

The Tri-State Warbird Museum...a historic aviation museum dedicated to remembering those who fought for our freedom, and honoring those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

May 2010 Volume 4 Number 2

The Tri-State Warbird Museum

Tri-State Warbird Museum
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Hours:

Wednesday 4pm-7pm

Saturday 10am-3pm

Admission \$12

Discounts available for veterans and students

Annual and lifetime individual and family memberships are available

Donations are needed and are most appreciated - Thank you!

Walk of Veterans Bricks

Art Spiegel, US Marine Corps WWII veteran Page 2

Doolittle Reunion and Axis Nightmare April 2010 Page 2

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Captain Art Spiegel, United States Marine Corps March 1942– December 1945



Art Spiegel is amazing. Most people know of his very distinguished law career in Cincinnati, and some may know of Art Spiegel as an accomplished artist and pilot, but that all came after his years in World War II serving as an artillery observer on the ground and in the air. Art remembers being at Lunken Airport in Cincinnati and watching Charles Lindbergh flying the *Spirit of St. Louis* back to St. Louis in 1927. Flying never left him and throughout his Marine Corps service he flew in the backseat of a forward patrol aircraft called the Stinson Sentinel OY1 or as they are known by their Army designation, the L-5. This was not a mission for the fainthearted. Fighter pilots used to flying powerful, armored and armed aircraft at altitudes of tens of thousands of feet would shudder at the thought of flying low and slow over enemy territory in an unprotected fabric covered airplane. These small, fixed gear,

high wing, tail wheel observation planes had no armament, were not fast and could not fly very high. Perfect for observation they flew very low, usually a couple of hundred feet over the ground. The observed targets were often several miles behind enemy lines. Art flew into danger again and again, for hundreds of combat missions. He would see the smoke and the muzzle flashes from the sniper guns and then radio the coordinates for Marine and Navy artillery to fire onto enemy positions. One can imagine the small plane was constantly getting shot at from the ground. Not only was there danger from enemy fire, often the very fighter planes and armament Art was guiding would rain down firepower while his plane was still in the enemy area. When the missions were completed the L-5 would be loaded onto a Navy ship, disassembled and hung from the rafters out of the way so that when the ship arrived at the next destination it would be quickly re-assembled and flown off the deck to land on the enemy beach. Sometimes you just know what a hero is.

What a shocking life change for a young man of 21 years old in early December 1941, finishing his last year of college and first year of law school at the University of Cincinnati and hearing on the radio about Japan bombing the US at Pearl Harbor. Art personifies that era of our nation when he said "Like everyone else, I wanted to do my part and serve the



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Photos courtesy of Art Spiegel

As a 501(c)3 organization the Tri-State Warbird Museum is supported primarily through membership dues and the contributions of individuals and businesses that share in the desire to preserve our country's rich aviation legacy.

Captain Art Spiegel, United States Marine Corps *...continued from page 1*

country.” He enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and reported for active duty in July 1942 at the Marine Corps base at Quantico, Virginia. As tough as the boot camp training must have been, it was necessary in preparation for what Art was to face assigned to the First Marine Division. After boot camp Art was sent to North Carolina for weaponry training and then to Australia to join the Eleventh Regiment. In September 1943 his outfit sailed for the jungles of New Guinea where the American forces were under Japanese attack. They were bombed nightly and quickly learned about foxholes, snakes, swamps and malaria. There were strafing attacks, bombs exploding and buddies wounded and dying, then later the terrors of Kamikaze suicide bombers. Another quote from Art defines him: “Even in this situation, after awhile, the fear becomes second nature and I found I was able to function.” At the time in com-



paring the dangers of combat flying with the dangers of infantry life he said “It’s all for the flag, so forget about it.” He was assigned to the First Battalion, Seventh Marines which was an infantry regiment and so as a forward observer he really was in the thick of the danger and the thick of the jungle fighting.

Art volunteered to fly as an observer in Piper Cubs and began dropping rations on native villages that were left starving after the Japanese had taken all their food. In the spring of 1944 he was shipped northwest of Guadalcanal to the Russell Islands to stage for the invasion of Pellieu in the Western Pacific. The invasion took place in September 1944 and had enormous casualties as the Japanese fought mightily to keep this major airbase and were very prepared with heavy of artillery and dugouts.

Early 1945 brought Art the rank of Captain and the invasion of Okinawa. The battle for Okinawa became one of the bloodiest battles of the war. Art volunteered to fly observation in TBM Torpedo bombers at night after spending all day observing and directing artillery, sometimes flying 12 hours a day. He continued until the island was secured in June 1945. Returning home on leave in July 1945 Art was able to remain in the States as the war was coming to an end. He transitioned out at the year end and continued on to marry his fiancée Louise Wachman and attending Harvard Law School. Thank you Art Spiegel. Thank you veterans.

68th Doolittle Reunion April 15-18,2010



At the memorial dedicated to the men, retired Air Force General Metcalf said “Today, in the truest sense of the word, we are among heroes.”

To the right: Tri-State Warbird Museum co-pilot Doug Rozendaal and pilot Paul Redlich stand in front of Axis Nightmare with Doolittle Raider Dick Cole who was the co-pilot for Jimmy Doolittle during the historic Doolittle Tokyo Raid in 1942. The TSWM B-25 Axis Nightmare is parked on the runway with 16 more B-25’s in front of the US Air Force Museum.

On April 18, 1942 20 B-25 Mitchell bombers with Jimmy Doolittle leading the brave crews flew off the deck of the USS Hornet and bombed Japan thus changing the impression that Japan was un-touchable. Our B-25 “Axis Nightmare” participated in the 68th Doolittle Reunion that included 17 B-25’s flying together to honor the veterans. The B-25s were on display at the United States Air Force Museum where the public could see them on the ground as well as in formation in the air, meet the crews and attend autograph signing sessions with the Doolittle Raiders.

To the left: Sitting in Axis Nightmare is pilot Paul Redlich, Volunteer coordinator Phil Rountree and our own veteran Ken Glass.



Doolittle Raider Reunion at the National Museum of the Air Force in Dayton, Ohio

On April 15-18, 2010 the Tri-State Warbird Museum's B-25 "Axis Nightmare" flown by Museum President, pilot Paul Redlich and co-pilot Doug Rozendaal, participated in the 68th Doolittle Reunion commemorating the famous Doolittle Raid on Tokyo in 1942 and honoring these true American heroes.

Departing from Urbana, Ohio on Saturday morning seventeen B-25's from all over the United States made the short flight to land at historic Dayton-Wright Field, home of the Museum of the United States Air Force. This was the largest non-military gathering of B-25's since World War II and the first time civilian aircraft have landed at the Dayton-Wright airport in over 50 years. All seventeen aircraft were lined up on the runway for the public display with thousands of people arriving over the weekend at the Air Force Museum to look at the planes, talk with the crews and meet the surviving members of the famous Doolittle Raiders. At the autograph signing session Saturday the line of people to meet the veterans wrapped three times around the Museum building. Doolittle Raiders present at the reunion were Thomas Griffin, 92 of the Cincinnati area and a Tri-State Warbird Museum Member and Honored Veteran, David Thatcher, 88, of Missoula, MT, and Dick Cole, 94, of Mt. Comfort, TX, who was the co-pilot for raid leader Jimmy Doolittle. Cole, who grew up in Dayton, said the Raiders' annual reunions around the country are intended to honor the memory of their fallen comrades.

On Sunday morning the B-25's departed Dayton-Wright Field and joined up overhead into formation flying over Wright-Patterson Air Force Base during a ceremony held by the Air Force to honor the Doolittle Raiders.

It was a great honor and privilege for the Tri-State Warbird Museum to participate in such an historic event. Thanks to all the Tri-State Warbird Museum volunteers and members who helped support "Axis Nightmare" - we couldn't have done it without you.



Axis Nightmare in formation with B-25s and P-51 Mustangs



TSWM Honored Veterans Ted Gardner, Ken Glass, Russ Witte, Jr and Bill Barr. Museum President Paul Redlich in B-25



Paul Redlich flying with Doug Rozendaal as co-pilot



Museum volunteer Ben Vaughan watches the formation join up

Hours:

Wednesday
4pm-7pm

Saturday
10am-3pm

Admission \$12

Discounted admission for veterans
and students \$7

Admission for World War II veterans
is complimentary

Group tours are a great way to spend
some time learning about World War
II aviation history

Memberships:

Annual individual and family

Lifetime individual and family

Bricks can be engraved into the Walk
of Veterans—a great way to honor
someone

Donations are needed and are most
appreciated - Thank you!



SIXTH ANNUAL

TAKING FLIGHT

Tri-State Warbird Museum Gala Event

SAVE THE DATE
FRIDAY, MAY 21, 2010

RECEPTION, DINNER & PROGRAM

To benefit the mission of the Museum

Formal invitations will be mailed in March
Questions? Call Denise Eldridge 513-735-4500



This year at the Sixth Annual Tri-State Warbird Museum Gala Event on Friday May 21, 2010 we are proud to honor our World War II veterans who fought so bravely for our freedoms. We will also be introducing the our new Tri-State Warbird Museum video that features several of our veterans. David L. Joyce, President and CEO of GE Aviation is this year's event chairman. Please join us!

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