five or six years easily. Um,

3069

03:32:52.320 --> 03:32:57.060

and that's not all just Michael hitting, but uh, but we're in that age, right?

3070

03:32:57.060 --> 03:32:59.660

Moving forward, again, linking to our purpose.

3071

03:33:00.290 --> 03:33:04.180

Know we're gonna continue to have to drive into the new technology world. Uh,

3072

03:33:04.180 --> 03:33:06.740

I think two years ago when we talked about our learn long-term strategy,

3073

03:33:06.880 --> 03:33:09.820

one of the goals was to get more active and get, uh,

3074

03:33:10.080 --> 03:33:14.900

no more presence in the technology world. And that's again, after the film, uh,

3075

03:33:14.900 --> 03:33:15.940

you saw Michael's update.

3076

03:33:15.940 --> 03:33:19.020

That's the intent to be able to do that as far as the film,

3077

03:33:19.530 --> 03:33:22.140

hopefully get a little bit of a flavor of the amount of details,

3078

03:33:22.200 --> 03:33:25.420

the amount of work that goes into this type of project, right? Um,

3079

03:33:26.010 --> 03:33:29.360

we've had Gene's been a tremendous help. Everybody, Don Joe,

3080

03:33:30.120 --> 03:33:33.560

everyone that's helped with this has just, it's very time consuming. I mean,

3081

03:33:33.560 --> 03:33:37.780

we've been working on this for what, five, six years possibly in that range.

3082

03:33:37.840 --> 03:33:38.673

And it's just,

3083

03:33:38.700 --> 03:33:40.340

I mean, it started around five years ago,

3084

03:33:40.630 --> 03:33:43.340

Right? Started taking video interviews at the reunions

3085

03:33:43.450 --> 03:33:44.580

Five years ago, Hartford.

3086

03:33:44.600 --> 03:33:49.360

We talked about it and then it was Dayton Hartford that the money

3087

03:33:49.420 --> 03:33:53.560

got approved. Uh, well the beginnings of the money, basically 250,

3088

03:33:54.220 --> 03:33:55.870

uh oh,

3089

03:33:56.300 --> 03:34:00.580

2,500 was approved at Hartford writing, research, whatever.

3090

03:34:00.720 --> 03:34:03.460

And then another 10,000 was approved at Dayton.

3091

03:34:04.080 --> 03:34:06.740

And then that combined kind of got us to England,

3092

03:34:06.880 --> 03:34:09.860

cuz we were going on a trip in 2015. So basically,

3093

03:34:09.860 --> 03:34:11.900

I always say it's five years,

3094

03:34:12.040 --> 03:34:15.500

but really three years from shooting to right now.

3095

03:34:15.960 --> 03:34:18.260

That's basically what it is. So it took three years.

3096

03:34:19.180 --> 03:34:24.000

That's while he is working full time in a real job. Uh,

3097

03:34:24.430 --> 03:34:28.520

yeah, he is young. So anyway, Michael, thank you for all your hard work.

3098

03:34:28.530 --> 03:34:32.400

We're anxious to see the film tonight and, uh, uh, great detail,

3099

03:34:32.650 --> 03:34:35.310

great work there. Uh, one thing,

3100

03:34:35.370 --> 03:34:37.750

one specific thing I wanna mention about the budgeting and the finance,

3101
03:34:37.860 --> 03:34:42.390
both Wally's report and the film budgets, uh, primarily for the new people,

3102
03:34:42.610 --> 03:34:47.470
but the money you donate and your membership dues, et cetera. Uh,

3103
03:34:47.470 --> 03:34:52.270
we are very, um, I guess I'll say frugal if you will,

3104
03:34:52.270 --> 03:34:55.630
but we're also very, uh, upfront and, um,

3105
03:34:56.370 --> 03:35:00.630
our oversight of our financial processes I think are pretty good and pretty

3106
03:35:00.630 --> 03:35:04.270
strict. Uh, Michael has, has the, manages the budget,

3107
03:35:04.300 --> 03:35:08.650
like all projects have their own budget, hot stuff had its own budget. Uh,

3108
03:35:10.310 --> 03:35:13.490
we, uh, discussed the key points, uh,

3109
03:35:13.490 --> 03:35:18.210
the key expenses as the officers, and again, for oversight.

3110
03:35:18.450 --> 03:35:21.570
I think it was, uh, two years ago, we also added to the bylaws,

3111
03:35:21.570 --> 03:35:23.490
if many of you remember, uh,

3112
03:35:23.490 --> 03:35:28.290
were required an additional signature by myself as a president over

any

3113

03:35:28.290 --> 03:35:31.770
expense totaling over \$500. So again, uh,

3114

03:35:31.770 --> 03:35:33.450
good financial sound practices.

3115

03:35:33.470 --> 03:35:37.330
Jim Goodall helped us put a lot of them in place before he, uh, moved
on, uh,

3116

03:35:37.330 --> 03:35:40.090
from the treasurer's position. But again, we're trying to be very, uh,

3117

03:35:40.200 --> 03:35:43.210
upfront and very, uh, transparent with the,

3118

03:35:43.210 --> 03:35:44.610
with the funding and with how we spend the money.

3119

03:35:44.630 --> 03:35:49.350
So just wanna make that point as well. Okay.

3120

03:35:49.550 --> 03:35:54.140
I guess, uh, the next update is hot stuff.

3121

03:35:54.240 --> 03:35:57.140
Jim Lux could not be here. He was planning to be here. Unfortunately,

3122

03:35:57.140 --> 03:36:00.300
he wasn't able to make the reunion, but he asked me to give a quick
update.

3123

03:36:01.900 --> 03:36:04.440
And you heard last night, of course, the whole story about hot stuff.

3124

03:36:04.440 --> 03:36:08.560

So I'm not gonna repeat all that. But, uh, primarily we concluded, uh,

3125

03:36:08.640 --> 03:36:12.440

a lot of this with the May 3rd, uh, dedication of the memorial in Iceland.

3126

03:36:12.440 --> 03:36:15.960

Wonderful trip, well attended. Just a fabulous, uh,

3127

03:36:15.960 --> 03:36:20.740

turnout and fabulous dedication. Very successful. Um,

3128

03:36:21.280 --> 03:36:23.580

in the member building room here in the back, if you haven't seen already,

3129

03:36:23.580 --> 03:36:26.700

there is a display board with the latest newsletter from Hot Stuff,

3130

03:36:26.700 --> 03:36:29.580

which has some of the pictures of the dedication. Uh,

3131

03:36:29.580 --> 03:36:32.740

there's information as well on the, on the website that we heard last night,

3132

03:36:32.760 --> 03:36:36.580

et cetera. Uh, Jim Lux says, hi, Jim. I don't know if you're watching, but hi.

3133

03:36:37.080 --> 03:36:40.500

And a great thank you to everyone for support of the Hot Stuff project over the

3134

03:36:40.500 --> 03:36:44.950

last five to six years, and a special thank you. He said definitely to Nancy.

3135

03:36:45.180 --> 03:36:47.390

Nancy's not here. Nancy Strangers,

3136

03:36:47.390 --> 03:36:50.870

our assistant treasurer who's pretty much spearheaded all the financial side of

3137

03:36:50.870 --> 03:36:54.070

that project, uh, for Jim. And she's, uh,

3138

03:36:54.190 --> 03:36:58.510

we agreed to provide that support many years ago as well. And, uh, just a,

3139

03:36:58.630 --> 03:37:02.830

a great project. So, uh, I think that's all I had on that.

3140

03:37:04.880 --> 03:37:07.850

With that, I'll turn it over to John. You're up.

3141

03:37:08.720 --> 03:37:10.590

We're gonna talk about the, uh,

3142

03:37:10.590 --> 03:37:13.830

reunion here as update and then move into the next, uh,

3143

03:37:15.270 --> 03:37:16.103

locations.

3144

03:37:18.650 --> 03:37:19.483

Uh, oh

3145

03:37:21.260 --> 03:37:22.230

Yeah, what did I do? I

3146

03:37:22.230 --> 03:37:23.063

Got my,

3147

03:37:23.360 --> 03:37:24.510

There we go. Did I do that?

3148

03:37:27.810 --> 03:37:28.643

Goggle?

3149

03:37:31.120 --> 03:37:34.810

Okay. Good morning everybody. Uh, first thing this morning,

3150

03:37:34.950 --> 03:37:38.810

the first person I saw was Wally, and he was all out of breath.

3151

03:37:39.010 --> 03:37:42.610

I couldn't believe how exhausted he looked for first thing in the morning.

3152

03:37:43.350 --> 03:37:43.730

And then,

3153

03:37:43.730 --> 03:37:47.290

then I realized what he was doing was out there cha chasing those three-legged

3154

03:37:47.290 --> 03:37:48.123

chase chickens.

3155

03:37:52.560 --> 03:37:56.850

Okay, enough about that. Uh, No,

3156

03:37:56.850 --> 03:38:01.010

he didn't have one in hand. So yeah, there it is. Uh,

3157

03:38:02.120 --> 03:38:06.370

this, uh, this is where we were relative to the reunion,

3158

03:38:07.230 --> 03:38:11.330

uh, when we put this slide together, which was about a week old. So, uh,

3159

03:38:11.390 --> 03:38:14.690
at that point, uh, we thought that we would have, uh,

3160
03:38:14.690 --> 03:38:16.930
that Gene and Henry would be able to be with us.

3161
03:38:17.110 --> 03:38:21.210
So that's why it shows four veterans. There's actually three veterans here,

3162
03:38:21.750 --> 03:38:26.050
and then two, uh, uh, widows of veterans are also with us.

3163
03:38:26.830 --> 03:38:31.050
Uh, the beginning balance, uh, that Wally gave you that, uh,

3164
03:38:31.050 --> 03:38:35.330
these are the receipts are about about 32,000. Uh,

3165
03:38:35.500 --> 03:38:38.610
we'll spend the vast majority of that. Uh,

3166
03:38:38.680 --> 03:38:42.930
this shows that there'll be a little bit, uh, that were a little bit over. Uh,

3167
03:38:43.130 --> 03:38:47.370
I still have some additional expenses that weren't included in here,

3168
03:38:48.190 --> 03:38:50.210
um, that will bring that down a little bit.

3169
03:38:50.550 --> 03:38:55.210
Bottom line is our goal is to pay for the reunion from the

3170
03:38:55.230 --> 03:38:57.530
income, from the reunion, and we will do that.

3171

03:38:57.670 --> 03:39:01.490

We may have a little bit left over. That's kind of the, you know,

3172

03:39:01.490 --> 03:39:06.130

we try to target it. So we have a plus. Uh, and from year to year,

3173

03:39:06.140 --> 03:39:07.570

we've been successful at doing that.

3174

03:39:07.780 --> 03:39:10.690

There will be a final report that'll be in the ball of fire,

3175

03:39:10.710 --> 03:39:11.650

the next ball of fire,

3176

03:39:11.650 --> 03:39:15.290

which will give all the exact numbers for you so that if you're interested in

3177

03:39:15.290 --> 03:39:16.930

seeing what those are, uh,

3178

03:39:16.930 --> 03:39:21.090

this reunion's numbers in terms of attendees is great.

3179

03:39:21.750 --> 03:39:26.330

But numbers in terms of amount per attendee was higher because of where we came.

3180

03:39:26.430 --> 03:39:29.530

And we knew this when we voted two years ago to come here,

3181

03:39:30.080 --> 03:39:33.340

that coming to the National Capital region was gonna be a little bit more

3182

03:39:33.400 --> 03:39:38.180

pricey, and it did prove to be, uh, we're getting good service and all that.

3183

03:39:38.560 --> 03:39:41.220

But, uh, if you feel like you're paying a little more,

3184

03:39:41.370 --> 03:39:45.660

it's because you're paying a little more. Uh, that'll next year, you know,

3185

03:39:45.810 --> 03:39:49.980

when it, it'll, it will come back down into the range we've been at previously.

3186

03:39:51.470 --> 03:39:52.303

No free drinks

3187

03:39:52.980 --> 03:39:56.630

And no free drinks. Um,

3188

03:39:57.210 --> 03:40:01.440

and that brings me, how did I get to that slide next? Yeah,

3189

03:40:01.440 --> 03:40:05.720

I guess that's right. Uh, next year we will be meeting in, um,

3190

03:40:06.520 --> 03:40:09.280

I don't know, we settled on where we're meeting. We, we keep,

3191

03:40:09.380 --> 03:40:14.040

we said Dearborn when we voted. The hotel property is, uh,

3192

03:40:14.240 --> 03:40:17.280

actually at the airport in Detroit. So, uh,

3193

03:40:17.620 --> 03:40:20.120

and we're going to spend our time in Ypsilanti.

3194

03:40:20.740 --> 03:40:23.360

So it's one of those places that we're going, uh,

3195

03:40:23.360 --> 03:40:25.960

we're going to Michigan though. Uh, this, uh,

3196

03:40:26.830 --> 03:40:31.280

this particular property, the Sheraton is within two miles of the airport.

3197

03:40:31.310 --> 03:40:35.840

They have a shuttle as, as they do, as we've enjoyed this year. Uh,

3198

03:40:35.940 --> 03:40:39.880

and it runs 24 hours a day, so we should be good there. Uh,

3199

03:40:39.880 --> 03:40:43.960

they have a couple nice restaurants on the property. As you can see,

3200

03:40:43.980 --> 03:40:48.960

the price is lower than, than this year, uh, significantly.

3201

03:40:50.020 --> 03:40:54.520

Uh, and we will be focused on the Yankee Air Museum, uh,

3202

03:40:54.520 --> 03:40:57.880

which is, uh, part of their property includes the,

3203

03:40:58.220 --> 03:40:59.840

the remain remnants of the factory,

3204

03:40:59.840 --> 03:41:03.040

where they built the majority of the B 20 fours during the war.

3205

03:41:03.580 --> 03:41:06.800

And we supported that effort as a, as an organization.

3206

03:41:07.260 --> 03:41:11.840

And then we will go to what is many of you will know as Greenfield Village and

3207

03:41:11.840 --> 03:41:15.360

Henry Ford Museum. It's now the Henry Ford.

3208

03:41:16.100 --> 03:41:19.760

So they, they've stepped forward and changed that a little bit,

3209

03:41:19.780 --> 03:41:22.120

but that's where we stand for next year's. Uh,

3210

03:41:22.120 --> 03:41:26.840

there will be more detail in the ball of fire. Uh, you know, Don likes me to,

3211

03:41:27.060 --> 03:41:30.920

you know, give two or three pages a year an an issue just to keep,

3212

03:41:31.470 --> 03:41:35.970

keep you informed. So we'll do that. Okay.

3213

03:41:37.330 --> 03:41:38.163

Am I next?

3214

03:41:45.070 --> 03:41:45.903

Uh, it's

3215

03:42:07.550 --> 03:42:11.440

Okay. I, I can't, that's a qualitative answer. I can't give you that.

3216

03:42:11.910 --> 03:42:16.080

They're a professional organization and, uh, they'll, they'll do their best.

3217

03:42:16.700 --> 03:42:20.680

And, uh, we have yet to have a perfect property, you know,

3218

03:42:20.680 --> 03:42:21.880

so if you pick on Hartford,

3219

03:42:22.220 --> 03:42:26.960

you really have to pick on every single one of those locations

3220

03:42:26.960 --> 03:42:31.700

because there is no perfect reunion. And, you know, we have to,

3221

03:42:31.760 --> 03:42:33.380

we have to work with those, uh,

3222

03:42:33.380 --> 03:42:37.300

facilities and we work through issues against as they come up. And, uh,

3223

03:42:37.300 --> 03:42:41.700

sometimes they're satisfactorily resolved and sometimes they're not. But, uh,

3224

03:42:41.700 --> 03:42:46.020

we do the best we can to pick out the properties. Uh, when we don't like them,

3225

03:42:46.020 --> 03:42:50.300

we tell them long stories. When we do like them, we get down to negotiations,

3226

03:42:50.350 --> 03:42:55.180

right? Okay. So where we have been as an organization,

3227

03:42:55.560 --> 03:42:58.580

you know, I've been doing this particular slide for, I don't know,

3228

03:42:58.580 --> 03:43:01.500

six or seven years, and it's really getting to be,

3229

03:43:01.970 --> 03:43:06.690

I've been traveling around with you all. Um, so,

3230

03:43:07.150 --> 03:43:10.890
uh, next year will be our 19th separate reunion, uh,

3231
03:43:10.890 --> 03:43:14.490
beginning with the Savannah one back in 2000.

3232
03:43:15.230 --> 03:43:19.490
And coming forward, you can see all the different places we've been.
Uh,

3233
03:43:19.620 --> 03:43:23.410
we've also had return trips to Hardwick that have been

3234
03:43:24.160 --> 03:43:28.010
managed by a subset of the 93rd.

3235
03:43:28.670 --> 03:43:32.290
And I, I went ahead and put Iceland on there because we had, you know,

3236
03:43:32.290 --> 03:43:34.010
about 30 folks at in Iceland.

3237
03:43:34.110 --> 03:43:38.370
So we've now done and added another country to our travels. Uh,

3238
03:43:38.370 --> 03:43:40.370
so this is where we've been. Now what we're going,

3239
03:43:40.370 --> 03:43:45.330
what I'm going to show you next are six potential locations for

3240
03:43:46.070 --> 03:43:49.510
2020. And, uh,

3241
03:43:49.510 --> 03:43:53.470
we try to get those a year ahead so that we can do the advanced
planning so that

3242

03:43:53.470 --> 03:43:56.190

I can actually be at the reunion next year and say to you,

3243

03:43:56.640 --> 03:44:00.950

we're going to this hotel next year and tell you, give you some of the basics.

3244

03:44:01.490 --> 03:44:05.550

And that gives us an opportunity to get some advanced planning, which, uh,

3245

03:44:05.760 --> 03:44:10.310

helps us with pricing and so forth. So I'm gonna show you six cities,

3246

03:44:11.580 --> 03:44:15.240

and you're gonna say, how'd he decide on those six? Well, I picked them.

3247

03:44:17.470 --> 03:44:20.840

Well, not quite. We work with, I work with Jim, and, you know,

3248

03:44:20.840 --> 03:44:24.600

we kind of negotiate what, what do we, what, what makes sense.

3249

03:44:25.180 --> 03:44:29.000

If you have any ideas for a city that we can, should go to,

3250

03:44:29.740 --> 03:44:34.240

you just need to tell me, and it'll probably show up as a choice next year. Uh,

3251

03:44:34.340 --> 03:44:37.760

the, when we went to Hartford, when, uh, Paul brought up Hartford,

3252

03:44:38.520 --> 03:44:42.160

Hartford was put on, because Alberta said,

3253

03:44:43.020 --> 03:44:47.090

you gotta come to Hartford. And she said it like five years in a row.

3254

03:44:48.030 --> 03:44:52.250

And finally we got people said, yeah, we gotta go to Hartford. So, um,

3255

03:44:52.820 --> 03:44:57.790

every every place is a possibility. Uh, and, you know,

3256

03:44:57.790 --> 03:45:01.590

if you have an idea that doesn't show up this year, just let me know.

And, uh,

3257

03:45:01.590 --> 03:45:04.790

I'll see if I can't work that in for next year. So here's,

3258

03:45:05.090 --> 03:45:09.970

so we're gonna show you. Yeah, I was, that's where I was going next.

3259

03:45:10.590 --> 03:45:14.570

So the criteria we use to select the,

3260

03:45:14.830 --> 03:45:19.450

the candidate cities are we look for something that's associated with the 93rd.

3261

03:45:20.030 --> 03:45:23.210

So, um, for, for example,

3262

03:45:23.320 --> 03:45:26.410

this year we had the World War II Memorial.

3263

03:45:26.870 --> 03:45:31.460

We had the Andrews projects, that was Andrews Air Force base. Uh, we have,

3264

03:45:32.080 --> 03:45:36.350

um, just the National Capital Region. Those are kind of the ties like that.

3265

03:45:36.930 --> 03:45:40.230
Uh, so we're looking for something. And, uh,

3266
03:45:40.450 --> 03:45:43.070
we also have an aviation focus.

3267
03:45:43.170 --> 03:45:47.720
So we look for something that have aviation, uh, priority.

3268
03:45:48.640 --> 03:45:53.320
Tomorrow we'll have opportunity to tour the aviation facility out here near the

3269
03:45:53.320 --> 03:45:57.280
airport where all the big airplanes are for the Air and Space Museum.
Uh,

3270
03:45:57.280 --> 03:45:59.680
that was another attraction for here. Uh,

3271
03:45:59.680 --> 03:46:04.400
we look for a property that is easy access by air,

3272
03:46:05.630 --> 03:46:08.090
and, and really the, we,

3273
03:46:08.430 --> 03:46:11.890
we don't consider properties that don't have shuttles from the airport. We just,

3274
03:46:11.910 --> 03:46:15.090
we just don't. So that gives you the option to do that. Now, some of,

3275
03:46:15.160 --> 03:46:18.450
some people still choose to use a cab or rent a car or whatever,

3276
03:46:18.910 --> 03:46:21.810
but we want you to have the option to have the shuttle. Uh,

3277

03:46:22.070 --> 03:46:25.930

and then we look for a property that can accommodate, uh,

3278

03:46:25.990 --> 03:46:30.310

our meetings at a reasonable rate. And that is getting harder.

3279

03:46:30.310 --> 03:46:32.870

There's a lot of new properties being built, and you say, well,

3280

03:46:32.870 --> 03:46:36.550

why don't we go there because they don't have meeting facilities.
Wally hit it,

3281

03:46:36.850 --> 03:46:40.230

you know, as he was joking about that. The truth is, there's,

3282

03:46:40.230 --> 03:46:41.830

there's a lot of nice properties,

3283

03:46:41.930 --> 03:46:46.630

but they've decided they don't want to get into the meeting

3284

03:46:47.030 --> 03:46:50.350

business as part of their business model. So they're out of the,

3285

03:46:50.410 --> 03:46:54.950

out of the running from the get go. Um, so those are some of the main
criteria.

3286

03:46:55.130 --> 03:46:59.030

And then if somebody recommends one, that, that's another criteria
that we,

3287

03:46:59.130 --> 03:47:00.910

we put on there. And,

3288

03:47:01.010 --> 03:47:05.030

and then the final one is we try to move around so that we're not

going to the

3289

03:47:05.030 --> 03:47:09.110

same region of the country every year. And we've been,

3290

03:47:09.170 --> 03:47:13.910

we will have been in the east two years in a row when we finish next year in

3291

03:47:13.910 --> 03:47:15.670

Detroit. So, you know,

3292

03:47:15.930 --> 03:47:20.670

you'll see that the choices you have are weighted to the west

3293

03:47:21.470 --> 03:47:25.240

because, you know, just to look, we're seeking that balance. All right,

3294

03:47:25.240 --> 03:47:29.960

so you're gonna see six properties. Now we're going to vote on them. It'll be a,

3295

03:47:30.700 --> 03:47:33.320

uh, by hand vote, and, uh,

3296

03:47:33.320 --> 03:47:38.130

we'll count the votes and then we'll identify the top three,

3297

03:47:38.950 --> 03:47:42.530

and then we'll do another round of voting to pick the one.

3298

03:47:43.680 --> 03:47:45.650

Everybody in the room gets a vote.

3299

03:47:46.920 --> 03:47:50.340

So by virtue of your presence, Charlotte,

3300

03:47:50.850 --> 03:47:55.500

that includes Charlotte. I'm just gonna say that Charlotte gets a vote if you,

3301

03:47:55.600 --> 03:47:58.660

if as long as she stays in the room, she gets a vote. Now,

3302

03:47:58.840 --> 03:48:02.900

you may have noticed that I made sure that my entire voting block was here with

3303

03:48:02.900 --> 03:48:07.820

me. They haven't been in every meeting, but they're here today.

3304

03:48:08.800 --> 03:48:12.780

Uh, I don't know if they've negotiated what they're interested in or not.

3305

03:48:12.860 --> 03:48:17.260

I I have not talked to them about that. So here's the six candidate cities,

3306

03:48:18.950 --> 03:48:23.050

uh, Seattle, Washington is, uh, here. We have visited Seattle,

3307

03:48:23.190 --> 03:48:26.970

the Seattle area back in 2012. Uh,

3308

03:48:27.020 --> 03:48:30.220

we had a really good reunion there. It's, it was very interesting.

3309

03:48:30.220 --> 03:48:33.580

Totally different part of the country for me and for many folks,

3310

03:48:33.760 --> 03:48:38.620

I'd never really been there. Uh, lots of flight activities, uh,

3311

03:48:38.620 --> 03:48:40.260

available. Um,

3312

03:48:40.480 --> 03:48:43.860

and overlooking everything is Mount Rainier on a clear day.

3313

03:48:43.860 --> 03:48:48.700

You can see it on a cloudy day, which is most of the time you can't.
Uh,

3314

03:48:49.240 --> 03:48:49.640

and,

3315

03:48:49.640 --> 03:48:53.860

and a lot of people like to come and do travel in that region before
or after

3316

03:48:53.860 --> 03:48:56.900

the reunion. So it's, it has a lot to offer. So that's your first one.

3317

03:48:58.280 --> 03:49:02.900

Second one is Salt Lake City. This has been on as a candidate for a
while,

3318

03:49:04.030 --> 03:49:08.890

and, uh, part of the reason for this is, uh, hill Air Force Base is
there.

3319

03:49:09.320 --> 03:49:13.290

It's where they repaired B 20 fours during the war.

3320

03:49:13.800 --> 03:49:18.680

It's where Miriam worked, right? She was a Rosie the Riveter there.

3321

03:49:19.220 --> 03:49:23.200

And, uh, that's Wayne's, uh, uh, wife. Uh,

3322

03:49:23.580 --> 03:49:25.040

how many years were you married Wayne?

3323

03:49:26.280 --> 03:49:31.280
60 73.

3324
03:49:33.050 --> 03:49:37.990
So I,

3325
03:49:38.230 --> 03:49:41.350
I really miss her. She, I, I'd always ask her about, you know,

3326
03:49:41.370 --> 03:49:45.830
fixing B 20 fours and all of that stuff. She probably got tired of me asking,

3327
03:49:46.090 --> 03:49:49.910
but, uh, she's been, she passed away a couple years ago. So Wayne,

3328
03:49:51.050 --> 03:49:55.880
one year ago. One year ago. Yeah. So Wayne Wayne's, um,

3329
03:49:56.570 --> 03:50:01.160
Wayne is missing her. And, uh, she's a great lady. Uh, in any case,

3330
03:50:01.340 --> 03:50:04.400
she was in favor of going back to Hill, you know,

3331
03:50:04.400 --> 03:50:07.680
she would've liked to have seen the facilities. Uh,

3332
03:50:08.600 --> 03:50:11.940
and then there, there are other, uh, interesting things there.

3333
03:50:12.160 --> 03:50:14.820
People that are interested in genealogy go, oh,

3334
03:50:15.100 --> 03:50:19.100
I could do genealogy stuff before or after. So there's that as well.

3335
03:50:19.590 --> 03:50:24.340

We've never visited Salt Lake City, uh, Savannah, Georgia,

3336

03:50:25.320 --> 03:50:29.260

uh, the mighty eighth Air Force Museum, or Yeah, museum is there.

3337

03:50:29.790 --> 03:50:31.740

We've dedicated a, a, uh,

3338

03:50:32.580 --> 03:50:37.500

a window stain glass window in the chapel back in 2011. And,

3339

03:50:37.840 --> 03:50:41.820

uh, there's Aloes exhibit there. They have a lot of rp.

3340

03:50:41.920 --> 03:50:46.740

Our archive archives have been donated there. Um, and,

3341

03:50:47.680 --> 03:50:51.940

uh, we have been there a few times, but it is one of our, uh,

3342

03:50:51.940 --> 03:50:56.840

places that we support as an organization. Uh, a new one.

3343

03:50:56.910 --> 03:51:01.480

It's not been on before. It's Pensacola, Florida, if it's still is there.

3344

03:51:02.340 --> 03:51:05.000

Uh, they,

3345

03:51:05.070 --> 03:51:08.680

they didn't get hit by this last one that was a little bit further to the,

3346

03:51:08.860 --> 03:51:13.160

to the east, but, uh, they are right down on the, on the Gulf Coast.

3347

03:51:14.130 --> 03:51:18.190

The Naval Aviation Museum is, is a,

3348

03:51:18.340 --> 03:51:21.430

it's a superb facility, and, uh,

3349

03:51:21.930 --> 03:51:24.710

that's why it was put on there after our reunion last year.

3350

03:51:24.810 --> 03:51:29.660

We stopped there on the way home and spent a couple days in Pensacola and really

3351

03:51:29.660 --> 03:51:33.500

had a good time. I think you all would, would like it. Um,

3352

03:51:36.970 --> 03:51:40.990

at, they do not, they do not have the Navy version. Actually Ypsilanti,

3353

03:51:41.130 --> 03:51:44.910

the Yankee Air Museum has a B P B Y for

3354

03:51:47.020 --> 03:51:49.760

too, which is the B 24 variant with the, the,

3355

03:51:50.260 --> 03:51:52.360

the different tail primarily.

3356

03:51:54.340 --> 03:51:58.080

But they have some great airplanes and, uh, they do a super job with their,

3357

03:51:58.250 --> 03:52:02.810

their facility city number five is Tucson, Arizona.

3358

03:52:03.230 --> 03:52:07.690

We have been there once. And, uh, that's where we did the POEs Summit,

3359

03:52:08.190 --> 03:52:12.850
uh, with, uh, and that's where Dee was first with us. You,

3360
03:52:12.850 --> 03:52:16.810
that's getting to be long time Dee since we did that. Uh,

3361
03:52:17.320 --> 03:52:20.130
Pima Airspace, airspace Museum is there.

3362
03:52:20.560 --> 03:52:25.450
They have a B 24 with markings from the four 46th. Uh,

3363
03:52:25.480 --> 03:52:30.130
it's a fabulous museum. Uh, they have 300 airplanes. Uh, you can,

3364
03:52:30.430 --> 03:52:32.570
you can spend endless hours in that place.

3365
03:52:45.170 --> 03:52:48.180
Yeah. Yeah. Uh, and, uh,

3366
03:52:48.180 --> 03:52:50.700
my uncle was killed flying with the 93rd,

3367
03:52:50.880 --> 03:52:53.700
but he flew most of his missions with the 4 46.

3368
03:52:53.800 --> 03:52:58.420
So he's on their wall of honor as well. So for me, there's the,

3369
03:52:58.500 --> 03:53:02.500
I have a tie that way as well. That's not the reason it's on here.
But, uh,

3370
03:53:02.850 --> 03:53:04.740
just so you know, full disclosure.

3371
03:53:05.920 --> 03:53:10.070

And city number six is San Diego, California. Uh,

3372

03:53:10.170 --> 03:53:12.270

we have been there before.

3373

03:53:12.400 --> 03:53:17.270

There was the first reunion I got involved with the planning. Don was, uh,

3374

03:53:17.290 --> 03:53:21.580

the, the, was instrumental in that one and getting, uh,

3375

03:53:21.580 --> 03:53:23.620

he and I worked on it. Uh,

3376

03:53:23.920 --> 03:53:26.980

that's the one when the vets sat down at the meeting and said,

3377

03:53:27.430 --> 03:53:32.340

these reunions have to pay for themselves. And that's when we set that policy.

3378

03:53:32.960 --> 03:53:34.060

And I remember clearly,

3379

03:53:34.170 --> 03:53:38.380

they were very emphatic that we would pay for ourselves as we went forward.

3380

03:53:38.600 --> 03:53:41.740

And we, we have done so except for one, one year, we've,

3381

03:53:41.800 --> 03:53:46.310

we failed to meet that goal. San Diego has, uh, lots to see.

3382

03:53:46.310 --> 03:53:48.350

And do we, when we were there last,

3383

03:53:48.370 --> 03:53:53.350

we were at the dedication of the B 24 model that the second Air

3384

03:53:53.550 --> 03:53:57.710

Division sponsored that's in Balboa Park. Uh,

3385

03:53:57.820 --> 03:54:00.790

that was an amazing experience because they,

3386

03:54:01.040 --> 03:54:05.590

there was veterans from all the, all of second air division were there,

3387

03:54:05.650 --> 03:54:09.230

and different hotels had different groups. Uh, they,

3388

03:54:09.740 --> 03:54:14.630

they did a parade with and had buses for all the veterans to ride in with

3389

03:54:14.630 --> 03:54:17.510

that. We wouldn't have this year, this time. But, uh,

3390

03:54:17.510 --> 03:54:21.870

that's where the consolidated plant was, where they built B 24. So, um,

3391

03:54:22.250 --> 03:54:26.260

and I had a friend who always said it had the best weather in the United States.

3392

03:54:27.280 --> 03:54:29.500

Um, so there's that too.

3393

03:54:29.890 --> 03:54:34.860

It's less prone to hurricanes than Pensacola is if

3394

03:54:34.860 --> 03:54:39.000

you're concerned about that part of it. Um, so that's our six cities.

3395
03:54:39.940 --> 03:54:44.200
So to recap, uh, these,

3396
03:54:44.210 --> 03:54:48.580
these are the ones we're gonna vote on. So I was going for some alliteration,

3397
03:54:49.080 --> 03:54:51.700
so Seattle, salt Lake, Savannah,

3398
03:54:52.280 --> 03:54:56.380
but then I had Pensacola and Tucson, so it didn't quite work, work out.

3399
03:54:56.840 --> 03:55:00.420
So we're gonna ask you to vote by raising your hand.

3400
03:55:01.070 --> 03:55:05.990
Jim's gonna count and hold your hand up high until he counts you. Yes,

3401
03:55:06.010 --> 03:55:10.120
Steven, you vote for one on this round,

3402
03:55:10.420 --> 03:55:14.440
and then when we do round two, you get a vote for one of the three remaining.

3403
03:55:15.070 --> 03:55:19.520
Okay. So you only are allowed to vote once. Certainly I

3404
03:55:21.570 --> 03:55:22.403
Go every year.

3405
03:55:27.870 --> 03:55:28.810
Uh, I

3406
03:55:29.890 --> 03:55:31.580

Didn't notice last.

3407

03:55:44.140 --> 03:55:48.950

Mm-hmm. Yeah. Good,

3408

03:55:50.020 --> 03:55:54.870

good. Okay. Seattle, Washington, if you want to go there, raise your hand.

3409

03:56:18.730 --> 03:56:20.540

Okay. Salt Lake City, Utah.

3410

03:56:30.860 --> 03:56:31.693

Okay.

3411

03:56:36.170 --> 03:56:37.003

Savannah, Georgia.

3412

03:56:44.330 --> 03:56:45.340

Pensacola, Florida.

3413

03:57:04.850 --> 03:57:05.683

Pensacola.

3414

03:57:07.080 --> 03:57:07.913

Okay.

3415

03:57:14.480 --> 03:57:15.313

Florida.

3416

03:57:19.000 --> 03:57:20.610

Okay. Tucson, Arizona.

3417

03:57:32.390 --> 03:57:36.430

I did. Okay. San Diego, California.

3418

03:57:38.440 --> 03:57:41.740

Uh, the voting block has, uh, revealed itself.

3419

03:57:52.440 --> 03:57:53.810

Okay. Do we have a recap?

3420

03:58:00.730 --> 03:58:04.970

Top two winners, three winners. Salt Lake City has 12.

3421

03:58:06.160 --> 03:58:07.270

Diego has 12

3422

03:58:19.330 --> 03:58:21.380

Dusting top three cities.

3423

03:58:22.010 --> 03:58:24.620

Salt Lake City has 12 votes

3424

03:58:27.490 --> 03:58:29.420

tied with San Diego for 12 votes.

3425

03:58:33.270 --> 03:58:37.150

And Seattle inched out Pensacola by one vote.

3426

03:58:37.880 --> 03:58:40.410

Seattle has nine. So we got,

3427

03:58:43.080 --> 03:58:47.930

okay, so those are the top three. Okay. Repeating that. Salt Lake City,

3428

03:58:48.640 --> 03:58:52.130

Seattle, San Diego, and San Diego.

3429

03:58:52.790 --> 03:58:54.490

So now we have all 5 cities.

3430

03:58:56.090 --> 03:59:01.050

Reframe your thinking and decide. Okay. Now where do I want to go?

3431

03:59:01.620 --> 03:59:05.530

Those are the three choices. And we're gonna start over again. Yeah,

3432

03:59:05.540 --> 03:59:09.370

those counts don't matter at all. They're irrelevant. Just get us here.

3433

03:59:10.070 --> 03:59:13.850

So we're gonna start with Seattle, Washington,

3434

03:59:15.230 --> 03:59:17.640

Your hands please hold it. Count

3435

03:59:26.080 --> 03:59:28.020

1213.

3436

03:59:33.340 --> 03:59:36.030

Keep it up high. Now let recount and double check please.

3437

03:59:36.900 --> 03:59:41.900

2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 7, 12, 13.

3438

03:59:43.040 --> 03:59:43.873

Thank you.

3439

03:59:44.110 --> 03:59:47.280

Okay, so next one was Salt Lake City.

3440

03:59:49.840 --> 03:59:50.673

Salt Lake City.

3441

03:59:52.270 --> 03:59:57.270

1, 2, 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7.

3442

04:00:09.290 --> 04:00:11.230

All right, we recount 18. Keep it up.

3443

04:00:11.610 --> 04:00:15.870
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9.

3444
04:00:16.770 --> 04:00:21.640
1118. Three 18

3445
04:00:22.110 --> 04:00:27.080
October. Okay, thank you. And finally, San Diego, California.

3446
04:00:27.860 --> 04:00:28.693
All right, here we go.

3447
04:00:29.870 --> 04:00:34.870
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18.

3448
04:00:44.620 --> 04:00:48.440
All right. So next year we're going to Salt Lake City and San Diego.

3449
04:00:51.530 --> 04:00:52.400
First time ever.

3450
04:00:57.340 --> 04:00:59.600
All right. We've never had this before,

3451
04:01:00.900 --> 04:01:04.200
but we've eliminated, uh, Seattle.

3452
04:01:05.140 --> 04:01:07.160
So those of you that voted for Seattle,

3453
04:01:08.960 --> 04:01:13.640
reframe your thinking and decide whether you want to go to Salt Lake
City, Utah,

3454
04:01:14.300 --> 04:01:16.200
or San Diego, California.

3455
04:01:19.000 --> 04:01:22.600

I can, yes, I can go back to that. Okay.

3456

04:01:22.750 --> 04:01:27.200

Salt Lake City is right here. Um, and they,

3457

04:01:27.360 --> 04:01:28.960

I didn't say it when we were going through,

3458

04:01:28.980 --> 04:01:31.760

but they actually do have a B 24 that they,

3459

04:01:32.310 --> 04:01:36.880

they have on display in their museum. It was, uh,

3460

04:01:36.880 --> 04:01:41.240

recovered from the Lucians where it had been since the war. It had,

3461

04:01:41.300 --> 04:01:44.760

it had landed in a, in a controlled crash of sorts,

3462

04:01:44.860 --> 04:01:49.360

and they recovered it out of the water. Uh, the last time I saw it,
um,

3463

04:01:49.500 --> 04:01:51.760

it was still pretty rough. Uh,

3464

04:01:51.760 --> 04:01:54.880

I don't know how much work's been done on it since, but it was on
display.

3465

04:01:56.190 --> 04:02:00.800

It's not done. Yeah, it does look like a B 24, but yeah, it's,

3466

04:02:00.830 --> 04:02:01.960

they've got a ways to go,

3467

04:02:06.740 --> 04:02:09.720

is it? Yeah. So they're, so that's one. We've never,

3468

04:02:10.170 --> 04:02:14.080

we've never had an opportunity to say I've seen it personally, but, uh, we,

3469

04:02:14.400 --> 04:02:15.760

'em for the group. So that's Salt Lake,

3470

04:02:19.050 --> 04:02:22.030

whoops. San Diego, um,

3471

04:02:23.050 --> 04:02:24.870

USS Midway is there. We had a,

3472

04:02:25.150 --> 04:02:29.310

a really fascinating visit on the aircraft carrier if you've never been on one.

3473

04:02:29.450 --> 04:02:33.710

That's a little one, but it's pretty, pretty cool. Uh,

3474

04:02:34.750 --> 04:02:38.270

they have, uh, the, uh,

3475

04:02:38.270 --> 04:02:41.830

maritime Museum there as well. Old Town San Diego. We had a,

3476

04:02:42.410 --> 04:02:47.270

we went out for dinner at a, uh, Mexican restaurant. Of course,

3477

04:02:47.270 --> 04:02:51.270

that's the only time they have in Old Town. Uh, but we had a great time.

3478

04:02:51.290 --> 04:02:54.990

So that, uh, that's, anybody have anything else on San Diego they wanna share?

3479
04:02:55.060 --> 04:02:55.350
John,

3480
04:02:55.350 --> 04:02:58.150
You've got the Navy base and, uh,

3481
04:02:58.450 --> 04:03:00.750
the top base Meyer

3482
04:03:00.770 --> 04:03:03.910
Is now a Marine Corps. Marine Corps base. Yeah.

3483
04:03:03.930 --> 04:03:08.390
But there's also the Navy base if we wanted to have dinner there.

3484
04:03:08.930 --> 04:03:11.350
Yep. Okay, good. And,

3485
04:03:15.780 --> 04:03:17.420
okay, go ahead. Say that again.

3486
04:03:17.640 --> 04:03:20.900
In Balboa Park, they have a lot of displaced planes,

3487
04:03:21.480 --> 04:03:26.100
and a lot of the docents in that Balboa Park are retired airmen,

3488
04:03:26.640 --> 04:03:30.420
and they fix the planes in the basement. So there's a lot of planes here.

3489
04:03:30.930 --> 04:03:31.763
Okay, great.

3490
04:03:32.080 --> 04:03:34.340
Be that. I'm not sure,

3491

04:03:34.940 --> 04:03:37.940
I don't think there's a, just the model, the B 24 is,

3492
04:03:37.940 --> 04:03:42.220
is all I know of for San Diego, but Bill's got, bill has a point to make.

3493
04:03:42.480 --> 04:03:47.060
He wants to vote for Omaha, or,

3494
04:03:47.520 --> 04:03:50.300
or is Annette, Annette has a point. Okay.

3495
04:03:55.640 --> 04:03:59.100
All right. This will be our last comment on, uh, advocating one or the other.

3496
04:03:59.300 --> 04:04:00.340
I like Salt Lake too,

3497
04:04:00.920 --> 04:04:05.550
but San Diego has the zoo and SeaWorld and

3498
04:04:05.790 --> 04:04:08.630
Legoland is close. That's for the,

3499
04:04:11.570 --> 04:04:13.070
for the voting block people.

3500
04:04:17.450 --> 04:04:18.010
Did you,

3501
04:04:18.010 --> 04:04:22.910
did you see how she moved that right down to get the poll vote Voting block?

3502
04:04:23.580 --> 04:04:27.510
Yeah. To vote for that. There's a legal land in the,

3503

04:04:30.760 --> 04:04:34.890

Okay, we're gonna vote now. Um, John, yes, real quick before we,

3504

04:04:34.890 --> 04:04:36.490

just some statistics for you,

3505

04:04:37.060 --> 04:04:41.730

which we tied 18 and 18 is 36 Seattle folks. Were 13.

3506

04:04:41.730 --> 04:04:46.250

That's a total of 49. So it is an odd number. And, uh,

3507

04:04:46.250 --> 04:04:48.130

there are 49 of us, I recounted.

3508

04:04:48.130 --> 04:04:52.210

So everybody vote once and the final decision might come down to Charlotte.

3509

04:04:52.310 --> 04:04:56.330

Who knows if it's down to one vote? All right,

3510

04:04:56.520 --> 04:05:01.490

Charlotte and Legoland. Okay. So we're gonna vote,

3511

04:05:01.870 --> 04:05:06.540

uh, first for, well, we'll know after we vote, won't we? Uh,

3512

04:05:07.150 --> 04:05:09.900

let's reverse it and start with San Diego.

3513

04:05:10.440 --> 04:05:13.620

If you're interested in going to San Diego in 2020,

3514

04:05:15.070 --> 04:05:16.100

raise your hands.

3515

04:05:24.430 --> 04:05:29.430
1424.

3516
04:05:35.670 --> 04:05:40.130
You wanna recount? You wanna recount those?

3517
04:05:44.240 --> 04:05:45.370
Suzanne down here?

3518
04:05:45.600 --> 04:05:47.650
Yeah. No, that'll be a tie.

3519
04:05:50.560 --> 04:05:52.690
4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9.

3520
04:05:54.110 --> 04:05:56.370
San Diego. Still San Diego. June

3521
04:05:56.900 --> 04:05:59.610
Recap. 11. This is San Diego, right?

3522
04:05:59.740 --> 04:06:00.650
Right. San Diego.

3523
04:06:02.180 --> 04:06:07.180
3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 30, 40, 50, 60, 23 20.

3524
04:06:17.950 --> 04:06:21.690
All right. We're gonna go to Salt Lake City.

3525
04:06:22.990 --> 04:06:26.010
That's 25, but we better vote it just in case.

3526
04:06:27.920 --> 04:06:31.370
Yeah. Every, everybody wants to raise their hands for Salt Lake City.

3527
04:06:32.100 --> 04:06:35.170
Raise your hands. Raise your hands. Jim's gonna count 'em. Here we

3528

04:06:35.170 --> 04:06:39.770

Go. Our hands down. We can't go for it.

3529

04:06:54.420 --> 04:06:55.253

Five.

3530

04:07:00.660 --> 04:07:03.710

That is the closest vote we've ever done.

3531

04:07:08.940 --> 04:07:13.870

Yeah. Well, I had a lot of fun. I hope you have a lot of fun in Salt Lake City.

3532

04:07:14.020 --> 04:07:18.390

I'll, you know, I am looking forward to it too. It'll be fine. Uh,

3533

04:07:18.450 --> 04:07:22.390

so wherever we go, it's us. That makes the difference, whether it's success,

3534

04:07:22.670 --> 04:07:25.550

a success. So, uh, we, we'll have a good time. Yes,

3535

04:07:25.550 --> 04:07:26.070

Beth? I mean,

3536

04:07:26.070 --> 04:07:29.510

she's gonna mention for those of you who have not been to Salt Lake City,

3537

04:07:29.540 --> 04:07:33.910

I've been there a number of times on Sunday mornings at the Tabernacle,

3538

04:07:34.180 --> 04:07:37.790

they do their radio program, and the public is welcome to go.

3539

04:07:37.850 --> 04:07:42.230
So you can go in and, and see and hear the Mormon Tabernacle Choir.
So,

3540
04:07:42.420 --> 04:07:43.790
Whoa, I didn't know that. Sunday

3541
04:07:43.790 --> 04:07:44.623
Mornings. Yep.

3542
04:07:44.980 --> 04:07:48.110
Well, they'd be better than the mariachi mass we went to in Tucson.

3543
04:07:50.140 --> 04:07:50.973
That was good.

3544
04:07:51.320 --> 04:07:55.750
Which, which was, that was pretty cool too, actually. Okay.

3545
04:07:56.410 --> 04:08:01.190
Uh, Paul, oh, we got one back there. Hold on. Paul, we, no, go ahead.

3546
04:08:02.150 --> 04:08:06.070
I don't know if it, it's any worth. The Park City,

3547
04:08:06.070 --> 04:08:10.950
which is about a half hour into the mountains was the site of

3548
04:08:10.950 --> 04:08:14.990
the 2002 Olympics. There still are some facilities left,

3549
04:08:15.210 --> 04:08:18.030
but I don't know if it would mean anything to this group.

3550
04:08:20.020 --> 04:08:20.853
Very good.

3551
04:08:36.800 --> 04:08:41.040

I was just gonna mention two other possibilities of sites. Uh, could be a,

3552

04:08:41.240 --> 04:08:43.520
a separate tour. Um,

3553

04:08:43.730 --> 04:08:48.200
north of Salt Lake City is the Promontory Summit, where they had the, the, um,

3554

04:08:48.200 --> 04:08:52.480
joining of the, um, oh railroads, golden spike.

3555

04:08:53.220 --> 04:08:54.160
And, uh,

3556

04:08:54.160 --> 04:08:58.400
a little bit southwest of Salt Lake City is the Bingham Canyon Mine,

3557

04:08:58.400 --> 04:09:00.440
which is the largest copper mine in the world.

3558

04:09:01.340 --> 04:09:02.173
Cool.

3559

04:09:03.690 --> 04:09:07.870
You know what surprised me is that Rayanne voted for San Diego,

3560

04:09:08.450 --> 04:09:12.510
and she only needs two states to complete all of her states,

3561

04:09:13.160 --> 04:09:15.540
and Utah is one of them. Yeah.

3562

04:09:15.800 --> 04:09:19.740
So I don't understand what she was voting for after all. All right,

3563

04:09:19.980 --> 04:09:23.220

I think I'm done. I'll turn it over to Jim.

3564

04:09:30.970 --> 04:09:34.910

All right. Thank you everyone for that fun, exciting election.

3565

04:09:35.310 --> 04:09:39.910

A couple things to go here. We're almost done. Uh, next up is our

3566

04:09:41.460 --> 04:09:44.780

election of officers. Every two years by our bylaws, we're required to,

3567

04:09:46.960 --> 04:09:49.460

uh, elect new officers for the association. Uh,

3568

04:09:49.610 --> 04:09:53.340

what I'm displaying here is our current list of officers on the left hand side

3569

04:09:55.140 --> 04:09:58.080

and on the right hand side, we have nominees for this year.

3570

04:10:00.050 --> 04:10:04.230

Uh, we go through a process a couple months ago where I request and ask all the

3571

04:10:04.230 --> 04:10:07.870

current officers if they are willing to continue volunteering.

3572

04:10:08.490 --> 04:10:13.080

We don't have any term limits, uh, and everyone on that list agreed.

3573

04:10:14.780 --> 04:10:18.760

Uh, however, the secretary position Nick Timmer has been in for six years,

3574

04:10:19.630 --> 04:10:22.200

done an outstanding job. He is retiring from that position,

3575

04:10:22.200 --> 04:10:26.400

still be involved with us. And we have asked, uh, and Pam actually volunteered,

3576

04:10:28.650 --> 04:10:31.670

was volunteered, knows, uh,

3577

04:10:31.670 --> 04:10:34.830

she actually served as a backup secretary a couple times and has done a great

3578

04:10:34.830 --> 04:10:35.310

job with us.

3579

04:10:35.310 --> 04:10:39.030

So formally she is willing to become the secretary and was nominated.

3580

04:10:39.530 --> 04:10:43.270

We formally have a nomination committee that met this morning to discuss the

3581

04:10:43.270 --> 04:10:44.103

nominees.

3582

04:10:45.070 --> 04:10:48.770

We need the microphone to June as our chairman of the, uh,

3583

04:10:48.770 --> 04:10:51.650

Nomination committee here do have just a few words to say,

3584

04:10:59.440 --> 04:11:03.850

Well, the nominating committee has approved the names that are, you are listed.

3585

04:11:06.190 --> 04:11:06.610

That's

3586

04:11:06.610 --> 04:11:08.210

It. Yes. That's it. Thank you. Okay.

3587

04:11:13.310 --> 04:11:15.770

So will that, to make it official, we need to ask, uh,

3588

04:11:15.930 --> 04:11:19.780

I guess for someone to make a motion, if you could, to, uh,

3589

04:11:20.020 --> 04:11:21.380

complete the election, uh, George.

3590

04:11:29.470 --> 04:11:34.080

Okay. All in. I have a second from Bill Sergeant. All in favor say aye. Aye.

3591

04:11:34.220 --> 04:11:35.280

Aye. Well,

3592

04:11:35.280 --> 04:11:38.040

I'll tell you all the officers that I've worked with have been tremendous. We,

3593

04:11:38.040 --> 04:11:39.080

uh, enjoy doing this work.

3594

04:11:39.080 --> 04:11:42.480

We're honored to do it for our veterans and look forward to another couple years

3595

04:11:42.500 --> 04:11:47.000

of that. So thank you all. We do have, um, oops,

3596

04:11:47.080 --> 04:11:50.640

I already said that one. We do have other key members in our, uh,

3597

04:11:50.640 --> 04:11:54.560

by our bar laws per, uh, official officers. Uh,

3598

04:11:54.560 --> 04:11:58.880

we have a veteran board, and at this point we've got, uh, George McClain,

3599

04:11:58.880 --> 04:12:00.600

who couldn't be here with us. It's still in Louisiana.

3600

04:12:00.600 --> 04:12:05.200

He's one of our board members, uh, bill Brown, Glenn and Wayne as well.

3601

04:12:05.200 --> 04:12:10.060

We treat as advisors to us, obviously here, other key members.

3602

04:12:10.650 --> 04:12:14.500

Pete does our PX and was willing to continue that work.

3603

04:12:15.440 --> 04:12:18.820

George, our assistant, uh, ball fire editor, he gave you the report earlier.

3604

04:12:19.400 --> 04:12:24.060

And we've just, uh, uh, Joanne Sergeant has asked to help out again,

3605

04:12:24.360 --> 04:12:28.140

so she's willing to help with our red registration process for the reunions

3606

04:12:28.140 --> 04:12:31.300

coming up, start with. So we appreciate that from these key members.

3607

04:12:34.350 --> 04:12:37.440

Okay. Yay. Thank you.

3608

04:12:41.100 --> 04:12:41.933

All right.

3609

04:12:42.690 --> 04:12:46.390

At this point we always ask the members if you have other suggestions,

comments,

3610

04:12:46.640 --> 04:12:51.430

input about the officers, about the membership, about the association,

3611

04:12:51.430 --> 04:12:53.150

or about the reunions. Anyone have a,

3612

04:12:53.270 --> 04:12:56.310

a comment or a question that we can answer relative to the business side of,

3613

04:12:56.610 --> 04:12:59.870

of the association? Wally has a question.

3614

04:13:00.410 --> 04:13:01.150

Uh, not just

3615

04:13:01.150 --> 04:13:03.150

A comment. Oh, comment. Okay. After working

3616

04:13:03.150 --> 04:13:03.983

With,

3617

04:13:07.600 --> 04:13:11.310

After working with John for a couple years and getting to know him there,

3618

04:13:11.310 --> 04:13:15.310

there's nobody that puts more effort into this reunion than John Marks. And, uh,

3619

04:13:15.400 --> 04:13:18.910

thank you so much, John. It, it doesn't go unnoticed.

3620

04:13:19.010 --> 04:13:23.150

And this reunion is run like clockwork and, uh,

3621

04:13:24.410 --> 04:13:28.590
the amount of minutiae that you have to deal with is, you have no idea.

3622
04:13:28.980 --> 04:13:33.070
Colonel Marks is the guy. Yep. So, thanks again, John. Appreciate that.

3623
04:13:33.070 --> 04:13:33.903
Thank you. John,

3624
04:13:39.130 --> 04:13:42.450
I just wondering if we could get a list of the attendees so we could, uh,

3625
04:13:42.810 --> 04:13:46.410
remember who's every, who all was here Sure. In the registration packet. Bobby,

3626
04:13:46.410 --> 04:13:49.890
you should have one. If, I think it's all is still up to date, John,

3627
04:13:49.890 --> 04:13:52.810
and we might have added a few names, but it's check your registration packet.

3628
04:13:52.810 --> 04:13:54.730
Everybody should have that. I saw the front of it.

3629
04:13:54.770 --> 04:13:56.690
I did not turn it over to the bank. Yep. It's in the back there.

3630
04:13:56.690 --> 04:13:59.770
It's got the contact information and, uh, two

3631
04:13:59.770 --> 04:14:00.650
Or three people that,

3632
04:14:06.480 --> 04:14:07.730

Okay, good.

3633

04:14:10.280 --> 04:14:12.990

About 95% accurate. We had a few more names added. Uh,

3634

04:14:12.990 --> 04:14:16.310

we do that every year for previous attendees. You should, uh,

3635

04:14:16.310 --> 04:14:18.110

should hopefully you kept your other ones. If not,

3636

04:14:18.110 --> 04:14:23.110

we do have electronic versions, uh, from all the past reunion reunions as well.

3637

04:14:23.990 --> 04:14:27.450

Any other comments or questions? No.

3638

04:14:29.750 --> 04:14:31.250

Uh, yeah. Richard,

3639

04:14:34.510 --> 04:14:36.410

you know, we have quite a few new people here,

3640

04:14:36.630 --> 04:14:41.330

and I'm just curious as to what would be good to bring other people

3641

04:14:42.440 --> 04:14:47.210

like them into, into the interest of, of the 93rd, how,

3642

04:14:47.240 --> 04:14:51.810

what brought them here? And I know, Bob, maybe you can comment on that.

3643

04:14:51.920 --> 04:14:56.090

What could we do to continue this, to build our interest and,

3644

04:14:56.270 --> 04:14:59.850

and bring more new members in? What, what prompted you? In

3645

04:15:00.010 --> 04:15:00.843

Addition,

3646

04:15:02.110 --> 04:15:06.050

In addition to what my brother just said, we glanced over it on the,

3647

04:15:06.070 --> 04:15:09.440

on the introductions on, uh, Friday, Friday night.

3648

04:15:10.260 --> 04:15:14.440

We never found, we never got, uh, how they found us,

3649

04:15:14.700 --> 04:15:16.240

why they're here, what their connection is.

3650

04:15:16.260 --> 04:15:21.200

And we got 10 minutes if we could pass the mic around, starting with Bob and,

3651

04:15:21.220 --> 04:15:24.000

and if the newbies could tell us, tell us how, how they found us.

3652

04:15:24.000 --> 04:15:25.920

We only have 10 minutes cuz we have a few other things, Wally. But yes,

3653

04:15:26.120 --> 04:15:29.240

a few of you, if you'd be glad to answer that. I have an, an idea as well.

3654

04:15:29.240 --> 04:15:33.520

But go ahead, Bob. If you talk, speak to how you were, uh, became associated.

3655

04:15:34.260 --> 04:15:38.040

My father died in, in 97 or January 97.

3656

04:15:38.060 --> 04:15:41.680

And then I collected a whole bunch of stuff, uh, that was left over.

3657

04:15:41.680 --> 04:15:45.130

And one of 'em was the, uh, traveling circus card.

3658

04:15:46.270 --> 04:15:49.610

And that kicked around in my drawer for, oh,

3659

04:15:50.470 --> 04:15:52.610

up until about three years ago when I saw it. And I says, you know,

3660

04:15:52.610 --> 04:15:55.330

I ought to look what, what is the traveling circus?

3661

04:15:56.350 --> 04:15:59.730

So I cut it open and uh, I said,

3662

04:15:59.810 --> 04:16:03.850

I went into a Google search and uh, found a 93rd bomb group.

3663

04:16:04.310 --> 04:16:07.290

And I said, this is kind of neat.

3664

04:16:08.890 --> 04:16:12.970

I think that if there, if there is is some way, um,

3665

04:16:14.390 --> 04:16:18.440

that you can make people aware. And I, and I, I get, and I don't know how,

3666

04:16:19.100 --> 04:16:22.240

but uh, if you went to, uh, on the website,

3667

04:16:22.420 --> 04:16:26.440

if there was a way to or something other than the website,

3668

04:16:26.540 --> 04:16:29.960
cuz people that go to the website know the website's there,

3669
04:16:30.420 --> 04:16:32.720
but go someplace else and say,

3670
04:16:33.340 --> 04:16:38.000
why don't you join the 93rd Bomb Group Association, you know, and,

3671
04:16:38.140 --> 04:16:42.760
um, uh, talk and talk to people about that. And you might get somebody that,

3672
04:16:42.760 --> 04:16:44.520
that, that sees it and says, well, you know,

3673
04:16:44.560 --> 04:16:49.480
I think that my neighbor father was in that, or, or, or my my cousin was there.

3674
04:16:49.700 --> 04:16:50.680
Or there's something.

3675
04:16:50.940 --> 04:16:55.840
But there you have to look at places other than just the website because we all

3676
04:16:55.840 --> 04:16:58.040
know it's there and we're all members. Right.

3677
04:17:04.460 --> 04:17:08.910
Okay. Got it. Thank you, Bob. Um, can I, lemme respond Jan quick. Um,

3678
04:17:09.410 --> 04:17:14.190
you're right. Uh, there's a lot of word of mouth. Uh, we certainly try and put,

3679
04:17:14.450 --> 04:17:18.310
uh, notices about our reunions in other publications of the military,

3680

04:17:18.670 --> 04:17:22.310

American Legion and so on. Uh, one of the key things I mentioned earlier,

3681

04:17:22.360 --> 04:17:25.870

we're still striving to drive through Facebook because of the social media.

3682

04:17:26.750 --> 04:17:29.260

Actually, I would say, uh, you know, out,

3683

04:17:29.280 --> 04:17:33.300

out of the Michael you could probably speak to that, but so many of the new, uh,

3684

04:17:33.300 --> 04:17:36.940

attendees and joining the group at Facebook had the questions.

3685

04:17:37.040 --> 04:17:40.940

We always push them to start attending to become a member, you know,

3686

04:17:40.940 --> 04:17:43.980

so we're kind of using that avenue as one of the main ones for us.

3687

04:17:43.980 --> 04:17:47.340

But you're right, there's many different avenues that we can go after. Yeah.

3688

04:17:49.810 --> 04:17:51.990

Join the association. Not my goal.

3689

04:17:53.490 --> 04:17:57.190

Can I do the microphone, Jan? Sorry Bob. Yeah. The goal,

3690

04:17:57.250 --> 04:17:59.550

the goal wasn't to join the association. Uh,

3691

04:17:59.770 --> 04:18:02.390
the goal was to find out about what my father did. Right.

3692
04:18:02.930 --> 04:18:07.660
And you might wanna look at, at trying to bring p people,

3693
04:18:08.160 --> 04:18:11.980
uh, an interest. Have people have an interest in what their, what their,

3694
04:18:11.980 --> 04:18:16.500
their fathers or their uncles or, or, or, or relatives did during the war,

3695
04:18:17.680 --> 04:18:20.980
and they will eventually get to the association. Mm-hmm. But I think,

3696
04:18:21.100 --> 04:18:22.220
I think it's the, the, the,

3697
04:18:22.320 --> 04:18:26.740
the historical interest in information that they might want to gather, uh,

3698
04:18:26.800 --> 04:18:30.980
as to uh, uh, you know, what their people did. Yep. Good comment. Okay,

3699
04:18:30.980 --> 04:18:35.180
thank you. Jan, do you share your experience of how you got associated?

3700
04:18:36.020 --> 04:18:38.660
Actually, I started on my father who was part of the 15th,

3701
04:18:39.280 --> 04:18:42.460
but about five years ago I started researching him and I touched,

3702
04:18:42.820 --> 04:18:46.340

I touched the 93rd website four or five years ago.

3703

04:18:46.840 --> 04:18:51.340

But this year I started getting more interested in my uncle and it was Michael's

3704

04:18:51.340 --> 04:18:55.860

movie that brought me here. And I think the fact that if he can get it,

3705

04:18:55.920 --> 04:19:00.620

if we can get it out on Amazon and there have be some tagline

3706

04:19:00.720 --> 04:19:02.980

for more information, you go to the 93rd.

3707

04:19:03.250 --> 04:19:06.780

That movie's gonna get a lot of people here. And Facebook is great,

3708

04:19:06.960 --> 04:19:10.380

all the media is great, but when they see this,

3709

04:19:10.650 --> 04:19:12.860

what I'm anticipating this movie's gonna be,

3710

04:19:12.880 --> 04:19:16.180

and I bumped into him in England when he was there in May,

3711

04:19:16.760 --> 04:19:21.060

and I know he is gonna do a fabulous job. You all know him better than I do,

3712

04:19:21.280 --> 04:19:24.500

but that's what's gonna get a lot of people really excited.

3713

04:19:24.500 --> 04:19:29.260

They're gonna see a movie and movies are moving. So yeah.

3714

04:19:29.260 --> 04:19:30.380

Very good. I think. Thank

3715

04:19:30.560 --> 04:19:33.100

You. Pass the mic back to Paul. Thank you Jan. Appreciate those comments.

3716

04:19:33.280 --> 04:19:36.060

You're not a movie, Paul. No, no.

3717

04:19:36.120 --> 04:19:41.020

But I am thinking if I get back in time and it may be more appropriate, uh,

3718

04:19:41.220 --> 04:19:42.053

Memorial Day,

3719

04:19:42.710 --> 04:19:47.620

write a letter to your local newspaper detailing what your

3720

04:19:47.940 --> 04:19:52.590

relative friend, whatever went through in the war and, uh,

3721

04:19:52.700 --> 04:19:57.670

list the 93rd bomb group website and maybe we'll pick up a few people that

3722

04:19:57.670 --> 04:20:02.230

way. Good point. Good, good suggestion. You pass the mic over to, uh,

3723

04:20:02.230 --> 04:20:03.110

bill Brown, please.

3724

04:20:10.130 --> 04:20:11.200

Thank you all for your comments.

3725

04:20:11.210 --> 04:20:14.480

We're gonna ask Bill to say a few words he'd like to speak as far as our

3726

04:20:14.720 --> 04:20:18.440

veterans, uh, board. And then I think, Wayne, did you wanna say a few words?

3727

04:20:18.840 --> 04:20:19.673

Possibly or not?

3728

04:20:21.070 --> 04:20:24.470

I just wanted to say a few words about yesterday

3729

04:20:26.620 --> 04:20:29.930

where I got off the bus at the,

3730

04:20:29.950 --> 04:20:34.250

to the unknown soldier and went around behind and got a good

3731

04:20:35.220 --> 04:20:37.940

position to see the ceremony.

3732

04:20:39.450 --> 04:20:42.790

And somebody come up to me and says, come over here.

3733

04:20:42.880 --> 04:20:46.460

We've got something that you have to do.

3734

04:20:48.310 --> 04:20:50.610

And that was the first that I knew about

3735

04:20:52.510 --> 04:20:56.730

going to lay the wreath. And

3736

04:20:58.230 --> 04:20:59.063

George and,

3737

04:20:59.070 --> 04:21:03.380

and Wayne and I were brief by Corporal,

3738
04:21:04.470 --> 04:21:05.340
no by, uh,

3739
04:21:06.060 --> 04:21:10.900
official from the place there and told what we were going to

3740
04:21:10.900 --> 04:21:14.100
do and then we went out

3741
04:21:15.810 --> 04:21:16.643
and did it.

3742
04:21:17.820 --> 04:21:22.560
What I want to thank do is thank you all you people

3743
04:21:22.780 --> 04:21:24.040
for the great honor.

3744
04:21:31.930 --> 04:21:36.580
I will, uh, remember this quite a long time

3745
04:21:39.230 --> 04:21:40.063
and thank you.

3746
04:22:00.910 --> 04:22:01.540
Uh,

3747
04:22:01.540 --> 04:22:03.930
Thank you. Thank you Bill. Very nice, Wayne.

3748
04:22:07.800 --> 04:22:12.760
I very much enjoyed this, this reunion a lot more than others.

3749
04:22:13.680 --> 04:22:18.280
I, I, uh, do miss my sweetheart not having her here with me.

3750
04:22:19.220 --> 04:22:24.040

Uh, that's better, been better in previous reunions, but, uh,

3751

04:22:24.040 --> 04:22:28.640

this one I really enjoyed and it was quite an honor,

3752

04:22:29.900 --> 04:22:34.120

uh, to, uh, place the reef. Uh,

3753

04:22:35.030 --> 04:22:38.560

it's, uh, I'm, I'm glad it's gonna be in Salt Lake this time.

3754

04:22:40.100 --> 04:22:43.680

Uh, this, this, uh, future one, uh,

3755

04:22:44.310 --> 04:22:48.760

just being in Salt Lake is gonna add a lot of memberships

3756

04:22:48.990 --> 04:22:53.080

because, uh, my family is over 140 in,

3757

04:22:54.220 --> 04:22:58.320

in immediate family and, uh,

3758

04:22:58.600 --> 04:23:03.440

a lot of 'em are in Salt Lake area. Thank you. Good.

3759

04:23:03.440 --> 04:23:04.273

Thank you Wayne.

3760

04:23:09.640 --> 04:23:10.473

I don't see,

3761

04:23:17.770 --> 04:23:20.670

And I know I spoke to Glenn Martin yesterday a little bit and he mirrors the

3762

04:23:20.670 --> 04:23:23.750

same comments from Bill and Wayne about appreciating the ceremony

yesterday and,

3763

04:23:24.410 --> 04:23:28.970

and, uh, everything we do for him. So thank you. Okay,

3764

04:23:29.210 --> 04:23:32.250

A quick note about the Timberlake Award. We're gonna be awarding, uh,

3765

04:23:32.250 --> 04:23:35.290

the Timberlake Awards tonight. We started that in 2015.

3766

04:23:35.460 --> 04:23:40.120

Scott Stewart and Jim Lux were the first recipients. Joe and Phyllis Duran,

3767

04:23:40.120 --> 04:23:43.920

Jim Goodall, and Bill and Joanne recipients the next year in San Antonio.

3768

04:23:44.660 --> 04:23:49.160

And Michael, Don and Colin man in England, uh, last year.

3769

04:23:49.300 --> 04:23:52.880

So look forward to the presentations as part of our memorial dinner, uh,

3770

04:23:52.880 --> 04:23:55.040

tonight. With that,

3771

04:23:55.110 --> 04:23:58.440

I'll accept a motion to adjourn the meeting and then John's gonna come up and

3772

04:23:58.440 --> 04:24:02.740

talk a little bit about schedule. So, so adjourned. Second.

3773

04:24:03.600 --> 04:24:06.780

So moved. All in favor? Aye. Yeah. All right.

3774

04:24:07.640 --> 04:24:11.980

And now you gotta hear my joke, right? This is comedy club. No,

3775

04:24:11.980 --> 04:24:15.300

you're gonna like this one. You're gonna like this one. Well,

3776

04:24:15.790 --> 04:24:18.980

who's college football fans? Anybody? Yeah. You gotta love college football,

3777

04:24:18.980 --> 04:24:23.500

right? Today is the big, uh, Michigan. Michigan State game, right?

3778

04:24:23.800 --> 04:24:27.860

Big rivalry. All the big rivalries, rivalries. Uh, Oklahoma. Oklahoma State,

3779

04:24:28.060 --> 04:24:31.020

Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, Texas, right? Alabama, everybody. Florida,

3780

04:24:31.020 --> 04:24:33.980

Florida State, big rivalries. So Michigan, Michigan State.

3781

04:24:33.980 --> 04:24:38.060

They're in Spartan Stadium today. Tonight, yeah. You are Michigan State fans.

3782

04:24:39.570 --> 04:24:41.180

Well, there were four sophomores

3783

04:24:43.020 --> 04:24:46.090

at Michigan State in engineering

3784

04:24:47.880 --> 04:24:51.180

and they were doing really well in their calculus class. They all got,

3785

04:24:51.320 --> 04:24:53.980

a's they're midterms, they were great. They're all a students.

3786

04:24:54.410 --> 04:24:59.140

They decided to go to the game on Saturday. So they went to the game,

3787

04:24:59.170 --> 04:25:03.100

they partied, they had a great time, you know, tailgating. Perfect game.

3788

04:25:03.210 --> 04:25:06.820

Last second field goal, a winning shot. They all, you know,

3789

04:25:06.820 --> 04:25:10.260

stayed up celebrating all night long. They had a final exam on Monday,

3790

04:25:11.630 --> 04:25:15.330

but they figured, eh, we're, we're, you know, straight A students here. Well,

3791

04:25:15.470 --> 04:25:16.303

no problem.

3792

04:25:17.250 --> 04:25:20.270

Sunday night they couldn't get up or Sunday morning they couldn't get up.

3793

04:25:20.270 --> 04:25:24.390

Sunday all day they had hangovers. Con Monday came, they went to class,

3794

04:25:24.780 --> 04:25:27.770

they weren't gonna take the final. They asked the professor,

3795

04:25:27.870 --> 04:25:32.370

you mind if I you mind if we uh, take the final, you know, tomorrow? Whoa.

3796

04:25:32.520 --> 04:25:37.300

They explained that they went to the game on the way back.

3797

04:25:38.130 --> 04:25:42.860

They had car trouble, they had a flat tire, you know, they, uh,

3798

04:25:42.860 --> 04:25:44.540

tried to get help. They couldn't fix the tire,

3799

04:25:45.520 --> 04:25:47.260

so that's what the caused them to be late.

3800

04:25:47.260 --> 04:25:49.700

They had planned to do all kinds of studying that night,

3801

04:25:49.700 --> 04:25:53.300

but they just didn't make it back because of the flat tire. Professor said,

3802

04:25:53.300 --> 04:25:55.860

oh yeah, I understand. That's fine. How about tomorrow? Oh yeah,

3803

04:25:55.860 --> 04:25:59.900

they all agreed tomorrow. Whew. Big relief. Right? Tomorrow comes

3804

04:26:01.490 --> 04:26:05.500

professor, uh, gives 'em the exam. All four of 'em. First question,

3805

04:26:06.640 --> 04:26:10.380

uh, what's the derivative of x squared, right?

3806

04:26:10.380 --> 04:26:14.220

Which is two x Oh, easy. Oh, they're thinking, oh this is great. Oh, beautiful.

3807

04:26:14.220 --> 04:26:16.700

Perfect. We're all gonna get, keep our a's.

3808

04:26:17.560 --> 04:26:21.180

Second question for 95 points. Which tire?

3809

04:26:25.600 --> 04:26:26.433

Yay.

3810

04:26:29.120 --> 04:26:29.953

Go hogs.

3811

04:26:32.260 --> 04:26:34.630

Okay, so first off,

3812

04:26:34.630 --> 04:26:39.430

we're just gonna kind of give a rundown of some important places relative to the

3813

04:26:39.430 --> 04:26:43.350

93rd. We're gonna hit kind of Michael, can we do that as a,

3814

04:26:44.070 --> 04:26:48.920

the projection here? Yeah, that view. Okay.

3815

04:26:49.010 --> 04:26:52.560

We're just gonna kind of quickly get people acclimated of where Hardwick was

3816

04:26:52.920 --> 04:26:56.760

relative to Greater England, Alberry Hardwick,

3817

04:26:56.950 --> 04:27:01.500

then the surrounding areas, important things like the pubs, Norwich and London.

3818

04:27:01.660 --> 04:27:04.860

I just wanted to throw in some of those other ones cuz the guys all wanted to

3819

04:27:04.860 --> 04:27:09.620

come home with some photos of London, whatever. Okay,

3820

04:27:09.640 --> 04:27:10.780

so just starting off

3821

04:27:12.720 --> 04:27:17.290

down here in this area is London and then Hardwick is right up in East Anglia,

3822

04:27:17.290 --> 04:27:17.990

right about there.

3823

04:27:17.990 --> 04:27:22.740

So gives you a good perspective of where it's at in the country. Um,

3824

04:27:23.400 --> 04:27:28.280

when you look at the whole area, you got London down here, Alberry,

3825

04:27:28.780 --> 04:27:32.400

and then Hardwick is over here. And then of course this is all, you know,

3826

04:27:32.510 --> 04:27:35.920

Germany, et cetera, Amsterdam, Holland, et cetera.

3827

04:27:36.560 --> 04:27:40.840

I just kind of a good gauge to put in perspective. Great Britain,

3828

04:27:41.060 --> 04:27:44.960

all of this is about the same size as Ohio and Pennsylvania.

3829

04:27:46.430 --> 04:27:49.900

So when you hear people talk, oh, I drove a

3830

04:27:52.990 --> 04:27:57.560

long way relative to them, it is, but to us it's a relatively close distance.

3831

04:27:59.100 --> 04:28:00.280

So to start off,

3832

04:28:00.340 --> 04:28:05.200
the 93rd was at Alberry from September of 42 up until

3833
04:28:05.480 --> 04:28:06.640
December of 42.

3834
04:28:06.640 --> 04:28:10.160
They were there for a very short time at the beginning of the war when they left

3835
04:28:10.160 --> 04:28:14.460
their, ooh, sorry, I was playing Luke Skywalker. Um,

3836
04:28:15.590 --> 04:28:20.560
that's when they went on their first detachment and then they transferred over

3837
04:28:21.420 --> 04:28:25.920
to Hardwick. So this is a later picture or a map of Alberry.

3838
04:28:26.070 --> 04:28:30.080
There's really not a lot of photos or, uh,

3839
04:28:31.180 --> 04:28:33.600
really documents even pertaining to Alberry.

3840
04:28:33.600 --> 04:28:37.680
We've got some early histories of it, but they were there for such a short time.

3841
04:28:37.680 --> 04:28:40.080
They really never put down bru. Uh,

3842
04:28:40.160 --> 04:28:44.800
I talked to a lot of the early guys who actually were at Alberry originally and

3843
04:28:44.800 --> 04:28:49.050
they would refer to Hardwick as their home. They went to North Africa,

3844

04:28:49.080 --> 04:28:50.570

they spent a short time at Alberry,

3845

04:28:50.570 --> 04:28:53.410

but they just really never felt like they moved in. It was,

3846

04:28:53.550 --> 04:28:58.550

it was so quick they were in and out. So, and then to Hardwick,

3847

04:28:59.750 --> 04:29:03.470

Hardwick is where they were at for basically from,

3848

04:29:03.470 --> 04:29:08.270

call it spring of 43 all the way to the end of the war minus the deployments to

3849

04:29:08.270 --> 04:29:12.950

North Africa. Um, just to give you kind of a perspective,

3850

04:29:13.260 --> 04:29:17.590

this is actually a scan of a handout from the war. So this is,

3851

04:29:18.210 --> 04:29:21.710

and it's actually kind of weird, there's some letters missing, et cetera.

3852

04:29:22.370 --> 04:29:25.490

But this was given out to the guys.

3853

04:29:25.790 --> 04:29:30.050

The whole airfield is sitting off the screen to the left hand side.

3854

04:29:30.430 --> 04:29:34.130

But you got the flight line where the hangers et cetera was and then

3855

04:29:34.130 --> 04:29:38.410

headquarters and then the enlisted men living areas,

3856

04:29:38.830 --> 04:29:41.250

the stadium, which was just like a big, uh,

3857

04:29:41.360 --> 04:29:43.450

running track with the ball field in it.

3858

04:29:43.910 --> 04:29:48.130

And then the water tower sat right about here and then you know the other areas

3859

04:29:48.430 --> 04:29:50.530

and they just kind of listed key features.

3860

04:29:51.330 --> 04:29:55.850

Interesting thing we know this is after July of 44 because they referenced the

3861

04:29:55.850 --> 04:30:00.740

Coca-Cola stand and we know they built that in July of 44 out of a latrine.

3862

04:30:24.110 --> 04:30:25.030

I can't tell you exactly,

3863

04:30:25.170 --> 04:30:30.070

but it would've been done probably after winter of 44 into 45 because there's

3864

04:30:30.270 --> 04:30:31.630

actually a, uh,

3865

04:30:31.660 --> 04:30:35.630

blister hanger that was built in this area that we know it was built over the

3866

04:30:35.630 --> 04:30:40.390

winter of 44 to 45. So again, you got the main runway here,

3867
04:30:40.390 --> 04:30:41.223
which was the longest.

3868
04:30:41.290 --> 04:30:45.950
And then you had the two auxiliary runways perimeter track all the way around,

3869
04:30:46.160 --> 04:30:49.510
which we're gonna, that's the field in this discussion.

3870
04:30:50.180 --> 04:30:52.550
Bomb dumps up in this area, the flight line,

3871
04:30:53.010 --> 04:30:54.910
and then all the housing areas will be over here.

3872
04:30:55.090 --> 04:30:56.830
And we'll go into greater detail

3873
04:31:29.980 --> 04:31:34.550
down into England and you'll actually pick up this forest shape

3874
04:31:35.170 --> 04:31:36.590
on Google or, so it's still,

3875
04:31:36.590 --> 04:31:39.150
there's still a pretty good signature left of Hardwick,

3876
04:31:39.460 --> 04:31:42.550
even from very high altitudes. Uh,

3877
04:31:42.770 --> 04:31:45.030
the main runway has been narrowed greatly.

3878
04:31:45.140 --> 04:31:48.230
This auxiliary runway still basically in existence.

3879

04:31:48.740 --> 04:31:51.070
This one has been removed and planted with trees,

3880
04:31:51.490 --> 04:31:54.470
but you still see remnants of the shape. Um,

3881
04:31:54.470 --> 04:31:58.030
and you can drive around and see even more. Um, again,

3882
04:31:58.180 --> 04:32:01.790
over in this area is where all the housing areas, uh,

3883
04:32:01.860 --> 04:32:05.510
this area is pretty well preserved and there's a series of huts up here,

3884
04:32:05.520 --> 04:32:09.820
which is now where the museum is. Any questions so far?

3885
04:32:10.410 --> 04:32:13.920
Oops, sorry. Um,

3886
04:32:26.680 --> 04:32:30.730
that were done for Hardwick. The resolution's not that great,

3887
04:32:30.830 --> 04:32:35.250
but you can see how they're actually trying to fit putting the housing area on

3888
04:32:35.250 --> 04:32:39.810
the edge of woods, et cetera, for camouflage. So it wasn't so obvious. Uh,

3889
04:32:39.810 --> 04:32:43.150
they actually left. Um, if you look,

3890
04:32:43.150 --> 04:32:48.120
these are farm fields that they left intact.

3891

04:32:48.500 --> 04:32:50.560

So the hedges are still there and everything. So it,

3892

04:32:50.630 --> 04:32:54.300

it's part of the camouflage mentality. Uh, okay,

3893

04:32:55.060 --> 04:32:59.660

I gotta keep turning this off, off. If I'm lasering people let me know. Okay,

3894

04:32:59.760 --> 04:33:04.340

so we're gonna start off with the flight line area. Okay, again,

3895

04:33:04.470 --> 04:33:06.500

these terms are just trying to get us relative.

3896

04:33:06.960 --> 04:33:10.620

The flight line area is this whole area here where you've got the three hangers,

3897

04:33:10.800 --> 04:33:13.100

the control tower, this part of the perimeter track,

3898

04:33:13.370 --> 04:33:17.700

this is where a lot of the action went on out on the field was more where they

3899

04:33:17.700 --> 04:33:20.740

parked the planes and of course they took off and landed. Um,

3900

04:33:22.250 --> 04:33:27.030

so I'm just gonna go through a series of photographs and we can talk about 'em.

3901

04:33:27.030 --> 04:33:29.870

If you see something of interest, we can certainly dig in deeper.

3902

04:33:30.370 --> 04:33:32.790

So these were all taken in,

3903

04:33:33.390 --> 04:33:36.350

probably call it late 44.

3904

04:33:36.970 --> 04:33:40.590

And one of the photographers went up and flew around in a plane and just sat

3905

04:33:40.590 --> 04:33:42.790

there and shot a bunch of pictures looking out the window,

3906

04:33:43.100 --> 04:33:44.910

just trying to capture what the field looked like.

3907

04:33:45.330 --> 04:33:49.910

What's interesting is there's a whole lot of photos basically of the flight line

3908

04:33:49.910 --> 04:33:53.790

through the housing area and not so much over the field,

3909

04:33:53.790 --> 04:33:55.070

which was kind of interesting.

3910

04:33:55.210 --> 04:33:58.030

You would've thought they would've hit the runways and stuff too,

3911

04:33:58.450 --> 04:34:02.870

but that's where they took off and landed. But over here is where they lived,

3912

04:34:03.700 --> 04:34:05.650

eight spent time with their friends, et cetera.

3913

04:34:06.510 --> 04:34:11.250

So right here you got the control tower, the wind sock, the recognition box,

3914
04:34:11.950 --> 04:34:15.970
you've got the most northerly hangar. Uh,

3915
04:34:15.970 --> 04:34:20.410
this is actually the hangar where Glen Miller's band played in
September of 44.

3916
04:34:21.390 --> 04:34:25.230
Um, and what's weird, we know that because we've,

3917
04:34:25.300 --> 04:34:29.470
I've got one photo inside the hangar, it's extremely poor condition.

3918
04:34:29.470 --> 04:34:33.030
But you can see if you play around the contrast, you can see guys
standing,

3919
04:34:33.420 --> 04:34:34.870
hanging up in the girders.

3920
04:34:34.870 --> 04:34:39.150
They had climbed up in the girders and when you change the contrast to
what's

3921
04:34:39.180 --> 04:34:40.470
outside the hangar door,

3922
04:34:40.760 --> 04:34:45.590
there was a B 24 sitting outside and the markings on the tail of it
reference

3923
04:34:45.830 --> 04:34:49.710
a September, October 44 parking place for that plane.

3924
04:34:50.210 --> 04:34:52.350
So we know actually which way the picture

3925
04:34:55.900 --> 04:34:56.733

perspective,

3926

04:34:57.170 --> 04:35:01.950

the photo group was up in this area and then all through here was all the

3927

04:35:01.950 --> 04:35:04.110

different buildings that supported the flying.

3928

04:35:08.950 --> 04:35:13.130

Any questions thus far? Okay, there's still a test.

3929

04:35:15.890 --> 04:35:17.660

Okay, so we're just gonna kind of run through these.

3930

04:35:18.010 --> 04:35:20.620

This photo is taken from a similar perspective,

3931

04:35:20.760 --> 04:35:24.900

but more looking towards the south. This is the hanger we saw at the north end,

3932

04:35:25.400 --> 04:35:27.740

the perimeter track and then there's the control tower,

3933

04:35:28.320 --> 04:35:30.620

of course the middle hanger and then the southern hanger.

3934

04:35:30.970 --> 04:35:35.250

This is a county road and then there is headquarters.

3935

04:35:35.800 --> 04:35:40.560

Okay, again,

3936

04:35:41.000 --> 04:35:45.060

slightly different perspective head, or sorry, the control tower.

3937

04:35:45.570 --> 04:35:50.540

This is the main runway, this is the auxiliary runway. This is actually,

3938

04:35:50.540 --> 04:35:55.140

we know this is after May of 44 because this is the repair

3939

04:35:55.690 --> 04:35:58.500

that they did from bill's dad's plane. When it crashed,

3940

04:35:58.840 --> 04:36:02.900

it came down the main runway spun around and crashed and burned right in this

3941

04:36:02.900 --> 04:36:05.140

area. So they had to do some repair on the runway.

3942

04:36:05.720 --> 04:36:10.500

So we can start dating photos by what's in the photo or not

3943

04:36:10.560 --> 04:36:11.393

in the photo

3944

04:36:40.160 --> 04:36:41.080

building configuration,

3945

04:36:41.180 --> 04:36:45.400

the water tower markings on a building and you can figure out where it was at on

3946

04:36:45.400 --> 04:36:49.010

the field from that. So that's how everything is.

3947

04:36:49.030 --> 04:36:52.940

You can see right here is the running track. Um,

3948

04:36:53.610 --> 04:36:58.050

and again, there's headquarters so if there's any questions,

3949

04:36:58.060 --> 04:37:01.250
don't hesitate to interrupt. Okay,

3950
04:37:02.240 --> 04:37:07.010
this is taken from the far south west side.

3951
04:37:07.670 --> 04:37:12.570
You got some parking areas, the perimeter track, the auxiliary runways again.

3952
04:37:12.870 --> 04:37:15.850
And looking back this way, I wanted to include these photos.

3953
04:37:15.990 --> 04:37:19.210
It just gives you a perspective of what it looked like from all the different

3954
04:37:19.210 --> 04:37:22.050
angles. Cuz when you just look at a straight map,

3955
04:37:22.070 --> 04:37:26.500
you don't get a sense of the sheer size of what the field was. Okay,

3956
04:37:27.690 --> 04:37:28.290
interesting note.

3957
04:37:28.290 --> 04:37:31.650
They've actually got planes parked on the one auxiliary runway.

3958
04:37:32.430 --> 04:37:34.290
So they would park 'em if they had to there.

3959
04:37:36.700 --> 04:37:40.830
Click that one again. Looking up through the flight line.

3960
04:37:42.910 --> 04:37:46.330
That's the sub vegetation, that's the remains of the building.

3961

04:37:47.510 --> 04:37:50.410

It was like a hardened building. It wasn't just a traditional building,

3962

04:37:50.430 --> 04:37:54.890

it was reinforced and what's left is supposedly it was

3963

04:37:54.930 --> 04:37:58.130

uneconomical for 'em to bust it up any further. So they just kind of,

3964

04:37:58.960 --> 04:38:03.350

when you look in the trees and brush, it's just a little pile of debris.

3965

04:38:04.200 --> 04:38:07.980

That's what's remains of it. But, uh, so you, you get a reference of it,

3966

04:38:08.000 --> 04:38:11.020

but the building doesn't exist. It's been busted up, but uh,

3967

04:38:11.120 --> 04:38:15.590

not in its entirety. Uh, but the question we're talking about farming,

3968

04:38:16.030 --> 04:38:20.270

I mean, okay, so imagine this is 20th combat wing headquarters. You got,

3969

04:38:20.450 --> 04:38:24.310

you know, some trees, hedgerows, you got hangers,

3970

04:38:24.310 --> 04:38:27.910

you've got all kinds of stuff going on. You got a housing area here.

3971

04:38:27.910 --> 04:38:30.790

And right here you got the locals growing crops.

3972

04:38:31.620 --> 04:38:33.830

So th they were intermingled.

3973

04:38:36.690 --> 04:38:38.860

Okay. So again, at the headquarters,

3974

04:38:39.940 --> 04:38:43.710

this is taken from the headquarters looking back towards the south hanger

3975

04:38:44.390 --> 04:38:46.590

flagpole and then looking at it from the other direction.

3976

04:38:47.150 --> 04:38:51.310

I was told this photo was taken the day they found out FDR died.

3977

04:38:52.670 --> 04:38:54.310

So they put it at half mast.

3978

04:38:57.450 --> 04:39:00.320

Okay. Questions again? Nope.

3979

04:39:02.590 --> 04:39:07.440

You do see all the bicycles? Not a lot of Jeeps. Lot of bicycles.

3980

04:39:09.780 --> 04:39:13.990

Okay. We going good so far? How are we doing on time? Okay.

3981

04:39:14.370 --> 04:39:17.670

25 minutes. Okay.

3982

04:39:21.610 --> 04:39:22.443

What? Go ahead.

3983

04:39:31.090 --> 04:39:35.540

Well, I don't know the exact number, but they were tight packed.

3984

04:39:35.850 --> 04:39:40.690

Seeding was literally like maybe a mile and a half, two miles away. They,

3985

04:39:40.690 --> 04:39:41.890
they were on top of each other.

3986

04:39:42.080 --> 04:39:45.930
It's a miracle that anybody survived flying in and out of there at

3987

04:39:45.930 --> 04:39:48.710
Some point. I read where there like 30 plus?

3988

04:39:49.500 --> 04:39:53.110
Yeah, I mean I, I guess it depends on how far you draw it, but it was like,

3989

04:39:53.370 --> 04:39:54.390
you know, in

3990

04:39:54.410 --> 04:39:55.230
The East

3991

04:39:55.230 --> 04:39:58.710
Anglia, oh yeah, east Anglia was probably easily 30 some. Uh,

3992

04:39:58.730 --> 04:40:00.350
but just in this immediate area,

3993

04:40:00.950 --> 04:40:04.870
I mean you can literally drive from here to seething down to Bunge.
You can hit,

3994

04:40:06.050 --> 04:40:10.150
you could drive to four or five airfield in a matter of a couple in an hour.

3995

04:40:10.530 --> 04:40:13.590
You could drive up. Okay. I hit one hit just drive around. They're,

3996

04:40:14.300 --> 04:40:17.520

by today's standards, it would literally be like, uh, you know,

3997

04:40:17.520 --> 04:40:21.600

you got this airport, you got doles and you drive two miles that way.

3998

04:40:21.900 --> 04:40:24.220

And you got Reagan that and they were,

3999

04:40:24.440 --> 04:40:27.460

but it was interesting how they aligned the runways to try to minimize it,

4000

04:40:27.600 --> 04:40:29.900

but they were on top of each other. It, like I say,

4001

04:40:29.900 --> 04:40:34.380

it's a miracle that there weren't more collisions than there was.

4002

04:40:36.750 --> 04:40:38.950

I remember a picture in the mighty,

4003

04:40:39.200 --> 04:40:42.310

there were three divisions.

4004

04:40:44.170 --> 04:40:45.003

Combat.

4005

04:40:50.540 --> 04:40:51.373

Yeah.

4006

04:40:52.900 --> 04:40:53.910

Yeah, there was a lot.

4007

04:40:54.760 --> 04:40:56.330

That doesn't count the fighters.

4008

04:40:56.820 --> 04:40:57.653

Right.

4009

04:40:59.920 --> 04:41:04.180

So just kind of showing the rest of the base, uh, again,

4010

04:41:04.180 --> 04:41:08.060

to get your perspective over. Here's the flight line. Uh,

4011

04:41:08.060 --> 04:41:12.540

three 28th was in this area, the stadium. And then this was the motor pool.

4012

04:41:15.200 --> 04:41:19.380

And then the photo section was at the north end of the flight line.

4013

04:41:19.490 --> 04:41:21.340

This whole area's gone. Now.

4014

04:41:21.720 --> 04:41:25.740

You had the hangar and then the area just east of the hangar was where the photo

4015

04:41:25.740 --> 04:41:29.700

group was. There's a lot of neat photos in there. I e the photo guys,

4016

04:41:29.700 --> 04:41:31.100

they're the ones with the camera and the film.

4017

04:41:31.160 --> 04:41:33.940

So guess who's got the most pictures? Um,

4018

04:41:35.920 --> 04:41:39.910

again, just a nice low level and we'll see a couple ground shots of this area.

4019

04:41:40.650 --> 04:41:43.070

But um, in the background you see a lot of this.

4020

04:41:43.070 --> 04:41:47.790

This is where the photo group was, the static pond. This is the hanger.

4021

04:41:51.520 --> 04:41:55.090

And then this is looking, this is the photo group.

4022

04:41:55.090 --> 04:41:58.650

This is a trailer they had and then there was a hard stand just behind this

4023

04:41:58.650 --> 04:42:00.290

trailer. And then the hanger sat over here.

4024

04:42:00.670 --> 04:42:04.250

And then this is looking back down towards the south, down the flight line.

4025

04:42:06.580 --> 04:42:11.250

Yep. Does every plane have a camera?

4026

04:42:14.280 --> 04:42:18.000

I wouldn't say like installed that. They would put cameras in.

4027

04:42:18.470 --> 04:42:22.160

They had cameras that could go in an mount or they would give 'em cameras that

4028

04:42:22.160 --> 04:42:25.760

they would have the guys take photos, like strike photos. But not,

4029

04:42:25.760 --> 04:42:27.880

when you look at the flight records of a mission,

4030

04:42:27.900 --> 04:42:31.760

not every plane carried a camera on that respective mission.

4031

04:42:32.630 --> 04:42:33.463

Okay.

4032

04:42:40.930 --> 04:42:41.763

Oh, okay.

4033

04:42:43.580 --> 04:42:48.000

We actually have a few photos and video clips of the camera guys getting in and

4034

04:42:48.000 --> 04:42:50.880

out of the planes, putting cameras into it. Um,

4035

04:42:51.300 --> 04:42:56.080

and then some like these low altitudes were taken by a photo man he'd go up

4036

04:42:56.080 --> 04:43:00.980

with, you know, use a camera. The handheld K 20. Go ahead.

4037

04:43:02.130 --> 04:43:04.130

I thought there was a hand somewhere. Go ahead, Pam.

4038

04:43:04.590 --> 04:43:06.170

So every base had a photo

4039

04:43:06.380 --> 04:43:09.010

Department? They had a photo group. Yeah. And the

4040

04:43:09.010 --> 04:43:11.870

Photo left documents, whatever was going on.

4041

04:43:12.460 --> 04:43:14.580

Well, yeah, I mean they, their purpose was there, you know,

4042

04:43:14.760 --> 04:43:18.060

of course militarily to look at strike photos.

4043

04:43:19.000 --> 04:43:22.460

So photos that were taken on the base or on the plane, sorry,

4044

04:43:22.650 --> 04:43:25.260

that would come back and those would be used. It was,

4045

04:43:25.260 --> 04:43:29.740

it was a support group for the base. Um, but they would also, you know,

4046

04:43:29.740 --> 04:43:33.180

of course take pictures of they were documenting the base. Uh,

4047

04:43:33.210 --> 04:43:37.540

some of the photos I have actually came from Tio Verna who was the original

4048

04:43:37.660 --> 04:43:40.980

photo officer. And you know, there's video,

4049

04:43:41.240 --> 04:43:44.500

the color footage I have was shot by him and you know,

4050

04:43:44.500 --> 04:43:47.420

he just ran around with the camera in the desert. Uh,

4051

04:43:47.560 --> 04:43:51.340

that's some of the footage we got were like John Juttet using the porta pott in

4052

04:43:51.340 --> 04:43:52.500

the desert, the,

4053

04:43:52.500 --> 04:43:56.900

just imagine they were 20 some year old guys and just being goofy. Hey, hey.

4054

04:43:57.080 --> 04:43:59.900

And he's like telling him to go away and he is like sitting on like a five

4055

04:43:59.900 --> 04:44:03.380
gallon bucket in the desert, you know? Um, so,

4056
04:44:03.400 --> 04:44:07.660
and then there's also the beach scene, which is like PG 13. Um,

4057
04:44:08.160 --> 04:44:12.460
so it was just, you know, imagine today with your kids with their smartphones,

4058
04:44:12.460 --> 04:44:14.260
they're running around and just doing stupid stuff.

4059
04:44:14.870 --> 04:44:18.580
These guys were 20 some years old, maybe, maybe even 18,

4060
04:44:19.130 --> 04:44:21.300
just having a good time. And uh,

4061
04:44:21.800 --> 04:44:23.740
now kind of an interesting thing with the photo,

4062
04:44:24.570 --> 04:44:26.110
one of the planes my grandpa was on,

4063
04:44:26.110 --> 04:44:29.190
they gave him a camera to shoot mission footage with.

4064
04:44:29.440 --> 04:44:32.670
There was a camera on board. They came back and they said,

4065
04:44:32.670 --> 04:44:34.710
grandpa went back to turn the camera in and they said, oh,

4066
04:44:34.710 --> 04:44:39.590
you can't turn in unexposed film because we issued it out. Grandpa goes,

4067

04:44:39.590 --> 04:44:41.750
we didn't go on the mission. He goes, I can't,

4068
04:44:41.750 --> 04:44:44.950
I can take the camera back but I can't take the film. So grandpa said,
fine.

4069
04:44:45.250 --> 04:44:47.550
So as grandpa's story went, he went around the base,

4070
04:44:47.550 --> 04:44:52.300
shot him and his buddies doing whatever they were doing and he turned
it in.

4071
04:44:52.300 --> 04:44:55.420
He said, well here you go. Now here's your camera and exposed film,
you know,

4072
04:44:56.210 --> 04:44:58.780
solving a problem, right? And uh,

4073
04:44:58.810 --> 04:45:03.140
grandpa went back to Getty's film and there were stills out of his
film and

4074
04:45:03.140 --> 04:45:06.620
said, anyone caught misusing military property will be blah, blah,
blah, blah,

4075
04:45:06.620 --> 04:45:10.620
blah. So grandpa says, I never got my footage. Every time I go to the
archive,

4076
04:45:10.660 --> 04:45:13.500
I keep thinking someday I'm gonna say, you know, it'll be like, you
know,

4077
04:45:13.520 --> 04:45:16.300
guy got in trouble for shooting film on Hardwick. And I'll be like,

4078
04:45:16.300 --> 04:45:20.900
there's grandpa's film. Sadly it probably does not survive. But you know,

4079
04:45:20.970 --> 04:45:24.340
it's that kind of ironic um, situation.

4080
04:45:26.630 --> 04:45:27.463
Okay,

4081
04:45:27.830 --> 04:45:30.790
remember when I was talking about the blister hanger that kind of dates it?

4082
04:45:32.200 --> 04:45:35.320
Oh sorry, this is the one they added.

4083
04:45:35.750 --> 04:45:40.410
This is the north hanger that down here would be the head, uh,

4084
04:45:41.700 --> 04:45:43.760
far left would be where the control tower was.

4085
04:45:43.980 --> 04:45:45.440
The photo group is where they're standing.

4086
04:45:45.710 --> 04:45:49.800
That was built during the winter of 44 to 45.

4087
04:45:50.720 --> 04:45:53.140
So if you see a photo with that in the background,

4088
04:45:53.240 --> 04:45:55.580
you can basically date the photo after that point.

4089
04:45:58.910 --> 04:46:03.570
Okay. Now how can you have a B bomb group without a bomb dump?

4090

04:46:04.230 --> 04:46:06.280

So if you think about it,

4091

04:46:06.750 --> 04:46:11.310

it's about as far away as you can get from where the guys live for obvious

4092

04:46:11.310 --> 04:46:13.150

reasons. Good idea. Yeah.

4093

04:46:13.250 --> 04:46:17.670

So down here is where everyone was living the flight line and then clear up here

4094

04:46:17.670 --> 04:46:19.950

in this corner is where they had the bomb dump.

4095

04:46:22.600 --> 04:46:26.440

And then just some various photos, you know,

4096

04:46:27.120 --> 04:46:30.240

I just wanna put this in to show kind of how things moved around.

4097

04:46:30.620 --> 04:46:33.160

You had the bomb carts, bomb storage.

4098

04:46:33.310 --> 04:46:37.920

They had this like camouflage netting up in the woods where it's now pine trees

4099

04:46:38.380 --> 04:46:40.720

and you can go in there and you can still see the mounds of dirt.

4100

04:46:41.060 --> 04:46:42.720

You can see where they would've stored the bombs.

4101

04:46:42.720 --> 04:46:46.840

You can actually find remains of the poles, you know, so if you look

around,

4102

04:46:46.870 --> 04:46:49.800

it's not too hard to find out where you're at and uh, you know,

4103

04:46:49.830 --> 04:46:53.800

then just the guys, you know, moving about with the bombs.

4104

04:46:56.960 --> 04:47:00.980

Okay. So any questions so far on Hardwick? Go ahead.

4105

04:47:02.890 --> 04:47:06.770

I didn't hear you At Hardwick,

4106

04:47:06.770 --> 04:47:10.040

they were brought into Hardwick by truck. Uh,

4107

04:47:10.090 --> 04:47:13.960

there was like the next tier up there was like, uh,

4108

04:47:14.390 --> 04:47:18.270

call it like a bomb depo. I can't think of what the term they used,

4109

04:47:18.810 --> 04:47:23.430

but they was rail junctions. They could bring the bombs in, offload 'em there,

4110

04:47:23.430 --> 04:47:25.150

and then they were distributed out to the group.

4111

04:47:25.590 --> 04:47:30.550

I went to one that would be far west of Norwich, which is now a giant woods,

4112

04:47:30.640 --> 04:47:35.230

which was a huge bomb dump that served that whole part of England.

4113

04:47:35.530 --> 04:47:36.430

And you go through this,

4114

04:47:36.710 --> 04:47:41.070

I mean it's a massive woods now and it's just row after row of mounded dirt,

4115

04:47:41.690 --> 04:47:45.710

the amount of ordinance they had there, which is just amazing. Um,

4116

04:47:45.890 --> 04:47:48.780

but what they would do is they would bring it out to Hardwick and truck,

4117

04:47:49.510 --> 04:47:51.770

unload it there, and then they would take it from there,

4118

04:47:52.500 --> 04:47:56.210

bring it around to the bombers and load 'em up and then off they would go,

4119

04:47:58.670 --> 04:47:59.730

oh yeah, yeah, sorry.

4120

04:47:59.920 --> 04:48:04.210

They would come by sea from America over and then rail up to, you know,

4121

04:48:04.630 --> 04:48:09.570

key points there would be storage at that large area and then dispersed out

4122

04:48:09.630 --> 04:48:12.490

to the base for its local storage.

4123

04:48:14.650 --> 04:48:15.483

Go ahead.

4124

04:48:25.410 --> 04:48:28.390

Oh yeah. Uh, okay. Yeah. Um,

4125

04:48:29.860 --> 04:48:33.920

it would've been probably 91, 92 timeframe.

4126

04:48:34.570 --> 04:48:35.600

There was, you know,

4127

04:48:35.640 --> 04:48:39.280

a lot of remains of the perimeter track and then just big open fields was

4128

04:48:39.280 --> 04:48:41.360

remaining. And the local council,

4129

04:48:41.600 --> 04:48:43.720

I don't remember exactly the governmental agency,

4130

04:48:43.830 --> 04:48:48.200

they wanted to turn it into a tip site, which for us would be a dump,

4131

04:48:48.600 --> 04:48:51.180

a trash, whatever. Um,

4132

04:48:51.760 --> 04:48:56.260

and they wanted to start putting the trash on the north end of the field up by

4133

04:48:56.260 --> 04:48:59.220

the bomb dump, which is where my grandpa's crash was.

4134

04:48:59.640 --> 04:49:02.020

So that's why we went over the first time I told him off, I said,

4135

04:49:02.070 --> 04:49:04.940

we're going now. So we zipped in, zipped out. I'm like,

4136

04:49:05.180 --> 04:49:09.540

I can't go see grandpa's crash site under 40 feet of trash. That was

just wrong.

4137

04:49:10.130 --> 04:49:14.450

Luckily the locals rallied around it and said, you know,

4138

04:49:14.450 --> 04:49:16.570

you have to preserve hard wake, you, you know,

4139

04:49:16.590 --> 04:49:18.210

you can turn it back to agricultural,

4140

04:49:18.350 --> 04:49:23.040

but to bury it in how many feet of trash would've just been wrong.

4141

04:49:23.420 --> 04:49:26.000

So luckily that did get stopped. Uh,

4142

04:49:26.020 --> 04:49:30.000

cuz that would've probably just changed the whole landscape of the airfield cuz

4143

04:49:30.460 --> 04:49:33.040

the perimeter tracks are still partially there.

4144

04:49:33.140 --> 04:49:36.280

So they would've had an easy way to get around and they could have just piled

4145

04:49:36.480 --> 04:49:39.880

anything they wanted there, which would've been really sad. Go ahead, Wayne.

4146

04:49:40.170 --> 04:49:44.590

While I was explosion

4147

04:49:47.100 --> 04:49:48.210

Miles at Metfield

4148

04:50:02.200 --> 04:50:04.400
Up stop brake

4149
04:50:05.770 --> 04:50:06.870
Out right pile.

4150
04:50:07.880 --> 04:50:08.713
They did that.

4151
04:50:25.160 --> 04:50:25.993
Yeah.

4152
04:50:26.230 --> 04:50:27.510
Yep. That was,

4153
04:50:33.830 --> 04:50:37.790
Yeah, yeah. Medfield bomb dump blowing up was big.

4154
04:50:37.810 --> 04:50:39.190
And it was exactly that.

4155
04:50:39.190 --> 04:50:43.790
They were unloading rdx thinking it was just a general purpose and it wasn't.

4156
04:50:44.170 --> 04:50:48.440
And uh, when it went, it, the, I don't remember the exact number,

4157
04:50:48.440 --> 04:50:52.520
but it was like the axle lot of one of the big deuce and a house flew like so

4158
04:50:52.520 --> 04:50:55.680
many miles. It just, it was an amazing thing.

4159
04:50:56.220 --> 04:51:00.840
My grandfather went over to Metfield sometime, that was summer 44.

4160

04:51:01.380 --> 04:51:06.080

It was over getting to the wintertime of 44, 45. And um,

4161

04:51:06.980 --> 04:51:09.320

he went over and they were giving,

4162

04:51:09.540 --> 04:51:13.680

at this time grandpa was done flying and he was, uh, working in base supply,

4163

04:51:13.820 --> 04:51:16.800

so dispensing coke or coal. Um,

4164

04:51:17.470 --> 04:51:20.770

and he heard that they were giving it away over at Metfield and there was a

4165

04:51:20.830 --> 04:51:24.210

convoy going by to get it. So grandpa made arrangements to get a truck,

4166

04:51:24.230 --> 04:51:27.090

got in line with the convoy, went, got their fair share,

4167

04:51:27.850 --> 04:51:30.530

probably not fair share, and brought it back to Hardwick. You know,

4168

04:51:30.530 --> 04:51:33.130

you gotta do what you gotta do. But he said when he was over there,

4169

04:51:33.130 --> 04:51:37.240

there was remains of planes that had been picked down. You know,

4170

04:51:37.240 --> 04:51:39.560

they had pulled engines and all that, but he goes,

4171

04:51:39.560 --> 04:51:41.440

the planes that were close to the bomb blast, he goes,

4172

04:51:41.440 --> 04:51:42.880
if you look on the side of V 24,

4173

04:51:42.880 --> 04:51:46.000
you got the bulkheads and the stringers between it. He goes,

4174

04:51:46.000 --> 04:51:47.360
imagine like aluminum foil.

4175

04:51:47.510 --> 04:51:52.400
They were like pushed in the fuselages were distorted by the
concussion wave

4176

04:51:52.400 --> 04:51:56.400
of the bomb blast. So, you know, he says, when you saw that I was
like, whew.

4177

04:51:57.330 --> 04:52:01.230
You know, it just basically stretched the metal on the fuselage.

4178

04:52:02.680 --> 04:52:04.010
Okay, go ahead.

4179

04:52:07.870 --> 04:52:11.600
Back to the, uh, back to the question of, uh,

4180

04:52:11.980 --> 04:52:14.960
the concentration of the airfields in that specific vicinity.

4181

04:52:15.180 --> 04:52:17.360
You mentioned earlier in the program there was, uh,

4182

04:52:18.000 --> 04:52:22.040
I believe you referred to it as an identification block, right? Okay.

4183

04:52:22.150 --> 04:52:24.760
That identified Hardwick. Yes. Okay.

4184
04:52:25.020 --> 04:52:28.760
How often now coming from a pilot who has landed at the wrong airport,

4185
04:52:29.780 --> 04:52:34.240
how often did people mistake the field for a different field?

4186
04:52:35.940 --> 04:52:38.040
Or ever? Am I the only one?

4187
04:52:40.580 --> 04:52:44.640
You are the only one Wally? Um,

4188
04:52:45.400 --> 04:52:48.840
I can't say accidentally. I, I'm sure it happened, you know,

4189
04:52:48.840 --> 04:52:51.520
they were coming back when you looked at the airfields from the air,

4190
04:52:51.550 --> 04:52:54.980
even though there was the three runways and a pattern, they would,

4191
04:52:55.450 --> 04:52:57.990
some were like hardware was kind of a long skinny,

4192
04:52:58.050 --> 04:53:01.070
and then others were more triangular. They,

4193
04:53:01.100 --> 04:53:05.310
they all had kind of a similar style, but they weren't identical. So,

4194
04:53:05.730 --> 04:53:08.350
you know, for instance, when I look at the aerial photographs,

4195
04:53:08.430 --> 04:53:12.950
I look at it and I can pick out a hard weight distance versus another
airfield

4196

04:53:12.950 --> 04:53:17.570
just based on the pattern. So that would've probably been more obvious.

4197
04:53:18.230 --> 04:53:22.630
But I was told this and I've never seen it officially, but um,

4198
04:53:23.130 --> 04:53:27.110
for whatever reason, Hardwick was one of the last fields tolo to uh,

4199
04:53:27.410 --> 04:53:29.590
be socked in due to fog, et cetera.

4200
04:53:30.110 --> 04:53:34.720
I don't know if it was due to its elevation or pattern

4201
04:53:34.940 --> 04:53:37.520
of winds, whatever. And that's what I was told,

4202
04:53:37.670 --> 04:53:40.840
that if you were coming back and you couldn't get into your home base,

4203
04:53:41.100 --> 04:53:42.480
you had a chance at Hardwick.

4204
04:53:42.740 --> 04:53:46.740
And they said that explains why there were so many other groups that came in and

4205
04:53:46.740 --> 04:53:50.660
landed there at Hardwick, i e, the Mustangs, the P 40 sevens, et cetera,

4206
04:53:50.720 --> 04:53:54.590
et cetera. Um, but as far as you know,

4207
04:53:56.590 --> 04:53:59.090
how many made the accidental identification,

4208

04:53:59.810 --> 04:54:02.590

I guess the way to look at it is if you gotta get to the ground,

4209

04:54:02.850 --> 04:54:07.630

any ground is better than no ground. You know, go ahead.

4210

04:54:07.660 --> 04:54:08.493

Paul

4211

04:54:19.760 --> 04:54:24.010

Been common because that base, they didn't even blink an eye.

4212

04:54:24.010 --> 04:54:28.130

They just says it's over there and they took off and it must have happened

4213

04:54:28.310 --> 04:54:29.143

before.

4214

04:54:30.720 --> 04:54:33.940

But as far as statistics on it, I've never seen anything where it said,

4215

04:54:34.240 --> 04:54:38.860

you know, out of 500 landings, 32 were from Wally Brown.

4216

04:54:40.460 --> 04:54:43.490

We'll start calling that a wally. If you land at the wrong airfield,

4217

04:54:43.800 --> 04:54:47.670

it's a wally. I got you brother. Okay,

4218

04:54:48.090 --> 04:54:52.110

so now to the important things on the airfield, the pubs, um,

4219

04:54:55.020 --> 04:54:59.640

up in top Croft, the house still remains. It's now a private house.
Um,

4220

04:54:59.780 --> 04:55:03.640

it actually went up for sale a couple years ago for like half a million pounds

4221

04:55:03.640 --> 04:55:06.040

or whatever. Tried to talk the wife into let's buy it.

4222

04:55:06.420 --> 04:55:08.640

She wasn't as cool on the idea as I was,

4223

04:55:09.060 --> 04:55:13.740

but it still survives and there it is today. Uh,

4224

04:55:14.360 --> 04:55:18.140

so pretty neat. You can go to the exact same spot and see what it looks like.

4225

04:55:19.390 --> 04:55:21.570

Um, there was also the three horseshoes,

4226

04:55:21.570 --> 04:55:25.130

which if you're familiar at all with Hardwick, you went out the North Gate,

4227

04:55:25.550 --> 04:55:27.210

you went up, that was hemp.

4228

04:55:27.870 --> 04:55:32.640

And right there on the intersection there was the pub. Uh, it's been of course,

4229

04:55:32.640 --> 04:55:35.240

remodeled many times, probably in the last 75 years.

4230

04:55:35.630 --> 04:55:37.720

Last time I was over it was still a working pub,

4231

04:55:38.180 --> 04:55:40.760
so you could go in and get some food. Um,

4232
04:55:42.630 --> 04:55:43.690
and there it is today,

4233
04:55:43.790 --> 04:55:47.250
of course remodeled looks like they demoed part of the end. But, uh,

4234
04:55:47.270 --> 04:55:49.650
if you go down this road here and turn around,

4235
04:55:49.850 --> 04:55:54.070
Hardwick sat down off to this lower edge, okay,

4236
04:55:57.290 --> 04:56:01.940
the three nags in Friton. Uh, they were,

4237
04:56:01.960 --> 04:56:06.340
it was a very popular pub, especially it seems like to the earlier
crew. Uh,

4238
04:56:06.420 --> 04:56:09.660
I asked my grandpa when he told me his story, he said it had three in
the name.

4239
04:56:10.120 --> 04:56:12.510
So I talked to Floyd maybe early and he goes, oh,

4240
04:56:12.510 --> 04:56:14.870
that must have been the three Nags pub in front.

4241
04:56:14.890 --> 04:56:19.190
So I look on a map and it's a decent distance even if you run through
the

4242
04:56:19.190 --> 04:56:22.760
fields. So I asked my grandpa, I said, was it the three nags? He goes,

4243
04:56:22.760 --> 04:56:26.680
that doesn't ring a bell. He goes, I don't remember going any great distance.

4244
04:56:26.940 --> 04:56:30.480
And then I go over to Hardwick and find the three horseshoe and I described that

4245
04:56:30.480 --> 04:56:31.480
and grandpa goes, yeah, he goes,

4246
04:56:31.480 --> 04:56:36.120
I went in a road past one pub to go to another pub. So, um, you know,

4247
04:56:36.270 --> 04:56:39.470
some things you just gotta do in wartime. Um,

4248
04:56:40.660 --> 04:56:44.740
just gonna hit Norwich quick to show you photographs of that. Um,

4249
04:56:46.370 --> 04:56:50.460
give you a little perspective. This is where the Memorial Library is today.

4250
04:56:51.400 --> 04:56:56.190
Uh, St. Peter Mancroft Church is here. Castle Hotel.

4251
04:56:56.930 --> 04:57:01.710
The Bell Hotel is here, Norwich Castle. And then up in this area is, uh,

4252
04:57:04.320 --> 04:57:07.940
the main cathedral and uh, the Sampson and Hercules.

4253
04:57:09.410 --> 04:57:11.110
And when we went over and 11,

4254
04:57:26.940 --> 04:57:30.080

if you would, where this picture was taken, if you turned straight around,

4255

04:57:30.210 --> 04:57:33.880

you'd be looking at the cathedral through the opening and the wall.
Um,

4256

04:57:34.600 --> 04:57:35.850

this building survives.

4257

04:57:36.200 --> 04:57:40.690

Last I heard they were looking at converting it into like flats, apartments,

4258

04:57:43.530 --> 04:57:47.990

St. Peter Mancroft. Again, all these pictures are from 93rd guys.

4259

04:57:48.160 --> 04:57:53.030

These aren't off the internet per se. These are from 93rd veterans.
Um,

4260

04:57:53.410 --> 04:57:57.870

the Memorial Library is sitting basically where these old buildings are,

4261

04:57:58.200 --> 04:58:02.390

where the Memorial library is today. So that church survives.

4262

04:58:02.490 --> 04:58:04.190

The market is right over in this area.

4263

04:58:05.730 --> 04:58:09.380

When I said if you turned around from the Samson and Hercules picture,

4264

04:58:09.840 --> 04:58:12.060

that's the picture you would've taken looking the other way.

4265

04:58:13.170 --> 04:58:15.110

So I think what happened a lot, they were in town,

4266

04:58:15.110 --> 04:58:18.270

they got their camera and went, click, click and say, okay,

4267

04:58:18.270 --> 04:58:22.350

let's go back to the pub. I got my two pictures for mom or whatever.
Um,

4268

04:58:23.370 --> 04:58:26.630

and of course you take one of the church so you can tell your mom you
went to

4269

04:58:26.630 --> 04:58:29.820

church three times a week. Mom, forget that.

4270

04:58:32.090 --> 04:58:35.710

Um, talked about the Bell Hotel. This is taken from up,

4271

04:58:35.930 --> 04:58:40.810

would've been very close to where the Norwich Castle is and the Bell

4272

04:58:40.940 --> 04:58:45.330

Hotel sits just down from it. Uh, had a lot of photos of it.

4273

04:58:45.520 --> 04:58:49.970

Also looking at various veterans scrapbooks. So when you find it in
one,

4274

04:58:50.000 --> 04:58:53.370

it's indication when you start finding a pattern, you can get an idea.

4275

04:58:53.440 --> 04:58:56.790

This was probably a popular spot where, you know,

4276

04:58:56.860 --> 04:59:01.600

guys would go to when they're in town. Sorry, I'm lasering everybody.

4277

04:59:02.560 --> 04:59:06.060

Um, just a local church up the road from Hardwick. Uh,

4278

04:59:06.130 --> 04:59:08.180

just a nice original color photo.

4279

04:59:11.990 --> 04:59:16.530

And we're just gonna hit a couple London photos. Uh, Buckingham Palace,

4280

04:59:21.630 --> 04:59:22.530

the Tower of London,

4281

04:59:26.430 --> 04:59:27.420

Piccadilly Circus.

4282

04:59:31.300 --> 04:59:35.400

We all know about p Piccadilly Circus. Don't need to say much more about that.

4283

04:59:36.260 --> 04:59:39.980

Um, again, today if you go there,

4284

04:59:41.650 --> 04:59:44.470

the, what is it, ERO statue, I'm probably saying that wrong.

4285

04:59:44.740 --> 04:59:49.330

Sits here during the war, they built this cover over the,

4286

04:59:50.010 --> 04:59:52.460

call it the base. And I was told the statue was taken down.

4287

04:59:52.920 --> 04:59:55.620

So it's kind of funny, when I came back from one of my trips,

4288

04:59:55.700 --> 04:59:59.100

I showed grandpa the picture of Piccadilly Circus and he goes, he goes,

4289

04:59:59.180 --> 05:00:00.780
it kind of looks familiar, but what's that? And I'm like,

4290
05:00:00.780 --> 05:00:01.740
that's the statue in the middle.

4291
05:00:01.800 --> 05:00:05.020
He didn't know there was a statue cuz it was all covered up when he was there.

4292
05:00:05.640 --> 05:00:07.980
Um, but it's still kind of a,

4293
05:00:08.140 --> 05:00:12.180
a happening place to go to a lot of young people milling around and people

4294
05:00:12.180 --> 05:00:14.020
getting pictures and stuff. Um,

4295
05:00:14.760 --> 05:00:18.740
and I'm sure grandpa only went there on the way to church in London.
Um,

4296
05:00:20.760 --> 05:00:23.770
just some different photos shows a good picture of the way they had it all

4297
05:00:23.770 --> 05:00:24.603
covered up.

4298
05:00:32.060 --> 05:00:33.950
Yeah, well you'd get from the base,

4299
05:00:34.300 --> 05:00:38.540
they would catch a truck to town and then they could get on the train

4300
05:00:39.200 --> 05:00:40.100
and go down to London.

4301

05:00:40.680 --> 05:00:44.510

And I actually found in some papers recently where a guy,

4302

05:00:44.570 --> 05:00:47.790

it was just a scratch piece of paper and he kind of drew it almost like a

4303

05:00:47.870 --> 05:00:51.070

schematic. He was like base trucked,

4304

05:00:51.640 --> 05:00:54.750

train to station such and such station such and such.

4305

05:01:19.450 --> 05:01:20.820

That building is gone,

4306

05:01:20.880 --> 05:01:25.500

but there's now a restaurant and a building sitting on that location. But, uh,

4307

05:01:25.500 --> 05:01:26.380

they had many,

4308

05:01:26.380 --> 05:01:31.260

many Red Cross buildings scattered all over London for officers on enlist

4309

05:01:31.260 --> 05:01:36.180

of men to go, you know, get a bed, get a meal, et cetera. Um,

4310

05:01:36.180 --> 05:01:41.140

there was one in Norwich we went to in 15 with Alberta cuz Louis went there.

4311

05:01:41.640 --> 05:01:45.260

Uh, it was actually in the cathedral. It was the, uh, bishops,

4312

05:01:46.480 --> 05:01:50.100
uh, I can't think what the last word of that was, but it was, um,

4313
05:01:50.320 --> 05:01:54.990
the Red Cross there. Yeah, bishops Palace. That's right. Thanks Mike.

4314
05:01:57.170 --> 05:02:00.770
Okay, again, picture quality's not the best, but you know,

4315
05:02:00.770 --> 05:02:02.770
you gotta go see big band in Parliament.

4316
05:02:05.710 --> 05:02:10.370
Uh, just found one photo in a collection and just to give you an indication,

4317
05:02:10.720 --> 05:02:12.250
this is what the train would've looked like.

4318
05:02:13.950 --> 05:02:15.150
I just love looking at these photos.

4319
05:02:15.250 --> 05:02:17.630
It just gives you an idea of what it looked like. That's all.

4320
05:02:18.490 --> 05:02:20.190
And if you know what hard coal smells like,

4321
05:02:20.190 --> 05:02:24.340
you probably have a good idea what it smelled like too. Uh,

4322
05:02:24.700 --> 05:02:28.500
Nelson's monument in Trafalgar area, these are the lions around it.

4323
05:02:28.500 --> 05:02:30.700
And then the, the monument would've been in the area

4324
05:02:32.770 --> 05:02:35.790

and then the guys climbed up on it. And people still do that today.

4325

05:02:36.140 --> 05:02:38.900

They gotta climb up on it. I mean, they're pretty high too.

4326

05:02:40.980 --> 05:02:42.080

And then that's it.

4327

05:02:48.220 --> 05:02:53.000

Let's go ahead and get, uh, seated here so we can get started. Uh,

4328

05:02:53.000 --> 05:02:55.000

we don't want to keep Michael waiting too long.

4329

05:03:12.640 --> 05:03:15.860

Go ahead and uh, have a seat and, and we'll get started here shortly.

4330

05:03:19.100 --> 05:03:22.560

You may recall that last year we started this, uh,

4331

05:03:22.560 --> 05:03:27.160

procedure of having the first tier of people

4332

05:03:27.250 --> 05:03:30.160

after the veterans talk about their veterans.

4333

05:03:30.780 --> 05:03:33.400

And we'll need to continue this because as you know,

4334

05:03:33.480 --> 05:03:35.800

this year we only had three veterans here.

4335

05:03:36.620 --> 05:03:40.600

So we're gonna have an interesting session this morning. Uh,

4336

05:03:40.610 --> 05:03:44.090

we've got Jan here, Dondi, did I pronounce it correct?

4337

05:03:44.430 --> 05:03:46.770

Who is she and her husband Beta, by the way.

4338

05:03:46.770 --> 05:03:49.570

He built his own airplane but they didn't fly it up here.

4339

05:03:51.510 --> 05:03:52.530

But as a pilot,

4340

05:03:52.730 --> 05:03:57.050

I respect somebody that would be proud enough to fly their own airplanes.

4341

05:03:57.050 --> 05:03:58.690

So that's a good deal. So,

4342

05:03:59.190 --> 05:04:03.210

so Janet's gonna talk to us about her uncle who was in the 93rd,

4343

05:04:03.790 --> 05:04:06.970

but also just a little bit about her father who was in the 15th,

4344

05:04:07.150 --> 05:04:10.530

but was also a pilot. Before we do that though,

4345

05:04:10.530 --> 05:04:13.810

I want you to all think about the fact that what you're gonna maybe want to

4346

05:04:13.810 --> 05:04:15.050

share with us next year,

4347

05:04:15.110 --> 05:04:20.010

cuz we're gonna have to continue this process of getting you people to share the

4348

05:04:20.010 --> 05:04:22.810

knowledge that you know. So please welcome Jan.

4349

05:04:28.370 --> 05:04:29.203

Good

4350

05:04:29.290 --> 05:04:33.730

Morning. Um, thanks for having me. I'm delighted to tell.

4351

05:04:33.800 --> 05:04:37.970

Talk about my uncle. Uh, these are pictures of my dad's on your left,

4352

05:04:38.110 --> 05:04:41.890

my uncle's on the right. Um, uh,

4353

05:04:41.970 --> 05:04:45.490

I feel fortunate to hear, have heard all of your stories. Um,

4354

05:04:46.240 --> 05:04:50.530

many especially of you and the veterans. Um, Glen, bill and Wayne.

4355

05:04:51.430 --> 05:04:55.610

Um, they demonstrated such genuine kindness, gentle strength,

4356

05:04:55.950 --> 05:04:59.370

and in my eyes, they're rock stars. Um,

4357

05:04:59.610 --> 05:05:02.450

I don't claim to be a historian, uh, but I've been,

4358

05:05:02.520 --> 05:05:04.890

I've got a keen interest in family history.

4359

05:05:05.550 --> 05:05:09.890

My father served as a navigator in the 15th Air Force out of Italy,

4360

05:05:10.270 --> 05:05:14.810

and my uncle served with your father, grandfather, uncle in the 93rd.

4361

05:05:16.420 --> 05:05:20.450
Gotta use my glasses. Clearly, all of our interests,

4362
05:05:20.460 --> 05:05:23.770
yours in mind in being here this weekend is the same.

4363
05:05:24.190 --> 05:05:29.040
To maintain a connection with the past. In order to see who we are,

4364
05:05:29.420 --> 05:05:31.240
we need to know from where we came.

4365
05:05:32.310 --> 05:05:34.640
Part of my being here is to explore my past,

4366
05:05:35.120 --> 05:05:37.740
to celebrate my uncle's connection with this group.

4367
05:05:38.520 --> 05:05:40.700
His stories are not unlike your stories.

4368
05:05:42.780 --> 05:05:46.240
My parents grew up in a small Midwestern town, both of their families,

4369
05:05:46.350 --> 05:05:49.960
much like yours, made sacrifices during World War ii,

4370
05:05:50.500 --> 05:05:55.200
all seven of my uncles as well as my father served in World

4371
05:05:55.300 --> 05:05:57.600
War ii. While they all have stories,

4372
05:05:58.060 --> 05:06:01.800
I'm gonna share a little bit about my mother's brother John B.

4373
05:06:02.260 --> 05:06:06.280
And my father Bob. My mother's oldest brother,

4374

05:06:06.310 --> 05:06:08.120

captain John B. White Jr.

4375

05:06:08.260 --> 05:06:12.680

Served in the 93rd bomb group as navigator of a B 24

4376

05:06:12.710 --> 05:06:13.420

liberator.

4377

05:06:13.420 --> 05:06:18.320

The exterminator John B's beginnings with the group formed at Barksdale Air

4378

05:06:18.320 --> 05:06:22.040

Force Base and continued in Alberry. And later at Hardwick,

4379

05:06:22.660 --> 05:06:25.560

he shares that connection with each of your loved ones.

4380

05:06:26.600 --> 05:06:29.040

Although my uncle died long before I was born,

4381

05:06:29.380 --> 05:06:33.400

I'd always known him through a military portrait in my grandmother's music room.

4382

05:06:34.020 --> 05:06:35.640

It created a vision of family,

4383

05:06:36.000 --> 05:06:40.800

particularly of a man whom I had ever never met as a kid.

4384

05:06:40.920 --> 05:06:44.840

I never gave the photo a second thought as it was simply Uncle John V who died

4385

05:06:44.840 --> 05:06:46.920

in the war, never a question asked,

4386

05:06:47.370 --> 05:06:51.680

never need any advanced explanation other than being a great guy.

4387

05:06:52.200 --> 05:06:56.150

I knew little of John B's story back in the early sixties,

4388

05:06:56.940 --> 05:07:00.750

Playboy magazine ran excerpts from the Adventures of Israel Bond,

4389

05:07:01.310 --> 05:07:06.070

a parody on James Bond. The reading provided great for my father,

4390

05:07:06.290 --> 05:07:10.870

who told me bedtime stories that featured the escapades of super spy

4391

05:07:11.130 --> 05:07:15.790

oi oi seven. But instead of Cold War tactics, my father,

4392

05:07:16.210 --> 05:07:20.510

my father embellished with enemy interrogations by Arian officers,

4393

05:07:20.510 --> 05:07:22.470

delivered with a curt German accent.

4394

05:07:23.000 --> 05:07:27.230

There were dangerous escapes as still illustrated by dive bombing bombings.

4395

05:07:27.230 --> 05:07:32.110

Stukas likely his experience while huddled in the alleyways of Bucharest at the

4396

05:07:32.110 --> 05:07:36.550

receiving end of the German reprisal after Romania, which sides with the war.

4397

05:07:37.330 --> 05:07:40.870

His stories were filled with imagery. But me being so young,

4398

05:07:41.230 --> 05:07:45.630

I didn't connect the clues of what was probably the most influential time in his

4399

05:07:45.700 --> 05:07:50.270

life on what started as a quest to learn about my father's service.

4400

05:07:50.670 --> 05:07:53.070

I learned of their extraordinary parallels.

4401

05:07:53.680 --> 05:07:56.350

Doors opened and John B would come to life.

4402

05:07:57.060 --> 05:08:01.910

Both were navigators on B 24 Liberators both guided their ships on

4403

05:08:01.910 --> 05:08:05.550

transatlantic crossing, both settled in camp style.

4404

05:08:05.650 --> 05:08:07.750

Air bases in Europe and North Africa.

4405

05:08:08.380 --> 05:08:13.190

Both flew their groups very first combat mission and many more thereafter.

4406

05:08:13.900 --> 05:08:18.230

Both were awarded the dfc Purple Heart and Ribbons of Distinction

4407

05:08:19.100 --> 05:08:24.070

both flew as squadron navigator and each flew their last mission targeting

4408

05:08:24.130 --> 05:08:28.430

the same Vega Concordia oil refinery in Ploi Romania.

4409

05:08:29.030 --> 05:08:30.270

Albeit 10 months apart,

4410

05:08:31.090 --> 05:08:34.980

one flew at tree top level and the other nearly five miles high.

4411

05:08:35.720 --> 05:08:39.980

As a result of the raid on pti, my father became a p o w.

4412

05:08:41.050 --> 05:08:45.900

John B never returned. My father's story echoes that of my uncle.

4413

05:08:46.250 --> 05:08:48.460

Outside of the obvious connection with my mother.

4414

05:08:49.640 --> 05:08:54.500

PTI was a common thread that joined John b and Bob and the path that John

4415

05:08:54.620 --> 05:08:59.460

B took somehow primed the way for Bob's course while I am

4416

05:08:59.460 --> 05:09:04.180

writing a story or it's turning out to be a book because of the information that

4417

05:09:04.180 --> 05:09:07.300

intertwines their service. In the interest of time and this group,

4418

05:09:07.440 --> 05:09:09.300

I'm gonna focus on John B's track.

4419

05:09:10.970 --> 05:09:13.540

John B graduated law school In 1940,

4420

05:09:13.920 --> 05:09:17.660

he returned home and worked as a lawyer for a year before being called to

4421

05:09:17.660 --> 05:09:19.900

service. On November 6th,

4422

05:09:20.040 --> 05:09:24.140

he joined the branch that most aroused his senses, the Army Air Corps.

4423

05:09:24.700 --> 05:09:25.533

A month later,

4424

05:09:25.830 --> 05:09:30.340

Japan attacked Pearl Harbor and six months after that he was commissioned as a

4425

05:09:30.340 --> 05:09:31.700

navigator in Kelly Field.

4426

05:09:32.770 --> 05:09:37.460

John B's first assignment was Fort Myers in what he termed a jumping off place.

4427

05:09:38.000 --> 05:09:41.860

He called the camp Practical in that there were no barracks of any kind,

4428

05:09:41.860 --> 05:09:46.180

just tents, no hangers for planes, just sheds for tools and supplies.

4429

05:09:48.070 --> 05:09:48.903

Let's see,

4430

05:09:50.200 --> 05:09:53.780

How do I, oh, here we go. Before settling in,

4431

05:09:53.780 --> 05:09:57.660

he was standing in a group of new navigators when a jeep pulled up and the

4432

05:09:57.660 --> 05:10:00.460
driver said they needed a navigator to hunt submarines.

4433
05:10:00.810 --> 05:10:02.540
John B was the first to step up.

4434
05:10:03.330 --> 05:10:08.180
This would be his very first ride in a heavy bomber. The B 24 liberator.

4435
05:10:08.850 --> 05:10:12.790
The pilot gave him printed orders from headquarters and said to plan a course,

4436
05:10:13.420 --> 05:10:17.710
they had to patrol the shipping lanes west from Tampa. About 500 miles out,

4437
05:10:18.340 --> 05:10:22.270
John b devised a search pattern and started looking for subs that had been

4438
05:10:22.510 --> 05:10:23.120
reported.

4439
05:10:23.120 --> 05:10:27.990
Lieutenant Ted's crew had a confirmed kill over the Gulf and the 93rd

4440
05:10:28.010 --> 05:10:31.990
was credited with three U-boats. John B later writes,

4441
05:10:32.380 --> 05:10:36.350
I've talked to navigators and pilots who've been in ships that sunk subs.

4442
05:10:36.700 --> 05:10:41.430
They have interesting but brief stories to tell from the time the sub is cited

4443

05:10:41.770 --> 05:10:45.670
to the time. And oil slick from the destroyed sub appears is scarcely.

4444
05:10:45.670 --> 05:10:48.450
Three minutes. It was after that assignment.

4445
05:10:48.590 --> 05:10:53.530
The assignment that pilot Hugh Roper requested Colonel Timberlake that John

4446
05:10:53.610 --> 05:10:57.290
b serve as permanent navigator on his crew. Two weeks later,

4447
05:10:57.440 --> 05:11:01.930
they transferred to green your field in New Hampshire where the crew was given a

4448
05:11:01.950 --> 05:11:05.010
new B 24 liberator. They named exterminator

4449
05:11:07.100 --> 05:11:08.650
After a North Atlantic crossing.

4450
05:11:09.030 --> 05:11:13.410
The crew was the sixth ship from the 93rd to land at Alconbury.

4451
05:11:13.970 --> 05:11:16.330
I have it as September 6th, 1942.

4452
05:11:17.320 --> 05:11:21.410
John B described the Midland section as being really very pretty country,

4453
05:11:22.000 --> 05:11:26.570
lots of wildflowers with all the land cultivated one way or the other from the

4454
05:11:26.590 --> 05:11:29.410
air. The view is like one of grandmother's patch quilts.

4455

05:11:30.260 --> 05:11:34.600

Combat training continued in sessions teaching the airmen how to cope should

4456

05:11:34.600 --> 05:11:38.080

they be captured, or how to escape from prison and how if possible,

4457

05:11:38.420 --> 05:11:42.160

to return to their established bases. It was a very busy time,

4458

05:11:42.940 --> 05:11:44.080

but when there was downtime,

4459

05:11:44.100 --> 05:11:48.520

the airmen became tourists visiting ancient castles in the countryside or to

4460

05:11:48.520 --> 05:11:52.160

London where lights were blacked out at night. To preclude enemy notice,

4461

05:11:53.020 --> 05:11:57.520

he and Roper visited Cambridge seeing King's church that was famous for its

4462

05:11:57.520 --> 05:11:58.400

stained glass windows.

4463

05:11:59.030 --> 05:12:02.400

Only the windows had been removed and put in storage due to the war.

4464

05:12:03.300 --> 05:12:06.560

By chance county court was in session being a lawyer.

4465

05:12:07.150 --> 05:12:11.360

John B went in and accosted one of the barristers in his long black gown.

4466

05:12:11.820 --> 05:12:15.720

He was introduced to the judge who straight away invited John B to sit at the

4467

05:12:15.720 --> 05:12:18.160

bench and listen to the cases on the docket

4468

05:12:21.420 --> 05:12:23.000

During his li. During this time,

4469

05:12:23.190 --> 05:12:27.720

life magazine headlined Ariel navigation describing how

4470

05:12:28.080 --> 05:12:31.160

American navigators guided planes in the world's longest flight.

4471

05:12:31.960 --> 05:12:36.440

Although the photograph was taken months earlier while in training John B is

4472

05:12:36.440 --> 05:12:39.350

pictured, uh,

4473

05:12:39.350 --> 05:12:43.710

John B was pictured using the air force's speed and wind drift computer to

4474

05:12:43.710 --> 05:12:47.030

establish dead reckoning position before taking a star site.

4475

05:12:48.170 --> 05:12:53.110

But the war beckon what training they had was it Combat missions began.

4476

05:12:53.840 --> 05:12:54.380

First,

4477

05:12:54.380 --> 05:12:58.470

they targeted manufacturing facilities and submarine docks along the French

4478

05:12:58.470 --> 05:13:02.590
coastline, Lilly Breast, St. JE and others.

4479

05:13:05.090 --> 05:13:08.470
It was late October. John B's crew was temporarily dis,

4480

05:13:08.690 --> 05:13:12.230
dis detached for anti sub patrol over the bay of Bisque,

4481

05:13:12.780 --> 05:13:14.390
much like they did in the Gulf of Mexico.

4482

05:13:15.290 --> 05:13:19.390
As engines fired up word was radioed that a German merchant vessel had been

4483

05:13:19.390 --> 05:13:22.190
spotted cruising north along the coast of Spain.

4484

05:13:22.900 --> 05:13:26.790
John b rearranged his maps to widen the course toward the Pyrenees mountain

4485

05:13:26.800 --> 05:13:30.030
range. As he put his finger to set locations,

4486

05:13:30.210 --> 05:13:32.750
the course would not be far from the original plan.

4487

05:13:33.410 --> 05:13:37.510
He smiled knowing that sinking his ship would earn another painted moniker on

4488

05:13:37.510 --> 05:13:39.230
the forward left side of their lib.

4489

05:13:39.660 --> 05:13:44.380

Next to the painted bombs that represented missions complete as they flew

4490

05:13:44.380 --> 05:13:47.700

along the coast of Fr of France. At about 5,000 feet,

4491

05:13:48.170 --> 05:13:53.060

spotter scoured the seas as the sun climbed waves crested and

4492

05:13:53.180 --> 05:13:56.020

sunk. As the sun's reflection bounced from white to gray.

4493

05:13:56.560 --> 05:14:00.820

It was difficult to confirm whether a spot was a ship or some or simply nature

4494

05:14:01.310 --> 05:14:02.700

plain tricks on their eyes.

4495

05:14:03.360 --> 05:14:06.420

Gunner held a hand on the trigger while searching for prey.

4496

05:14:06.960 --> 05:14:10.500

The right waist gunner stretched his neck forward and pressed the throat mic.

4497

05:14:10.710 --> 05:14:11.500

There she is.

4498

05:14:11.500 --> 05:14:15.700

At one o'clock Roper looked to the right to confirm the site and pulled back on

4499

05:14:15.700 --> 05:14:19.060

the column. He brought exterminator to 7,000 feet,

4500

05:14:19.440 --> 05:14:24.260

an elevation high enough to drop the bombs as they closed in on the target

4501

05:14:24.730 --> 05:14:28.820

control was handed over to the bombardier Ted Brannan looking through the

4502

05:14:28.890 --> 05:14:29.970

crosshairs of the site,

4503

05:14:30.240 --> 05:14:34.940

he waited to hover over the hull as he cited what looked to be only an inch

4504

05:14:35.010 --> 05:14:38.940

long. In reality, this was one that was a couple hundred foot vessel.

4505

05:14:39.760 --> 05:14:42.740

At the right moment, he toggled the switch to drop the bombs.

4506

05:14:43.000 --> 05:14:47.980

He looked out the plexiglass dome but no bombs fell. He toggled again,

4507

05:14:48.120 --> 05:14:51.940

but realized the doors had jammed. The bomb remained in their cradle.

4508

05:14:52.700 --> 05:14:55.480

By this time, the ship was aware of the bomber overhead.

4509

05:14:55.860 --> 05:14:59.960

It retaliated by returning shell fire high into the sky. Pump.

4510

05:15:00.110 --> 05:15:02.480

Pump pump came screaming toward exterminator.

4511

05:15:02.950 --> 05:15:07.160

Brandon returned the controls to roper who quickly took the lib to 12,000 feet

4512
05:15:07.160 --> 05:15:10.120
and circled around for a second try again.

4513
05:15:10.120 --> 05:15:13.080
The bombs failed to release as the doors wouldn't fully open.

4514
05:15:13.620 --> 05:15:17.760
Bursts of shell fires surrounded the bomber. A hit jerked the right wing up.

4515
05:15:17.980 --> 05:15:19.760
It was time to turn away from the ship.

4516
05:15:20.410 --> 05:15:22.520
Curse words filtered through the fuselage.

4517
05:15:22.540 --> 05:15:26.680
At a failed second attempt to sink the ship. It would've been a dead on hit.

4518
05:15:26.780 --> 05:15:31.680
But for the malfunction in initiating a third try, fire was too close,

4519
05:15:32.030 --> 05:15:34.520
rocking the plane in near uncontrolled manner,

4520
05:15:35.330 --> 05:15:39.160
Roper made the decision to radio the ship's position to another B 24.

4521
05:15:39.420 --> 05:15:43.680
The hot stuff commanded by Captain Robert Schein Shannon,

4522
05:15:44.270 --> 05:15:48.880
perhaps the luck of an Irishman could slay this ship with just

4523
05:15:48.900 --> 05:15:50.600
200 miles south of the base.

4524

05:15:51.020 --> 05:15:54.440

The tail gunner spotted a group of six planes through and through his throat.

4525

05:15:54.470 --> 05:15:57.920

Mike, he said six British bows at three, three o'clock high.

4526

05:15:58.380 --> 05:16:02.280

But in a split second, the black cross on the wing came in view and they yelled,

4527

05:16:02.330 --> 05:16:06.200

wrong, wrong, six German junkers, junkers, closing in fast.

4528

05:16:07.030 --> 05:16:10.600

John B looked to the right to see the six crest in attack formation.

4529

05:16:10.600 --> 05:16:14.200

And diving toward the lone bomber roper pushed the column forward,

4530

05:16:14.680 --> 05:16:19.120

urging her toward the sea before leveling out. As the fire fighters closed in,

4531

05:16:19.120 --> 05:16:20.240

they aimed shell fire.

4532

05:16:20.620 --> 05:16:24.880

But roper's quick maneuver soon forced the fighters to pull up a void diving in

4533

05:16:24.880 --> 05:16:25.713

the sea.

4534

05:16:26.460 --> 05:16:31.080

But they circled around regrouped and soon two junkers were headed back with the

4535

05:16:31.080 --> 05:16:32.400
other. Four are not far behind.

4536
05:16:33.060 --> 05:16:35.160
The gunners began thumping away at their fifties.

4537
05:16:35.460 --> 05:16:40.200
As one junker crossed over the bumper turret Gunner Earl Lemoine struck the

4538
05:16:40.280 --> 05:16:44.200
pilot and the lead fighter sending the plane crashing in flames to the water

4539
05:16:44.250 --> 05:16:49.200
below. Right away another junker was hit by shell fire and began to trail smoke.

4540
05:16:49.900 --> 05:16:53.640
Too much fight for the other four attackers. They turned tail on exterminator,

4541
05:16:53.640 --> 05:16:58.240
heading east to a French air base. By the time exterminator reached England,

4542
05:16:58.380 --> 05:17:02.280
the crew was breathless ready to land upon ground, solid ground.

4543
05:17:02.830 --> 05:17:05.000
That was the most action they had seen to date.

4544
05:17:05.980 --> 05:17:09.470
When exterminator returned to the base, a thorough inspection was made.

4545
05:17:09.980 --> 05:17:13.670
Landing with a full bomb load was dangerous and could not be repeated.

4546

05:17:14.450 --> 05:17:16.670
As the chief in engineer looked closely,

4547
05:17:17.090 --> 05:17:20.830
an empty cartridge casing had lodged in the track of the Bombay door,

4548
05:17:20.960 --> 05:17:23.190
preventing the door from fully retracting.

4549
05:17:24.010 --> 05:17:25.950
As John B left through the Bombay opening,

4550
05:17:26.050 --> 05:17:29.860
he looked to the right wing tip and a gaping six inch hole. No doubt,

4551
05:17:29.860 --> 05:17:33.700
from the ship's nasty fla flack burst, but with a confirmed kill.

4552
05:17:33.700 --> 05:17:38.180
And a probable two small swastikas were painted on the left forward section of

4553
05:17:38.180 --> 05:17:42.140
the plane. They would only be down three days before going back to St.

4554
05:17:42.380 --> 05:17:44.020
Jere looking for more U-boats.

4555
05:17:48.770 --> 05:17:50.230
At the time they didn't know it,

4556
05:17:50.230 --> 05:17:54.110
but they were playing an an important role in the invasion of North Africa

4557
05:17:54.530 --> 05:17:59.190
dubbed Operation Torch. It was a major naval campaign, not unlike D-Day,

4558
05:17:59.450 --> 05:18:00.870
but I'll tell you about that in a moment.

4559
05:18:01.500 --> 05:18:03.750
When John B's crew returned to the base,

4560
05:18:03.820 --> 05:18:07.870
they learned that they had been selected to implement an experimental strategy.

4561
05:18:08.390 --> 05:18:09.430
Intruder missions.

4562
05:18:10.020 --> 05:18:14.150
John B was sent to Oxford to learn what he called more navigation,

4563
05:18:14.330 --> 05:18:18.270
no more tricks in navigation or high powered secret stuff.

4564
05:18:19.110 --> 05:18:20.770
As one of a handful of ships,

4565
05:18:20.850 --> 05:18:25.370
exterminator was outfitted with sophisticated navigation equipment called the G

4566
05:18:25.470 --> 05:18:27.250
Box that allowed blind bombing.

4567
05:18:27.250 --> 05:18:31.890
Through the overcast Christmas was approaching and this would be John B's second

4568
05:18:31.990 --> 05:18:34.970
one, away from home. Following the English custom,

4569
05:18:35.070 --> 05:18:37.690
the officers waited tables to serve the men. On that day,

4570

05:18:38.240 --> 05:18:43.090

John B was asked to deliver the blessing in what he considered a privilege.

4571

05:18:43.700 --> 05:18:47.450

Lieutenant Link sang songs, sang, sang some solos,

4572

05:18:47.590 --> 05:18:52.570

as did Major Sullivan the Co at the time, because Timberlake was in Africa,

4573

05:18:53.070 --> 05:18:55.890

who rendered a couple of songs in one of those fine tenors.

4574

05:18:55.890 --> 05:18:58.970

Some people call whiskey tenors, mellow and smooth.

4575

05:18:59.580 --> 05:19:03.690

Later on there was free beer for the boys, John B.

4576

05:19:03.790 --> 05:19:07.970

And Hugh celebrated a peaceful New Year's Eve at the Seaside Village of Felix

4577

05:19:08.040 --> 05:19:09.770

Stow. Two days later,

4578

05:19:10.040 --> 05:19:13.690

four crews were ready for what John B called a historical trip.

4579

05:19:14.150 --> 05:19:16.330

In addition to the high command being on hand,

4580

05:19:16.330 --> 05:19:20.810

there were about 32 news reporters covering the sendoff. It was a big deal.

4581

05:19:21.670 --> 05:19:23.930

On January 2nd, 1943,

4582

05:19:24.050 --> 05:19:28.970

exterminator and three other ships of the 93rd were the first American bombers

4583

05:19:28.970 --> 05:19:32.690

to penetrate German airspace as they headed for targets in the rural valley.

4584

05:19:33.300 --> 05:19:33.970

Ironically,

4585

05:19:33.970 --> 05:19:38.130

the weather cleared and under explicit orders not to risk the loss of the

4586

05:19:38.290 --> 05:19:41.650

airplanes. The mission was aborted. Three and a half weeks later,

4587

05:19:42.010 --> 05:19:46.570

exterminator bombed Germany's greatest naval base housing U-boat pens at Wilhelm

4588

05:19:47.360 --> 05:19:50.410

Wilhelm, Wilhelm Haven, Wilhelms Haven.

4589

05:19:51.730 --> 05:19:55.410

Although the four ships of the 93rd had made an earlier appearance on

4590

05:19:55.410 --> 05:19:56.243

January 2nd,

4591

05:19:56.710 --> 05:20:01.050

the history books write January 22nd as the first bomber mission into Germany.

4592

05:20:02.590 --> 05:20:05.540

After missions to Dunkirk, Vegi and Bordeaux,

4593

05:20:06.100 --> 05:20:08.940

a taste of war hit when the post was bombed,

4594

05:20:08.940 --> 05:20:11.700

presumably a a nearby post was bombed,

4595

05:20:11.700 --> 05:20:14.420

presumably reprisal bombing for the latest mission.

4596

05:20:15.090 --> 05:20:19.380

John b writes of feeling the concussion from the explosions that night.

4597

05:20:19.450 --> 05:20:20.660

Many men lost sleep.

4598

05:20:21.180 --> 05:20:24.660

Hardwick like other bases had trenches built just for this purpose.

4599

05:20:25.000 --> 05:20:28.700

But as I learned yesterday on Michael's movie, they had a bomb shelter.

4600

05:20:29.880 --> 05:20:31.500

By the end of May, they began,

4601

05:20:31.500 --> 05:20:35.500

they began to train for low level flying missions. Wing tip to wingtip.

4602

05:20:35.520 --> 05:20:40.300

At 180 miles an hour and a hundred feet off the ground buzzing the countryside.

4603

05:20:40.890 --> 05:20:45.300

That must have been a sight to see over the former peaceful English pastors.

4604

05:20:46.420 --> 05:20:49.820

I mentioned earlier that I would come back to the North African campaign.

4605

05:20:50.600 --> 05:20:55.140

The occupation opened an opportunity for FDR r Churchill and other leaders,

4606

05:20:55.360 --> 05:21:00.260

allied leaders to meet in January, 1943. The Casablanca Conference,

4607

05:21:00.910 --> 05:21:03.940

while the agenda focused on securing European lands,

4608

05:21:04.260 --> 05:21:09.260

destruction of enemy oil production was one of the many ideas conceived Romania

4609

05:21:09.280 --> 05:21:12.820

had joined the Axis and Plos D lay at the core of its oil supply.

4610

05:21:13.530 --> 05:21:17.380

PLOS D supplied the mached with one third of its petroleum requirements.

4611

05:21:17.930 --> 05:21:21.220

Eliminating the axis stream would immobilize Hitler's war.

4612

05:21:21.220 --> 05:21:25.980

Machine oil became one of the highest priority targets in the European Theater.

4613

05:21:26.920 --> 05:21:31.420

It took months for the idea to take shape in a workable, in a workable strategy.

4614

05:21:32.000 --> 05:21:36.820

The allied leaders elected to bra Hitler's refineries with America's

mightiest.

4615

05:21:37.120 --> 05:21:38.660

The Amer, the Army Air Corps.

4616

05:21:39.120 --> 05:21:43.300

And the 93rd bomb Group was one of the five groups essential in carrying out the

4617

05:21:43.300 --> 05:21:44.740

mission called tidal wave.

4618

05:21:46.310 --> 05:21:50.580

While most of the 93rd moved to to airfield designated Benghazi,

4619

05:21:50.630 --> 05:21:54.860

seven exterminators stayed back awaiting the schedules of two special

4620

05:21:54.870 --> 05:21:59.540

passengers. The extra travelers were lured Arthur Viscount Forbes,

4621

05:21:59.760 --> 05:22:03.060

former era attache at the British Embassy in Bucharest,

4622

05:22:03.320 --> 05:22:05.580

who had knowledge of the Romanian oil refineries.

4623

05:22:05.680 --> 05:22:10.500

And Gerald gearings the upcoming missions to architect exterminator who

4624

05:22:10.500 --> 05:22:12.780

carried the briefing, also carried the briefing film,

4625

05:22:13.340 --> 05:22:16.940

a 3D table model and detailed charts for the secret mission.

4626

05:22:17.630 --> 05:22:20.460

Since they were a single ship traveling John b course,

4627

05:22:20.660 --> 05:22:25.140

a circuitous route to avoid German patrols for the security of the mission,

4628

05:22:25.400 --> 05:22:28.980

the ship was packed with thermite bombs. Should the co, should the,

4629

05:22:29.200 --> 05:22:31.060

should the ship come under enemy hands.

4630

05:22:34.040 --> 05:22:38.730

John B spent his 28th birthday on the desert in a tent pitched in the,

4631

05:22:38.830 --> 05:22:40.290

in the pink African sand.

4632

05:22:40.710 --> 05:22:44.170

Living conditions above along the Libyan coast were rugged.

4633

05:22:44.630 --> 05:22:48.490

No real toilets, much less privacy. Poor water conditions,

4634

05:22:48.550 --> 05:22:51.490

and the constant wind made cleanliness in order difficult.

4635

05:22:52.270 --> 05:22:54.570

On July 19th, 1943,

4636

05:22:54.730 --> 05:22:58.450

exterminator led the group on the initial raid over PLOS D.

4637

05:22:59.040 --> 05:23:03.210

Shortly thereafter, the secret target was disclosed to the squadron officers.

4638

05:23:03.970 --> 05:23:07.330

Although there was pride in taking on a critical mission that touted shortening

4639

05:23:07.330 --> 05:23:10.050

the war, this would be a tough one for the flyboys.

4640

05:23:10.680 --> 05:23:15.010

With the possibility of high losses, they were encouraged to write letters home.

4641

05:23:17.560 --> 05:23:22.290

Many of you have seen the Cover of Life Magazine's July 26th issue headlining

4642

05:23:22.430 --> 05:23:23.740

the Eighth Air Force.

4643

05:23:24.380 --> 05:23:28.420

A large group of the 93rd were pictured on the front page. John B,

4644

05:23:28.720 --> 05:23:30.140

his crew members and many others.

4645

05:23:30.140 --> 05:23:32.700

Perhaps your loved ones appeared on this picture.

4646

05:23:34.790 --> 05:23:36.330

In the short weeks prior to the mission,

4647

05:23:36.410 --> 05:23:40.650

a mock target of oil refineries was outlined in white lime in the Libyan desert

4648

05:23:41.530 --> 05:23:45.090

telephone poles representing smokestacks and 55 gallon drums.

4649

05:23:45.330 --> 05:23:47.490

Defining manufacturing plants were laid out.

4650

05:23:48.570 --> 05:23:52.930

Practice raids of bombers screaming a hundred feet above the sand exceeding 200

4651

05:23:52.930 --> 05:23:55.650

miles per hour. Dropping dummy bombs were performed.

4652

05:23:55.950 --> 05:24:00.770

You can imagine the havoc the sand caused on those engines as mechanics worked

4653

05:24:00.770 --> 05:24:04.930

around the clock to maintain the ships. Meanwhile,

4654

05:24:04.930 --> 05:24:07.730

you can be sure the Germans heavily defended oil assets.

4655

05:24:08.390 --> 05:24:12.930

Access forces set up a corridor of machine guns and fast firing cannons

4656

05:24:13.350 --> 05:24:17.330

in the surrounding fields becoming more intense on approach to the refinery.

4657

05:24:17.400 --> 05:24:19.890

Complex barrage balloons,

4658

05:24:19.890 --> 05:24:24.650

trailing detonating lines were hung and fleets of fighters stood by at

4659

05:24:24.650 --> 05:24:27.850

nearby air. Drums ready to pursue the American aggressors

4660

05:24:29.770 --> 05:24:33.710

Sunday, August 1st, the A aviators were awakened at zero 200 hours.

4661

05:24:34.170 --> 05:24:37.310

It would be their longest day. Yet at the briefing,

4662

05:24:37.710 --> 05:24:41.630

expected losses approaching 50% were no secret for a mission that possessed

4663

05:24:41.790 --> 05:24:43.190

abbreviation of the war.

4664

05:24:43.850 --> 05:24:47.830

The commanding officer instructed the airmen that destruction of the complex was

4665

05:24:47.830 --> 05:24:52.670

primary and returning was secondary. Returning was secondary.

4666

05:24:54.010 --> 05:24:55.430

As the crews loaded up,

4667

05:24:55.430 --> 05:24:59.750

their liberators engines fired up and propellers swirled of grit. Of grit.

4668

05:25:00.050 --> 05:25:03.550

As they made their way down the sand filled taxiway toward the end of the

4669

05:25:03.550 --> 05:25:04.383

runway,

4670

05:25:04.690 --> 05:25:09.110

tanker trucks awaited each B 24 to top off her wing tanks heavily

4671

05:25:09.150 --> 05:25:13.630

burdened the liberators exceeded the maximum load allowance carrying full fuel

4672

05:25:14.020 --> 05:25:17.870

bomb and bullet cartridges. At half minute intervals,

4673

05:25:17.870 --> 05:25:19.030

the ships roared down.

4674

05:25:19.030 --> 05:25:23.230

The pure steel runway exterminator created a cloud of sand,

4675

05:25:23.230 --> 05:25:27.630

obscuring the view of the lib awaiting to take off to her rear bounding.

4676

05:25:27.630 --> 05:25:29.510

To gain enough speed, the wheels bounced,

4677

05:25:29.510 --> 05:25:33.110

bucking the ship until she left the ground with a heaved lift.

4678

05:25:33.730 --> 05:25:37.510

As the airstrip fell distant behind them, they rose to me formation.

4679

05:25:38.460 --> 05:25:42.350

Five distinct groups of B 20 fours headed north across the Mediterranean

4680

05:25:43.920 --> 05:25:45.550

along the way, inclement weather,

4681

05:25:46.370 --> 05:25:49.500

inclement weather and loss of planes compromised formations.

4682

05:25:50.000 --> 05:25:54.340

The two groups in the lead advanced while the trailing three dropped way back

4683

05:25:54.880 --> 05:25:58.020

at Corfu, they took a northeasterly turn into the sun.

4684

05:25:58.440 --> 05:26:02.020

German radar followed the ships as they flew over the Balkan mountains.

4685

05:26:02.520 --> 05:26:04.340

As they crossed the Romanian border.

4686

05:26:04.400 --> 05:26:08.180

The bombers descended low over the Dan River Valley.

4687

05:26:09.060 --> 05:26:12.900

Although radar tracking vanished ground spotters forwarded the group's

4688

05:26:12.900 --> 05:26:16.460

trajectory to the command. German defenses engaged.

4689

05:26:17.240 --> 05:26:21.060

The heavies approached the first initial point. But at the second ip,

4690

05:26:21.400 --> 05:26:25.460

the substitute mission leader of the first group banked right
erroneous

4691

05:26:25.730 --> 05:26:27.340

erroneously turning too soon.

4692

05:26:27.830 --> 05:26:30.540

Navigators and trailing ships were puzzled by the move,

4693

05:26:30.540 --> 05:26:34.700

but radio silence prevented clarification. Precious moments were lost.

4694

05:26:35.510 --> 05:26:39.640

John B and his fellow navigators were feverishly comparing the
topography and

4695

05:26:39.640 --> 05:26:42.480

streams below to the oblique views on the map.

4696

05:26:42.820 --> 05:26:46.480

But the ships were traveling at such speeds that they were on top of a landmark

4697

05:26:46.620 --> 05:26:50.400

before a comparison could be confirmed with the directional change.

4698

05:26:50.580 --> 05:26:54.120

Charts were essentially useless. Ground speed calculations didn't match.

4699

05:26:54.170 --> 05:26:58.760

Everything was wrong. I imagine John B reached for his throat mic saying,

4700

05:26:59.070 --> 05:27:01.120

rope, it's wrong. We turn too soon.

4701

05:27:01.780 --> 05:27:05.520

The second group in the 90 thirds traveling circus recognized the error and

4702

05:27:05.720 --> 05:27:10.680

maneuvered 90 degrees toward pti, no longer following their senior commander.

4703

05:27:11.140 --> 05:27:14.800

The original plan brought the ships through the less defended northwest sector.

4704

05:27:15.260 --> 05:27:19.520

But now the circus would confront the heaviest defenses on the south side

4705

05:27:20.030 --> 05:27:23.200

exactly the position the mission planners wanted to avoid.

4706

05:27:24.270 --> 05:27:27.370

At a hundred feet above fields of corn and cabbage,

4707

05:27:27.390 --> 05:27:31.570

the libs roared to the target at top speeds of 230 miles per hour.

4708

05:27:32.100 --> 05:27:36.130

Below hidden within haystacks were enemy gunners aimed at the bellies of the

4709

05:27:36.250 --> 05:27:37.030

libs.

4710

05:27:37.030 --> 05:27:41.010

Turret gunners strained to aim their 50 caliber machine guns down onto ground

4711

05:27:41.010 --> 05:27:45.650

forces as a first wave of circus roared out over the outer ring.

4712

05:27:46.040 --> 05:27:48.650

Some coming in so low, they brushed the tops of trees.

4713

05:27:49.030 --> 05:27:52.610

The German defenses opened up with a torrent of battering gunfire.

4714

05:27:53.300 --> 05:27:55.330

Black clouds containing shards,

4715

05:27:55.430 --> 05:28:00.370

shards of metal shrapnel dotted the horizon up ahead were hundred hundreds of

4716

05:28:00.370 --> 05:28:04.410

barr blocking barrage balloons anchored by cable table

4717

05:28:05.060 --> 05:28:09.290

tails with explosives detonating upon contact as they entered the box.

4718

05:28:09.430 --> 05:28:13.370

The B 24 gunners reached for their fifties and began thumping away at

the ground

4719

05:28:13.370 --> 05:28:14.203

weaponry.

4720

05:28:14.550 --> 05:28:17.730

The ships were driving through flack batteries that straddled them on both

4721

05:28:17.730 --> 05:28:22.570

sides. It was a five minute road to target a sing seemingly endless barrage

4722

05:28:23.230 --> 05:28:27.130

Airmen scattered shuttle shells to straight the flack towers before the axis

4723

05:28:27.130 --> 05:28:30.490

guns in imposed the same. The noise level was deafening.

4724

05:28:31.910 --> 05:28:36.390

Exterminator led the third wave with thunder mug on her left and let her rip on

4725

05:28:36.390 --> 05:28:40.310

her right out. The port was an 88 hidden behind a hedgerow.

4726

05:28:40.580 --> 05:28:44.030

Thunder mug dropped down as projectiles raced toward the ships.

4727

05:28:44.370 --> 05:28:47.430

But before pilot Roper had a chance to make an evasive maneuver.

4728

05:28:47.530 --> 05:28:50.950

The shards battered exterminator, a tinny act,

4729

05:28:51.010 --> 05:28:55.150

act sound hit her left aileron rudder and half of the elevator.

4730

05:28:55.650 --> 05:28:57.670

Her port wing was peppered with shrapnel.

4731

05:28:58.170 --> 05:29:01.550

The men in the plexiglass nose ducked to avoid incoming shells.

4732

05:29:01.550 --> 05:29:05.030

As the pilot held a death grip on the control column, keeping her steady.

4733

05:29:05.210 --> 05:29:07.630

As he focused his gaze ahead to the target,

4734

05:29:08.170 --> 05:29:11.790

he pushed the limits of forward speed coaxing her to the refineries.

4735

05:29:12.530 --> 05:29:16.670

But as the ships closed in on the target, the toll surged, without warning,

4736

05:29:16.830 --> 05:29:20.940

a large oil tank exploded directly in front of John B's right wing man let her

4737

05:29:21.000 --> 05:29:21.640

rip.

4738

05:29:21.640 --> 05:29:26.100

She was heading hopelessly into the explosion with no EV evasive choice.

4739

05:29:26.560 --> 05:29:27.140

She banked,

4740

05:29:27.140 --> 05:29:31.020

left dropping under the deck level and veered under exterminator and thunder mug

4741

05:29:31.020 --> 05:29:35.540

leaving inches between the ships. As the pilot pulled back to gain some height,

4742

05:29:35.780 --> 05:29:40.380

a stack emerged in front of him. He pulled the column back to to his gut.

4743

05:29:40.520 --> 05:29:44.100

And amazingly, the ship hurdled the structure. As she released her payload,

4744

05:29:44.740 --> 05:29:48.340

exterminator approached her alternate target with the refinery.

4745

05:29:48.560 --> 05:29:52.700

Framed in the crosshairs bombs were salvo out of bullets.

4746

05:29:52.760 --> 05:29:56.260

The waste gunner pitched thermite sticks as they passed over the refinery.

4747

05:29:56.610 --> 05:30:01.220

Finally, it was time to flee the smoke and thunder as roper banked left.

4748

05:30:01.570 --> 05:30:03.820

John b Shirley called out the heading home.

4749

05:30:05.260 --> 05:30:09.400

But the loof WAF fighters were waiting for the departure of the heavies bombers

4750

05:30:09.400 --> 05:30:13.200

had had escaped. The ground fire were now swarmed by access fires.

4751

05:30:13.660 --> 05:30:16.680

But as the libs left the outer ring, the battle was over.

4752

05:30:17.400 --> 05:30:21.360

Fighters turned away as fuel gauges approached empty and the surviving

4753

05:30:21.360 --> 05:30:24.600

liberators reversed a course that mirrored the morning's flight.

4754

05:30:25.620 --> 05:30:28.900

Exterminator endured a battering but joined formation.

4755

05:30:28.900 --> 05:30:33.900

Leading thunder mug and letter rip roper reduced power to conserve fuel,

4756

05:30:34.260 --> 05:30:36.180

easing the engines for the long journey home.

4757

05:30:36.730 --> 05:30:38.900

With the damage sustained to the left side,

4758

05:30:38.960 --> 05:30:41.860

the pilot would struggle to maintain a steady flight.

4759

05:30:43.330 --> 05:30:46.800

While the crew of the exterminator was aware of the loss of multiple brother

4760

05:30:47.040 --> 05:30:50.760

ships, it was sheer luck. They had made it through the hellacious battleground.

4761

05:30:51.420 --> 05:30:55.720

Now their lives depended upon four engines and a depleting fuel supply.

4762

05:30:57.640 --> 05:31:01.680

Exterminator was gaining on grease where she would skirt the border back to

4763

05:31:01.850 --> 05:31:04.000

corfu with the last hurdle over sea.

4764

05:31:04.620 --> 05:31:07.560

But as she flew over the Southern Bulgaria Bulgarian range,

4765

05:31:07.560 --> 05:31:10.640

trouble started with weather approaching.

4766

05:31:10.670 --> 05:31:15.040

They entered a heavy cloud bank exterminator and letter rip

4767

05:31:15.300 --> 05:31:19.880

remain tight as if their wings were welded together, visibility decreased.

4768

05:31:20.280 --> 05:31:22.760

A collision occurred. Ironically,

4769

05:31:23.160 --> 05:31:25.800

exterminator had made it through hell and was headed home.

4770

05:31:26.100 --> 05:31:28.400

But for the lo being lost in the clouds,

4771

05:31:28.950 --> 05:31:32.240

exterminators tail sh section dropped from the clouds,

4772

05:31:32.580 --> 05:31:36.280

let her rip cut away into a steep dive crashing into the mountainside.

4773

05:31:36.900 --> 05:31:41.000

Two broken aircraft plummeted to the ground were only a tangled mass of burning

4774

05:31:41.050 --> 05:31:43.800

steel lingered. Although four shoots were seen,

4775

05:31:43.810 --> 05:31:48.800

descending John B was officially classified missing in action for well over

4776

05:31:48.840 --> 05:31:51.650
a year from that solo battle,

4777

05:31:51.870 --> 05:31:54.090
one third of the liberators were lost and all,

4778

05:31:54.090 --> 05:31:58.890
but a few survived irreparable damage due to the high casualties and

4779

05:31:58.890 --> 05:31:59.710
bruising blow.

4780

05:31:59.710 --> 05:32:04.530
The Air Force ceased low level missions with major losses behind them.

4781

05:32:04.710 --> 05:32:08.650
The Allied War efforts were gaining ground, but by the end of the year,

4782

05:32:08.870 --> 05:32:11.130
the Air Force had secured bases in Italy.

4783

05:32:11.890 --> 05:32:16.850
Strategy was reset with sites adjusted to a near plo ti My father,

4784

05:32:17.020 --> 05:32:18.600
as part of the 15th Air Force,

4785

05:32:18.610 --> 05:32:23.440
would follow up with two trips to PLO Esti each time mindful of John

4786

05:32:23.660 --> 05:32:25.080
B's presumed outcome.

4787

05:32:26.420 --> 05:32:30.530

While my father's track was similar to John B's, I've sort of run outta time.

4788

05:32:31.130 --> 05:32:35.330

A couple of years back, I delivered his story at the US Embassy in Bucharest.

4789

05:32:35.760 --> 05:32:40.410

It's memorialized on YouTube. And if John B's story has tweaked your interest,

4790

05:32:40.530 --> 05:32:41.530

I hope you'll take a look.

4791

05:32:43.010 --> 05:32:47.930

A bit of research time and travel has given me much insight throughout the

4792

05:32:47.930 --> 05:32:50.090

process. I've gone through a range of emotions,

4793

05:32:50.190 --> 05:32:53.330

seeing what my father and uncle signed on for,

4794

05:32:54.150 --> 05:32:57.730

how awful that day after day they faced cruel objectives,

4795

05:32:58.170 --> 05:33:01.490

perilous outcomes of battered ships, lost friends,

4796

05:33:02.030 --> 05:33:04.730

and not knowing whether they'd be lucky enough to return,

4797

05:33:05.560 --> 05:33:07.910

especially that last mission over pti.

4798

05:33:08.610 --> 05:33:13.310

I'm sad that John B didn't get to course life beyond a bombing run or leave a

4799

05:33:13.350 --> 05:33:14.630
legacy of what might have been.

4800

05:33:15.170 --> 05:33:18.350
But I'm also pretty glad that beyond the family's image,

4801

05:33:18.650 --> 05:33:21.750
he was a pretty amazing guy with an indomitable spirit.

4802

05:33:22.590 --> 05:33:25.870
I certainly appreciate your patience and if you have any questions,

4803

05:33:26.090 --> 05:33:27.270
I'd be happy to answer them

4804

05:33:36.940 --> 05:33:38.600
in the back. Very back Bill.

4805

05:33:42.320 --> 05:33:47.310
I do. My dad, when I first started this, this mis, this quest,

4806

05:33:47.690 --> 05:33:51.950
um, I actually started it maybe 25 years ago when I asked my father,

4807

05:33:52.690 --> 05:33:56.430
um, tell me about Uncle John B. And he, and he said, test,

4808

05:33:56.550 --> 05:33:57.670
I want you to read this book.

4809

05:33:58.450 --> 05:34:03.030
And it was the original Esti book that Cal Stewart did back in 1962.

4810

05:34:03.210 --> 05:34:05.190
He got it from his p o w reunion.

4811

05:34:06.050 --> 05:34:10.710

And I got much of the last mission from Russ Longnecker

4812

05:34:10.930 --> 05:34:13.230

who was interviewed and he was in Thunder mug.

4813

05:34:13.690 --> 05:34:17.910

So most of that information while I, while I've synthesized other information,

4814

05:34:18.380 --> 05:34:22.510

much of it came from that pilot. Uh, that was right there.

4815

05:34:23.330 --> 05:34:25.950

Um, but yes, I, I've, I've had that and anyway,

4816

05:34:25.950 --> 05:34:29.830

I didn't read it 25 years ago when my dad was alive because I was raising my

4817

05:34:30.070 --> 05:34:32.310

daughters and my mind wasn't on that.

4818

05:34:32.450 --> 05:34:36.870

We did get about six hours of video of my father telling about his experiences,

4819

05:34:37.200 --> 05:34:40.710

which helped me a lot. But then I still fast forward.

4820

05:34:40.870 --> 05:34:45.430

I didn't get into this until my daughters graduated from college and I

4821

05:34:45.580 --> 05:34:49.310

retired. So, you know, you have to have a lot of time to do all,

4822

05:34:49.310 --> 05:34:51.790

as everybody knows, you have to have a lot of time to find the stuff.

4823

05:34:54.750 --> 05:34:57.790

I do have that and yes, I saw that. And um,

4824

05:34:57.950 --> 05:35:01.310

I appreciate you telling me this because there will be things that I don't know.

4825

05:35:01.590 --> 05:35:04.710

I mean, there was a picture over here that I showed at the beginning, um,

4826

05:35:05.330 --> 05:35:09.870

and John B was one of the original navigators in the three 29th. He,

4827

05:35:09.970 --> 05:35:13.710

he transferred to the three 30th later on their whole group, the crew.

4828

05:35:14.210 --> 05:35:18.340

But I saw a picture there, and that's what's wonderful about these reunions,

4829

05:35:20.340 --> 05:35:21.173

Jim.

4830

05:35:21.420 --> 05:35:25.560

So just to repeat Bill Sergeant's questions for the streaming folks, uh,

4831

05:35:25.560 --> 05:35:29.120

he asked about Ted's traveling circus and her research as well as, uh,

4832

05:35:29.420 --> 05:35:32.480

the d v D of Utah man, which she answered. So thank you for those answers.

4833

05:35:33.020 --> 05:35:36.360

My question is, uh, you may have said this, but how long was your,

4834

05:35:36.540 --> 05:35:38.560
was he your father interned?

4835
05:35:38.900 --> 05:35:40.040
He was, he was shot down.

4836
05:35:40.140 --> 05:35:42.720
And how old was, how old did he live to afterwards?

4837
05:35:43.300 --> 05:35:46.480
Um, he lived to be 75. He, um,

4838
05:35:47.100 --> 05:35:51.360
he was interned in Bucharest, um, for four months.

4839
05:35:52.060 --> 05:35:55.520
He was shot down in May. And, um,

4840
05:35:55.520 --> 05:35:59.920
they had a very exciting escape, um, in September, 1st of September,

4841
05:35:59.940 --> 05:36:04.800
end of August, 1st of September. And where they brought 1200 POWs,

4842
05:36:04.800 --> 05:36:08.880
including the ones from the 93rd. Uh, the ones that did tidal wave
back,

4843
05:36:10.760 --> 05:36:15.080
I think Colonel Gunn might have or not Colonel Gunn's son might've
spoken here a

4844
05:36:15.080 --> 05:36:16.000
couple of years ago. He

4845
05:36:16.000 --> 05:36:18.080
Did. He's spoken several times. Bill Gunn the gun. Oh,

4846

05:36:18.080 --> 05:36:18.460
Yeah, right.

4847
05:36:18.460 --> 05:36:19.840
He, he was fascinating story.

4848
05:36:20.030 --> 05:36:23.960
Yeah, he went to Romania with us, so I got to meet him there and he's got,

4849
05:36:23.980 --> 05:36:25.320
his dad has quite a story.

4850
05:36:29.210 --> 05:36:33.380
Bill, bill, bill, bill, thank you.

4851
05:36:36.680 --> 05:36:38.060
One other point. Uh,

4852
05:36:38.410 --> 05:36:42.020
they only were given one canteen of water in Benghazi,

4853
05:36:42.120 --> 05:36:43.780
if you've heard that word before.

4854
05:36:43.990 --> 05:36:45.460
Isn't that, that's amazing. You're

4855
05:36:45.460 --> 05:36:48.660
Hearing it again. Uh, the Germans had poisoned all the wells.

4856
05:36:50.670 --> 05:36:55.520
Well, they did that in Romania, where dad, my dad was, um, interned as a p o w.

4857
05:36:55.630 --> 05:36:58.120
They poisoned when Romania switched sides.

4858

05:36:58.230 --> 05:37:00.680

They poisoned all the water and they told the,

4859

05:37:00.820 --> 05:37:05.760

the POWs to sort of be on their own during the day because Germany was bombing

4860

05:37:06.000 --> 05:37:06.660

Bucharest.

4861

05:37:06.660 --> 05:37:11.440

And they felt that they were probably gonna hit the p o w camp first as one of

4862

05:37:11.440 --> 05:37:15.320

their targets. And they didn't, but well, they did out at the hospital.

4863

05:37:15.520 --> 05:37:18.280

I take that back, they did the enlisted men, they didn't do,

4864

05:37:18.420 --> 05:37:23.080

the officers were in a different location and the tidal wave guys were north in

4865

05:37:24.480 --> 05:37:28.720

Razzi or somewhere north in a, in a hotel north of Bucharest.

4866

05:37:30.030 --> 05:37:30.863

So

4867

05:37:31.110 --> 05:37:35.090

Jen, just a comment, um, we were talking earlier,

4868

05:37:36.270 --> 05:37:37.103

but, um,

4869

05:37:37.230 --> 05:37:41.940

my uncle co-pilot of the Duchess was in a different

4870

05:37:41.940 --> 05:37:44.980
element when returning from Leste,

4871

05:37:45.910 --> 05:37:48.890
but the reports from the plane, not from him personally,

4872

05:37:49.950 --> 05:37:53.880
that they saw the planes breakup, the Roper plane,

4873

05:37:53.880 --> 05:37:57.800
exterminator breakup in the clouds and pieces falling down.

4874

05:37:57.940 --> 05:37:59.080
So yeah,

4875

05:37:59.220 --> 05:38:03.200
my uncle witnessed her uncle

4876

05:38:04.300 --> 05:38:05.590
falling from the sky.

4877

05:38:05.850 --> 05:38:06.830
That's just amazing.

4878

05:38:08.020 --> 05:38:11.830
What amazes me more is the fact that they made it through p esti and then,

4879

05:38:12.210 --> 05:38:15.900
you know, they were on their way home. So. Well, thank you very much.

4880

05:38:16.100 --> 05:38:17.340
I appreciate any other questions.

4881

05:38:17.340 --> 05:38:19.220
Uh, one more question here from John. Yes,

4882

05:38:24.030 --> 05:38:28.170

mostly the Romanians were responsible for recovering, uh,

4883

05:38:28.430 --> 05:38:30.130

people at crash sites and all that.

4884

05:38:30.270 --> 05:38:35.210

Do you have any information about how they handled the crash sites for those two

4885

05:38:35.210 --> 05:38:36.730

planes and recovered the remains?

4886

05:38:36.870 --> 05:38:38.850

That's what I'm working on with Christine.

4887

05:38:38.950 --> 05:38:42.290

I'm so glad you introduced me to her because, um, she's,

4888

05:38:42.420 --> 05:38:45.490

we're gonna get follow up with that. And, um,

4889

05:38:45.610 --> 05:38:47.810

I don't know whether my hus my husband, my,

4890

05:38:47.990 --> 05:38:52.090

my uncle was actually ever brought back. Um, there is a plaque in St.

4891

05:38:52.090 --> 05:38:56.330

Louis with all of the crew members, but there are no, as I understand,

4892

05:38:56.330 --> 05:38:59.090

there are no like grave places around it.

4893

05:38:59.230 --> 05:39:01.050

So I think it was just a plaque to say.

4894

05:39:01.550 --> 05:39:05.970

But we do know from the m acr af, the four shoots that went down,

4895

05:39:06.070 --> 05:39:09.770

two died, two survived, and they were taken as POWs.

4896

05:39:10.430 --> 05:39:14.570

So when they were repatriated a year in our,

4897

05:39:14.810 --> 05:39:18.570

a year and two months later, um, they said, oh yeah,

4898

05:39:18.670 --> 05:39:22.890

the broad police buried all of the remains that they had together

4899

05:39:24.180 --> 05:39:26.600

or, you know, but they didn't say where they buried them.

4900

05:39:26.940 --> 05:39:28.680

I'm sure it's maybe the cemetery, I don't know.

4901

05:39:28.680 --> 05:39:33.680

It could be there wherever the plane, you know, fell. But I'm,

4902

05:39:33.820 --> 05:39:36.240

I'm, we're gonna work on that. And I told her, I'm gonna go,

4903

05:39:36.240 --> 05:39:39.480

I'll go to Bulgaria with her if she lets me. But she said, nah,

4904

05:39:39.580 --> 05:39:42.640

we don't like to have the family members come. And I said, that's okay. I'll,

4905

05:39:42.710 --> 05:39:45.280

I'll dig. So anyway,

4906

05:39:45.380 --> 05:39:48.560

Jen, I'm curious to know if you or your family have any, uh,

4907

05:39:48.780 --> 05:39:52.360

of your uncles from the 93rd, what I'll call memorabilia,

4908

05:39:52.420 --> 05:39:55.240

any of his original uniforms, uh, metals, et cetera?

4909

05:39:55.480 --> 05:39:58.400

I do, I do. Okay. And, and I'll tell you this whole journey,

4910

05:39:59.620 --> 05:40:02.840

the happenstance, the persistence that you have to have to keep going.

4911

05:40:03.580 --> 05:40:08.440

So my uncle, two weeks or three weeks after he was commissioned,

4912

05:40:09.020 --> 05:40:13.080

he got married. He probably only knew the girl for two weeks, which is great.

4913

05:40:13.240 --> 05:40:17.040

I mean, he loved her. And then they went to, she went to greener field with her,

4914

05:40:17.510 --> 05:40:21.360

with him. And so they were together, married eight weeks,

4915

05:40:21.780 --> 05:40:24.520

and then he went off to war. So

4916

05:40:26.250 --> 05:40:30.710

he dies. She doesn't marry for 10 years. She lives with her mother.

4917

05:40:31.330 --> 05:40:36.230

His foot locker is sent to the mother's house because the wife is a widow. Now.

4918

05:40:36.690 --> 05:40:40.150

She marries and goes to her husband, you know, she lives with her husband.

4919

05:40:40.410 --> 05:40:44.950

The Foot Locker stays in the grandmother's basement. The grandmother dies

4920

05:40:46.880 --> 05:40:49.860

and the the other sister gets the Foot Locker.

4921

05:40:51.070 --> 05:40:55.080

Then the wife never got the Foot Locker. The sister just cleaned out the mom,

4922

05:40:55.140 --> 05:41:00.040

the grandmother's house. So I, my mother wanted to, I,

4923

05:41:00.120 --> 05:41:04.720

I visited, um, this lady when I was in seventh grade and I knew she had a son.

4924

05:41:05.780 --> 05:41:10.080

She was dead. I called the son or I sought out the son. And I said,

4925

05:41:10.080 --> 05:41:11.580

do you have any letters from, you know,

4926

05:41:11.580 --> 05:41:15.220

would your mom have kept anything or anything like that? And he said, well, no,

4927

05:41:15.300 --> 05:41:17.980

I don't have anything, but maybe my cousins have something.

4928

05:41:18.400 --> 05:41:21.340

So I went to the cousins and it turns out they're hoarders,

4929

05:41:21.340 --> 05:41:26.020

which is great because they don't know who John B is from any, anybody.

4930

05:41:26.440 --> 05:41:29.020

And they had his locker in their basement in Colorado,

4931

05:41:29.600 --> 05:41:33.220

so I paid them to ship it to me. So I have his uniform,

4932

05:41:33.580 --> 05:41:37.260

I have the picture that, um, that I absolutely love,

4933

05:41:37.260 --> 05:41:41.100

which is the one where he's next to the Quonset hut. I'd never seen that.

4934

05:41:41.200 --> 05:41:42.660

And that was in the,

4935

05:41:43.160 --> 05:41:47.980

the locker as well as Walt Stewart wrote a letter to my, the widow,

4936

05:41:48.640 --> 05:41:52.930

my in-law, and sort of described what happened.

4937

05:41:53.070 --> 05:41:56.290

And I thought that was, he wrote Roper. And, and you,

4938

05:41:56.400 --> 05:41:59.210

some of you may know roper, some of you may not know the name,

4939

05:41:59.750 --> 05:42:04.450

but because he was early on, he was sort of, he had a lot of history. I mean,

4940

05:42:04.450 --> 05:42:07.890

there's a lot of information about him. And um,

4941

05:42:08.030 --> 05:42:11.650

so I have a lot of little tidbits in that Foot Locker, you know,

4942

05:42:11.650 --> 05:42:15.170

some of his navigation tools and you know, stuff like that. So

4943

05:42:17.640 --> 05:42:19.940

We all know his name, definitely Bill. Oh,

4944

05:42:19.970 --> 05:42:23.540

Okay. I didn't see any nods when I said it, so I wasn't sure.

4945

05:42:25.480 --> 05:42:27.020

But anyway, well, thanks again.

4946

05:42:28.250 --> 05:42:29.220

Very nice. Thank you.

4947

05:42:35.560 --> 05:42:38.900

Is it safe to say this is a story to be continued next year?

4948

05:42:42.570 --> 05:42:46.460

That was terrific. Thank you very much. Our next presenter will be Don,

4949

05:42:47.440 --> 05:42:51.980

and, uh, you're gonna speak about a lot of things, so turn it over.

4950

05:42:54.350 --> 05:42:56.730

My summary of grandpa's gonna be a little different than Jan's.

4951

05:42:56.730 --> 05:42:59.170

I'm just gonna kind of give you the rundown of grandpa's life,

4952

05:42:59.440 --> 05:43:01.330

basically cradle to grave, uh,

4953

05:43:01.330 --> 05:43:05.330

with a little bit of a pause around the World War II stuff, for obvious reasons.

4954

05:43:05.870 --> 05:43:06.290

But, uh,

4955

05:43:06.290 --> 05:43:10.450

I wanted to try to give you a understanding of grandpa since short of my mom.

4956

05:43:10.510 --> 05:43:13.250

No one here ever got to meet grandpa. Um,

4957

05:43:14.020 --> 05:43:17.800

he was born on December 23rd, 1920 in Oil City, Pennsylvania.

4958

05:43:18.300 --> 05:43:21.920

The family moved shortly thereafter to Ohio near Akron,

4959

05:43:21.980 --> 05:43:25.080

so the father could work in the rubber industry. Um,

4960

05:43:25.630 --> 05:43:28.080

grandpa's shown with, uh,

4961

05:43:28.100 --> 05:43:31.360

an unknown girl on the one side and then him with his, uh,

4962

05:43:31.540 --> 05:43:33.640

dog on in the beginning. Um,

4963

05:43:34.070 --> 05:43:37.760

kind of interesting thing when you talk to grandpa and he would tell his stories

4964

05:43:37.760 --> 05:43:41.280

as a childhood, um, as a younger child,

4965

05:43:42.450 --> 05:43:46.910
the imageries of like little Rascals always popped into my head. The,
the,

4966
05:43:47.090 --> 05:43:51.750
the shenanigans they got into and the fun they had and making stuff
out of

4967
05:43:51.750 --> 05:43:53.190
nothing, et cetera.

4968
05:43:53.930 --> 05:43:56.390
You watch The Little Rascals and they did the same kind of thing.

4969
05:43:56.570 --> 05:44:01.430
So I'm thinking though he might have been like Butch and Little
Rascals as

4970
05:44:01.430 --> 05:44:02.430
opposed to Spanky.

4971
05:44:02.570 --> 05:44:05.110
So I think he might have been a little bit of the tougher kid in the

4972
05:44:05.110 --> 05:44:06.630
neighborhood. Um,

4973
05:44:07.380 --> 05:44:07.690
Well

4974
05:44:07.690 --> 05:44:10.130
Did I hit the wrong button? Um,

4975
05:44:12.820 --> 05:44:14.800
uh, the teenage years. Um,

4976
05:44:15.240 --> 05:44:18.120
I just kind of wanted to give you kind of an understanding. Um,

4977

05:44:18.380 --> 05:44:22.200

he finished somewhere around eighth grade in education. Uh,

4978

05:44:22.260 --> 05:44:25.320

of course the depression had a strain on the family. Um,

4979

05:44:25.740 --> 05:44:27.360

by no means were they well to do.

4980

05:44:27.660 --> 05:44:30.480

Dad worked in the rubber industry as a machinist. Uh,

4981

05:44:30.500 --> 05:44:33.200

his mother died when he was a teenager. Um,

4982

05:44:33.220 --> 05:44:37.400

the middle picture actually is kind of an additional story later on,

4983

05:44:37.900 --> 05:44:42.800

but um, the family hunted in Pennsylvania, so he was good with the gun,

4984

05:44:42.800 --> 05:44:45.720

which ultimately played out good for his career in the military.

4985

05:44:46.260 --> 05:44:50.480

And then the lady on your right is my grandmother.

4986

05:44:51.020 --> 05:44:53.680

That's the earliest picture we have of her. Uh,

4987

05:44:53.680 --> 05:44:56.360

they didn't have a lot of money either. Um,

4988

05:44:56.360 --> 05:44:58.520

the one story I wanted to tell about this is, um,

4989

05:44:58.750 --> 05:45:01.640
grandma told me this after grandpa actually had passed away.

4990
05:45:01.950 --> 05:45:04.280
They were at a party teenage years.

4991
05:45:04.380 --> 05:45:07.200
She was about two years younger than grandpa now.

4992
05:45:07.200 --> 05:45:11.880
Grandpa was ornery and I know Bill Brown is in here in the room.

4993
05:45:12.540 --> 05:45:16.760
Um, if grandpa was here today, he'd probably be sitting with Bill Brown,

4994
05:45:17.220 --> 05:45:20.360
making little snide remarks like, boy, that guy's got a fat head.

4995
05:45:20.380 --> 05:45:24.680
Or not mean humor, but poking at me. You know,

4996
05:45:24.680 --> 05:45:28.320
he had a quick wit. Um, they were at this party, grandma said,

4997
05:45:28.660 --> 05:45:31.800
and he grabs her, pulls her onto his knee,

4998
05:45:32.090 --> 05:45:35.360
gives her a kiss on the cheek and says, will you marry me? Now,

4999
05:45:35.360 --> 05:45:39.320
they were teenagers as grandma put it, that was her first kiss from a boy.

5000
05:45:39.660 --> 05:45:43.280
So let's say he was 14, 15, she was probably 13 ish,

5001

05:45:44.260 --> 05:45:49.040

so that's fine. They grew up in the same neighborhood in outside of Akron,

5002

05:45:49.260 --> 05:45:50.800

the near the Firestone complex.

5003

05:45:51.850 --> 05:45:56.470

So I don't know why that screen keeps popping up. Um, jumping forward,

5004

05:45:56.890 --> 05:45:59.190

you know, he gets jobs,

5005

05:45:59.560 --> 05:46:04.510

works in the Akron area and then he winds up going into the military. Um,

5006

05:46:04.510 --> 05:46:07.030

he entered active service in October of 42.

5007

05:46:07.540 --> 05:46:11.350

Graduated gunnery school at Arlington, Texas in April 43,

5008

05:46:12.060 --> 05:46:15.230

graduated his aircraft armor score Lowry Field in Colorado,

5009

05:46:15.460 --> 05:46:20.030

near where Bill lives in June of 43. And then, uh,

5010

05:46:20.130 --> 05:46:21.630

we do have one little tidbit.

5011

05:46:21.710 --> 05:46:26.510

I have a bible that was given to him by his father that dates, uh, October 1st,

5012

05:46:26.510 --> 05:46:30.950

43. They were in Casper, Wyoming as part of their crew assembly. Uh,

5013

05:46:31.190 --> 05:46:34.390

probably the most interesting story about this time of their training,

5014

05:46:34.680 --> 05:46:37.630

their pilot, Gomer Snedden was originally from Wyoming.

5015

05:46:38.570 --> 05:46:40.470

So when they would do their training missions,

5016

05:46:40.570 --> 05:46:44.990

he decided he was gonna buzz his hometown and he went down Main Street.

5017

05:46:45.090 --> 05:46:48.350

So low grandpa said the buildings were going by the waste window.

5018

05:46:48.770 --> 05:46:51.070

So they were sucked down between the buildings.

5019

05:46:51.550 --> 05:46:53.590

B twenty four, a hundred and ten foot wingspan.

5020

05:46:54.260 --> 05:46:57.710

City streets aren't that wide and any city in Wyoming, probably today even.

5021

05:46:58.410 --> 05:47:00.110

And grandpa said as they got to the end,

5022

05:47:00.110 --> 05:47:04.830

there was a building that had some kind of a flagpole and they had to do this to

5023

05:47:04.830 --> 05:47:06.870

get the wing over the flagpole. Um,

5024

05:47:07.860 --> 05:47:09.740

apparently the crew wasn't very happy about that.

5025

05:47:11.470 --> 05:47:14.810

So just kind of giving you the highlights of his story. Uh,

5026

05:47:17.060 --> 05:47:19.110

they wound up, once it became a crew,

5027

05:47:19.110 --> 05:47:23.550

they traveled the southern route route to the E T o.

5028

05:47:24.490 --> 05:47:25.250

Um,

5029

05:47:25.250 --> 05:47:29.790

on the far side is our actual transfer paperwork that lists the crew,

5030

05:47:29.790 --> 05:47:33.950

the serial number. Uh, another interesting story is the middle picture.

5031

05:47:34.460 --> 05:47:35.670

It's really hard to see,

5032

05:47:36.490 --> 05:47:40.430

but the middle man is Stanley Jacobson and he's got a little monkey on his

5033

05:47:40.630 --> 05:47:43.590

shoulder. This is the reason I always wanted a monkey as a kid,

5034

05:47:43.930 --> 05:47:47.910

cuz grandpa talked about we had this pet monkey. And I'm like, how cool is that?

5035

05:47:48.170 --> 05:47:51.910

You know? But mom wouldn't let me have a monkey. So, um,

5036

05:47:52.290 --> 05:47:57.060

but this is one picture of grandpa is standing right

5037

05:47:57.060 --> 05:47:59.380

here and they had the monkey. Uh,

5038

05:47:59.460 --> 05:48:02.180

I always ask grandpa about the monkey and he goes, yeah, we had it.

5039

05:48:02.180 --> 05:48:05.820

They thought it was in either south a South America or North Africa.

5040

05:48:06.090 --> 05:48:09.380

They bought it as a souvenir. Whatever I asked him, he goes,

5041

05:48:09.380 --> 05:48:10.700

he didn't know what happened. Well,

5042

05:48:10.960 --> 05:48:15.620

at one of the reunions I was asking the other survivors of the crew and they go,

5043

05:48:15.690 --> 05:48:18.540

well you didn't tell 'em what we did to the monkey. And I went, no,

5044

05:48:18.540 --> 05:48:20.340

what'd you do to the monkey? Uh,

5045

05:48:20.620 --> 05:48:23.520

apparently grandpa would never admit this to me.

5046

05:48:23.910 --> 05:48:27.980

They tried to take it to England. Well they put the monkey on the plane,

5047

05:48:28.000 --> 05:48:31.100

it starts flying. Well the monkey probably didn't like being in an airplane,

5048

05:48:31.570 --> 05:48:35.420
wind noise shaking clattering around and it started climbing around
just

5049
05:48:35.420 --> 05:48:38.380
tearing, just going crazy. So apparently they chucked it out of the
plane.

5050
05:48:39.240 --> 05:48:43.220
So I wish grandpa didn't tell me that because I wouldn't have wanted a
monkey

5051
05:48:43.220 --> 05:48:45.740
then, but I still want a monkey. Um,

5052
05:48:47.200 --> 05:48:52.020
and then the picture on this side is the original plane they flew

5053
05:48:52.050 --> 05:48:55.220
over on, it was called the Big Fat Butterfly. Um,

5054
05:48:55.770 --> 05:48:58.380
kind interesting thing about that. There's just a few photos of it.

5055
05:48:58.690 --> 05:49:03.380
There's no full crew photo. I had one actually drawn by an artist. Um,

5056
05:49:04.210 --> 05:49:05.630
but as a kid I was like,

5057
05:49:05.630 --> 05:49:09.790
well that's pretty interesting nose art as a young child, a young man.

5058
05:49:10.570 --> 05:49:11.220
And uh,

5059
05:49:11.220 --> 05:49:14.990
also got me in trouble cuz I drew a artist rendition of it and colored
pencils.

5060

05:49:14.990 --> 05:49:17.710

And mom wasn't too thrilled with me, uh,

5061

05:49:17.720 --> 05:49:21.070

being able to duplicate that noark too well. Um,

5062

05:49:21.810 --> 05:49:26.350

but what was interesting is I had these photos but I could never seem to trace

5063

05:49:26.350 --> 05:49:30.430

it to the 93rd. It wound up this plane when they got to England, was given,

5064

05:49:31.160 --> 05:49:33.350

taken away from 'em given to the 44th.

5065

05:49:33.370 --> 05:49:36.870

And there are a few photos that survived from that time. Um,

5066

05:49:37.010 --> 05:49:39.590

and it was lost early shortly thereafter.

5067

05:49:40.130 --> 05:49:42.390

The co-pilot painted the nose art.

5068

05:49:43.450 --> 05:49:45.470

His girlfriend back home was named Shirley,

5069

05:49:45.690 --> 05:49:49.350

but she was like 16 something like that still in high school.

5070

05:49:50.020 --> 05:49:54.350

Well he sends a picture of the nose art with her name under the co-pilot's

5071

05:49:54.350 --> 05:49:58.670

window with a half naked lady called the big fat butterfly. Um,

5072

05:49:59.690 --> 05:50:04.550

her mother was not very happy about it and she promised me that she

5073

05:50:04.550 --> 05:50:06.460

was not the model for the nose art.

5074

05:50:07.200 --> 05:50:09.700

But I asked all the crew mates cuz I'm trying to, you know,

5075

05:50:09.700 --> 05:50:13.460

collect as much history as I can. As I was probably late teenager at this point.

5076

05:50:13.940 --> 05:50:15.780

I said, well you know, of course it's black and white.

5077

05:50:15.780 --> 05:50:18.380

What colors can you tell me? And they're like, well this was this,

5078

05:50:18.380 --> 05:50:20.660

this was that. Trying to give me what they remembered.

5079

05:50:21.240 --> 05:50:25.380

And all of them unanimously said the nose aren't had the brightest red hair.

5080

05:50:25.600 --> 05:50:28.540

And I'm like, okay, you know, makes sense.

5081

05:50:29.520 --> 05:50:33.300

So fast forward, I'm trying to find the veterans and their families.

5082

05:50:33.890 --> 05:50:37.100

Well the co-pilot who painted it, Carl Anderson had passed away.

5083

05:50:37.660 --> 05:50:41.180

I find his widow up in Michigan and my wife and I, and probably about

5084

05:50:42.720 --> 05:50:45.340

he eight, something like that, we go up to visit her.

5085

05:50:45.880 --> 05:50:49.020

So at this point she's probably in her seventies I would say at that time,

5086

05:50:49.790 --> 05:50:54.740

knock on the door and opens the door and out walks surely with bright red hair.

5087

05:50:55.440 --> 05:51:00.060

So apparently it's probably even better that it wasn't in color

5088

05:51:00.060 --> 05:51:04.620

because the mother might even been more mad. So,

5089

05:51:07.020 --> 05:51:09.640

um, just kind of walking through the story,

5090

05:51:09.700 --> 05:51:12.040

he was assigned to the 93rd on February 9th,

5091

05:51:12.040 --> 05:51:16.520

44 actually on the same orders as Paul's father.

5092

05:51:17.140 --> 05:51:19.520

So the actual orders at the same time,

5093

05:51:19.870 --> 05:51:22.960

Paul and grandpa lived literally straight across the housing area.

5094

05:51:23.580 --> 05:51:26.440

So you can see they were in this area, that's this section.

5095

05:51:27.070 --> 05:51:28.840

Grandpa's hut was right in this area.

5096

05:51:29.260 --> 05:51:33.440

And I've got several photos of 'em goofing around in that area.

5097

05:51:36.900 --> 05:51:40.830

They really need to make this thing upside down because it's backwards. Um,

5098

05:51:41.220 --> 05:51:45.550

just a few photos of them doing what guys do when they're killing time.

5099

05:51:46.370 --> 05:51:51.210

Um, these are all taken in that immediate area there on Hardwick. But you know,

5100

05:51:51.210 --> 05:51:53.130

there's grandpa and his various friends,

5101

05:51:53.320 --> 05:51:56.970

grandpa and Dave Wright at the Norwich Castle. I wound up,

5102

05:51:57.010 --> 05:52:01.050

I saw that fence line went over there and I saw him like that's exactly the

5103

05:52:01.050 --> 05:52:05.360

match. And in 2008, excuse me, my son and I,

5104

05:52:05.380 --> 05:52:06.760

we duplicated that photo.

5105

05:52:06.940 --> 05:52:10.720

Him and I same position everything except I didn't have a cigarette in my hand.

5106

05:52:11.380 --> 05:52:14.480

Um, like I said earlier, grandpa was a pretty funny guy and like,

5107

05:52:14.480 --> 05:52:18.040

here's a picture of grandpa with a stick acting like he's gonna hit his friend

5108

05:52:18.040 --> 05:52:22.520

over the head. So, uh, they had a good time as best they could.

5109

05:52:26.630 --> 05:52:30.920

Okay, so just kind of giving you highlights, his first mission was March 2nd.

5110

05:52:31.740 --> 05:52:33.560

Um, this is actually a photo of the plane.

5111

05:52:33.560 --> 05:52:37.120

They flew their first mission on the photo was taken in April,

5112

05:52:37.340 --> 05:52:38.800

so slightly thereafter.

5113

05:52:42.160 --> 05:52:46.340

And then the next day after their first mission they crashed on takeoff.

5114

05:52:46.960 --> 05:52:49.900

Um, I've talked to everybody about this pretty much,

5115

05:52:50.000 --> 05:52:54.580

but they were going down the main runway going north and about halfway up

5116

05:52:54.770 --> 05:52:55.900

variety of theories.

5117

05:52:56.000 --> 05:52:59.820

But the main kind of theory is tire blue mechanical failure.

5118

05:53:00.280 --> 05:53:05.220

It drifted to the left heading towards the bomb dump and then basically hit

5119

05:53:05.300 --> 05:53:10.100

a couple trees there by the perimeter track stopped and exploded. Um,

5120

05:53:10.240 --> 05:53:15.100

the photo on the right side was actually taken from over by the photo area

5121

05:53:15.130 --> 05:53:17.300

looking across when one of the bombs went off.

5122

05:53:17.520 --> 05:53:22.100

And I've now collected a few photos that kind of document the events of that

5123

05:53:22.100 --> 05:53:25.100

crash between the explosions. Um,

5124

05:53:25.860 --> 05:53:27.530

three of his crew mates were killed.

5125

05:53:27.920 --> 05:53:32.530

John F. O'Brien saw Stanley Jacobson and Salvatore Cambria.

5126

05:53:32.750 --> 05:53:37.370

And the top image is the only photo I've ever been able to find of that plane.

5127

05:53:38.110 --> 05:53:38.943

Um,

5128

05:53:38.970 --> 05:53:43.450

actually the interesting thing about that is I actually requested a photo of one

5129

05:53:43.450 --> 05:53:47.050

of grandpa's other planes from the National Archives and they send me this

5130

05:53:47.050 --> 05:53:51.850

picture and on the very top edge is a belly of a B 24

5131

05:53:52.070 --> 05:53:55.240

and just the bottom sliver of the E.

5132

05:53:56.260 --> 05:53:59.440

And I'm like okay, so what letters could that be? You know,

5133

05:53:59.440 --> 05:54:04.240

basically a long line. So it's not an I unless it's a capital I, it's you know,

5134

05:54:04.240 --> 05:54:07.600

trying to figure it out. And I'm like, if that was grandpa's plane,

5135

05:54:07.630 --> 05:54:11.960

it's too bad that photographer just didn't go like that just a wee bit because

5136

05:54:12.010 --> 05:54:15.360

there was a bunch of blue sky down here and the plane was being cropped off.

5137

05:54:15.940 --> 05:54:19.360

So little note to self, when you're dealing with the national archive,

5138

05:54:19.500 --> 05:54:23.680

the prints they have not even the ones that are now on ancestry and stuff,

5139

05:54:23.980 --> 05:54:28.800

the prints that when you go into the regular de look at they're like eight by

5140

05:54:28.800 --> 05:54:32.200

10 prints, but negative has got margin around it.

5141

05:54:32.200 --> 05:54:36.530

Let's use that terminology cuz I'm not a photographer so I contact the national

5142

05:54:36.530 --> 05:54:40.330

archive, I give them the photo number and I said, you got this photo. I said,

5143

05:54:40.330 --> 05:54:44.130

can you tell me how much margin you got on the negative? And they're like,

5144

05:54:44.400 --> 05:54:44.990

well you know,

5145

05:54:44.990 --> 05:54:48.050

we basically shoot the whole thing and I explain why I'm interested.

5146

05:54:48.520 --> 05:54:52.770

They pulled the negative and gave me a full negative print.

5147

05:54:53.310 --> 05:54:57.090

And basically now I have everything but the top of the bee and the tip of the

5148

05:54:57.090 --> 05:55:01.530

wing. So that's the only one we got of that plane in.

5149

05:55:01.760 --> 05:55:04.850

Call it almost 40 years of looking. Um,

5150

05:55:05.980 --> 05:55:08.520

and that would've been within probably two weeks of its loss.

5151

05:55:09.250 --> 05:55:12.710

So after the crash I asked grandpa, well not after the crash,

5152

05:55:12.770 --> 05:55:17.670

but I asked grandpa how he dealt with combat because grandpa was,

5153

05:55:17.770 --> 05:55:22.550

you know, pretty laid back guy and you know, he said, we went over there,

5154

05:55:22.550 --> 05:55:22.870

he goes,

5155

05:55:22.870 --> 05:55:26.870

I decided I was gonna live for today and I don't make any promises you can't

5156

05:55:26.870 --> 05:55:31.510

keep. So you know, grandma was his girlfriend friend back home,

5157

05:55:31.850 --> 05:55:34.230

he didn't promise or I'm gonna come home and marry you, he says,

5158

05:55:34.330 --> 05:55:36.670

cuz I don't know, I can keep that promise. Okay.

5159

05:55:37.410 --> 05:55:40.290

He gets over there by grandpa's own terms.

5160

05:55:40.590 --> 05:55:44.770

He lived today for today in England. Um, the other thing,

5161

05:55:44.790 --> 05:55:47.210

and my grandpa was not, I would say overly religious,

5162

05:55:47.510 --> 05:55:51.170

but he did have the Bible that his father gave him the little pocket Bible.

5163

05:55:51.830 --> 05:55:52.890

And what was interesting,

5164

05:55:52.890 --> 05:55:57.690

he said he always read the 23rd psalm and the ribbon was actually in that page

5165

05:55:58.040 --> 05:55:59.010

when that was given to me.

5166

05:56:01.830 --> 05:56:06.540

So he kind of really adopted the live

5167

05:56:06.550 --> 05:56:10.820

today for today. As I met and talked to many of his crew mates,

5168

05:56:11.090 --> 05:56:13.740

both the original and then the replacements. They said,

5169

05:56:13.770 --> 05:56:17.900

your grandpa was just so cool. I'm like, what do you mean? And he says,

5170

05:56:18.080 --> 05:56:19.460

you don't understand. He goes,

5171

05:56:20.240 --> 05:56:24.010

we'd be forming up and we'd all be nervous and the planes are coming in and he

5172

05:56:24.010 --> 05:56:26.810

was a gunner and everybody would be worried about what was coming. He goes,

5173

05:56:26.810 --> 05:56:30.170

your grandpa would either lay down on the floor in the back and say,

5174

05:56:30.170 --> 05:56:31.570

wake me up when we see the coast.

5175

05:56:32.420 --> 05:56:35.400

Or he was also known to sit in the window sill of the waist,

5176

05:56:35.950 --> 05:56:40.200

gunners just sit on the sill with the wind blowing by.

5177

05:56:41.460 --> 05:56:43.880

You know, he was just kind of, he wasn't worried about it.

5178

05:56:43.940 --> 05:56:47.480

He had accepted that if he makes it, he makes it. If he doesn't, he doesn't.

5179

05:56:48.090 --> 05:56:51.550

The other thing that grandpa and his one friend would do when they were flying

5180

05:56:51.550 --> 05:56:54.150

missions on the early one planes with the open waste,

5181

05:56:54.340 --> 05:56:57.270

they had the blast deflectors in front of the windows.

5182

05:56:58.430 --> 05:57:02.970

So they would get there and they would start doing this push out, push out,

5183

05:57:03.360 --> 05:57:04.970

alternating them back and forth.

5184

05:57:05.810 --> 05:57:09.630

Now that's a pretty good size plane and these are decent size, but he goes,

5185

05:57:09.630 --> 05:57:14.550

you could actually get to the right frequency using an engineering term to get

5186

05:57:14.570 --> 05:57:18.470

the plane to start to just go back and forth. And he goes,

5187

05:57:18.530 --> 05:57:21.670

before long the pilot would call back and say, would you guys quit that?

5188

05:57:22.010 --> 05:57:25.510

But they'd just sit there just to see if they could get him to notice the plane

5189

05:57:25.790 --> 05:57:29.710

starting to do this. Sorry, that was the closest thing I got to a advance. Um,

5190

05:57:30.730 --> 05:57:33.810

so, so just kind walking through.

5191

05:57:34.080 --> 05:57:36.650

Next big memorable mission was his D-Day mission.

5192

05:57:36.790 --> 05:57:41.420

He was actually on the first D-Day mission. They briefed overnight,

5193

05:57:41.930 --> 05:57:44.340

took off in the darkness. Um,

5194

05:57:44.690 --> 05:57:49.020

they basically formed up and did everything off of spotlights and bonfires going

5195

05:57:49.170 --> 05:57:52.940

northwest from the field to the corridor to the departure corridor and then down

5196

05:57:52.940 --> 05:57:57.040

to bomb. Um, so that was, you know,

5197

05:57:57.220 --> 05:57:59.280

pretty important to him. He remembered it.

5198

05:57:59.460 --> 05:58:03.200

And then I was able to find photographs of both the noar and the plane that he

5199

05:58:03.360 --> 05:58:05.560

actually flew on, on D-day. Um,

5200

05:58:06.060 --> 05:58:10.120

and they were actually the lead aircraft in the 93rd and they would've been

5201

05:58:11.460 --> 05:58:15.550

like the next element over from the red ass,

5202

05:58:15.550 --> 05:58:18.560

which is now called the Bunge buckaroo.

5203

05:58:18.790 --> 05:58:22.280

They've changed the name for political reasons per se, but uh,

5204

05:58:22.300 --> 05:58:25.320

it was right there with that initial run over.

5205

05:58:28.600 --> 05:58:31.850

Another interesting story. And he passed away a couple years ago.

5206

05:58:32.200 --> 05:58:36.330

Grandpa was in his hut, and sometime early to mid-July,

5207

05:58:36.550 --> 05:58:40.730

Leo Bates transfers in and I got this story from Leo and it gives you a good

5208

05:58:40.730 --> 05:58:43.410

idea of grandpa's humor, maybe a little dark.

5209

05:58:43.950 --> 05:58:48.490

Leo comes in as new guy on base and grandpa tells him the story. He goes, well,

5210

05:58:48.490 --> 05:58:50.650

what you can do is he goes, when you,

5211

05:58:50.870 --> 05:58:53.370

you start on the run and the flack is coming up,

5212

05:58:53.390 --> 05:58:57.650

if you get in the Bombay and there's flack burst below you, the flack will,

5213

05:58:57.670 --> 05:59:00.340

you know, go every direction. Well, as the flack comes up,

5214

05:59:00.340 --> 05:59:04.700

if it hits the top of its trajectory before it starts to fall down,

5215

05:59:04.700 --> 05:59:07.740

there's a pause point, right? Zero velocity before it drops.

5216

05:59:07.920 --> 05:59:09.820

So he goes as they're going every which way,

5217

05:59:10.080 --> 05:59:12.620

you'll see pieces going every which way. And he goes, if you're in the Bombay,

5218

05:59:12.620 --> 05:59:14.820

one comes up, you can sometimes grab it out of the air.

5219

05:59:16.600 --> 05:59:21.460

So grandpa tells Leo this story, Leo goes on his first mission, he says,

5220

05:59:21.460 --> 05:59:24.620

the bombs, the flacks going off, the Bombays are open. He goes,

5221

05:59:24.620 --> 05:59:28.310

he gets up there and he is looking and he says, next thing he said,

5222

05:59:28.310 --> 05:59:32.630

flack coming. He goes, goes right through. And he goes, I never got me flack.

5223

05:59:33.170 --> 05:59:36.030

So, you know, it's kind of interesting, you know, grandpa giving a hard time.

5224

05:59:36.630 --> 05:59:38.470

I asked grandpa, I said, well that's kind of mean, you know,

5225

05:59:38.470 --> 05:59:40.910

he could have been hurt. And he goes, no, the flock was going everywhere,

5226

05:59:41.470 --> 05:59:44.070

anywhere you went it could have been there. So, but um,

5227

05:59:44.260 --> 05:59:45.710

they had a good time and it was actually,

5228

05:59:45.730 --> 05:59:48.550

Leo had told me that story a couple times that, you know, he goes,

5229

05:59:48.550 --> 05:59:52.990

your grandpa was really pretty orry, uh, if he got hurt,

5230

05:59:52.990 --> 05:59:55.510

it might have used a different adjective. So, um,

5231

05:59:55.940 --> 05:59:59.860

just kind of an interesting thing, grandpa did keep his short snorter,

5232

06:00:00.360 --> 06:00:02.700

if you notice it's not on a US dollar bill,

5233

06:00:03.660 --> 06:00:07.250

which is what most short snorers were. And I asked him about that and he goes,

5234

06:00:07.250 --> 06:00:11.360

well, I wasn't gonna waste a perfectly good dollar, pretty thrifty. Uh,

5235

06:00:11.620 --> 06:00:14.960

and actually Leo's name is right there.

5236

06:00:15.420 --> 06:00:16.960

And I had talked to Leo many,

5237

06:00:16.960 --> 06:00:21.120

many years ago when I had identified him off of the short snorter and that

5238

06:00:21.120 --> 06:00:24.120

started that relationship, John. Yep. What

5239

06:00:24.120 --> 06:00:24.953

The story about

5240

06:00:27.150 --> 06:00:29.890

It was, um, it was kind of a, a good luck,

5241

06:00:30.890 --> 06:00:34.090

I guess way to say it is a good luck gambling thing. Uh,

5242

06:00:34.090 --> 06:00:36.930

you would have your friends sign it, that was for good luck.

5243

06:00:37.270 --> 06:00:41.810

But if you went into a bar and you basically said, who's got their short snor?

5244

06:00:41.910 --> 06:00:44.850

If everyone produced a short snort and you made the call,

5245

06:00:45.430 --> 06:00:46.810

you had to buy a round of drinks.

5246

06:00:47.510 --> 06:00:50.930

But if you make the call and someone in the room doesn't have their short snort

5247

06:00:50.930 --> 06:00:55.090

order, they then have to buy the round of drinks. So you, it was kind of like,

5248

06:00:55.090 --> 06:00:59.490

almost like an insurance policy, but it was also for good luck. So, uh, I guess

5249

06:01:01.110 --> 06:01:05.490

No, no, these aren't even a crew. Um, if you notice, uh, the top,

5250

06:01:05.800 --> 06:01:10.530

I've been able to identify Leslie Hagen, Leo Bates and Dave Wright.

5251

06:01:11.110 --> 06:01:16.050

The rest of the names I haven't been able to trace necessarily the 93rd or were

5252

06:01:16.050 --> 06:01:18.250

they somebody bumped into in London or whatever.

5253

06:01:18.760 --> 06:01:23.450

This lady lived in London and actually I have a bi like a

5254

06:01:23.620 --> 06:01:26.650

index card business card from her with her name and address.

5255

06:01:27.040 --> 06:01:27.890

From what we can tell,

5256

06:01:27.890 --> 06:01:32.290

we're thinking she might have worked at the Red Cross somewhere in London. Um,

5257

06:01:33.370 --> 06:01:34.710

but she actually signed it.

5258

06:01:34.710 --> 06:01:39.590

And then on the other side he had wrote Regents Hotel 27 Bernard Street,

5259

06:01:40.250 --> 06:01:44.310

WSC. And uh, I actually went to that address. Now it's a kinda like,

5260

06:01:44.310 --> 06:01:47.190

almost like an apartment block run. Go ahead.

5261

06:01:52.240 --> 06:01:53.073

Okay.

5262

06:01:59.050 --> 06:02:03.970

Okay. No, no, you all have one.

5263

06:02:04.670 --> 06:02:05.650

You would wanna have one.

5264

06:02:12.340 --> 06:02:15.390

Hang on just a minute, bill, if you would, bill. I think that's very, uh,

5265

06:02:15.390 --> 06:02:17.070

important and cool. Wayne, could you repeat that?

5266

06:02:17.070 --> 06:02:18.630

What you said about the shorts order?

5267

06:02:20.090 --> 06:02:21.310

Yes. When, uh,

5268

06:02:21.620 --> 06:02:26.190

when you received the short order was when you crossed the equator.
Uh,

5269

06:02:26.420 --> 06:02:30.030

then, uh, when we went into Brazil,

5270

06:02:30.810 --> 06:02:33.710

we were south of the equator, so, uh,

5271

06:02:33.810 --> 06:02:38.120

all my crew signed short starters for each member of the crew.

5272

06:02:38.360 --> 06:02:39.193

Hmm, okay,

5273

06:02:42.730 --> 06:02:43.320

We'll we'll

5274

06:02:43.320 --> 06:02:44.680

Start, uh, moving the mic around.

5275

06:02:48.680 --> 06:02:53.140

You have it for 30 seconds, Don. Two points. One,

5276

06:02:53.480 --> 06:02:54.080

my,

5277

06:02:54.080 --> 06:02:58.620

the pilot that was with my dad when they were killed is on that bill.

5278

06:02:59.060 --> 06:03:02.080

Al's name is on there. And two,

5279

06:03:02.550 --> 06:03:07.040

everybody was giving me pictures of your father's, your grandfather's

crash,

5280

06:03:07.040 --> 06:03:08.840

saying this was my father's crash.

5281

06:03:09.000 --> 06:03:14.000

I have more pictures of of that bomb going off than I have of until you gave me

5282

06:03:14.000 --> 06:03:18.550

the other pictures right, of my father's plane. And I thank you again.

5283

06:03:20.410 --> 06:03:25.080

Let's see, his last mission was on September 26th.

5284

06:03:25.820 --> 06:03:29.120

Uh, they actually flew on oh, 95 R it was called Sleepy Time Gal.

5285

06:03:29.120 --> 06:03:32.520

We got a couple photos of that. Uh, when I first started looking,

5286

06:03:32.520 --> 06:03:35.960

there were no photos identified in the group. And I, you know,

5287

06:03:35.960 --> 06:03:37.840

by looking through photo albums, et cetera,

5288

06:03:38.000 --> 06:03:41.800

I was able to pull together the photos that we do have of it now.

5289

06:03:42.260 --> 06:03:45.840

Got two of it flying, one taken off, one landing, and then one of the nose art.

5290

06:03:46.620 --> 06:03:48.040

Hey Don. Yep. Let me interrupt.

5291

06:03:48.120 --> 06:03:51.040

I wanted to follow up a little bit with what Bill said. Uh,

5292

06:03:51.070 --> 06:03:55.520

back when we first started looking for information about my uncle's crash,

5293

06:03:56.260 --> 06:03:57.093

we got,

5294

06:03:57.300 --> 06:04:01.640

we received several pictures that were of the crash

5295

06:04:02.620 --> 06:04:06.240

and, you know, eventually I showed them to Dawn and sent 'em to him and he,

5296

06:04:06.660 --> 06:04:10.720

he starts looking at 'em really closely because we're working on the movie and

5297

06:04:10.740 --> 06:04:14.400

he says, that's not your uncle's crash. And he told me why,

5298

06:04:14.400 --> 06:04:18.960

because of all the landmarks that were where you could see where the tower was

5299

06:04:19.020 --> 06:04:23.080

and different things. It was somebody else's crash. So we ended up,

5300

06:04:23.080 --> 06:04:27.560

we only had one photo that, and Michael made that point in the film,

5301

06:04:28.030 --> 06:04:29.720

there's only one photo of that crash,

5302

06:04:29.720 --> 06:04:33.910

but if you ask somebody do you have a picture of the crash that,

5303

06:04:34.050 --> 06:04:38.830

so what'll happen, you'll get 20 pictures, it'll all be of, of, uh,

5304

06:04:39.160 --> 06:04:40.670

Don's grandfather's crash.

5305

06:04:43.350 --> 06:04:44.550

I wish there were 20, but

5306

06:04:44.700 --> 06:04:49.070

Yeah. Well, whatever. So Don, just a quick historical question.

5307

06:04:49.070 --> 06:04:52.910

How many crashes were there on Hardwick? You know, one

5308

06:04:53.340 --> 06:04:58.100

Over the years? Well, there was one at the North Grandpa's

5309

06:04:58.240 --> 06:05:02.940

2, 3, 4, 5, 5 I can think of in the

5310

06:05:02.940 --> 06:05:05.940

immediate crash crash. Not a hard landing let's say.

5311

06:05:06.520 --> 06:05:09.660

And then Ruth and Marie crashed in July, which was from another group.

5312

06:05:09.920 --> 06:05:11.180

That's when that came in.

5313

06:05:11.180 --> 06:05:15.180

Just missed the control tower and slammed into buildings behind the control

5314

06:05:15.180 --> 06:05:18.220

tower just north of middle hanger.

5315

06:05:18.990 --> 06:05:20.290
If you look at some of the aerial photos,

5316
06:05:20.290 --> 06:05:23.770
you'll actually see the building is being rebuilt and then it's got a new roof,

5317
06:05:23.830 --> 06:05:25.130
et cetera. So you, again,

5318
06:05:25.130 --> 06:05:29.210
you can date those photos to post the Ruth Marie crashing. So,

5319
06:05:30.150 --> 06:05:34.010
uh, just again, the only photo, and this came to me,

5320
06:05:34.010 --> 06:05:36.210
this is kind of how to a little bit, uh,

5321
06:05:36.210 --> 06:05:39.770
the photo on the one side is actually the crew after grandpa's crash,

5322
06:05:39.770 --> 06:05:42.690
they broke up the crew and like reassembled him different.

5323
06:05:43.030 --> 06:05:46.050
That's Lieutenant Devin and there's my grandpa.

5324
06:05:46.430 --> 06:05:50.170
That's the only call it action bomber picture we've got of him

5325
06:05:51.230 --> 06:05:54.610
in he's flight gear, et cetera. It's not the best quality pitcher,

5326
06:05:54.710 --> 06:05:58.530
but it's the only one we got, which I think is pretty cool. Uh,

5327
06:05:58.550 --> 06:06:00.170

and then I also have his, uh,

5328

06:06:00.360 --> 06:06:03.730

mission list showing his missions and uh,

5329

06:06:04.190 --> 06:06:05.730

and then of course it signed off.

5330

06:06:07.990 --> 06:06:12.050

He did get the DFC on October 2nd. Um,

5331

06:06:12.270 --> 06:06:16.370

my grandpa's kneeling down and then there's General Timberlake.

5332

06:06:19.260 --> 06:06:19.550

Yeah,

5333

06:06:19.550 --> 06:06:22.910

and that's that spot I was talking about that they build onto the end of the

5334

06:06:23.070 --> 06:06:23.903

building. But again,

5335

06:06:24.210 --> 06:06:28.410

the water tower is in the background so you can start figuring out where you're

5336

06:06:28.410 --> 06:06:32.430

at. What's that? Yeah,

5337

06:06:32.590 --> 06:06:34.030

Morris's hanger would be

5338

06:06:35.950 --> 06:06:38.250

on down from the water tower sitting out here.

5339

06:06:41.280 --> 06:06:42.113

Uh,

5340

06:06:43.940 --> 06:06:46.520

I'm gonna have to figure this out because I fixed this last night.

5341

06:06:47.030 --> 06:06:49.360

It's something wonky going on. Um,

5342

06:06:50.700 --> 06:06:55.560

the one story grandpa told was after they flew their mission or after the crash,

5343

06:06:55.620 --> 06:07:00.480

the one fellow Dave Wright was sent to another base sometime in the summer after

5344

06:07:00.480 --> 06:07:01.600

grandpa finished his missions.

5345

06:07:01.600 --> 06:07:05.960

He was in London on leave and he'd get back to the train station to go back to

5346

06:07:05.960 --> 06:07:10.080

Norwich to get back to the base and off pops his friend Dave Wright

5347

06:07:11.380 --> 06:07:14.880

and Dave goes, let's go to town. And grandpa goes, I can't, I gotta go back.

5348

06:07:14.880 --> 06:07:18.040

He goes, oh, you're not flying, let's go. So grandpa turns tail,

5349

06:07:18.040 --> 06:07:23.000

they go back to London for a couple days when Dave's leave is finished up,

5350

06:07:23.750 --> 06:07:26.440

Dave goes back to his base, grandpa goes back to his grandpa,

5351

06:07:26.680 --> 06:07:28.840

actually got back on base, no one noticed he was missing.

5352

06:07:29.320 --> 06:07:34.000

Apparently another guy was on the same train that was also a 0 l

5353

06:07:34.850 --> 06:07:39.770

A W O L and got caught. So when he got in trouble, he says, well,

5354

06:07:39.770 --> 06:07:42.250

if I'm gonna get in trouble, so is he and ratted on grandpa?

5355

06:07:42.690 --> 06:07:46.810

I actually know who the guy's name is. I figured that out in the archive. Uh,

5356

06:07:47.190 --> 06:07:50.290

I'm glad I didn't tell grandpa there cuz he probably would've punched him. But,

5357

06:07:50.310 --> 06:07:55.220

um, long story short, um, grandpa finally gets, you know, brought up and they,

5358

06:07:55.330 --> 06:07:58.660

they want to talk to him. Why? And he tells 'em, he goes, well, you know,

5359

06:07:58.920 --> 06:08:01.620

my friend from here we met, I didn't have to fly.

5360

06:08:01.680 --> 06:08:04.980

So I went back into town for two days and he goes, okay. He goes,

5361

06:08:05.000 --> 06:08:08.060

so why'd you finally come back? He goes, we ran outta money.

5362

06:08:09.230 --> 06:08:12.210
So I purposely picked pictures of,

5363
06:08:12.690 --> 06:08:14.810
I didn't feel right putting a church on,

5364
06:08:14.870 --> 06:08:18.650
but I'm sure he went to Piccadilly and maybe went to uh, you know,

5365
06:08:19.590 --> 06:08:23.760
some other landmarks. But I actually moved those around last night.

5366
06:08:23.980 --> 06:08:26.890
So yeah, something funky. Um,

5367
06:08:27.620 --> 06:08:29.170
after he finished his missions,

5368
06:08:29.400 --> 06:08:31.170
they asked him if he wanted to go home right away.

5369
06:08:31.170 --> 06:08:32.810
He said he wasn't in any rush per se,

5370
06:08:33.150 --> 06:08:36.650
so they put him into the 93rd three 28th base supply.

5371
06:08:37.550 --> 06:08:42.000
And one of these photos was that far one

5372
06:08:42.500 --> 06:08:46.200
we had of grandpa that came through his collection. Um,

5373
06:08:46.980 --> 06:08:49.360
and a little bit of a side note,

5374
06:08:49.820 --> 06:08:54.120
the other three came to me within the last five years from a cousin,

5375

06:08:54.320 --> 06:08:59.200

cousin's daughter that I've probably seen once in my life at a family

5376

06:08:59.200 --> 06:09:01.600

picnic when I was 10. And she goes, oh,

5377

06:09:01.600 --> 06:09:03.800

here's an envelope and here's some stuff in there.

5378

06:09:04.020 --> 06:09:08.230

So that'll go to my next topic. Um,

5379

06:09:09.610 --> 06:09:13.510

again, after he finished up in supply, uh,

5380

06:09:13.540 --> 06:09:16.990

they departed Hardwick or grandpa departed on the 21st.

5381

06:09:17.300 --> 06:09:19.550

They boarded on the fourth, fifth to the 11th.

5382

06:09:19.980 --> 06:09:22.310

They took the Queen Mary back to New York City.

5383

06:09:24.330 --> 06:09:29.130

And this is kind of a little bit to how to do research on his discharge papers.

5384

06:09:29.270 --> 06:09:32.130

It shows the date he arrived back in the States,

5385

06:09:32.130 --> 06:09:36.430

but it didn't have a departure date. And I knew he came home on the Queen Mary.

5386

06:09:36.730 --> 06:09:39.630

So I contacted the Queen Mary and had him pull the captain's log.

5387

06:09:40.170 --> 06:09:43.510

So the captain's log was able to tell me on the cruise that ended on the 11th,

5388

06:09:44.170 --> 06:09:47.350

it departed on the fifth and boarded on the fourth. So,

5389

06:09:47.350 --> 06:09:51.190

and I've got more details like when they boarded the wounded and yada yada y but

5390

06:09:51.690 --> 06:09:54.030

so just because it's missing even on his official paperwork,

5391

06:09:54.050 --> 06:09:57.470

you might be able to skin the cat a different way unless you're a cat lover and

5392

06:09:57.470 --> 06:10:01.840

then whatever. Um, once he was back in the States, um,

5393

06:10:02.140 --> 06:10:06.400

and this is not a picture, this is just one I grabbed for impact's sake.

5394

06:10:06.980 --> 06:10:10.800

Um, when he got back to the states to actually put him as a line chief mechanic,

5395

06:10:10.830 --> 06:10:14.680

line chief for 80 sixes down in Texas, um,

5396

06:10:14.830 --> 06:10:17.640

when they were going over the pilot wanted to make sure everyone understood

5397

06:10:17.730 --> 06:10:21.720

basic flight principles in case as the pilot put it, if his crew,

5398

06:10:21.940 --> 06:10:23.360
him and the co-pilot were wounded,

5399

06:10:23.810 --> 06:10:26.200
could they get 'em heading back in the right direction?

5400

06:10:26.500 --> 06:10:29.640
So they all had a little bit of flying time. Grandpa said,

5401

06:10:29.640 --> 06:10:30.760
by no means was I a pilot,

5402

06:10:30.940 --> 06:10:34.320
but I knew the general principles of keeping it going.

5403

06:10:35.140 --> 06:10:36.880
So when grandpa gets to be line chief,

5404

06:10:36.940 --> 06:10:41.840
one of his duties was to taxi the at sixes down to the Compass roset

5405

06:10:42.020 --> 06:10:43.920
to check it out. Well,

5406

06:10:44.100 --> 06:10:46.320
on one end of the field was all the hangers and maintenance,

5407

06:10:46.320 --> 06:10:50.680
and then that was opposite end. So grandpa would tax it down. But
again,

5408

06:10:50.680 --> 06:10:55.140
having some basic skills, he was known to taxi too fast.

5409

06:10:55.720 --> 06:10:58.980
So he said the tower would call down and say, you know, da da da da,
da,

5410

06:10:58.980 --> 06:11:03.500

8, 6, 1, 2, 3, whatever it was, you're flying too low or taxing too fast.

5411

06:11:03.880 --> 06:11:07.300

He says, I'd get it up. And it was just, just starting to take off. And he goes,

5412

06:11:07.400 --> 06:11:10.380

I'd, he goes, I wasn't gonna putz the whole way down again.

5413

06:11:10.520 --> 06:11:14.840

He was kind to ornery. Um, so again,

5414

06:11:15.400 --> 06:11:16.920

post-war, he came home,

5415

06:11:17.180 --> 06:11:22.120

he had worked for Firestone before the war and then after the war one of

5416

06:11:22.120 --> 06:11:24.600

his major employments was Mohawk Tire and Rubber,

5417

06:11:25.170 --> 06:11:26.920

again working as a pipe fitter.

5418

06:11:27.180 --> 06:11:30.840

And he wound up doing early retirement due to back issues that actually traced

5419

06:11:30.840 --> 06:11:34.200

back to the crash, the injuries that he sustained there.

5420

06:11:35.060 --> 06:11:38.690

And kind of interesting, he actually tried to get some medical disability.

5421

06:11:39.000 --> 06:11:41.730

They said they could find no proof that he was involved in a crash.

5422

06:11:42.390 --> 06:11:46.650

And this was in the seventies. Ironically, as soon as I got the crash report,

5423

06:11:46.650 --> 06:11:49.970

it clearly showed Sergeant Morrison da da da injured.

5424

06:11:50.350 --> 06:11:52.650

So they said they couldn't find proof like that.

5425

06:11:52.710 --> 06:11:57.330

Now you can find a crash report. So little interesting thing, um,

5426

06:11:57.520 --> 06:12:00.850

just a little tidbit. We had two crew reunions form,

5427

06:12:00.850 --> 06:12:05.610

well partial crew reunions. Um, this one was in Dayton.

5428

06:12:05.610 --> 06:12:09.650

There's my grandpa Dave Wright, the famous a 0 w 0 L guy.

5429

06:12:10.070 --> 06:12:11.450

And then Martin Nzi,

5430

06:12:12.090 --> 06:12:15.100

that was in Dayton in about 87 I think it was.

5431

06:12:15.600 --> 06:12:20.060

And then this was in Florida with Dave. Of course there's me. Yes,

5432

06:12:20.180 --> 06:12:24.540

I was skinny and had hair. My grandpa and then Gaylord Davis,

5433

06:12:26.110 --> 06:12:31.030

they were all on the original crew. Um, grandma and grandpa, he got home,

5434

06:12:31.730 --> 06:12:36.630

uh, actually was discharged on September 7th from

5435

06:12:37.100 --> 06:12:40.510

Indiana, what was it? Camp Berry, I think I'm saying that right. Um,

5436

06:12:42.550 --> 06:12:45.020

comes home, goes back to the old neighborhood,

5437

06:12:45.710 --> 06:12:50.380

finds out where my grandma's living goes up. And as grandma told the story,

5438

06:12:50.620 --> 06:12:54.620

I wasn't there. Walks up and says, he walks up to the door, knocks on it,

5439

06:12:54.620 --> 06:12:57.340

is VII there, her name was Violet. Said is VII there?

5440

06:12:57.600 --> 06:13:02.340

She comes to the door and he goes, well, what's your answer? And she's like,

5441

06:13:02.340 --> 06:13:03.980

what are you talking about? And he goes,

5442

06:13:04.260 --> 06:13:07.960

I asked you years ago if you had marry me and I'm here.

5443

06:13:09.220 --> 06:13:12.760

So she said, yes. They were married like 20 days later.

5444

06:13:14.140 --> 06:13:18.120

Uh, so bookends uh,

5445

06:13:20.180 --> 06:13:22.710

grandma hated this picture. Grandpa liked this picture.

5446

06:13:22.740 --> 06:13:25.590

It's grandma in her swim suit. And he goes, I got my own pin up girl.

5447

06:13:25.980 --> 06:13:29.270

There's grandpa sitting somewhere out the west where they had this manic.

5448

06:13:29.270 --> 06:13:30.790

And he is sitting there with like googly eyes,

5449

06:13:31.300 --> 06:13:34.510

grandma and grandpa and then grandpa with the motorcycle he had in the

5450

06:13:34.790 --> 06:13:36.090

seventies. Um,

5451

06:13:36.630 --> 06:13:40.250

and then here's a couple more family photos.

5452

06:13:40.950 --> 06:13:45.050

On the left is grandpa and me in about 87 at the one reunion.

5453

06:13:45.750 --> 06:13:50.060

And then on this side's, the four generations, grandpa, my dad, me and my son.

5454

06:13:50.720 --> 06:13:53.900

So that would've been probably 93 vintage.

5455

06:13:57.510 --> 06:14:00.050

And um, this is the whole family together.

5456

06:14:00.480 --> 06:14:05.010

Nowhere near 140 Wayne. Okay. Nowhere near 140,

5457

06:14:05.470 --> 06:14:08.930

but it's a whole family. It's grandma and grandpa, my mom and dad,

5458

06:14:08.990 --> 06:14:10.010

my aunt and uncle,

5459

06:14:10.990 --> 06:14:14.930

all four of the grandchildren and the great-grandchildren that he had at the

5460

06:14:14.930 --> 06:14:19.370

time. He's had two more since he's passed away. And this was the last Christmas.

5461

06:14:21.210 --> 06:14:23.030

And um, I asked him about,

5462

06:14:23.450 --> 06:14:26.710

we were talking about the war and grandpa was not a very

5463

06:14:28.320 --> 06:14:31.150

wordy kind of a guy, but he's basically,

5464

06:14:31.150 --> 06:14:32.670

and I don't know if I got this exactly right,

5465

06:14:32.690 --> 06:14:35.710

but he said he wouldn't do it again for a million dollars,

5466

06:14:35.970 --> 06:14:38.430

but he wouldn't trade the memories for a million dollars either.

5467

06:14:43.110 --> 06:14:47.050

And um, just to kind of summarize, you know, very humble beginnings,

5468

06:14:47.400 --> 06:14:48.970

very thrifty, quiet,

5469

06:14:49.740 --> 06:14:54.250

funny and ornery would've hung around with Bill Brown for sure. Um,

5470

06:14:54.560 --> 06:14:57.970

very hard worker, very crafty, could fix anything.

5471

06:14:58.450 --> 06:15:03.010

I put him up against some of my engineering friends and his classical education

5472

06:15:03.010 --> 06:15:07.130

stopped at the eighth grade. Everything else was by hard knocks. Um,

5473

06:15:07.400 --> 06:15:10.650

very loyal friend, loved his family and proud of his service.

5474

06:15:13.380 --> 06:15:14.440

And he died in oh three.

5475

06:15:16.920 --> 06:15:18.700

And that's that for that one.

5476

06:15:21.190 --> 06:15:24.330

And then do we have time to do any on how to or

5477

06:15:27.880 --> 06:15:30.130

Yeah, I've got a little bit on how to,

5478

06:15:30.210 --> 06:15:33.530

do you want to kinda run through that quick? How to research?

5479

06:15:34.160 --> 06:15:35.690

Hold on, we got a question from John.

5480

06:15:36.160 --> 06:15:36.993

Okay.

5481
06:15:37.110 --> 06:15:37.930
You know,

5482
06:15:37.930 --> 06:15:42.050
I didn't know that you had such good credentials having your
grandfather come

5483
06:15:42.050 --> 06:15:44.770
from Pennsylvania. I really, you know,

5484
06:15:45.030 --> 06:15:48.690
you went up in my estimation a lot when you said that. Uh,

5485
06:15:48.770 --> 06:15:52.090
that's not my question though. Uh, you've been to the,

5486
06:15:52.350 --> 06:15:56.330
to the crash site up in, in Scotland mm-hmm. And recovered, uh,

5487
06:15:56.330 --> 06:15:59.490
some of the remains. You wanna talk about that a little bit or did I
miss it?

5488
06:15:59.690 --> 06:16:00.850
I was in and out a couple times.

5489
06:16:00.850 --> 06:16:05.850
Yeah. The, the last plane he flew on was the 0 95 Sleepy Time gal in
June of

5490
06:16:05.850 --> 06:16:09.410
45. On its way back home, it crashed into a mountain in Scotland.

5491
06:16:09.880 --> 06:16:12.970
Long drawn out story of how it crashed, everyone was killed,

5492
06:16:13.030 --> 06:16:14.770
the plane flew into the side of a mountain,

5493

06:16:15.020 --> 06:16:18.530

Ricky fell mostly into a lake or lock in Scotland,

5494

06:16:19.000 --> 06:16:23.770

some was buried on shore. Bits have been uncovered both in the water,

5495

06:16:23.830 --> 06:16:27.890

et cetera. I've got a pretty decent sized bit of the side of the fuselage,

5496

06:16:28.230 --> 06:16:31.130

the star and bar, uh, which he was a waist gunner,

5497

06:16:31.130 --> 06:16:36.030

which I thought was kind of cool. Um, Just various pieces,

5498

06:16:36.130 --> 06:16:39.390

but I bet up to the crash site several times. And um, it,

5499

06:16:39.390 --> 06:16:43.310

it's kind of neat the connection there because that's another connection.

5500

06:16:43.310 --> 06:16:47.180

Grandpa flew on Sleepy time gal one time and a friend of his in the hut,

5501

06:16:47.200 --> 06:16:50.740

Leo Bates flew on Sleepy time gal, bill Brown flew on Sleepy Time gal.

5502

06:16:51.070 --> 06:16:52.940

We've got all of its missions documented.

5503

06:16:53.000 --> 06:16:55.460

So it's kind of neat the connection that, you know,

5504

06:16:55.460 --> 06:16:57.900

hundreds of guys flew on one particular plane.

5505

06:16:58.080 --> 06:17:01.100

So even though they weren't crew mates on the same time,

5506

06:17:01.490 --> 06:17:05.980

they have connections to connections. We're all kind of interlinked some way.

5507

06:17:06.840 --> 06:17:07.673

So

5508

06:17:08.320 --> 06:17:09.180

Any other questions

5509

06:17:09.180 --> 06:17:12.420

About that? Yeah, any other questions on this subject? Um,

5510

06:17:13.570 --> 06:17:18.490

I asked Don and he agreed to talk a little bit about what's the methodology used

5511

06:17:18.550 --> 06:17:22.930

to research and find information. We all know he's the experts. So Don,

5512

06:17:22.950 --> 06:17:24.370

go ahead and and do that.

5513

06:17:31.560 --> 06:17:32.530

This one? Yeah.

5514

06:17:38.990 --> 06:17:41.440

Okay. This is gonna be kind of a higher level,

5515

06:17:41.540 --> 06:17:45.240

not exactly how to but get you thinking about how to, okay,

5516

06:17:46.060 --> 06:17:50.720

so starting off, we all know the date and time so we'll just kind of go quick.

5517

06:17:51.410 --> 06:17:55.310

You can be a nerd like me, No classical training,

5518

06:17:55.410 --> 06:17:57.950

but you can be cool some way. Um,

5519

06:17:58.620 --> 06:18:02.230

when I started out I had grandpa's mission list, his discharge paper,

5520

06:18:02.360 --> 06:18:05.950

three airplane photos, only one of 'em a B 24,

5521

06:18:06.630 --> 06:18:10.750

a few friend photos, his nicknames. Now think about that.

5522

06:18:11.270 --> 06:18:14.910

Nicknames of crew mates and home state and the three 28th patch.

5523

06:18:15.670 --> 06:18:18.070

I didn't have a whole lot of data, nothing like that.

5524

06:18:18.490 --> 06:18:21.470

And the nicknames were dw,

5525

06:18:23.870 --> 06:18:25.450

gay Nobby,

5526

06:18:26.110 --> 06:18:29.490

the most obscure things I was able sooner or later to start pulling.

5527

06:18:29.760 --> 06:18:34.170

Like he would have like little memory bubbles that I could get but start trying

5528

06:18:34.170 --> 06:18:38.090
to figure that one out. Like Martin Nzi was Nobby gay,

5529
06:18:38.090 --> 06:18:39.250
Lord Davis was gay.

5530
06:18:40.030 --> 06:18:43.770
Arthur d Pasquale was Pappy because he was born in oh eight.

5531
06:18:43.770 --> 06:18:48.450
He was like 34 years old flying. So, but it all starts to come together.

5532
06:18:49.070 --> 06:18:50.810
But the reason for this, I just wanna tell you,

5533
06:18:51.230 --> 06:18:54.290
all the grandpa's history fit in a cigar box with room despair.

5534
06:18:54.790 --> 06:18:58.810
So didn't start with a lot of effort or information.

5535
06:19:00.100 --> 06:19:01.510
This can be very addictive.

5536
06:19:02.270 --> 06:19:05.630
I started out wanting to know grandpa's nine friends,

5537
06:19:06.140 --> 06:19:09.070
then I wanted to know what planes he flew on. Now naively,

5538
06:19:09.070 --> 06:19:12.310
originally I thought it was a singular plane and then it became multiples.

5539
06:19:12.490 --> 06:19:15.310
So I wanted to know the planes, then I wanted to know photos of the planes,

5540

06:19:15.310 --> 06:19:17.590

then I wanted to know where he lived, what it looked like, smelled like,

5541

06:19:17.690 --> 06:19:22.650

all of that. It becomes a holy grail but it's an infinite holy grail.

5542

06:19:23.040 --> 06:19:25.930

When you find one thing you want three more questions answered.

5543

06:19:26.110 --> 06:19:30.890

So it's a wild ride but you're gonna be doing it for a long

5544

06:19:31.040 --> 06:19:33.290

time. Um, again,

5545

06:19:33.290 --> 06:19:35.810

we're gonna keep this quick cuz I know Michael's probably looking at his watch.

5546

06:19:36.030 --> 06:19:40.450

Um, Yeah, you've got an iPod or something.

5547

06:19:40.950 --> 06:19:45.050

Um, if any of you have been told your records burned at St. Louis,

5548

06:19:45.820 --> 06:19:49.670

probably everybody. Okay, don't give up.

5549

06:19:51.030 --> 06:19:52.910

I like to say nothing is impossible.

5550

06:19:53.080 --> 06:19:57.990

Impossible just takes a little longer and that's very true. Um,

5551

06:19:59.290 --> 06:20:03.750

my advice to people trying to get started on it is assemble everything.

5552

06:20:03.770 --> 06:20:07.150

You know, there is no snippet too small.

5553

06:20:07.650 --> 06:20:09.990

You know what paperwork, any names, places,

5554

06:20:10.130 --> 06:20:12.630

if you have letters where the letter's even missing,

5555

06:20:12.690 --> 06:20:16.430

but you might have the envelope with the postmark canceling it so you got a date

5556

06:20:16.450 --> 06:20:20.790

and time. Any clue is good to have stories, diaries, photos,

5557

06:20:20.980 --> 06:20:22.990

souvenirs, things that were sent home to cousins.

5558

06:20:24.070 --> 06:20:26.290

Any clue can provide great information.

5559

06:20:28.810 --> 06:20:32.710

Ask for advice. I mean you guys have my cell phone and email.

5560

06:20:32.820 --> 06:20:37.750

I'll do anything to help anybody and if I have stuff that I can just sort and

5561

06:20:37.750 --> 06:20:41.590

send you, that's the easiest research, you know, call Don. Um,

5562

06:20:43.720 --> 06:20:47.340

so just gonna hit these topics real real quick just to give you a flavor.

5563

06:20:47.920 --> 06:20:50.460

The National Personnel Records Center is in St.

5564

06:20:50.460 --> 06:20:55.380

Louis and what you can get from them is you can get, even if the records burned,

5565

06:20:55.380 --> 06:20:59.380

they may have some medical records cuz they were in an alternate location.

5566

06:21:00.050 --> 06:21:01.540

They have morning reports.

5567

06:21:01.760 --> 06:21:06.220

Now morning reports aren't sorted by your grandpa's name or your dad or your

5568

06:21:06.220 --> 06:21:10.300

uncle. They're sorted by squadron on every day.

5569

06:21:11.000 --> 06:21:13.420

So you gotta get your head around it.

5570

06:21:13.530 --> 06:21:17.580

It's not everybody on base that day, it's not like an attendance card,

5571

06:21:17.850 --> 06:21:22.040

it's a change of condition. So the day you were put in,

5572

06:21:22.060 --> 06:21:25.870

you showed up on the morning report is don assigned

5573

06:21:26.980 --> 06:21:31.920

and in, if you didn't see my name, that state remained set,

5574

06:21:31.920 --> 06:21:32.220

right?

5575

06:21:32.220 --> 06:21:36.280

Mm-hmm So I was assigned today and until there's another change of condition,

5576

06:21:36.360 --> 06:21:40.060

I e transferred out sick leave,

5577

06:21:40.460 --> 06:21:43.100

whatever it was to assume I was on duty.

5578

06:21:43.920 --> 06:21:46.860

So you can pick up the change of dates but you have to look at all of them.

5579

06:21:47.240 --> 06:21:48.040

But for instance,

5580

06:21:48.040 --> 06:21:52.260

if you know you might have a letter at home that your uncle talked about going

5581

06:21:52.260 --> 06:21:53.980

somewhere, but you don't know when he got back,

5582

06:21:54.560 --> 06:21:57.580

you could probably look at the morning reports for the next two weeks and find

5583

06:21:57.580 --> 06:21:58.340

out, you know,

5584

06:21:58.340 --> 06:22:03.270

lieutenant white on leave and then five days later it says back from

5585

06:22:03.270 --> 06:22:04.430

leave South Port England.

5586

06:22:04.570 --> 06:22:08.710

So you might get the return date or the departure dates but it still

can fill in

5587

06:22:08.710 --> 06:22:13.150

missing gaps in it and then online. No, no.

5588

06:22:13.820 --> 06:22:16.360

The last thing is the flight records for pilots.

5589

06:22:16.890 --> 06:22:20.440

Those were not kept in their personnel files. So you can get those.

5590

06:22:20.790 --> 06:22:24.360

What I did with that is I requested my, cuz grandpa was enlisted,

5591

06:22:24.660 --> 06:22:25.560

his records burned.

5592

06:22:25.860 --> 06:22:29.440

So I requested my grandpa's pilot and co-pilot's flight records.

5593

06:22:30.240 --> 06:22:34.800

I knew key dates when they were at different places. So I looked at it and said,

5594

06:22:34.800 --> 06:22:38.480

okay, on December 15th we know they left Florida heading overseas.

5595

06:22:38.980 --> 06:22:43.460

So on the 15th there was a flight of dis distance and it gave me dis times

5596

06:22:44.120 --> 06:22:47.340

and then I know they arrived in England on this date. I knew the key points.

5597

06:22:47.640 --> 06:22:50.300

So you could figure out what days they hit, you know,

5598

06:22:50.300 --> 06:22:54.180
fill in the gaps cuz it gives you the date of the flight,

5599
06:22:54.640 --> 06:22:56.140
the aircraft and then the hours.

5600
06:22:56.760 --> 06:22:59.580
So you can kind of figure out when they were going,

5601
06:22:59.580 --> 06:23:03.620
which places again just get thinking about how to skin the cat a
different way.

5602
06:23:04.760 --> 06:23:06.460
Uh, other things, when you go to the,

5603
06:23:06.490 --> 06:23:08.140
this is not national personal Records Center,

5604
06:23:08.140 --> 06:23:10.860
this is at the National Archives and the National Archives.

5605
06:23:10.860 --> 06:23:13.900
Another way to find missing things is the mission reports.

5606
06:23:14.440 --> 06:23:16.460
Now they do not have all of the mission reports,

5607
06:23:16.960 --> 06:23:19.340
but you can go in and if for instance, you know,

5608
06:23:19.340 --> 06:23:23.900
your uncle was over in England in summer of 44,

5609
06:23:24.320 --> 06:23:29.100
you can look at the summer of 44 missions and find some if not all of
his

5610

06:23:29.100 --> 06:23:33.100

missions. And then you can also pick up the planes he flew on his crew mates,

5611

06:23:33.120 --> 06:23:37.580

et cetera. Now the crew mates, even though many have passed away,

5612

06:23:37.810 --> 06:23:42.700

that can be a gold mine too because they may have documents that show

5613

06:23:43.330 --> 06:23:47.890

your relative being transferred, et cetera, et cetera. So again,

5614

06:23:47.920 --> 06:23:51.900

just thinking about stuff family, okay,

5615

06:23:52.700 --> 06:23:57.250

I got started. I asked my dad, my aunt, my mom, my uncle,

5616

06:23:57.270 --> 06:23:58.530

my grandma, my grandpa.

5617

06:23:58.930 --> 06:24:02.210

I asked what I thought would've been the part of the family would've had

5618

06:24:02.210 --> 06:24:04.970

something on grandpa. Like I say,

5619

06:24:04.980 --> 06:24:09.770

about five years ago I got an envelope and there's a picture of my grandpa that

5620

06:24:09.990 --> 06:24:14.910

no one had ever seen and it was a cousin what probably second cousin

5621

06:24:15.200 --> 06:24:16.033

twice removed,

5622

06:24:16.410 --> 06:24:20.310

had an envelope with pictures that I had never seen of grandma and grandpa and

5623

06:24:20.590 --> 06:24:21.870

specifically grandpa's overseas.

5624

06:24:22.270 --> 06:24:26.710

I have no idea why grandpa even sent it to him and how it survived to this day.

5625

06:24:27.250 --> 06:24:28.870

So don't stay focused.

5626

06:24:29.050 --> 06:24:32.470

I'm only gonna ask my dad and his direct,

5627

06:24:32.930 --> 06:24:36.750

he could have sent pictures and letters to his Aunt Lulu

5628

06:24:38.320 --> 06:24:42.620

and her great-grandkids have something that might be relevant to your search

5629

06:24:45.310 --> 06:24:48.530

and no, he did not smoke when I knew him. Um,

5630

06:24:49.170 --> 06:24:52.330

hometown newspapers is another thing you can look for. During the war,

5631

06:24:52.330 --> 06:24:54.650

they would run like call it uh,

5632

06:24:54.800 --> 06:24:57.770

like announcements for people that graduated different schools.

5633

06:24:58.400 --> 06:25:01.880

When I originally got this, I think this is the one,

5634

06:25:02.260 --> 06:25:06.160

it doesn't show a date on the front. Okay, when you flip it over,

5635

06:25:06.940 --> 06:25:09.560

it is the corner of the newspaper where it would say the date,

5636

06:25:10.020 --> 06:25:10.920

but when they cut it out,

5637

06:25:10.920 --> 06:25:15.640

they cut everything but the bottom edge of the na date

5638

06:25:16.310 --> 06:25:18.760

or the month, day and year.

5639

06:25:19.420 --> 06:25:22.880

But you got basically dots and dashes and if you think Morris Code,

5640

06:25:23.160 --> 06:25:25.720

I was able to determine the date from the,

5641

06:25:25.780 --> 06:25:27.880

the pattern and then went to the library,

5642

06:25:27.980 --> 06:25:31.600

pulled that date up and was able to confirm the exact date this ran.

5643

06:25:32.300 --> 06:25:33.840

So the local newspaper,

5644

06:25:33.840 --> 06:25:37.360

if you're trying to figure out when your uncle or whoever got a particular

5645

06:25:37.530 --> 06:25:39.760

award, there might be information.

5646

06:25:39.780 --> 06:25:43.740

And now a lot of newspapers are online so it wouldn't be a bad idea to search

5647

06:25:43.800 --> 06:25:48.140

the newspaper online collection for your loved one's name cuz there may be

5648

06:25:48.200 --> 06:25:52.720

blurbs in there about their training transfers or even, you know,

5649

06:25:53.000 --> 06:25:55.520

possibly when they were uh, injured or killed. The

5650

06:25:58.490 --> 06:26:03.230

hometown courthouse, the vets were told that they can,

5651

06:26:03.570 --> 06:26:08.150

uh, file a copy of their discharge paper in their hometown courthouse for record

5652

06:26:08.220 --> 06:26:13.030

sake. So I don't know how many did it, but I have been told that some did.

5653

06:26:13.290 --> 06:26:16.790

And the courthouse may have it on file. So if you don't have paperwork,

5654

06:26:16.790 --> 06:26:21.070

if you find out their home court house where they live,

5655

06:26:21.070 --> 06:26:22.110

when they would've come home,

5656

06:26:22.330 --> 06:26:25.470

it might be worth checking to see if there was something ever deposited.

5657

06:26:25.470 --> 06:26:28.350

Especially if you don't have like a copy of the discharge paper.

5658

06:26:29.500 --> 06:26:32.150

This is probably more of a long shot than a for sure,

5659

06:26:33.170 --> 06:26:36.510

but it might be a quick phone call or two or a stop in and you might find

5660

06:26:36.510 --> 06:26:41.120

something really good. Um, there's out there.

5661

06:26:42.140 --> 06:26:44.870

Okay, uh, you got Facebook, things like that.

5662

06:26:45.140 --> 06:26:48.550

There's different talk forms and stuff. Again, be a little careful.

5663

06:26:48.580 --> 06:26:51.590

There's a lot of people that'll put stuff up there that might not be exactly

5664

06:26:51.700 --> 06:26:54.390

true. So, you know, just be cautious. Uh,

5665

06:26:54.740 --> 06:26:58.350

Maxwell Air Force Base has the unit histories. Um,

5666

06:26:58.500 --> 06:27:01.070

they're from a bomb squadron bomb group level.

5667

06:27:01.680 --> 06:27:05.230

Every once in a while they'll have little more detail on like a crew being lost

5668

06:27:05.250 --> 06:27:08.630

or crashing, but it's more about the events of the day,

5669

06:27:09.000 --> 06:27:13.190

which a lot of that was wound up being the foundation for Ted's traveling

5670

06:27:13.190 --> 06:27:15.990

circus. So you'll find a lot of similarities there.

5671

06:27:17.160 --> 06:27:18.420

And then orders,

5672

06:27:20.380 --> 06:27:23.840

you may have some orders that show your loved one and they'll put like a red

5673

06:27:23.840 --> 06:27:27.400

check box next to their name, but there'll be copies.

5674

06:27:27.660 --> 06:27:30.360

All these other guys' families might be looking for stuff.

5675

06:27:30.900 --> 06:27:35.800

So if you ask other crew mates or even other people from the same squadron as

5676

06:27:35.800 --> 06:27:40.000

your loved one, they may have copies that pertain to you and vice versa.

5677

06:27:43.390 --> 06:27:45.050

Uh, again, the crew mates,

5678

06:27:45.550 --> 06:27:50.410

if you find crew mates and if they either died in the war or have passed away

5679

06:27:50.420 --> 06:27:53.970

since their family might still have stuff that's relevant to you.

5680

06:27:55.170 --> 06:27:58.910

All these photos came from a crewmate of grandpa's who had died and his widow

5681

06:27:59.050 --> 06:28:03.310

had 'em in a box in her basement. This was also from them.

5682

06:28:04.010 --> 06:28:06.870

And I went back and forth for years wanting to come see her.

5683

06:28:07.090 --> 06:28:08.390

She couldn't get down to see it.

5684

06:28:08.390 --> 06:28:11.990

I finally drove to New Jersey and she had a box and she's like, here take it.

5685

06:28:11.990 --> 06:28:16.030

She goes, I have no one left, I'm the end of the line. So I got a whole bunch.

5686

06:28:16.110 --> 06:28:18.990

These are actually contact prints, so they're the size of a negative,

5687

06:28:19.530 --> 06:28:20.750

but when you count the numbers,

5688

06:28:20.820 --> 06:28:25.510

it's basically almost like a movie documenting them just standing around the hut

5689

06:28:25.510 --> 06:28:29.940

goofing off. So we even know the order it was in. Um,

5690

06:28:30.600 --> 06:28:33.260

and it's like genealogy. It's very addictive.

5691

06:28:33.720 --> 06:28:37.380

You're gonna wanna just run everything you can to ground.

5692

06:28:37.640 --> 06:28:42.620

And I think it's really fun. So, and when I do it, I can help other people too.

5693

06:28:42.680 --> 06:28:47.310

So that's kind of a, a good hobby to have. So any questions on this?

5694

06:28:47.350 --> 06:28:48.870

I know I went, tried to go really quick.

5695

06:28:49.290 --> 06:28:53.580

We we have time. You said we had no time.

5696

06:28:56.890 --> 06:29:00.790

Don, other than those records you discussed for the crews primarily,

5697

06:29:00.790 --> 06:29:04.590

is there anything specific to the ground crews that you've come across record

5698

06:29:04.620 --> 06:29:06.510

wise that would be helpful for us to do research?

5699

06:29:07.530 --> 06:29:10.750

Not, not military records. Um,

5700

06:29:10.890 --> 06:29:15.270

the closest thing I found that it would tie to ground crew would be like a crash

5701

06:29:15.270 --> 06:29:16.060

report.

5702

06:29:16.060 --> 06:29:20.990

Sometimes in a crash report it'll have information about like the last repairs,

5703

06:29:21.100 --> 06:29:24.230

modifications, whatever. Cuz like grandpa's crash,

5704

06:29:24.230 --> 06:29:27.670

it actually listed the guy who changed the prop governor gasket.

5705

06:29:28.440 --> 06:29:33.260

But as far as an official record that ties to ground crew and

5706

06:29:33.490 --> 06:29:36.980

what they did, I've never found any reference to that.

5707

06:29:38.240 --> 06:29:38.460

My

5708

06:29:38.460 --> 06:29:39.820

Dad. Not that I haven't looked, it's just, I,

5709

06:29:40.720 --> 06:29:45.660

it doesn't appear those documents were either fully captured at the time or

5710

06:29:45.660 --> 06:29:49.060

they were more assigned to the aircraft as relevant to the aircraft.

5711

06:29:49.060 --> 06:29:52.500

And when the aircraft was scrapped, those details went away. Went

5712

06:29:52.500 --> 06:29:56.620

Away, right. Yeah, because my dad's log books, we've got some information about,

5713

06:29:56.620 --> 06:30:01.060

you know, he'd have a list of parts or engines and, you know, uh, bombs,

5714

06:30:01.390 --> 06:30:05.180

parachutes, you know, stuff that he, that was his excellent, uh,

5715

06:30:05.380 --> 06:30:08.140

document he used. But as far as PM orders or, you know,

5716

06:30:08.140 --> 06:30:09.220

maintenance orders or anything,

5717

06:30:09.220 --> 06:30:10.580

I've never filed found anything like that.

5718

06:30:10.670 --> 06:30:14.820

There are individual aircraft cards which will show an aircraft when it was

5719

06:30:14.820 --> 06:30:18.820

born, accepted by the military, transferred, received overseas,

5720

06:30:19.120 --> 06:30:23.060

all of those dates and they're actually in code. You have to have like an in or,

5721

06:30:23.080 --> 06:30:27.480

uh, a translation because they didn't say like, uh,

5722

06:30:27.510 --> 06:30:28.760

transferred to England.

5723

06:30:28.760 --> 06:30:32.200

They actually had different codes for different places around the world,

5724

06:30:32.940 --> 06:30:37.920

but that's more of a date thing. Plane went to England, was lost, crashed,

5725

06:30:38.710 --> 06:30:42.600

that kind of stuff. But not detailed activities on a day-to-day basis.

5726

06:30:43.910 --> 06:30:44.850
Any other questions?

5727
06:30:46.650 --> 06:30:48.950
No, that was very good, Don. Thanks

5728
06:30:54.890 --> 06:30:55.360
George.

5729
06:30:55.360 --> 06:30:59.390
Under General George Washington and the sailors and marines who served
under

5730
06:30:59.390 --> 06:31:00.710
Captain John Paul Jones,

5731
06:31:01.450 --> 06:31:05.150
who were followed by their comrades and shipmates in the armed forces
of the

5732
06:31:05.150 --> 06:31:08.350
United States. Preserving for us the rights,

5733
06:31:08.590 --> 06:31:10.430
privileges and freedoms we enjoy today.

5734
06:31:37.170 --> 06:31:37.460
Well

5735
06:31:37.460 --> 06:31:41.260
That flag is a very special meaning to us and our bomb group. As you
can tell,

5736
06:31:43.480 --> 06:31:47.420
we take very, extremely good care of that We secure the flag between
reunions.

5737
06:31:48.380 --> 06:31:51.420
I would like to thank my brother Bob Root for making the nice case

that we used

5738

06:31:51.440 --> 06:31:56.220

to store it in, uh, throughout the years. And again, it's very special to us.

5739

06:32:04.300 --> 06:32:08.420

American patriots have always answered our nation's call to defend not only our

5740

06:32:08.420 --> 06:32:11.660

nation, but the nations of those who cannot defend themselves.

5741

06:32:12.720 --> 06:32:16.940

To date nearly 2 million men and women have given their lives in our nation's

5742

06:32:16.940 --> 06:32:17.773

defense.

5743

06:32:18.870 --> 06:32:22.820

We're honored to be here in our nation's capital for a reunion this year.

5744

06:32:23.720 --> 06:32:25.900

We remember and honor those heroes.

5745

06:32:26.480 --> 06:32:28.620

We remember and honor our friends and loved ones.

5746

06:32:29.320 --> 06:32:31.220

May God give our warriors wisdom, strength,

5747

06:32:31.240 --> 06:32:35.460

and endurance and watch over their families while they place themselves in

5748

06:32:35.460 --> 06:32:36.293

harm's way,

5749
06:32:38.580 --> 06:32:40.570
while defending our freedoms and liberties

5750
06:32:42.430 --> 06:32:45.730
for the 93rd bomb group. The following have folded their wings

5751
06:32:48.200 --> 06:32:49.350
since our last reunion.

5752
06:32:51.570 --> 06:32:53.830
Robert Arthur Thalmus,

5753
06:32:56.350 --> 06:33:01.110
George Bridgeman, William Dorner,

5754
06:33:03.050 --> 06:33:06.980
Raymond Eck, Cayman,

5755
06:33:07.480 --> 06:33:12.060
excuse me, Carmen Fox, Albert Carrolls,

5756
06:33:14.600 --> 06:33:15.433
Robert,

5757
06:33:19.560 --> 06:33:21.980
excuse me, Thomas Nicholas

5758
06:33:23.830 --> 06:33:28.090
Fernley Smith and Richard Trousdale.

5759
06:33:29.440 --> 06:33:33.810
Many of us have known all these wonderful gentlemen and veterans

5760
06:33:34.670 --> 06:33:35.503
for many years.

5761

06:33:36.350 --> 06:33:40.290

Please stand and join us in a moment of silence as we remember and honor these

5762

06:33:40.350 --> 06:33:42.970

unable to join us this evening.

5763

06:33:44.150 --> 06:33:45.410

Please pray in silence.

5764

06:34:57.640 --> 06:34:59.940

Please remain standing for our blessing. George,

5765

06:35:00.040 --> 06:35:02.940

if I could have George come up front for a blessing of the meal,

5766

06:35:15.920 --> 06:35:19.090

Let us pray. Father in heaven,

5767

06:35:19.090 --> 06:35:22.290

truly this day has been one that you have made and given to us. Lord,

5768

06:35:23.030 --> 06:35:27.770

you're so grateful and thankful for the opportunity we've been given today, uh,

5769

06:35:27.910 --> 06:35:32.890

to be at the World War II memorial to pay homage to all those

5770

06:35:32.990 --> 06:35:35.650

who served, uh, during the war.

5771

06:35:36.540 --> 06:35:40.970

Thank you for allowing us to visit the Capitol so that we could see where,

5772

06:35:42.390 --> 06:35:45.010

uh, history is made every day. Lord,

5773

06:35:45.910 --> 06:35:48.970

we thank you especially for this opportunity to gather here tonight,

5774

06:35:49.870 --> 06:35:54.410

to pay homage and tribute to those members of the 93rd who've made

5775

06:35:55.570 --> 06:35:57.230

the fullest and deepest sacrifice

5776

06:35:58.730 --> 06:36:02.590

the ones who were never allowed to come home.

5777

06:36:04.000 --> 06:36:06.820

And to Lord, we thank you for all the, uh,

5778

06:36:06.820 --> 06:36:10.020

the other members of 93rd who did come home,

5779

06:36:10.880 --> 06:36:12.700

but also for their great, uh,

5780

06:36:12.700 --> 06:36:17.510

honor sacrifice for the great work that they did and continue

5781

06:36:17.510 --> 06:36:20.030

to do. We thank you for their families.

5782

06:36:20.810 --> 06:36:23.350

We thank you for our honor to be here.

5783

06:36:23.370 --> 06:36:26.350

We thank you for the food you're put to be about to put before us.

5784

06:36:27.050 --> 06:36:31.790

We ask that you would bless it, that you would bless us, that even as it, uh,

5785

06:36:31.790 --> 06:36:35.150
nourishes our, our bodies, your word and your, uh,

5786
06:36:35.170 --> 06:36:38.710
spirit would nourish our minds and our, and our spirits.

5787
06:36:39.250 --> 06:36:43.470
And we ask that you would continue to be with, be with us and with our families.

5788
06:36:44.090 --> 06:36:46.390
We pray all this in your name. Amen.

5789
06:36:52.700 --> 06:36:54.410
Thank you George. Please be seated.

5790
06:36:56.970 --> 06:37:01.210
I just wanted to make a note that we have several attendees for this evening

5791
06:37:01.210 --> 06:37:05.770
that have not been with us. If you see a new face at your table,

5792
06:37:05.790 --> 06:37:09.610
please welcome them, chat with them, and we're glad that, uh,

5793
06:37:09.730 --> 06:37:11.410
everyone is here tonight. So enjoy your meal.

5794
06:37:13.820 --> 06:37:18.800
Could I have your attention please, everyone? Thank you.

5795
06:37:22.760 --> 06:37:27.190
Every year we have recognition in the form of our top honor called the

5796
06:37:27.190 --> 06:37:28.070
Timberlake Award.

5797

06:37:31.730 --> 06:37:36.220

The Timberlake Award is given each year to recognize those individuals who

5798

06:37:36.220 --> 06:37:40.820

significantly contribute to the advancement of preserving the legacy of the 93rd

5799

06:37:40.820 --> 06:37:41.653

Bomb Group.

5800

06:37:43.790 --> 06:37:48.400

This year we have a very special guest to help us with the Timberlake Award.

5801

06:37:49.240 --> 06:37:52.640

I would like to introduce Chris Timberlake.

5802

06:38:03.050 --> 06:38:05.320

Chris is the grandson of General Ted.

5803

06:38:06.340 --> 06:38:09.640

We are pleased and excited to have Chris announced the three Timberlake Award

5804

06:38:09.640 --> 06:38:13.630

winners this year. Yes, I said three.

5805

06:38:14.370 --> 06:38:15.990

So welcome Chris. Thank you very much.

5806

06:38:16.390 --> 06:38:17.870

A few words about your family and general.

5807

06:38:20.270 --> 06:38:24.100

Thank you Jim. Uh, my name is Chris Timberlake. I'm the, uh,

5808

06:38:24.340 --> 06:38:27.500

youngest grandson of, uh, general Ted Timberlake. Uh,

5809

06:38:27.900 --> 06:38:31.010

I don't possess his first name, but his, uh,

5810

06:38:31.590 --> 06:38:35.290

his name passed on four future generations. I had my,

5811

06:38:35.390 --> 06:38:39.850

my dad was the third who was his only son. And uh,

5812

06:38:40.040 --> 06:38:43.610

they were very close cuz likewise, my father followed in his footsteps.

5813

06:38:43.610 --> 06:38:47.730

In the United States Air Force was a C one 30 pilot in Vietnam, uh,

5814

06:38:48.000 --> 06:38:52.730

west Point graduate. Uh, my brother the fourth is a, uh,

5815

06:38:52.730 --> 06:38:55.570

lawyer in the, uh, in the Northern Virginia area.

5816

06:38:55.870 --> 06:39:00.410

His son the fifth is director of Human Resources in the, uh, DC area.

5817

06:39:01.190 --> 06:39:03.610

His son the sixth is a, uh,

5818

06:39:03.850 --> 06:39:06.450

a hardy and a spirited five-year-old

5819

06:39:08.470 --> 06:39:11.570

who possesses general Ted glare. Uh,

5820

06:39:13.000 --> 06:39:17.370

when I wasn't much older than little Teddy, we call him, I,

5821

06:39:17.530 --> 06:39:22.490

I was intimidated by my, uh, my grandfather. Uh, like you all,

5822

06:39:22.560 --> 06:39:26.330

like your father's grandfather's, uh, friends, uncles. Uh,

5823

06:39:27.010 --> 06:39:30.730

I was intimidated by him. Uh, he was a warrior to me.

5824

06:39:31.840 --> 06:39:36.340

And as we've now call him the greatest generation, who was I, you know, to,

5825

06:39:36.340 --> 06:39:38.060

you know, how, how could I relate to him?

5826

06:39:38.440 --> 06:39:42.700

And I think sensing that he told me a story once, uh, it was a short story,

5827

06:39:42.860 --> 06:39:45.660

I think this to break the ice. And he mentioned that,

5828

06:39:45.660 --> 06:39:46.900

I don't know the specific mission,

5829

06:39:47.080 --> 06:39:51.830

but there was a mission that he led early in the war and it had

5830

06:39:52.030 --> 06:39:56.870

moderate or modest success on the way back, uh, or afterwards. They had,

5831

06:39:56.870 --> 06:40:01.430

I guess, debriefing a hotwash come to Jesus meeting. And, uh,

5832

06:40:02.770 --> 06:40:06.870

uh, my grand, he didn't, when they had his time to talk about what

happened,

5833

06:40:06.930 --> 06:40:09.430

he didn't go into the tactics and the planning and so forth.

5834

06:40:10.330 --> 06:40:14.030

He wanted to tell it from how he felt, uh, as a pilot,

5835

06:40:14.490 --> 06:40:16.270

as a crewman of that mission.

5836

06:40:16.970 --> 06:40:20.250

And he told his superiors he was scared.

5837

06:40:21.270 --> 06:40:26.010

And that scares so much so that he and his co-pilot were sweating

5838

06:40:26.150 --> 06:40:29.370

so much that they thought the cockpit was fogging up.

5839

06:40:30.030 --> 06:40:34.980

And there was times when he wasn't quite sure where he was. And, uh,

5840

06:40:35.250 --> 06:40:38.540

when he told me that story, uh, he was not only a warrior,

5841

06:40:38.800 --> 06:40:42.500

but became my grandfather. He became very real. Uh,

5842

06:40:42.540 --> 06:40:45.100

I bring this story up because I know if he was here,

5843

06:40:45.160 --> 06:40:49.980

he would be honored and humbled to have this award named after him.

5844

06:40:50.760 --> 06:40:55.500

So, without any further ado, I'd like to announce the 2018 Timberlake Awards.

5845

06:40:56.640 --> 06:40:58.940

Uh, there's three recipients, as Jim indicated.

5846

06:40:59.240 --> 06:41:01.580

The first recipient is Michael Cutlet.

5847

06:41:02.950 --> 06:41:04.290

Now on behalf of our veterans,

5848

06:41:12.150 --> 06:41:14.530

On behalf of our veterans members and friends,

5849

06:41:14.710 --> 06:41:19.610

we would like to recognize Michael's outstanding work and support with

5850

06:41:19.610 --> 06:41:23.290

the make of our documentary film Hard Work, aerodrome 1 0 4,

5851

06:41:23.680 --> 06:41:28.500

your gracious support and Narrating our film is a tremendous honor for us

5852

06:41:28.640 --> 06:41:31.560

and is greatly appreciated. The success,

5853

06:41:31.630 --> 06:41:36.360

success of the film includes your work directly with Michael Sellers in the 93rd

5854

06:41:36.360 --> 06:41:41.080

Bomb Group. Again, we thank Michael's support, uh, of all World War.

5855

06:41:41.080 --> 06:41:45.120

II veterans and the work that you do. Congratulations. Now,

5856

06:41:45.120 --> 06:41:48.120

Michael couldn't be here, uh, this year. He is, uh,

5857

06:41:48.120 --> 06:41:51.680

traveling work commitments in California. Michael has,

5858

06:41:51.820 --> 06:41:55.560

was given the award in California and for those who wanna see him on tv,

5859

06:41:55.790 --> 06:41:59.680

Tuesday's, abc, uh, sitcom mc kids. All right, he's the patriarch. So

5860

06:42:03.270 --> 06:42:04.103

Show.

5861

06:42:04.670 --> 06:42:08.260

There we go. Our next recipient is Nancy Stranger.

5862

06:42:17.790 --> 06:42:19.850

On behalf of our veterans members and friends,

5863

06:42:20.310 --> 06:42:25.170

we would like to recognize Nancy's outstanding work and support as our

5864

06:42:25.170 --> 06:42:26.003

assistant treasurer.

5865

06:42:26.760 --> 06:42:31.410

Your help and support of the General Andrews and Hot Stuff Memorial project over

5866

06:42:31.410 --> 06:42:33.690

the past six years has been outstanding.

5867

06:42:34.470 --> 06:42:37.640

Your work to ensure the financial support needed for this project,

5868

06:42:38.170 --> 06:42:41.760

along with assistance to Jim Lux is greatly appreciated.

5869

06:42:42.450 --> 06:42:46.280

Thank you for your support, loyalty, and dedication to the ninth,

5870

06:42:46.280 --> 06:42:50.980

third bomb group. Unfortunately, Nancy cannot not be here as well,

5871

06:42:51.280 --> 06:42:55.820

but her, uh, shortly will have the award close to her, uh, in possession of,

5872

06:42:58.110 --> 06:43:01.900

There we go. Two seconds.

5873

06:43:03.250 --> 06:43:07.460

Copy Our third recipient. Last but not least,

5874

06:43:08.440 --> 06:43:11.580

is Nick Timmer. Yeah. Nick, can you come forward?

5875

06:43:23.280 --> 06:43:24.380

You look like your grandpa.

5876

06:43:25.730 --> 06:43:27.100

He's better looking taller too.

5877

06:43:29.570 --> 06:43:32.030

On behalf of our veterans members and friends,

5878

06:43:32.370 --> 06:43:36.710

we would like to recognize your outstanding work and support as our association.

5879

06:43:37.030 --> 06:43:37.863

Secretary.

5880

06:43:38.270 --> 06:43:43.080

Your help in guiding us through our transition to the second

generation of

5881

06:43:43.160 --> 06:43:48.040

officers and your valuable input in support of continuing the legacy of

5882

06:43:48.080 --> 06:43:52.660

the ninth, third bomb group is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your support,

5883

06:43:52.810 --> 06:43:53.643

loyalty,

5884

06:43:53.950 --> 06:43:58.900

dedication and contributions of honoring your uncle's service and sacrifice

5885

06:43:59.200 --> 06:44:01.380

and those at the 93rd. Congratulations.

5886

06:44:30.220 --> 06:44:32.200

We thank we, thank you all and thank you all

5887

06:44:38.130 --> 06:44:41.320

Hand over to you. Thank you, Chris.

5888

06:44:44.330 --> 06:44:48.020

Well, would like to thank Chris and it's an honor to have him here. Uh,

5889

06:44:48.180 --> 06:44:49.940

I asked him about, he didn't mention your mother, Chris,

5890

06:44:50.000 --> 06:44:54.380

but she's still with us, uh, doing very well. Uh, general Ted's daughter

5891

06:44:58.570 --> 06:45:01.990

At this time. I'd also like to acknowledge and thank Scott Stewart.

5892

06:45:02.420 --> 06:45:03.310

He's not here with us,

5893

06:45:04.350 --> 06:45:08.850

but Scott and the Nebraska Printing Center has done a tremendous work for us.

5894

06:45:08.850 --> 06:45:13.190

Their continued support for the 93rd Bomb Group with our reunions by providing

5895

06:45:13.190 --> 06:45:18.130

all the printed materials, including the place mat in front of you, uh, film,

5896

06:45:18.280 --> 06:45:22.890

posters, cards, and other materials. So our thanks, uh, to Scott and his team.

5897

06:45:24.040 --> 06:45:27.940

Uh, please feel free to take that home with you as a memento. Uh,

5898

06:45:28.240 --> 06:45:31.620

we do have extras that are probably clean ones if you spilled something in the

5899

06:45:31.620 --> 06:45:34.260

back here and, uh, uh,

5900

06:45:34.260 --> 06:45:37.100

we welcome you to take any of the materials in the back there about the film.

5901

06:45:46.850 --> 06:45:50.900

Okay. Uh, one other thanks goes to the Color Guard from Joint Base Andrews,

5902

06:45:52.440 --> 06:45:53.270

And I can't

5903

06:45:53.270 --> 06:45:54.103

Thank you.

5904

06:45:56.420 --> 06:45:57.253

I lost their names

5905

06:46:00.080 --> 06:46:02.300

And I lost their names and I apologize for that

5906

06:46:07.120 --> 06:46:08.990

paper. Airplane. Somebody made a paper airplane.

5907

06:46:10.640 --> 06:46:14.810

I just found it way in the back. Uh, the color guard, uh,

5908

06:46:14.870 --> 06:46:19.220

an honor guard, uh, consists of senior airman,

5909

06:46:19.220 --> 06:46:24.140

Allen Erman. Color Guard itself was,

5910

06:46:24.720 --> 06:46:28.420

uh, senior Airman, Allen Steadman Senior, uh, airman, John McNeil,

5911

06:46:30.570 --> 06:46:35.190

senior Airman Matthews, Cruz Cruz, uh, and,

5912

06:46:35.490 --> 06:46:36.430

uh, senior Airman,

5913

06:46:36.450 --> 06:46:40.790

Evelyn Whitley Ar Bugler was Evelyn Whitley as well.

5914

06:46:40.850 --> 06:46:41.950

So thank you very much for that.

5915
06:46:48.250 --> 06:46:50.350
Please stand now for retiring of the colors.

5916
06:46:59.780 --> 06:47:00.680
Retire the colors.

5917
06:49:28.390 --> 06:49:31.630
Thank you. Two quick announcements.

5918
06:49:32.450 --> 06:49:36.030
The first is on our schedule tomorrow. For those of you, uh, who'll be leaving,

5919
06:49:36.370 --> 06:49:40.110
excuse me, we have a religious service at eight 30. Uh, an education session,

5920
06:49:40.470 --> 06:49:41.630
I believe starts at nine 30,

5921
06:49:41.630 --> 06:49:44.150
but double check your registration package for the schedule,

5922
06:49:44.810 --> 06:49:48.270
and now we'll be adjourning to the other room. Uh, if you haven't finished

5923
06:49:52.240 --> 06:49:53.780
to go in first. Okay.

5924
06:49:53.850 --> 06:49:57.620
What we'd like to do is ask the veterans to go into the room first for the front

5925
06:49:57.620 --> 06:50:00.780
row seating. So if you'd make room for the veterans to, uh,

5926
06:50:00.780 --> 06:50:03.780

go in the other room. If you need to finish up your dessert quick, do that.

5927

06:50:03.780 --> 06:50:06.020

But we'll start the film in about five minutes.

5928

06:50:07.400 --> 06:50:09.950

We're excited to have the film showing. Thank you.