



American Legion



POST 305 BUGLE

September 2007

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COMMANDER'S CORNER

The month starts off pretty quick with Labor Day, and we have something going then. In Market Square, The Woodlands, there is a Putt-Putt that it offered to non-profit organizations as a fund-raiser. We have reserved the Putt-Putt for Monday, Sep. 3 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The golf will be free with a donation solicited. We will also be raffling off a child's wagon, selling Entertainment Books, recruiting new members. Come out and visit the Putt-Putt and bring the grandkids. Bring your neighbors.

Now about the Entertainment Books, they contain money saving coupons for local establishments. We have sold them in years past, but this time we are in sync with the start date on the book. We need everyone to sell/buy them and we only have a month to sell 50. If you would like to sell/buy them let me know and I will get the number of books you want to you. The cost is \$39.95 and we get to keep \$19.95. If we sell all 50, that is about \$1000, or two scholarships. Any question, contact me by email or phone.

Membership is going well. We have about 230 renewals, but we need 396, so we have a long way to go. If you haven't sent your renewal in, please do it at your earliest convenience.

For God and Country,
Jim Bolin, Commander

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Prior to the meeting we had three Boy's State attendees, Denny Staples (TWHS), Ward Jackson (TWCA), and T.J. Doyle (Oak Ridge) discuss their thoughts about the trip. After that we had a short intermission where we had refreshments and got to socialize with the guests.

During the meeting, we passed two motions, one to spend \$60 to reproduce an award plaque for our webmaster, Kathi Starcher, as the original presented to us at the State Convention had my name as webmaster. The second motion was to send \$100 to State to buy phone cards for the patients at Lanstual Hospital in Germany. I sent a notice out about this a month or so ago.

Dutch Dettinger is to look into creating a taxi service to the Conroe VA Clinic using the assets of the Legion and the VFW. Anyone having any ideas should contact Dutch.

We also postponed approving the budget for next year as I forgot to bring sufficient copies for all members at the meeting.

VETERAN ADVOCATE

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Houston VA Regional Center 1-713-383-7842

Montgomery County Veterans Service Office 1-936-539-7842

Your Legislators (Toll Free) 1-877-762-876, 1-888-762-6780

Strokes are the number one cause of adult disability in the US and the third largest cause of death. The VA estimates it hospitalizes 15,000 veterans with a stroke each year. Veterans who arrive at the hospital within 3 hours can be treated with a “clot busting” drug (tPA) to reduce the effects of the stroke, but it must be given within 3 hours. Another treatment is “intra-arterial (IA) therapy”. A catheter is inserted in an artery to the brain and the drug is placed directly on the clot. Both treatments are available at the Houston VA Medical Center. MY OPINION: Not all VA facilities are set up to use these procedures, so be thankful for its availability. Just remember that 3 hour time period.

The Houston VA Medical Ctr. Is the first hospital in Houston and among the first VA Hospitals to us a catheter-based technology based on color to assess and treat coronary artery disease. Intravascular ultrasound will produce a color-coded map of the arterial disease inside the heart. MY OPINION: WOW!

Dutch Dettinger
Veteran’s Advocate 281-419-1631

AUXILIARY NEWS

At the August meeting we had Madison Biehl (Oak Ridge) and Neha Manikonda (College Park), two of our three Girl State attendees present us with tales of their exploits.

Paula Ison orchestrated an emergency buy of school supplies for the children of the workers at the Regent Care Center. She collected over \$600 in money plus school supplies, enough to fill bags for 83 kids. Great job to all who worked on this project with money or time.

Here is a reminder that the rummage sale is coming up in October. It is the Saturday after our October Picnic at Shadow Bend

Park. Mark your calendar now for both events now and come out and enjoy the company. If you are coming to the picnic, please bring a dish to share.

Mary Bolin
President, Unit 305

POST’S POLICY

American Legion caps will not be worn while eating.

POST’S COMMITTEES

The Visitation Committee is charged with visiting and comforting members and their families when sick or bereaved, and visiting ex-service personnel in hospitals.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Announcement: Your receipt of this newsletter is based upon the editor having your email address. If you change it for any reason (such as change from Road Runner to Comcast), be sure to let the editor know.

Announcement: Due to lack of funds, future issues of the Bugle will be distributed by email, except for the May issue. It will be announcing the elections in May to the entire mailing list. If you know anyone who gets the Bugle by mail and not by email, please share this information.

HOMETOWN HERO

Bob Jackson was born February 23, 1920 in Huntington, Indiana. In August of 1940, he tried to join the Illinois National Guard, but they had no openings. So, he went to Peoria, Illinois where he enlisted in the U. S. Army Air Corps (It didn’t become the Air Force until after WWII). He took Basic Training at Selfridge Field Michigan. After that he was sent to Aeronautical University in Chicago, Illinois for more training, specifically about Army Air Corps machines and airplanes. He learned to fly Air Corps P1’s and P2’s (WWI surplus) out of Midway Airport in Chicago.

After graduation he was assigned to Eddie Rickenbaker's unit, the 1st Pursuit Group. The 1st Pursuit Group was combined with the 13th Pursuit Group and transferred to San Diego Naval Base California. While there he flew under the Golden Gate Bridge with Eddie Rickenbaker in B-25 bombers. Then they flew cross country to Selfridge Field Michigan for the completion of his training.

He was transferred back to San Diego after completion of his training. In December 1941 he was sent to San Francisco, and shortly set sail on the passenger ship, The President Coolidge in December 1941. They were bound for the Philippines, but were redirected to Melbourne, Australia after learning of the bombing of Pearl Harbor. In Melbourne they assembled P-40 aircraft that had been shipped in crates from Africa. Once the aircraft were assembled, they went to Perth, Australia and boarded the USS Langley aircraft carrier with the P-40's on board and headed for Java. On the way, they were spotted by a Japanese submarine which fired several torpedoes into the carrier causing serious damage. Next they were attacked by bombers and had to abandon ship. The ship was eventually sunk by the U. S. Navy to keep the P-40's from falling into the hands of the Japanese.

The escort ships took them to Karachi, India where they were housed in an abandon blimp hanger which at one time housed the Graf Zeppelin. There his squadron of P-40's was supplemented by B-25 bombers. He was assigned to the 490 Bomb Squadron and flew twenty-five missions as crew chief performing many duties such as pilot, turret gunner, and spotter. This squadron was stationed at Mitkyina (1941-1942)

He was asked to join the Flying Tigers by General Chennault who to him he would be paid \$300 per month and \$500 for each Japanese plane he shot down. He would be

paid by the Flying Tigers, not the Air Corps, and the money would be deposited in a bank in the U. S. While with the Flying Tigers he flew many raids on Japanese targets and had many dogfights with Japanese planes. He missed being as ace by one plane. The Flying Tigers, also known as the AGV did a good part of the fighting before WWII and much of the fighting in the early part of the war. When the Flying tigers were disbanded in 1942, he was transferred back to the Air Corps 490th Bomb Group where he flew many other bombing missions.

He was selected by Col. Doolittle to undergo a different type of B-25 training (something about Tokyo). They were transferred back to San Diego, California where they underwent vigorous training learning how to take off in B-25's, fully loaded with fuel and bombs in a very short distance. To reduce the weight of the planes, they removed the belly turret and the rear cannons from the B-25's and replaced them with broomsticks. Col. Doolittle did not think the Japanese would not think they could shoot them down too easily.

After training he boarded the aircraft carrier Hornet. All the aircraft were loaded on the ship by then and they set sail for Tokyo. They were all briefed on the plans to bomb Tokyo. The Hornet got as close to the coastline as possible. There the boarded the loaded B-25's and took off for Tokyo. It was a mission he would never forget. On the way to Tokyo, several fishing boats spotted them, but they didn't know what they were going to do, so they just waived at them. He proceeded to his target and dropped his bombs and turned and headed for Kuming, China where they had been briefed to land after the mission. If they couldn't make Kuming, they were to find a friendly place to land (crack up). They were all low on fuel by this time and some of the planes were pretty badly shot up, but

still flying. He was one of the luck ones, He Made It!

He flew many other bombing missions from China, and on one of these missions he was shot down and captured by the Japanese in Mitkyina. He weighed one hundred and ninety five pounds when captured. Several months later his weight was down to ninety-six pounds. He contracted malaria, dysentery, yellow jaundice and other illness. The Japanese wanted to know about the U.S. forces and treated very badly. He was able to not tell them what they wanted to know.

Col. Robert Merrill's Guerrillas rescued all of them from the Japanese. They were really glad to see them (The Col's guerrillas were a bunch of tough guys). After rescue he was transported to Letterman Hospital in San Francisco to recover. When he was released from the hospital and he was sent back to China to fly C-47's over the hump from Burma and India to China. While doing this, he was treated to British rations which were better than U.S. rations. At this time he was flying with the British, however British tea breaks were hard to get used to.

When the war was about over, he was transferred to Pampa, Texas until it was time for his discharge. He was discharged from Fort Sheridan, Ill. on September 17, 1945 because he had sufficient points due to his adventures.

Sat. Oct 27 Fall District Meeting Post 618

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Post Activities

Day	Date	Activity	Location
Mon.	Sep. 3	Putt-Putt	Mkt. Square
Mon.	Sep. 17	Ex Comm.	Office
Thru.	Sep. 20	Membership Meeting	Rayford Rd
Mon.	Oct. 15	Ex. Comm.	Office
Thur.	Oct. 18	Picnic	Shadow Bend Park
Fri	Oct.19	Prep. for Rummage Sale	Robinson Rd
Sat.	Oct 20	Rummage Sale	Robinson Rd