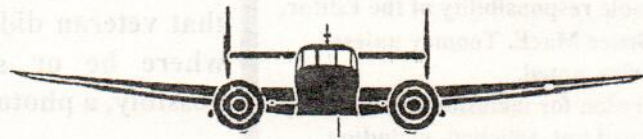


# CONFEDERATE AIR FORCE NEWS

## *Estrella Squadron*



All the news that's fit to print and then some!

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Volume VII Number 2

Paso Robles, California

February 1996

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### February Meeting

The February Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 6, 1996 at the Hangar. Social Hour will commence at 6:00pm with Dinner at 7:00pm.

Col. Bob Miller and his Dinner Crew have promised us something a little different. We will have chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes and all the other trimmings and goodies.

Also, please remember to give Judy Corippo a call (238-2090) if you can come up with a dessert or two to help her out.

Our speaker for the evening will be Gary D. Shepard, a gentleman with a very interesting and varied military background including 100 missions as a fighter pilot in Vietnam. He will speak on aspects of "Tactical Aviation in Vietnam" as well as some insights regarding the problems in fighting a war with imposed limitations.

He will also discuss the "Myth of the Vietnam Veteran" and how

they were falsely accused of being losers and whiners. All in all this should be most informative.

A brief autobiographical resume of Gary appears on page 3.

### Building Site News

Last month it was mentioned that with luck we might have a sidewalk by the meeting date. Well, sure enough, by the night of the meeting, only a few days later, our sidewalk was in to the front door.

This is just an example of what is being done by The Few. There is so much being accomplished out there that doesn't necessarily show, you wouldn't believe it. On top of that, we now have trees (thanks to Col. Cromwell), we have a sprinkler system, we have a smooth base for a lawn, we have light poles and a flag pole and lighting and on and on and on. These few members are doing an incredible job and we owe them a tremendous amount of gratitude.

Last Saturday, in response to very short notice, several

members from several Flights were out there in the rain and did a lot of clean-up and stuff that needed doing. A good show!

So remember, every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday morning, someone will be there who knows what's needed, so pitch in and give a few hours!! You'll be glad you did!!

### CO's Column

by Col. Jeff Welles

I was wondering the other day what we might do to get the community to identify more with the CAF and become more of a "household word" to the people who live around us. Certainly our annual Airshow keeps us in front of the City of Paso Robles and surrounding areas, but, to use an overworked term, how can we better "bond" with the people of our community.

As I was thinking about this I asked myself, "If we are to become closer, what is it that we have in common that we can build on?" The answer that I

## The Estrella Squadron Newsletter

is published monthly as an unofficial voluntary contribution. Content and opinion, other than by-line columns, is the sole responsibility of the Editor, Col. Bruce MacE. Toomey unless otherwise noted.

Submission for inclusion are not only welcomed but solicited, including articles, display and classified ads, etc. Please send all submissions to the Editor (by name) at P.O. Box 3065, Paso Robles, CA 93447.

Graphics, computer layout, design and use of photocopying machine as well as paper and other supplies are the contribution of Stuart Toomey and,

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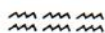
came up with is that we DO have something in common with almost every family in the North County. That is that we all have someone in the family who is a Veteran. Maybe it's a brother, grandfather, husband or cousin, but most families have a member who took part in either World War II, Korea, Vietnam or the Gulf War.

So what can we do to bring these people closer to our organization? My thinking is that we set up some sort of permanent memorial to the servicemen and women who came from this area. I don't know whether this should take the form of a "wall" like the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in

Washington, D.C. or a "Memorial Book", or what. If we had a book, expandable into several books, which had a page for each in it for each person we wanted to remember, maybe we could include a write-up on what that veteran did during the war, where he or she served and, possibly, a photo.

My thinking is that some group of volunteers from our Squadron would maintain the book (or memorial). Possibly the funeral homes might have blank forms to give families to remember their loved one. Maybe we could begin the program with a press release and some sort of "starter" to get past veterans included.

In any case, this is just an idea. I'm looking for some one volunteer, or group of volunteers, who might just want to "pick up the ball and run with it". The above is just an idea, who's eventual form might not be as I suggested but accomplishes the goal of bringing our group in front of the community at large. Please let me know your feelings about this.



### Public Notice

As most of our members know, our agreement with the City of Paso Robles regarding the lease of our property, provides for our use of the second piece, nearest the taxi strip, if we come up with a plan for development.

In the past we have had some rather informal interest from members and others but nothing specific.

The purpose of this "Notice" is to advise our membership that, if any of you have firm proposals or any real, personal interest in developing a project on this parcel, please let the Museum Board or CAF Staff know. This is important to our growth and development and the Board and Staff would like to hear from you in the very near future if you have serious thoughts in this regard.

### L-16 Memberships for Sale

By Col. Bob Singleton  
We have a number of memberships available, mostly because people are moving out of the area or they have other aircraft available for them to fly.

This is real flying folks--back to basics. Many top pilots learned to fly in Aeronca Champs like ours. Its also the best deal in town: \$25 per hour including fuel and \$20 per month dues. You get at least 15% more flying for your dollar compared to rental aircraft because we charge on the tach reading.

A rumor has floated around that we don't take students. This is not true. We like students but our insurance costs us at least 10% more when we have students. All the current pilots have at least a Private Pilots License. We, therefore, decided that students should pay the insurance differential, when they are flying, to keep our costs

Estrella Squadron Staff

Commanding Officer Col. Jeff Welles  
 Executive Officer Col. Hal Chilton  
 Finance Col. Rosemary Netto  
 Adjutant Col. Bob Singleton  
 Operations Col. Glen Thomson  
 Maintenance Col. Keith Bowers  
 Safety Col. Bruce Toomey

Staff Appointments

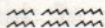
At Large Col. John Himes  
 PIO Col. Blake Wideman  
 PX Officer Willa Killion  
 Historian Col. John Davis  
 Activities Craig Fossey



CAF Hangar Phone 238-9317

down. Lots of Flying Clubs do that. It does not kick in until you solo, after 10 hours or so.

If you are interested, please call. I can give you more details.  
 Col. Bob Singleton 239-2084

More on our Speaker

Gary D. Shepard

Schooled in California  
 Attended Colorado State University 1960-1964  
 Ran Track & Field (880 yards - held university record)  
 Wing Commander (AFROTC - 1250 cadets)  
 Commissioned and attended Williams AFB for pilot training 1965  
 Service in Vietnam (100 missions over North Vietnam) 1966-1967  
 Flew various fighters (F4, F102, F106, T33, T39)  
 Served as professor at USAF Air Command and Staff College 1974-1977

Was on Inspector Generals for NORAD 1977-1979

Operations Officer - 5FIS, Minot, N.D. 1979-1982

ADO 39TFG, Incirlik, Turkey 1982-1983

Air Force Advisor to the State of Montana 1983-1987

Chief of Command and Control, 831 Air Division 1987-1989

Retired and built home (Owner Builder) in Atascadero 1990-1991

Began second vocation: Teaching School: 8th Grade

CAF Staff Meeting Report

(condensed & paraphrased)

Confederate Air Force, Estrella Squadron Staff Meeting, January 17, 1996

Attending: Cols. Jeff Welles, Bruce Toomey, Hal Chilton Keith Bowers, Rosemary Netto, Doug Miner, Gary Corippo, Glen Thomson, Blake Wideman, John Himes, Bob Singleton. Also Frank Rezich was in attendance.

Treasurers Report

The Treasurers Report was read and accepted and will be posted at the Hangar.

Old BusinessHangar Heaters

It was brought up that Idlers had a new type of very efficient heater that they might be willing to demonstrate at the next meeting. We need to consider some sort of heating arrangement for those few months when the weather is really inclement and Cols.

Bowers and Corippo were asked to follow up on the Idlers offer.

New BusinessAircraft Restoration

The Staff is still considering the possibility of obtaining a CAF aircraft. There is evidently an L-17 available at Midland and it will be checked out as to condition by Col. Thomson and those attending the Wing Staff Conference in February.

Liquor License

Col. Miner has been researching the necessity of obtaining a liquor license for our monthly meetings. Apparently is necessary to obtain one at a cost of \$30 per month. Col. Himes suggested that we may be able to get a "club license", similar to other groups holding monthly or infrequent meetings, which might be obtained on a yearly basis at a reduced cost. Col. Miner will investigate. Col. Miner also told of attending a nice buffet put on by "Vic's Cafe" for 100 people at around \$5.75 per person and suggested we keep this in mind for the future when we might want to put on something less than a full dinner or when the Dinner Crew feels like "goin' fishin" sometime!

Donated Items

It was reported that we have received donations of tool boxes from members Bob Miller and Arnold Hermansen as well as a sink and mirror by Col. Rosemary Netto. It was suggested that letters of thanks be sent to these individuals.

Committee Chairs

Program		
George Marrett	466-7640	
Dinners		
Bob Miller	434-1594	
	434-1888	
Membership		
Obbie Atkinson	238-9212	
Air Show		
Ashley Lightfoot	239-4461	
Hangar/Grounds		
Kevin Craig	238-4643	
Bruce Toomey	238-9266	
	238-9516	
Ground Equipment		
Dave Geiger	239-1598	
Project Manager		
Gary Corippo	238-2090	
	238-0888	
Insurance		
Elmer Belmont	466-1062	
Refreshments		
Doug Miner	239-1054	
Activities		
Craig Fossey	461-0367	
Meeting Setup		
By Flights (see Kevin Craig)		
Photo		
Ralph Grasso	237-2813	
Historian		
John Davis	544-6582	
	781-5157	
	x-4008	

Squadron Activities

Col. Welles reported that Craig Fossey, our Activities Chairman, needs our input for the Activities Calendar he is putting together. Col. Thomson noted that the ILPA (L-Bird group) is meeting at Paso Robles this year, probably in September and suggested that a Formation

Flying school would be an excellent activity at that time. It was suggested that we continue to try to tie in with other airport activities.

George Marrett is working on a Hangar dedication program and the National Guard has asked for our help in celebrating their 40th anniversary in July.

Col. Bowers said that it was also possible to make a field trip to the Vandenberg Launch Facility.

Squadron Monthly Meetings

It was suggested that we have meetings about once a quarter without a speaker so that various items of interest and business could be discussed with the membership as a whole. A motion to this effect was made and passed.

Information obtained at the February Wing Staff meeting in Midland could be discussed in March along with other items to be brought up by Ashley Lightfoot as well as Cols. Wideman, Thomson, Corippo and others.

Program Chairman Col. Marrett has agreed to keep these meeting dates open.

Squadron Member Data

Col. Ted Watt has volunteered to make up a comprehensive computer list or "book" of all members which would include the information on applications for membership as well as the answers to the various questionnaires that have been sent out over the past several months. This would be a valuable mechanism for keeping information updated and for

helping the Staff make plans which would encompass and relate to the varied interests of the members. Information of this nature would also help new members contact others with similar interests and help assimilate them into the group.

Col. Watt is to be congratulated for taking on this obviously time-consuming and valuable project.

Restoration Maintenance Officer

It was moved that the position of Restoration Maintenance Officer be established to organize the hangar, obtain tools and facilities, recruit experienced aircraft mechanics and others interested in this type of work and to oversee the future restoration programs. The motion was passed. (Several days later, member Al Schade was approached regarding the position in view of his past experience and he agreed to accept the job.) More on this to come.

Performance Awards

It was noted that the Performance Awards, as indicated by the plaques on the west wall of the hangar, had not been properly kept up since last year. Col. Singleton and Col. Welles will work together to bring these up to date.

Squadron/Museum Interfacing

Col. Wideman introduced a memo regarding this subject but because of the lateness of the hour it was tabled until the next meeting.

### Members Leaving

It was noted that member Col. Don Leedom will be leaving for his new home in North Carolina. Member Darryl Radford will also be resigning his membership due to the press of other interests.

It was further noted that both of these members will be welcomed back at any time they see fit and we wish them well and thank them for their past help and interest.

Meeting adjourned at 2210.

### Flight Duty Roster

For the month of February, Bravo Flight, under the able leadership of Col. Keith Bowers, will be in charge of the monthly meeting and the month's activities.

The Flight Leader should coordinate with Col. Kevin Craig (238-4643) with regard to setting up the Hangar for the meeting and should also contact Col. Bob Singleton (239-2084) for general information with regard to coordination procedures for the meeting.

### Flight Leader Program

There have been a few changes and additions on the Flight List. Please consult the alphabetical listing on the bulletin board (either the front or back!!) to double check as to your Flight assignment. If there are any additions or corrections or whatever, PLEASE contact Col. Bruce Toomey (238-9266)


### ALSO!!!

If you have taken your Flight Identification Badge home. PLEASE bring it back and hang it on the board when the meeting is over.

Col. Obbie Atkinson spends a tremendous amount of time trying to keep this system up to date and its very difficult to do so if badges are missing.

We are more than happy to provide you with a badge if you legitimately lose it or never got one but they are fairly expensive so it would be sincerely appreciated if you would take care of them and leave them on the board at the end of the meeting.

In the "Good 'Ol Days" (last year!) any member who didn't return his badge at the end of the meeting was charged a buck at the following meeting!! Maybe we will have to go back to this procedure if things get any worse. Fair Warning!!



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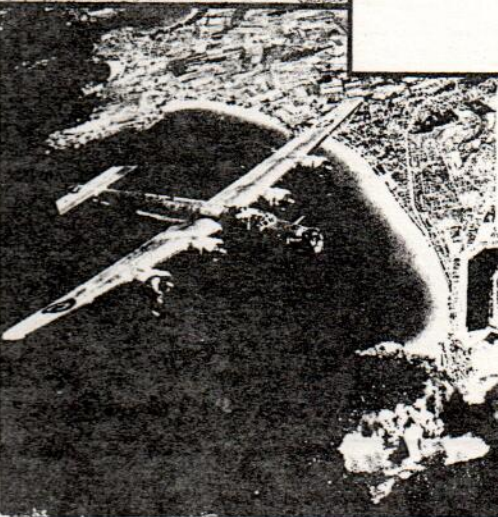
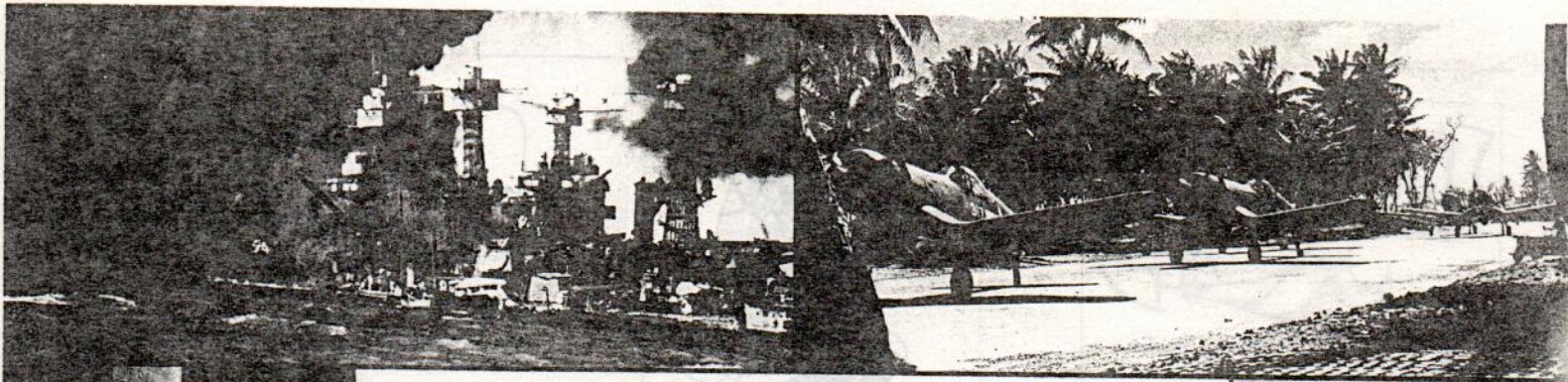
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To:



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Across North Africa, Ploesti, Sicily, into Italy – Salerno, Anzio –

They bombed and fought in daylight raids over Europe – Frankfurt, Cologne, Schweinfurt, Hamburg – They fought over the heads of Allied soldiers from Normandy to Berlin –

They fought from the Sahara Desert to the Aleutians –

They won the skies and blasted the Islands of New Guinea, Ulithi, Saipan, Leyte, Luzon, Iwo Jima, Okinawa – and on to Japan – To final victory over the Rising Sun and the Swastika.

These aircraft, the "Ghost Squadron of the CAF," are being preserved for future generations of Americans to see "in action" as they were flown, in the defense of our nation, more than thirty years ago.

"THEY SHALL NOT BE DESTROYED"

CONFEDERATE AIR FORCE  
ESTRELLA SQUADRON  
PASO ROBLES, CALIFORNIA

