



## SCHAF Newsletter for Aug 2019

**Reminder: The next SCHAF Open House will take place on Saturday, Aug 10, 2019 from 10am-1pm at Hangar Y-1 Hamilton/Owens Airport.**

### Foundation Happenings

SCHAF was recently contacted by Jason Ewart who was in town on business. His great-uncle flew B-25s in WWII so Jason was interested in seeing GF2. While Lt Hankins' pilot log does not list the exact B-25 he was flying during training, he was stationed at GAAB at the time GF2 was flying. It is possible the Lt flew our plane during training! The following write-up about his uncle was sent to us by Jason.



2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Lawrence Ray Hankins

My great-uncle was 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Lawrence Ray Hankins from Moxahala, Ohio. Enlisted in 1942 at the age of 21. Graduated flight school from Ellington Field in Texas. Then came to Columbia AAB and Grenville AAB in April-Jun 1944, before heading overseas. He was a co-pilot in the 405<sup>th</sup> Squadron, 38<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group. He was first stationed in Nadzab, New Guinea, then to Morotai Island for combat ops in October '44. On December 27, 1944, he and the other 4 crew were killed when their B-25J crashed on Tarakan Island during a mission. Reports claim it was due to enemy ground fire. But the information I have does not provide further details. They were declared MIA for nearly a year before officially declared KIA. The crew's remains were not recovered until 1950. They were buried together in Little Rock national Cemetery.

In one of his letters from Columbia, AAB, he tells his mother, "If it wasn't for these darn shacks we live in, I would like this place a lot...." "These pine trees are nice and the weather is fine."



## **DONATIONS to SCHAF**

We were thrilled to have this recent donation from Barbara Lane. This is the bottom half of a practice bomb. We have seen pictures where these were used as ashtrays on Army bases. We are working on cleaning the practice bomb and then putting it on display in the hangar. Come check it out!



We also received a very nice donation of about 100 slides from Mitch Oates who owns Catch & Release Sportsman's Consignments. While we have not had a chance to completely review the slides, we believe they feature air shows from the 50's/60's that took place around the state. We will provide more information after we have a chance to look over the slides. A big thank you to Mitch. If you are ever in Cayce at the Parkland Plaza, be sure to check out their store. They have some great items for sale.

## **RESTORATION PROGRESS**

Even though the temperature keeps rising in the hangar, we are still there on Monday and Thursday evenings working away. Luckily, we have a refrigerator in the hangar that we keep stocked with cold water. We also have fans running constantly! We are definitely putting our blood, sweat and tears into the GF2! We are looking forward to cooler nights. Work in the navigator's area and the bombardier's area is progressing along nicely. Hand making parts is time consuming but very rewarding. These areas are looking VERY nice. Stop by the next open house to see the progress!

## History of GF2

We are very excited and appreciative to the Index-Journal newspaper in Greenwood, SC. Adam Benson, a staff writer at the newspaper, wrote a wonderful article about our work being done on GF2. If you have not seen it, we shared the link on our Facebook page. Matthew Hensley, editor at the newspaper, took the time to look up and send us copies of previous Index-Journal articles featuring GF2. In the next few issues of the newsletter, we will be featuring quotes from these articles.

The following is the article originally featured in the Index-Journal issue from 7 June 1944. Since this was the day after D-Day, GF2 was relegated to a small article on page 5 under the “Brief City News” headline:

### **Bomber Lands in Lake Greenwood**

A B-25 bomber from the Greenville Air Base made a forced landing in Lake Greenwood, about a mile above the Buzzard Roost Dam, yesterday afternoon, with no loss of life, Col. Oliver H Stout, commanding officer of the base, announced last night.

No other information was released from the base, but it was learned here that three of the men were unhurt and two were only slightly injured.

## GOOD READS

Personally, I love to read magazines! I recently purchased the latest issue of Warbird Digest. This issue includes the restoration of a Yale. I buy every magazine that includes anything about a B-25. Finding an article about a Yale like ours was very exciting. I subscribe to a bunch of aviation magazines. Do any of you have a favorite aviation magazine?

## Odds and Ends:

If you have something you would like to share in a future newsletter, please send an email directly to SCHAF at [info.schaf@gmail.com](mailto:info.schaf@gmail.com).

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