

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

In carrying through with the history theme from the last issue, we have included a short history of the 15th Air Force along with a list of 15th Air Force Units and a description of the Airfield at Torretta. Below is a suggested list of recent publications that should be available at your book dealers or local libraries.

A Short History Book List

New in paperback, **Disaster at Bari**, by Glen Infield. The Luftwaffe attack on Bari Harbor December 2, 1943. A well researched book on a most successful German Luftwaffe attack on Allied shipping by Ju-88's and the lingering effects of bursting mustard gas shells on the citizens of Bari.

New Hardcover books

Men of the Luftwaffe, by Samuel W Mitcham Jr.

A history of the German Luftwaffe as told through its leaders. The men who made up the modern German Airforce were brilliant, ambitious, ruthless, deceitful, weak, and also powerful. The book covers the reason Alfred Kesserling favored 2 engine bombers over 4 engine bombers, and how this oversight and others led to the destruction of this mighty air force.

Hap, by Thomas M Coffee. General of the Air Force, Henry H "Hap" Arnold, an incurable maverick the hidebound US Army tried to contain. Hap fought hard for the Army Air Corps which eventually became the greatest air force the world had ever seen.

Whittle, The True Story, by John Golley. The story of the RAF officer who invented the modern jet engine. Sir Frank Whittle, a technical prodigy, who in the 1920s foresaw powerful turbine engines to power the next generation of aircraft. By sheer chance in the month of May 1942, a visit to England by Hap Arnold resulted in the Whittle engine being brought to the United States for manufacture, and what was to become the birth of the jet engine industry in the United States.

The Interrogator, by Raymond F Toliver. The story of Hans Schraff, the Luftwaffe's master interrogator. The magic spell used by Hans Schraff made Allied prisoners of war talk, even though they were conditioned to remain silent. His methods broke down barriers so effectively that after the war, the United States Air Force invited him to lecture senior officers at the Pentagon on POW interrogation.

Reuben Fleet, and the Story of Consolidated Aircraft, by William Wagner. Reuben Fleet, an early airmail pilot was the founder of Consolidated Aircraft in San Diego, the builder of the famed B-24 Liberator bomber. Learn how the B-24 was developed from a seaplane design with a Davis wing and twin rudders. (Seaplanes need large rudder area to control maneuverability in the water). As a result performance suffered until the B-24 N series with a single tail was built. Unfortunately, the B-24 N appeared too late to be operational in the war torn skies of WW2.

History Theme Continues

The historical theme that was started in issue No #16 Fall/Winter 88, **Torretta Flyer**, with the story, "History of the Army Air Forces 1907-1947" is continued in this issue with several stories starting on page 13 and continues on page 18 and 19. The "History of the 15th Air Force in World War Two" (page 13) is illustrated with photographs taken from the Association's collection. "The Engineer's Report on Torretta Field" was researched by member William Warren, whose father was William Miles, pilot, 827th Squadron. Additional historical articles will appear from time to time as the material becomes available.

The Histories of World War Two Air Force units are stored in two places, The National Archives, Washington DC for combat records, and Maxwell Field, Alabama for unit histories. 16MM microfilm historical summaries are available from Maxwell Field for some of our units. The Association has ordered microfilms in the past and will purchase additional reels this year. Prints will be made from these reels and will be bound for display at future reunions

Scholarship Awards Ceremony

It is hoped that the Scholarship Awards Ceremony can be arranged for the the third or fourth week in September, 1989 in the city of Cerignola, Italy. Members who wish to attend the ceremony should contact the Association office now. We will keep the membership informed as to the correct dates when the information is available to us.

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!!

We wish to thank those wonderful people who helped so much to make the 88 San Francisco reunion one of the best. They are: Charles H Bell, 825th sq, Jim Doppee, husband of Darlene Doppee, 827th sq, Clark and Doris Ection, 825 sq, and Harold Meshel, 824th sq.

The Torretta Flyer



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The Association welcomes stories and photographs dealing with the Air War over Europe during World War Two, and on the history of the B-24 Liberator Bomber. Stories of the Luftwaffe's flak arm and fighter defenses are also welcome. Direct all inquiries to the Editor, **Torretta Flyer**, 1122 Ysabel St. Redondo Beach, California, 90277. Phone (213) 316-3330