



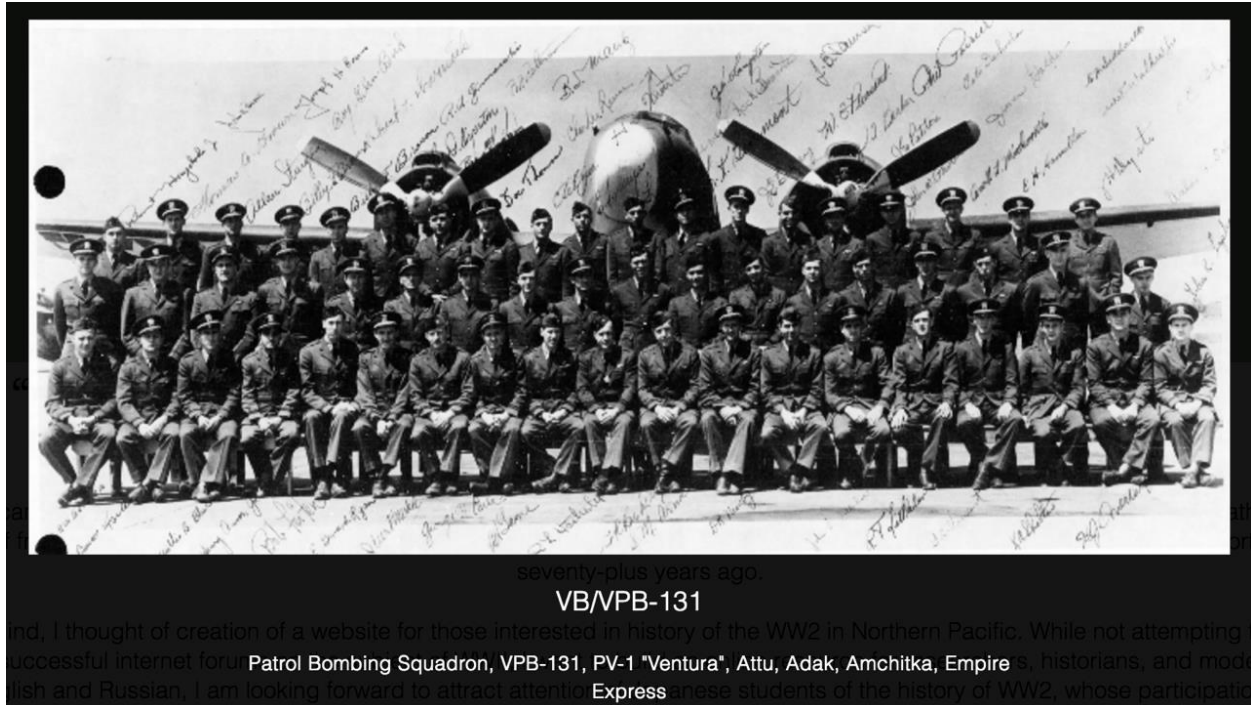
American Military Heritage Foundation
Dedicated to preserving, in flying
condition, a Vintage PV-2 Harpoon in memory of all who fought on
behalf of the United States of America

July 2017 Newsletter

When I sat down in front of the computer to start this newsletter, I spent quite a bit of time looking for some inspiring quote that would motivate everyone in some great way. Yes I found many quotes from all types of people men, women, actors, movie stars, politicians, and many others. I did not find one that I thought was just head and shoulders above any other. With that said I would ask that this Independence Day you pause and think about how great this country is that we live in including all of the freedoms and liberties that no other nation enjoys. You might also take time to review the mission statement of the AMHF and think about what we are doing to preserve the memories of those who went before us.

Since our last newsletter I have to report that we have two people who flew west for the last time.

Captain Robert Feiten: VPB-131 PV-1 Attu, Adak, Amchitka Empire Express



and, I thought of creation of a website for those interested in history of the WW2 in Northern Pacific. While not attempting a successful internet forum for Patrol Bombing Squadron, VPB-131, PV-1 "Ventura", Attu, Adak, Amchitka, Empire's historians, and modelers, I am looking forward to attract attention of these students of the history of WW2, whose participation in the Empire Express

Darrell Shrader; For any who don't know he and his wife Sherry were the operators at Shelbyville and were very big fans of the Harpoon helping us out on many occasions.

In regards to our WWII veterans I was handed a story this past week from a friend, who had a cousin by the name of Charles Everett who served in the infantry and was in the Battle of the Bulge. Need I mention this was not the place you wanted to be? He was captured along with many others. They were loaded in trucks and taken to an area where there were some other trucks parked, they were ordered out of the trucks and marched into a small depression behind the other trucks at which point the covers came up on the back revealing a machine gun in each truck which commenced firing. Call it luck or something else he was only injured and was covered up by other soldiers falling on him. After the Germans had left he managed to crawl out and somehow make it back to the American lines.

He was eventually sent home to live out the rest of his life which was basically a bottle. Naturally no one had ever heard of PTS at this time so he was more or less just left to take care of himself. If there was something good about this he lived in the attic of his mother's house. My friend was a very young boy at this time and Mr. Everett would talk with him. He always said, "be kind to everyone" and headed off to town to get drunk. One night my friend heard a noise outside his window so he went over and looked out to see what was going on. It was the local police bringing Charles home. They got him out of the car, walked him up to the porch, straightened all of his clothes up, backed up and saluted him. They returned to their car and left. Could this be an example for us? You see PTS was not known about yet, however, the people of this town knew Charles Everett and knew what had happened and were trying to take care of him as best they could.

June was a nice month for working considering how things can go in Indiana. We were able to finish up all of the wheels. So for the first time that I remember there are new tires on all three wheels, clean brake stacks and seal on the mains. The wheels on the main gear have been painted to match the plane. Quite honestly she looks pretty good sitting there.

The tool box repair is almost ready for painting so it should be done very soon. That pretty much finishes up the 240 hour D check. Therefore, we should be ready for the engine run and ground checks. After that sign off and go fly.

In other news Shelbyville is going to have a fly in drive in breakfast on July 15 and we would like to make that event and perhaps bring in some much need revenue. We have another board meeting scheduled for July 8, 2016 there will be an election of members and officers so if you are interested in a position on the board please let President Suiter know. There is a considerable amount of work going on trying to put together some fund raising events along with increasing membership. As always if anyone has any suggestions please let us know.

Have a great month,

Gaylon

“The optimist proclaims that we live in the best of all possible worlds, and the pessimist fears this is true. “

James Branch Cabell, writer

“An executive was asked his key to success. His answer was making good decisions. How did you learn to make good decisions? From experience, how did you get the experience, by making bad decisions?”

Author unknown