

These fifty-year-old snapshots from the albums of Air Force Association members recall personal dimensions of an epic time.

World War II Scrapbook

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Capt. (later Brig. Gen.) John O. Gray—who would spend forty years on the AFA staff and twice serve as its executive director—maneuvers his bicycle at a base in England in 1942.



At Goose Bay, Labrador, in 1943, 1st Lt. Amos Chalif of Air Transport Command displays his "short snorter," a popular item that consisted of bills from various countries, joined together and autographed by your crewmates and others you met in your travels, especially on transoceanic flights. If you were caught without your short snorter, Amos Chalif explains, you had to buy a short snort for your colleagues. He still has his short snorter.



This photo was taken in May 1945 in Belgium, a week after Paul Airey had been liberated from a German prison camp. During his captivity, he survived a ninety-day forced march from the Baltic Sea to Stalag 11B near Bremen. He went on to become the first Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force.



In November 1943, Maj. Richard H. Becker, 24th Mess Group commander, and his staff at Boca Raton AAB, Fla., fed as many as 20,000 men a day. AFA National Director Becker says they were assisted in the effort by a daily roster of nearly 3,000 KPs and that the government allowed an expense of sixty-one cents per man per day for three meals.



In England in 1945, brothers Warren R. and Norton F. Schewel read a letter from home in Arizona. Both were B-17 pilots and crewed together in the 452d Bomb Group. When this photo was taken, a third brother, Hendrik Schewel, was in bombardier training.



Among these crewmen of the B-24 The Ancient and Honorable is a future AFA president and chairman of the board, Thos. F. Stack. Pictured, beginning with the top row, are Sgt. Sig Baker (engineer), Sgt. Henry Rinna (radioman), Sgt. Herb Eldridge (ball gunner), Sgt. Andy Wozar (waist gunner), Sgt. Bill Hodgeman (nose gunner), and Sgt. Sid Butler (tailgunner). In front are Lt. Jimmy Morris (bombardier), Lieutenant Stack (navigator), Lt. John Wolff (pilot), and Lt. Dick Federsen (copilot). In 1944, with the aircraft shot to pieces by enemy fire, Lieutenant Wolff rode it down to a crash landing on a mountainside, losing his own life trying to save crewmen trapped in back.



There are two Air Force Association members in this shot, taken in Colorado Springs, Colo., in 1945—Richard S. Reid, Sr. (for whom the AFA chapter in Green Valley, Ariz., is named), and his oldest child, who grew up to be Col. Richard S. Reid, Jr.



In those days, W. Burr Bennett says, he could not only lift this aerial camera but "I could also stick it out the gun window of a B-17 to take oblique photographs." In the 1990s, Burr Bennett collected 25,761 signatures petitioning the Smithsonian Institution for proper display of the Enola Gay, the B-29 that dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima.



In 1945, T. Ross Milton, later a four-star general and longtime columnist for Air Force Magazine, shares a moment with his springer spaniel, Mickey, at Grafton Underwood in England.



In June 1944, enlisted pilots flew courier duty for the fake "army headquarters" built in England to deceive the enemy about the invasion force. In front are pilots MSgt. Maurice Menge, SSgt. Sam Brose, SSgt. John H. Miller—later, a charter member of AFA—TSgt. Archie Schewer, and SSgt. Chester A. Taylor. Standing are mechanics Sgt. Edwin J. Tenhagen and SSgt. Willie Smith.



2d Lt. Allen G. Harris posed for this picture February 21, 1944, upon graduation from advanced pilot training at Tuskegee AAF, Ala. At present, he is national vice president of AFA's northeast region.



Lt. William W. Spruance, flying his own Culver Cadet (along with Maj. Gen. George S. Patton, flying his own Stinson Reliant), pioneered forward air control at Fort Benning, Ga., in 1941. He went on to fly 362 transport missions in the China-Burma-India theater and become a brigadier general, a founding member of the Delaware Air National Guard, chairman of the board of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, and a longtime national director of the Air Force Association.



Jack B. Gross (back row, center) and his colleagues encountered this camel in North Africa. After the war, Jack Gross became a charter member of AFA, served as chairman of the board, and was national treasurer for many years.



A youthful James M. Keck, complete here with leather helmet and goggles, finished primary flying school at Avon Park, Fla. He flew two combat tours with Eighth Air Force in World War II, retired as a lieutenant general, and later was president and chairman of the board of AFA's affiliate, the Aerospace Education Foundation.



Cpl. Andy Bischoff stands by a headquarters squadron tent on Saipan in the Marianas, sometime in 1945.



On a weekend in the spring of 1941, Capt. Bruce K. Holloway flew this P-35 from Wright Field in Dayton, Ohio, to McGhee-Tyson airport in his home town, Knoxville, Tenn., where this photo was taken. He flew with the famed "Flying Tigers" and emerged from the war as an ace with thirteen victories. General Holloway capped his career as commander in chief of Strategic Air Command.



The subjects of this photo are permanently identified by Ed Rector, who wrote his name and Charlie Bond's and Tex Hill's in some time ago. It was taken in July 1943 at the British embassy in Washington, D. C., where the three officers had received the British Distinguished Flying Crosses in recognition of their service with the American Volunteer Group in China.



On leave in Phoenix in July 1945 are (at left) Lt. O. R. Crawford (a charter member and future president and chairman of the board of the Air Force Association), Lt. Wayne Knutila, and Lt. James E. Darrough. Today, in air shows across the nation, Ollie Crawford flies—as he did in the Army Air Forces fifty years ago—a Curtiss P-40 Warhawk.



Capt. Jock Henebry—later a major general and AFA president and chairman of the board—stands in front of a B-25 at Dobodura, New Guinea, in May 1943. Gen. George Kenney, commander of Far East Air Forces, called him “the outstanding low-level bombardment commander of the Pacific war.”



Three weeks into the Battle of Iwo Jima, Marine 1st Lt. Karl Berg takes a bath out of his helmet. Today, he is a retired Lutheran minister and active with the Tacoma, Wash., Chapter of the Air Force Association.



In this 1943 photo, Lt. George M. Douglas was temporarily back in the United States to transition to amphibian forces before returning to duty in the Pacific. The car is a 1939 Plymouth convertible. He retired as a major general and served as president and chairman of the board of AFA.



At Snetterton Heath, England, in June 1944, Maj. (later Brig. Gen.) Joseph W. Turner, commander of the 413th Bomb Squadron, 96th Bomb Group, greets Capt. Paul E. Atkins and his B-17 crew as they return from their twenty-fifth mission.



Long before he became the national chaplain of the Air Force Association or an Air Force major general, SSgt. Richard Carr was a radio operator/gunner on B-24s and flew combat missions in the Pacific.



This award was presented in a closed ceremony by Gen. Curtis E. LeMay to Capt. George A. Grossman, staff aerial mine warfare officer of the XXI Bomber Command, because it involved classified operations in which B-29 aircraft laid mines in harbors and shipping channels of the Japanese home islands.



At a bomb shelter on Morotai in the South Pacific in 1945, SSgt. J. Wally Black (right) meets up again with a friend, Cpl. Linus Franko.



TSgt. James E. Adair strikes a pose beside his jeep in Leesburg, Fla. He was a crew chief with a mobile unit supporting B-17s, B-24s, and other aircraft at several bases in central Florida.



Lt. Loren B. Heath, Jr. (left), joins other B-24 crew members for a meal in the squadron mess at Mandaria, Italy, in September 1944. He has traded his beer for a soft drink.



Lt. Dolores Mulvihill—Dolores Zebrowski now—says she still thinks often of the patients she and her colleagues took care of at Drew Field in Tampa, Fla.



At ceremonies in England May 9, 1944, Capt. Robert S. Johnson—the fourth-ranking Army Air Forces ace of World War II with twenty-seven victories—stands with his hands in his pockets, but so does Gen. Carl A. Spaatz. After the war, Bob Johnson served as president of the Air Force Association, as did Gen. James H. Doolittle (with his arms crossed in this photo).



Joe Falcone stands by an armored car at Clark Field in the Philippines in 1945. He is a charter member and a national director of the Air Force Association.



MSgt. Clarence M. Juett (atop the boulder), in B-29 maintenance training at Seattle, Wash., in 1944, enjoys a day outdoors with his wife, Mary Juett, and a friend, SSgt. Hubert Pipkins, who was also in the B-29 course.



Capt. Nathan H. Mazer, shown here in England in August 1944, was an armament officer and a frequent crew member on bomber missions over Europe. Before receiving his commission, he flew as an enlisted gunner on B-25s. He was a charter member of AFA, later its national secretary, and is presently a national director.

In 1943, Frances Kalmnovitz Mazer signed up, too, serving in the Women's Army Corps while her husband, Nate Mazer, was on duty overseas with the Army Air Forces.



Maj. Donald J. Strait—wearing a magnificent pair of boots—stands in front of his P-51 fighter, Jersey Jerk, at Martlesham Heath aerodrome in England in 1945. An ace with 13.5 victories, he eventually retired as a major general.



C-47 pilot 1st Lt. Victor Kobold (left) and two members of his crew pose in front of their aircraft at Kutkai, Burma, near the juncture of the Stilwell and Old Burma Roads, in January 1945. His memories of flying in Burma include the inclined runway at Shingbwiyang where he landed uphill and took off downhill.



Capt. Sherman W. Wilkins cuts a fine figure in front of his B-29 crew tent in Kwanhan, China, in August 1944. He is a national director of AFA and served as national secretary.



Childhood friends from Illinois, Cal Johnson of the US Marines and Army Air Forces SSgt. Richard M. Skinner (right) meet on Guam in May 1945. After the war, Dick Skinner was, for many years, managing editor of Air Force Magazine.



Beaming out from a banyan tree on Guadalcanal in 1943 is Lt. John G. Brosky, who was an artillery officer at the time. He later joined the US Air Force, retired as a brigadier general, became a judge of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania, and served as national president and chairman of the board of the Air Force Association.



Later on, Edward S. Papelian would fly B-26 bombers in combat, but when this picture was taken in 1941, his aircraft was a Stearman PT-19 at the Rankin Flying Academy in Tulare, Calif.



In the summer of 1944, 1st Lt. Hal Strack was navigator for the B-24 Headin' Home at Grottaglie, Italy. He retired as a brigadier general and served AFA as California state president and national director.



AFA charter member George Weinbrenner wears the uniform of a French officer while fighting with resistance forces during the invasion of Europe in June 1944. He evaded capture for several months after being shot down on a bombing raid deep inside Germany in February 1944.



A street photographer in San Antonio, Tex., snapped this shot of Bryan L. Murphy, Jr., and his wife, Gwendolyn, in January 1944 during a break from Flight Officer Murphy's preflight training. Today, he is an AFA national director.



In early 1944, Victor R. Kregel poses with his PBY5A, Frank Duck, on Biak Island off the northern coast of New Guinea. He was later president and chairman of the board of the Air Force Association.



Walter N. Zywan (right) and his colleagues watch a P-40 shoot "touch and go" landings at Mitchel Field on Long Island in 1941. Today, he is treasurer of New York State AFA.



More was to be heard from members of this B-29 crew at MacDill AFB, Fla., in early 1945. The aircraft commander, first in the bottom row, is Lt. Russell E. Dougherty, future commander in chief of Strategic Air Command and AFA executive director in the 1980s. The bombardier lieutenant behind him (with rolled-up sleeves) went on to fame in the world of music and television as Tennessee Ernie Ford. The AFA chapter in Sunnyvale, Calif., is named for him. Cpl. Fred Quinn, beside Lieutenant Ford in the back row, finished his Air Force career as a chief master sergeant. Gunner George Damewood (front row, second from right) left the Air Force to become a dentist, but fifty years later, he's still active in AFA.



A dapper-looking John L. Frisbee poses at Montgomery, Ala., in 1942 or 1943. Later along, he became editor of Air Force Magazine and author of the long-running "Valor" series.



Aviation Cadet Paul Corbisiero takes a moment from primary flying school in 1943 at Thunderbird Field in Phoenix, Ariz., to pose with this Stearman biplane trainer. Fifty years later, on his seventieth birthday, Paul Corbisiero's son and nephew treated him to a flight in a rented Stearman.



In 1945, 1st Lt. R. L. Devoucoux, a B-17 aircraft commander, stands in front of a map in East Anglia displaying the twenty-four missions he led against targets in Germany. Today, Dev Devoucoux is an AFA national director and long-serving member of the Finance Committee.



Sandy Faust touches 'em all. In August 1944, he was a quartermaster third class aboard the battleship USS Pennsylvania and on liberty in Australia when this shot was taken. He retired from the US Army as a colonel and is currently an AFA national director and secretary of AFA's Aerospace Education Foundation.



1st Lt. Albert R. "Pancho" Santos is pictured in his P-51 on the day of his final mission, August 7, 1944, at Steeple Morden, England.



In front of Daisy May, a Bristol Beaufighter Mk. VI at Cagliari, Sardinia, in late 1943, are the radar observer, Flight Officer Joseph Owen; the pilot, 1st Lt. Jack Gamble (later a major general and stalwart member of the Tacoma, Wash., Chapter of AFA); and the crew chief, TSgt. Arthur Boursse.



Flying Cadet James M. Trail checks out a PT-13 Stearman-Boeing at Glendale, Calif., in July 1940. He was a charter member of the Air Force Association, served as chairman of the board in 1959, and is presently a national director.



Harry W. Love was a cadet at Washington State College when this photo was taken in 1943. In 1944, on his twenty-first birthday, he was shot down while flying as a bombardier in a B-17 in Europe and spent the rest of the war in German POW camps.



Sgt. Gerson L. Kelman sits on a bomb trailer at Thorpe Abbots, England, in 1944, just before loading the B-17 in the background.



Weddings in uniform were quite common in World War II. On July 21, 1944, Capt. William V. McBride married Kathryn A. Solsberg in their hometown, Wampum, Pa. Their stay in the Air Force covered thirty-seven years (and thirty-two moves) before General McBride retired in 1978 as Vice Chief of Staff. He is a national director of the Air Force Association.



In November 1944, 1st Lt. James E. Carl returns to a base in France from a fighter mission in a P-51D Mustang.



1st Lt. Bud West, a B-25 squadron leader, stands by his tent on Corsica in the fall of 1944. He served as national secretary of AFA and is a national director emeritus.



The fine-looking second lieutenant on the far left in the back row is Earl D. Clark, Jr., copilot of this B-24 crew as it nears the end of combat crew training in 1944. Before his orders to an operational theater came through, though, Lieutenant Clark was retrained into the newer B-32 bomber and flew that aircraft and B-29s overseas. In later years, he was national secretary of AFA and chairman of the building committee for the Air Force Association Building.



Col. Geraldine P. May, the first director of Women in the Air Force, inspects new trainees at Lackland AFB, Tex. Colonel May celebrated her 100th birthday in April 1995 in Menlo Park, Calif.



At Villacidro, Sardinia, in November 1943, Thomas Bigger poses in a foxhole that he helped dig. In recent years, Tom Bigger has held a range of AFA positions, from chapter president up.



Maj. John R. Alison, a Fourteenth Air Force "Flying Tigers" ace, poses in front of a Curtiss P-40 somewhere in China. At later points in his remarkable career, Johnny Alison was an assistant secretary of Commerce, president of the Air Force Association, a major general in the Reserve, and a vice president of Northrop Corp.



Lt. Henry A. Potter was the navigator in the B-25 flown by Lt. Col. Jimmy Doolittle on the classic Tokyo raid in April 1942. He is still active in AFA and is a popular speaker on the Association circuit.



In November 1944, Lt. Harry Swanson was a B-25 pilot stationed on Corsica. In this photo, he stands by the nose wheel of a B-25 just back from a mission over Italy. ■