

## How MAPS Has Survived COVID -19 “So Far”

*By Kim Kovesci, MAPS Executive Director*

### Physically

When MAPS shut down in March because of the Pandemic, we made a decision to keep the facility open for our employees and a small group of members. Our focus was to isolate ourselves from the rest of the community and keep our distance from any contractors who came in to help with the construction projects. We called our efforts construction by “YouTube.” When we ran into something we didn't know, we watched videos and learned how to do it. Our results were not perfect but we made a lot of progress completing Phase II (classroom, restrooms, kitchen) and Phase III (banquet hall) of the second floor restoration project.

### Emotionally

The small group of members working through the shutdown were somewhat isolated from the cabin fever that we saw when we opened up for our other members. We could see that everyone was itching to get out of the house and so something. We were just glad to see our membership beginning to reappear from isolation. What we learned from this experience is that MAPS is important for the emotional well-being of our members. They truly missed being at MAPS, they missed their friends and they missed working on their projects.

### Financially

If I look back prior to COVID, I saw MAPS as a financially sound organization. We did a lot of things right. We focused on developing our components of revenue: increasing visitors to the museum, educational grants, our events, donations and hall rentals. We were in a position to grow the organization and cover all of our operating expenses. Most of the grants we requested were in support of either major repairs or our major capital project - the renovation of the second floor. Many years ago, we established an endowment to ensure the long term survival of MAPS. All of these years of frugal spending placed us in a solid cash position to handle most anything that we thought would arise.

We didn't predict that we would shut the doors for almost five months, partially open with minimal event activity when we reopened. We have not recovered as quickly as we would have liked and we know 2021's financials will be impacted because the lack of bookings and the knowledge that the schools will not be back to normal.

### Cash Position

We received a loan from the Paycheck Protection Program through First Commonwealth Bank at the beginning of the pandemic and it helped keep everyone employed for the first few months. We asked our membership to support a Covid-19 Raffle and the response was phenomenal. We appreciate all of the positive response we have received to this point and the raffle

*Kim's article continued on the following page*

### HOURS OF OPERATION

**MAPS will be closed to the public beginning November 23, 2020 until at least the first week in January 2021 when a decision will be made based on COVID-19 spread and Governor DeWine's recommendations.**

### ADDRESS and PHONE

**Address:** 2260 International Parkway  
North Canton, Ohio 44720  
**Phone:** 330-896-6332

### ★ Mission Statement ★

MAPS Air Museum is a non-profit organization dedicated to educating people about the history of aviation and its impact upon society. It accomplishes this mission by acquiring, restoring, preserving, studying and exhibiting the impact of aviation on the culture of man.

***Kim's article continued...***

has helped us cover our fixed expenses. Finally, we have requested and hopefully will receive another Covid-19 related grant through the Akron Community Foundation that will help us cover the additional expenses due to the pandemic.

**Large Personal Donations**

Many of our members and friends have send large donations to help with our expenses or to help cover specific projects. Jim & Jan Boyea, Nicholas W. D'Amico, Ken & Lucy Dunning, Dennis Gugliotta, Martin & Beth Hauser, Richard Johnston & Sarah Gallagher, Chris & Kim Kovesci, Sandra Leigh Michelson, Dr. Michael Van Ness, John R. Nichols, Marylou Thompson and Ray & Judith Weber.

**Foundations**

We have received several grants from our supporting foundations; some were not solicited but they just wanted to help. Significant help was received from the following foundations: Sonnenberg Foundation, Drumm Family Trust, Feth Family Foundation, Henry & Louise Timken, Akron Community Foundation, Corbin Foundation, Stark Community Foundation, Miller Foundation, Calhoun Foundation, The Gessner Family Foundation and Sherwin-Williams.

**Distribution from 401K**

We received a donation from Michael Johnson because of his required distribution from his 401K. Michael said because it was a required distribution, he was allowed to make a contribution to a non-profit, 501c3 organization and not pay taxes. This is a great way to help non-profits so if you are interested, talk to your tax advisor for more information.

**Estate Gift**

Finally, in 2019 we received one-third of an estate that was donated to MAPS from Mr. Albert Brion, Jr.

Mr. Brion lived in Akron, retired in 1991 after 36 years from Goodyear Aerospace, a division of Goodyear Tire & Rubber. He loved aviation and wanted to help MAPS because of the work that we were doing.

**Bottom Line Statement**

We are going to make it through this crisis because of the generosity and dedication of the members and friends of our wonderful organization. I want to thank everyone who has stepped up to help and it is an honor to be associated with the Military Aviation Preservation Society.



## Upcoming Events

**DECEMBER**

WED, DEC 9	DIRECTOR MEETING	3 PM
SAT, DEC 12	MEMBERSHIP MEETING	11 AM

**JANUARY**

WED, JAN 6	DIRECTOR MEETING	3 PM
SAT, JAN 9	MEMBERSHIP MEETING	11 AM

**FEBRUARY**

WED, FEB 10	DIRECTOR MEETING	3 PM
SAT, FEB 13	MEMBERSHIP MEETING	11 AM

**MARCH**

WED, MAR 10	DIRECTOR MEETING	3 PM
SAT, MAR 13	MEMBERSHIP MEETING	11 AM
SAT, MAR 13 &		
SUN, MAR 14	HUNTING & FISHING SHOW	

**A note about events**

Several events that were planned for the time frame above have been cancelled based on Governor DeWine's most recent directives.

**MAPS will be closed to the public beginning November 23, 2020 until at least the first week in January 2021 when a decision will be made based on COVID-19 spread and Governor DeWine's recommendations.**

**Please call MAPS or check our website, Facebook or Instagram for all updates.**

**MAPS will remain open for our volunteers to come and work in their areas during this shut down.**

## ★ MAPS ★ Endowment Fund

*A message from Kim Kovesci, Executive Director*

Our Endowment Fund has been set up to ensure the long term survival of the organization. If you plan to have a financial review done, MAPS Air Museum would appreciate being considered in your plans. Thank you!

## MAPS DIRECTORY

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Kim Kovesci

### DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

Reed Kimball

### EVENT COORDINATOR

Kent Kleinknecht

### DIRECTORS

Dennis Bachtel

Bill Cody

Bob Hollis

Jim Jackson

Valerie Kinney

Ken Ramsay

Bob Schwartz (Chair)

### MARKETING

Doug Perry

### MUSEUM DISPLAYS

Scott Denniss

Gary Haight

### GIFT SHOP

Bob Hollis

### LIBRARY

Barb Johnston

Betty Tober

### LUNCH ROOM

Mary Ann Cameron

Julie Ramey

### MEMBERSHIP

Bob Schwartz

### MILITARY INTERVIEW PROGRAM

Debbie Bussinger

### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Marylou Thompson

### OMM DISPLAYS

James Byerly

### PR / PUBLICITY

Barb Johnston

### RESTORATION MANAGERS

Ron Duplain

Jim Jackson

Jim Schoop

Clay Tober

### SAFETY

Ted Mathies

### SCOUT COORDINATOR

Jim Felner

### SECURITY

Rick Hamlet

### TOUR COORDINATOR

Reed Kimball

### TREASURER

Mac McFarland

### WEBSITE & WEBMASTER

Ron Schultz

## Chairman's Notes

*By Bob Schwartz, Director Chair*

At our August membership meeting, the Vultee BT-13 Valiant WWII basic trainer was dedicated after 7 years and 6,821 volunteer hours spent restoring the airplane. The MARC group transferred it from the Historical Aircraft Squadron and Museum at the Fairfield Airport near Lancaster, Ohio to MAPS in 2012. Restoration began in 2014.

The BT-13 was restored to first-class condition! In the cockpit area, clear Plexiglas was installed to allow viewing of the fuselage structure and cockpit area. Len Palmer was crew chief early on and devoted many hours to the restoration effort, assisted by his grandson Colin. A total of 35 MAPS volunteers also assisted over the 7-year period. Unfortunately, Len passed away in May of 2018. John Harris took over as crew chief and completed the restoration.

Many of our WWII pilots trained in the BT-13 including M.L. Weaver who played a very active roll in restoration efforts, logging 1,824 total hours from start to finish. M.L. graduated flight school in August of 1944 with 40 hours dual and 40 hours solo in the BT-13A.

M.L. had mentioned a few times that the BT-13 was harder to fly than driving his school bus. The crew wanted to honor M.L. so it was decided to paint M.L.'s "School Bus" on the side of the cowl.

Trainers during WWII rarely, if ever, had art painted on the plane. WWII bombers, fighters and transports were almost all adorned with nose art. In many cases a beautiful young lady was used or something else that the fight crew agreed on. Our MAPS WWII aircraft are no exception.

In addition to M.L.'s school bus, we have the P-51 Mustang mounted on a pole at the entrance to MAPS off Massillon Rd. This full scale replica has been dedicated to Bob Withee who flew a P-51 Mustang in the Pacific during the war. It accurately depicts all the markings on Bob's Mustang and is named for his wife, Jean Ann II. Bob crashed and survived the original Jean Ann.



On the B-26, you'll see "Charlys Jewel" with a rendering of Mamie Yokum. Charles Tillson referred to the B-26 as a "jewel". MAPS member and artist Lee Kessler was also an artist and much of his art is visible all around the museum. The best and possibly least known of art work is the large drawing of a B-26 from directly in front of the airplane, it is located in the restoration room mounted on the wall to the right as you walk in. It is quite large and you can't miss it! On the middle bottom is the inscription "This painting is dedicated to

*Bob's article continued on the following page*



M.L. Weaver



M.L.'s "School Bus"



## Chairman's Notes *continued...*

1st Lt Charles H. Tillson - Pilot/Instructor Martin B-26 Marauder – 1941-1945.



On the A-26, "Gary's Lady" is painted on the nose. Gary Shapiro was part of the A-26 restoration crew. Gary was normally at MAPS about twice a week for a long time until he started having health issues. He would be gone for a while,

then when he started feeling better he was back hard at work until he passed away. The crew decided to name the B-26 in his honor.

We also have many aircraft with names on the sides near the cockpit that are local military pilots or have connections to the local area. Val Kinney and her crew have put a lot of work into researching names to go with our aircraft with amazing results, but that is another story for another issue.

## Other News

On our Anniversary List in this issue of the Briefing, you will notice a large number of names (53 to be exact) under the 5-Years column. It was just 5 years ago that the Ohio Military Museum in Massillon turned their collection over to MAPS and we accepted their entire membership as MAPS members. MAPS honors the relentless work that members of the OMM achieved by retaining the name of Ohio Military Museum for its Exhibit Hall on the second floor.



MAPS 30-year charter members standing in front of our newly restored Vultee BT-13 Valiant.

L to R: Dennis Gugliotta, Bob George, Greg Sunyak, Fred Lindsay, Jim Krause and Bruce Balough.

## Focus on Volunteers

*By Bob Schwartz, Director Chair*

In August of this year we celebrated the 30th Anniversary of the MAPS Air Museum. We had planned a big 30th Anniversary celebration with a big open house followed by a special dinner. However, due to the pandemic, everything was cancelled.

Our records show that our first charter members officially became MAPS members around August 29th of 1990. Of these first 18 members, 11 are still members and 6 are active volunteers involved in various activities around the museum. Since we weren't able to have a big celebration, we decided to invite the local charter members to our August membership meeting and honor them for their dedication over the last 30 years.

The following are charter members who are still active:

**Bruce Balough** – Handles MAPS audio visual systems and is often seen at the various events at MAPS. Bruce also installed the new audio-visual system in the new banquet hall on the second floor. Bruce hangs his Ryan L-17B Navion, a post WWII aircraft used by the Air Force in Korea here at MAPS.

**Paul Gates** – Volunteers in restoration and recently finished restoring our F-84. This fighter jet was based at the reserve base at Mansfield Lamm Airport and Paul maintained this aircraft during his days in the Air Force Reserve.

**Robert George** – Volunteers as a tour guide.

**Dennis Gugliotta** – Volunteers as a tour guide on Saturdays and during special events.

**Richard Johnston** – Volunteers as a tour guide and also is our MAPS Historian. He also handles multiple reports that have to be sent to various military museums on a scheduled basis.

**Bob Stoller** - Volunteers in restoration and is currently working with the OV-1 crew.

**Fred Lindsey** – Actually joined MAPS in early 1991 but has been very active in most of our building projects such as hangar rest rooms, the gift shop and various other projects.

Our early records actually list about 43 more members who joined in 1990 but their memberships expired within the next 1-4 years.

The concept of MAPS actually began prior to August of 1990. To read the complete history, obtain a copy of *"Celebrating 30 Years 1990 - 2020"* authored by our Education Director, Reed Kimball. It is available in our gift shop.



## FROM THE VAULT

*Where we put the spotlight on a specific artifact and the story behind it.*

*By Scott Denniss, MAPS Curator's Department*

I'm going to try out a new article where a museum artifact is featured and the story behind it told. We are going to start off with one of my personal favorites in the museum.

If you go into the Gallery of Heroes you will see a display case full of Japanese artifacts that were brought home by returning WWII GIs. These war trophies were the spoils of a hard won victory. In that case you will see a non-descript fixed blade knife. The knife is not a Japanese war trophy but in fact an American fighting knife.



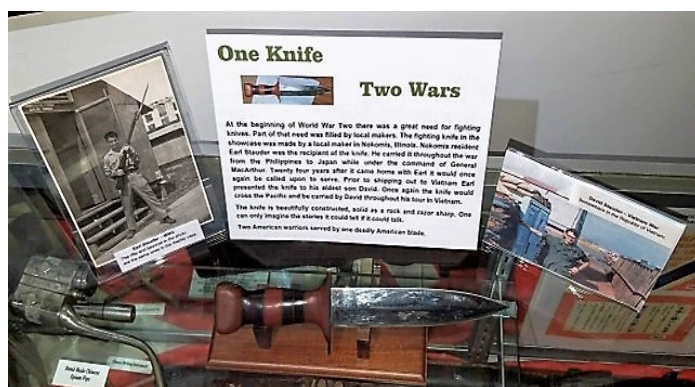
At the beginning of WWII the American military found itself playing catch-up to train and equip the troops. One area that was deficient was individual fighting knives. The call went out and Americans responded by making and donating personal fighting blades. Private companies, custom makers, and even vocational school students cranked out fighting knives for the troops. The featured knife was made by a local craftsman in Nokomis, Illinois. The knife features a razor sharp polished blade and ergonomic handle. It was clearly made with great pride by a highly skilled craftsman.

The knife and sheath were given to Earl Stauder, the father of MAPS member Dave Stauder. Earl carried the knife during his tour in the Pacific theater under the command of General Mac Arthur. One can only imagine the tasks it was used for. I'm sure the stories would be fascinating if it could talk. After his tour, Earl brought the

blade home and gave it a well-earned retirement. Little did he know that twenty-four years later it would be called upon to serve again.

War was raging in SE Asia and a young Dave Stauder was preparing to ship out to Vietnam. Prior to leaving, Earl presented his oldest son with the knife, knowing that it would serve Dave as well as it had him. Once again, the blade crossed the Pacific into a war zone. Dave carried it throughout his tour in Vietnam and brought it home as his father had done before him.

Being the father of a soldier myself, I can imagine how Earl must have felt as he sent his eldest off to war. The apprehension knowing what Dave would soon face. The pride of his son serving his country as he had done. The fear of him returning covered by the Stars & Stripes. It puts a lump in my throat every time I think about it.



So there you have it, a fascinating Museum artifact and the story behind it. Two American warriors, two different wars, served by one American blade.



Congratulations MAPS Air Museum on being a Travelers' Choice Winner. Each year, we comb through reviews, ratings, and saves from travelers everywhere, and use that info to award the very best. You're part of an exclusive group, and we want to help you celebrate (and promote) this major accomplishment.

**You're in the top 10% of attractions worldwide.**

## MAPS is a Travelers' Choice Winner!

Winners are determined by taking into account a business's reviews, opinions and popularity with travelers over the last year. Every year, Trip Advisor pulls together all the reviews, ratings, and saves that travelers share from across the globe — and use that info to spotlight the very best. The Travelers' Choice (previously Certificate of Excellence) identifies businesses that receive steady excellent user reviews. The good news — travelers shared that these recognition programs are instrumental in consumer decision-making. Congratulations to MAPS!



# The Seeds of Change - Europe

By Reed Kimball, MAPS Director of Education

In the past few articles that I have written for *The Briefing*, I have covered military operations that occurred 75 years ago. On May 7, 1945, the German Armed Forces High Command signed an unconditional surrender document for all German forces to the Allies. In the Pacific, the formal signing of the Japanese Instrument of Surrender took place on-board the battleship *U.S.S. Missouri* in Tokyo Bay on September 2, 1945.

In the next two articles, we will take a brief look at the long term impact of World War II, the impact it had on the participants and how the end of the war potentially fanned the flames of future conflict.

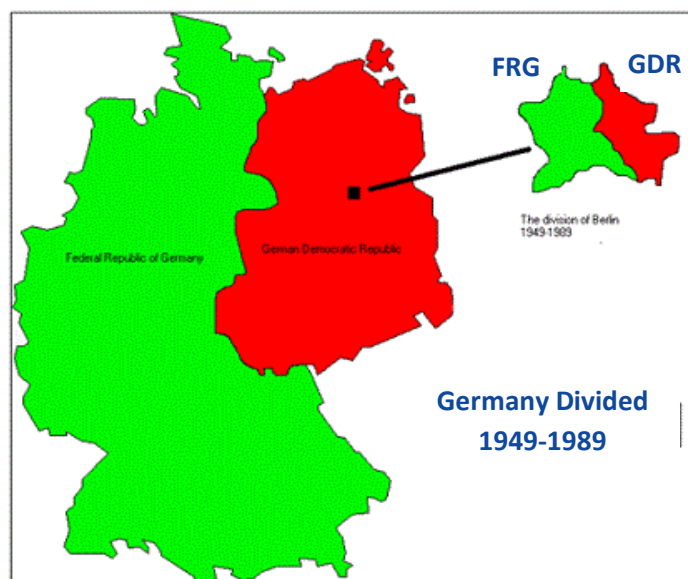
This first article will look at the former European Theater of Operations and some of the major “players” that were involved. The next article will continue along the same concept, but this time dealing with the Pacific Theater of Operations as well as the impact of the war on other areas of the world that we still see in the news even today.

**Overview** - At the end of the war, millions of people were dead and millions more homeless, the European economy had collapsed, and much of the European industrial infrastructure had been destroyed. Western Europe and Japan were rebuilt through the American Marshall Plan whereas Central and Eastern Europe fell under the Soviet sphere of influence and eventually behind an “Iron Curtain”. As a general consequence of the war and in an effort to maintain international peace, the Allies formed the United Nations which officially came into existence on October 24, 1945. The end of the war also increased the rate of decolonization from the great powers with independence being granted to India (from the United Kingdom), Indonesia (from the Netherlands), the Philippines (from the United States) as well as a number of Arab nations. Independence for the nations of sub-Saharan nations (such as South Africa) came more slowly.

It was also the beginning of a new era defined by the rise of two superpowers: the Soviet Union and the United States. The alliance between the Western Allies and the Soviet Union began to deteriorate even before the war was over.

**Germany** - The western allies had left eastern Germany and the city of Berlin to be occupied by the Red Army. The Yalta Conference held in February of 1945, had already determined that Germany and Berlin would be divided into four zones of occupation. The Soviets would occupy the eastern half of Germany and the eastern sec-

tion of the city of Berlin. British, French and American forces would occupy the western section of the country and the western sector of Berlin. In Germany, in the west, Alsace-Lorraine was returned to France. In the east, the Sudetenland reverted to Czechoslovakia. In all, close to one-quarter of pre-war Germany was annexed by the Allies. Roughly 10 million Germans were either expelled from this territory or not permitted to return to it if they had fled during the war. The Saar was detached and put in economic union with France in 1947. In 1949, the Federal Republic of Germany was created out of the Western zones. The Soviet zone became the German Democratic Republic.



**Italy** - The 1947 Treaty of Peace with Italy spelled the end of the Italian colonial empire, along with other border revisions. In the 1946 Italian constitutional referendum the Italian monarchy was abolished, having been associated with the deprivations of the war and the Fascist rule, especially in the North. Unlike in Germany and Japan, no war crimes tribunals were held against Italian military and political leaders, though the Italian resistance summarily executed some of them (such as Mussolini) at the end of the war. The Togliatti amnesty pardoned all wartime common and political crimes in 1946. Italy came out of the war in poor economic condition, but by the 1950s, the Italian economy was marked by stability and high growth.

*Reed's article continued on the following page*

## *The Seeds of Change continued...*

**Austria** - The Federal State of Austria had been annexed by Germany in 1938. After the war, Austria was separated from Germany and divided into four zones of occupation. With the Austrian State Treaty, these zones reunited in 1955 to become the Republic of Austria.

**Soviet Union** - The Soviet Union suffered enormous losses in the war against Germany. The Soviet population decreased by about 27 million during the war. The population would not return to its pre-war level for 30 years.

The economy also had been devastated. Roughly a quarter of the Soviet Union's capital resources were destroyed, and industrial and agricultural output in 1945 fell far short of pre-war levels but quickly experienced a rapid increase in production in the immediate post-war era.

In 1946, Soviet army units effectively deported thousands of German military-related technical specialists from the Soviet occupied zone to the Soviet Union. Much related equipment was also moved, the aim being to virtually transplant research and production centers, such as the relocated V-2 rocket center at Nordhausen, from Germany to the Soviet Union.

The roots of what was to later become known as the "Warsaw Pact" occurred early in the war. In 1939, the USSR entered into an agreement with Nazi Germany that contained a secret protocol that divided Romania, Poland, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia and Finland into German and Soviet spheres of influence. Eastern Poland, Latvia, Estonia, Finland and Bessarabia in northern Romania were recognized as parts of the Soviet sphere of influence. Lithuania was added in a second secret protocol in September 1939. During the war, Soviet forces also occupied Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary and Romania. Soviet authorities immediately started a campaign of "Sovietization" of the newly Soviet occupied and annexed areas. This ultimately resulted in the Warsaw Pact, a collective defense treaty signed in May of 1955 between the Soviet Union and the seven other Eastern Bloc socialist republics of Central and Eastern Europe.



**The Presidential Palace in Warsaw, Poland where the Warsaw Pact was signed on May 14, 1955.**

It quickly became apparent that Europe would remain a standoff without potentially catastrophic results so the Soviets started looking at the Third World rather than Europe as an arena in which it could win the Cold War. Moscow would, in later years, fuel an arms buildup in Africa. African countries used as proxies in the Cold War would often become "failed states" of their own.

**France** - As France was liberated from German occupation, a purge of real and suspected Nazi collaborators began. At first this was undertaken in an extralegal manner by the French Resistance. French women who had had romantic liaisons with German soldiers were publicly humiliated and had their heads shaved. There were also a wave of summary executions estimated to have killed about 10,000 people.



**Flag of the French Resistance bearing the Cross of Lorraine.**

When the Provisional Government of the French Republic established control, the "legal purge" began. There were no international war crimes trials for French collaborators, who were tried in the domestic courts. Approximately 300,000 cases were investigated; 120,000 people were given various sentences including 6,763 death sentences (of which only 791 were carried out). Most convicts were given amnesty a few years later. The German state of the Saar temporarily became a protectorate of France but later returned to German administration. France's economy rebounded quickly and enjoyed rapid economic growth and modernization.

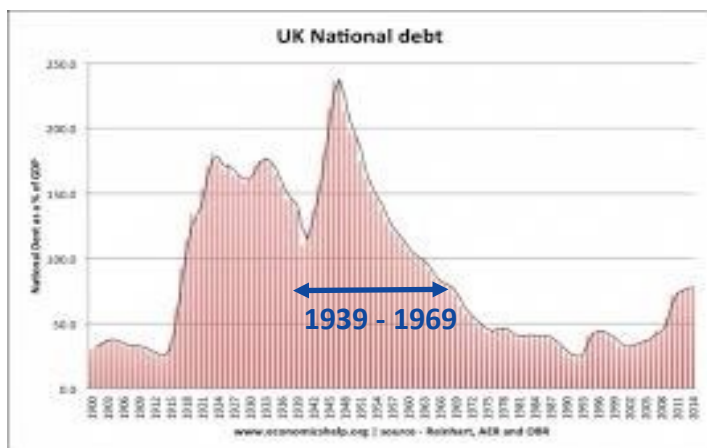
**United Kingdom** - By the end of the war, the economy of the United Kingdom was one of severe privation. More than a quarter of its national wealth had been consumed. Until the introduction of Lend-Lease aid from the United States in 1941, the United Kingdom had been spending its assets to purchase American equipment including aircraft and ships. Lend-lease came just before its reserves were exhausted. Britain had placed 55% of its total labor force into war production.

Britain's war debt was described by some in the American administration as a "millstone round the neck of the British economy". The abrupt withdrawal of American Lend-Lease support to Britain on September 2, 1945

*Reed's article continued on the following page*

## *The Seeds of Change continued...*

dealt a severe blow to any immediate economic recovery. It was only with the completion of the Anglo-American loan by the United States to Great Britain on July 15, 1946 that some measure of economic stability was restored. However, the loan was made primarily to support British overseas expenditure in the immediate post-war years and not to implement the new Labor government's policies for domestic welfare reforms and the nationalization of key industries. Although the loan was agreed on reasonable terms, its conditions included what proved to be damaging fiscal conditions on British currency. From 1946 to 1948, the United Kingdom introduced bread rationing, which it had never done during the war. It remained in a state of economic ruin after the war and continued to experience relative economic decline for decades to follow.



**United States** - At the end of the war, the United States produced roughly half of the world's industrial output. The U.S. had been spared industrial and civilian devastation. Further, much of its pre-war industry had been converted to wartime usage. As a result, with its industrial and civilian base in much better shape than most of the world, the U.S. embarked on an economic expansion unseen in human history. The US sought to promote an economically strong and politically united Western Europe to counter the threat posed by the Soviet Union. In order to ensure that Western Europe could withstand the Soviet military threat, the Western European Union was founded in 1948 and NATO in 1949.

When the divisions of postwar Europe began to emerge, the war crimes programs and denazification policies of Britain and the United States were relaxed in favor of recruiting German scientists, especially nuclear and long-range rocket scientists. Many of these, prior to their capture, had worked on developing the German V-2 long-range rocket at the Baltic coast German Army Research

Center Peenemünde. In Operation Paperclip, beginning in 1945, the United States imported 1,600 German scientists and technicians. In late 1945, three German rocket-scientist groups arrived in the U.S. for duty at Fort Bliss, Texas, and at White Sands Proving Grounds, New Mexico, as "War Department Special Employees".

**Finland** - In the Winter War of 1939–1940, the Soviet Union invaded neutral Finland and annexed some of its territory. From 1941 until 1944, Finland aligned itself with Nazi Germany in a failed effort to regain lost territories from the Soviets. Finland retained its independence following the war but remained subject to Soviet-imposed constraints in its domestic affairs.

**Poland** - The Soviet Union expelled at least 2 million Poles from east of the new border established between Germany and the Soviet Union. One-fifth of the Polish population perished during World War II. The 3,000,000 Polish Jews murdered in The Holocaust constituted 90% of Polish Jewry, made up half of all Poles killed during the war. Former Polish cities such as Lwów came under control of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic. The Free City of Danzig, a semi-autonomous city state that was partly overseen by the League of Nations, became part of Poland. Poland lost the Kresy region (about half of its pre-War territory) and received most of Germany east of the Oder-Neisse line, including the industrial regions of Silesia.

Labor turmoil in 1980 led to the formation of the independent trade union "Solidarity", which over time became a political force. In 1989, it had triumphed in Poland's first partially free and democratic parliamentary elections since the end of the Second World War. The Solidarity movement heralded the collapse of communist regimes and parties across Europe.



**The Baltic States (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania)** - In 1940 the Soviet Union invaded and annexed the neutral Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. In June 1941, the Soviet governments of the Baltic States

*Reed's article continued on the following page*



## *The Seeds of Change continued...*

carried out mass deportations of "enemies of the people". As a result, many treated the invading Nazis as liberators when they invaded only a week later. In the late 1980s a massive campaign of civil resistance against Soviet rule, known as the Singing revolution, began. On August 23, 1989, the Baltic Way, a two-million-strong human chain, stretched for 600 km from Tallinn to Vilnius. In the wake of this campaign, the Soviet government had privately concluded that the departure of the Baltic republics had become "inevitable". This process contributed to the dissolution of the Soviet Union, setting a precedent for the other Soviet republics to secede from the USSR. Soviet Union recognized the independence of three Baltic States on September 6, 1991.

**Greece** - In Greece, civil war broke out in 1946 between Anglo-American-supported royalist forces and communist-led forces, with the royalist forces emerging as the victors. The United States launched a massive program of military and economic aid to Greece and to neighboring Turkey, arising from a fear that the Soviet Union stood on the verge of breaking through the NATO defense line to the oil-rich Middle East. On March 12, 1947, to gain Congressional support for the aid, President Truman described the aid as promoting democracy in defense of the "free world", a principle that became known as the Truman Doctrine.



In the next issue of *The Briefing*, we will address the short and long-term impact of World War II on some of the nations that were involved in the Pacific Theater - China, Japan, Korea, Malaya, French Indonesia, the Dutch East Indies and the Philippines. A brief overview of other areas such as Latin America, Africa, Asia and the Middle East will also be addressed in that article.

## THANK YOU!



Commercial Printing  
& Graphic Design

6536 Promler Ave. NW  
North Canton, Ohio 44720

330-497-3212  
Fax: 330-497-6306  
print@printshopinc.com



MAPS thanks The Print Shop of Canton, Inc.  
for sponsoring "THE BRIEFING"



## Are you making a list and checking it twice?

The gift shop at MAPS has just what you're looking for! MAPS has made your Christmas shopping so much easier this year! Visit our gift shop and choose from men's and women's clothing, hats, model planes, puzzles, books, coffee mugs, framed pictures, stocking stuffers and so much more for kids and adults alike!

We are again offering a Gift Shop Gift Certificate that can be purchased in any amount and is good to use for one year from purchase.

We also offer a Free Pass which is good for one free admission during regular museum hours. Purchase any number of Free Passes to give to friends or relatives who may not have had the opportunity to visit MAPS yet. Once here, they will be want to come back again and again!

Of course, a MAPS membership is another great gift idea that will last the whole year. The membership form can be found on the MAPS website, downloaded and sent back to us - all from the comfort of home!

# THE CORNERED CURATOR

An inept attempt of penned edification by a reticent raconteur.

By Scott Denniss, Curatorial Staff

## Project Updates:

At any given moment, the curators have several different displays and projects in the works and this month is no exception. The down time from the museum closure offered an opportunity to get caught up on some of them.

One of them is a display of the 9th Ohio Volunteer Infantry Battalion which was used to form part of the 372nd Infantry Regiment, 93rd Division in WW1. The 372nd was an African-American regiment. Because of that, they were assigned to the French 157th Division as the American leaders did not want them fighting alongside white units. They fought with great valor and honor. The French General in command honored their service by adding the American flag to the 157th Divisional flag.



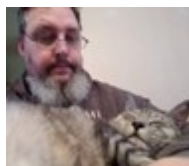
Another display near completion tells the fascinating story of WWII prisoners of war that were held at Camp Perry, OH on the shore of Lake Erie. Many of these men stayed in Ohio after the war and married American women. They raised families and started businesses that continue to this day. The display is in the OMM gallery and will be finished soon.

Finally, work has started on the new gallery on the second floor above the Gallery of Heroes. Mary Cody and others have been diligently working to get the room ready for construction. One area will feature displays by the Friends of the Super Sabre - commemorating the service of the Hun and the men who flew and kept them in the air.



## On A Personal Note:

Most everyone knows that I produce the big militaria collectors show twice a year at the museum. We just completed our tenth show in October and seventh at the museum. Each show gets better and better and this is in no small part because of the museum and the members. I could not ask for a better venue or team. I doubt I could find a better crew of paid workers let alone a volunteer staff. So I want to extend my appreciation and thanks to everyone who plays a part in the success of the show. You are all the best.



Sadly, due to Covid, we had to cancel the two mini shows that were scheduled for November and December, but stay tuned - let's hope that 2021 will be bigger and better than ever!!

## Experience Feel-Good Shopping This Christmas!

Almost all of us shop on-line these days, but this year, more of us will be staying out of the Malls and turning to our computers for Christmas shopping.

When you sign up and shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), you have access to the same products, prices and shopping features as Amazon.com. There are no added costs or fees! When you sign up, choose your favorite charitable organization - which of course is MAPS.

The Amazon Smile Foundation will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to MAPS. As of August 2020, MAPS has received \$741.09 from the Amazon Smile program. Now, more than ever (See Kim Kovesci's article on page 1) every donation, no matter how small, will help MAPS to survive this unprecedented time.





# The Long Road Home

By Marylou Thompson, Briefing Editor

It was one of the largest operations undertaken by the US military in all of the Second World War, and remains one of the least known. **Operation Magic Carpet** was the effort to return American soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines to their homes in the United States. It involved all of the branches of the armed services, and at its peak, nearly four hundred ships were involved. The operation began in June of 1945 and was declared complete fourteen months later in September of 1946. It was undoubtedly the happiest military exercise of the Second World War!

At the end of WWII, over 8 million men and women were scattered overseas in Europe, the Pacific and Asia. During the war, 148,000 troops crossed the Atlantic west to east each month; the rush home ramped this up to 435,000 a month over 14 months. Thus, the creation of **Operation Magic Carpet**.

When Germany fell in May 1945, the US Navy was still busy fighting in the Pacific, and couldn't assist. The job of transporting 3 million men home fell to the Army and the Merchant Marine. 300 Victory and Liberty cargo ships were converted to troop transports for the task.

In October 1945, with the war in Asia finally over, the Navy began converting all available vessels to transport duty. On smaller ships like destroyers, capable of carrying perhaps 300 men, soldiers were told to hang their hammocks in whatever nook and cranny they could find.

Carriers were particularly useful, as their large open hangar decks could house 3,000 or more troops in relative comfort, with bunks, sometimes in stacks of five welded or bolted in place.



During the war, American servicemen stationed overseas married local women in the United Kingdom, France, Italy, and other countries where they were stationed. Twenty-nine ships were dedicated to transporting these "war brides" to the United States.



Two ocean liners, borrowed from the British, the *RMS Queen Mary* and *Queen Elizabeth*, had already served as troop transports and continued to do so during **Operation Magic Carpet**. Each was capable of carrying up to 15,000 people at a time, though their normal peacetime capacity was less than 2,200.

The war in Asia had been expected to go well into 1946 and the Navy was hard-pressed to bring home all the soldiers who now had to get home earlier than anticipated.

The transports carrying them also had to collect numerous POWs from recently liberated Japanese camps, many of whom suffered from malnutrition and illness.

The time to get home depended a lot on the circumstances. *USS Lake Champlain*, a brand new *Essex*-class carrier that arrived too late for the war, could cross the Atlantic and take 3,300 troops home in a little under 4 days and 8 hours.

The *USS Saratoga* transported home a total of 29,204 servicemen during **Operation Magic Carpet**, more than any other ship.



There was enormous pressure on the operation to bring home as many men and women as possible by Christmas 1945. A sub-operation, **Operation Santa Claus**, was dedicated to this purpose. Due to storms at sea and an overabundance of soldiers eligible for return home, Santa Claus could only return a fraction home in time - and still not quite home - but at least to American soil.

*Marylou's article continued on the following page*



## *The Long Road Home continued...*

Due to storms at sea and an overabundance of soldiers eligible for return home, **Operation Santa Claus** could only return a fraction in time, and still not quite home - but at least to American soil.

Many freshly discharged men found themselves stuck in separation centers but faced an outpouring of love and friendliness from the locals. Many townsfolk took in freshly arrived troops and invited them to Christmas dinner in their homes.

Still others gave their train tickets to soldiers, and still others organized quick parties at local train stations for men on layover.

The generosity the returning troops found was overwhelming. Many long haul truckers offered to drive veterans to their destinations if they lay along their route. A Los Angeles taxi driver took six soldiers all the way to Chicago; another took a carload of men to Manhattan, the Bronx, Pittsburgh, Long Island, Buffalo and New Hampshire. Neither of the drivers accepted a fare beyond the cost of gas.

The USS Enterprise docked at Staten Island in January, 1946, after adverse weather prevented the ship from arriving in time for Christmas.



Despite all efforts, the Christmas deadline proved impossible. The last 29 troop transports, carrying some 200,000 men from the China-India-Burma Theater, arrived in America in April 1946, bringing **Operation Magic Carpet** to an end. An additional 127,000 soldiers still took until September to return home and finally lay down the burden of war.

**God bless the Greatest Generation and the generations that have served this Great Nation since WWII!**

## Flight Line Cleanup

*By Ken Ramsay, MAPS Director*

Over the past few years, our flight line has seen an accumulation of discarded pallets, tires, aircraft parts and weeds - many, many weeds. Beginning this past spring, there was a big effort to clean up the flight line.

A big thank you to **Ron Gottschalk, Larry Lewis and John Disco** for the excellent job of cleaning up our flight line. They spent many hours in very hot weather getting rid of surplus stuff, eliminating weeds and even removing a few small trees.

And a special thank you to **Bob Schucker and Ron Myers** from VFW Post 8478 in Magadore. They donated a bunch of their time and used their trucks to haul pallets and other items for recycling or disposal. This VFW Post has always been very supportive of MAPS.

The flight line view from the banquet hall is much improved because of their efforts!



**Flight Line**



**Flight Line from the Banquet Hall**

## MAPS Anniversaries

July 1, 2020 to October 31, 2020

**\*\* designates Family Membership**

### 30 YEARS

Balough, Bruce  
Cangemi, Martha  
Gates, Paul\*\*  
Gugliotta, Dennis  
Harris, Ed  
Johnston, Richard  
Krause, James\*\*  
Stoller, Bob  
Sunyak, Gregory  
Tenan, Richard

### 20 YEARS

Bird, William\*\*  
Byrnes, Micki  
Lahey, V Michael\*\*  
Stanley, Richard  
White, Bg Tim

### 15 YEARS

Whalen, Dennis

### 10 YEARS

Bachtel, Dennis\*\*  
Eller, Terry\*\*  
Geisinger, Stephen\*\*  
Grametbauer, Jeff\*\*  
Johnson, David  
Shoop, Jim\*  
Sibila, Daniel  
Smucker, John\*\*  
Sours, Bob  
Starn, Chet\*\*  
Toriello, Rich\*\*  
Willaman, William  
Sullivan, Lynn\*\*

### 5 YEARS

Adams, Ken\*\*  
Altimus, Debbie  
Ammerman, Albert\*\*  
Atkinson, Guy  
Austin, Maureen  
Bardin, Michael\*\*  
Basista, Robert\*\*  
Beach, Jerry\*\*  
Blantz, William  
Bowman, Bryan\*\*  
Bukovsky, Phillip  
Byerly, Jim  
Cutshall, Bill\*\*  
Dafler, Cindy  
Dec, Vince  
Deuri, Thomas\*\*  
Dudra, Ted  
Emanuele, Ann\*\*  
Endlich, Cathi\*\*  
Ferrero, Thomas  
Flannery, John  
Gajewski, Gregory\*\*  
Haas, Robert\*\*  
Hanzel, Cheryl  
Hardesty, Justin\*\*  
Harris, John  
Herbst, Roger\*\*  
Hoffa, John\*\*  
Hutchings, Doug  
Jones, J D  
Kopp, Sharon  
Leone, Harold  
Leslie, Edward  
Mazzarella, Marion  
McCaffrey, Michael\*\*

## New Members

July 1, 2020 to October 31, 2020

**\*\* designates Family Membership**

Aman, Barbara\*\*  
Cantrell, Jeremy  
Cantrell II, Gary  
Capito Sr, Guy Martin\*\*  
Carson, Ian  
Cocklin, Robert\*\*  
Colcombe, Maxmilian  
DeHart, William  
Dingler, Tyler  
Feasser, Tim  
Feather, LeRoy\*\*  
Geiger, Joseph  
Heilman, Paul  
Hobbs, Fred\*\*  
James, Matthew

Keesling, James  
Key, Jerry\*\*  
Lewis, Erin  
Lubinski, Richard  
Manse, Ronald\*\*  
Martinez, Kari\*\*  
Matchette, James\*\*  
Novak, Andrew  
Owen, Spencer  
Rasinski, Catherine  
Robert, Nathaniel  
Shively, Guy  
Swanson, Eric\*\*  
Weiss III, Christian\*\*  
Wyrick, Donald



**A Warm MAPS Welcome!**



### 5 YEARS

### CONTINUED

McCaulley, Ray\*\*  
Merritt, Fred\*\*  
Mills, Deborah  
Moeller, Conrad\*\*  
Moser, Kenneth  
Neugebauer, Gerard\*\*  
Oplinger, David  
Peine, Leslie\*\*  
Pence, John  
Rhodes, Jeffery\*\*  
Rhodes, Tim\*  
Roan, Terry\*\*  
Sazpansky, John\*\*  
Schaefer, Henry  
Schloenbach, Steven\*\*  
Weston, Robert\*\*  
Wolgamott, Vern\*\*  
Yund, Robert\*\*

**Christmas is coming! A MAPS membership makes a great gift for a family member or friend! The form can be downloaded from the MAPS website and mailed to us. That way, when MAPS re-opens, you and family and friends will be able to enjoy all that MAPS has to offer. We look forward to seeing you!**

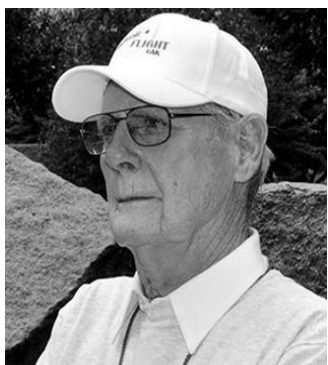


**CONGRATULATIONS!**

**Thank You For Your Continued Support!**

## MAPS Mourns the Loss of Four Members

### Donald Block 1924-2020



Don Block, 96, passed away after a short illness following lingering health issues on Saturday, November 14, 2020.

Don was born in Chicago in 1924 and lived there until enlisting in the US Army Air Corps in 1943 where he trained for and served as a B-26 pilot in Europe.

He returned to the US and met his wife, Gloria, with whom he had been a "pen pal" during his active duty in the war. They had been married for over 73 years at the time of his passing.

Don graduated with a degree in Aeronautical Engineering and went to work for Goodyear Aircraft Corporation in Akron, remaining with that company until his retirement in 1989 after nearly 42 years of service.

He retired as Chief Airship Engineer and was intimately involved in the design of airships in Goodyear's lighter-than-air program throughout his entire career.

Don enjoyed many things in life, always eager to learn about a wide variety of topics. In his retirement, he also adopted wood working as a hobby and became quite an accomplished craftsman. But as his family of four children grew to 10 grandchildren and 12 greatgrandchildren, his greatest joy was seeing them whenever possible.

Don had been a lifetime member of the MAPS Air Museum, serving as a valued tour guide for many years and was very active until a few years ago. He was one of three WWII pilots who were the foundation of the resurgence at MAPS. The other two were Ralph Lynn and Bob Withee, who both predeceased Don. We will miss Don greatly, as we have missed Ralph and Bob - all members of the Greatest Generation.

### William Woodall 1926-2018

William "Bill" Robert Woodall, a retired engineer who worked at Firestone Tire & Rubber Co. for more than 45 years, died On July 28, 2020 at the age of 94.

He was born in Barberton on April 27, 1926 to the late Benjamin Roy Woodall and the former Dolly Shatto.

Mr. Woodall graduated from Ohio Wesleyan in 1948 and learned to fly in the Navy. He is the father of three children.

Mr. Woodall accomplished much in his life but his greatest accomplishment was constructing and eventually briefly flying a full-sized replica of a Sopwith Triplane using blueprints he obtained from the British company that had manufactured the single-seat fighter aircraft with three wings for the Royal Naval Air Service in World War I. After completing work in 1989, Mr. Woodall took the plane to several air shows, including the annual show in Dayton. Currently, his Sopwith Triplane is on display at the MAPS Air Museum.



### Richard "Rick" Tenan



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Rick Tenan, a charter member who joined MAPS in August of 1990. He was killed in a traffic accident on Monday, November 2, 2020 and his wife, Pamela, was seriously injured. At this time, an obituary is unavailable.

### George Tom Berger 1945-2020



George Berger, age 75, of Hartville, passed away on Thursday August 27, 2020. He was born in Canton on August 6, 1945 to the late Steven and Magdalene (Fescko) Berger.

George enlisted in the Army at the age of 17 and served as a medic, training NCO, recruiter as well as many other duties. He was always very proud of his military career, serving our country for over 30 years.

He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Diane (Wise); three children and six grandchildren.

George joined MAPS in June of 2017 and was active until June of 2018, volunteering in restoration and working on various projects. George was a member right up until his passing.



# Meet MAPS Newest Interns!

*By Debbie Bussinger, MAPS Archives and Library*

MAPS has been very fortunate in the past to host talented interns from local colleges. We once again have three interns, all from Kent State University, that we would like you to meet.

**Alex Gardner** is a native of Cincinnati, OH and attends Kent State University where he is studying for a Bachelor's Degree in Digital Media Production. He is in his last semester of the degree program and hopes to graduate into a job in audio production or broadcasting. Alex is a lover of history and the entertainment industry's portrayal of history. Some of his favorite historical films include Schindler's List, Dunkirk and 1917. Alex was drawn to intern at the museum as a way to pay tribute to his multiple family members in the military, including both maternal great-grandfathers who served during WWII.



Alex is working with Sarah on the Medals of Honor video, including SSgt Pinn. He is also working on "cleaning up" some Oral History interviews that were created in the 1980s and 1990s as part of a Kent State history course.



**Erin Lewis** is from Coventry and attends Kent State University where she is finishing up her Bachelor of Science degree in the College of Communication and Information (CCI). Her major is Digital Media Production and the internship program requires Erin to dedicate 150 hours of work time during the semester. After graduation, Erin plans to move to Columbus to explore digital media opportunities. She loves art, movies, reading and cats.

Erin has been restoring photographs from the Sopwith Triplane; editing the Funk Dedication video which has been uploaded to the MAPS YouTube Channel; and edited the BT-13 Dedication video. She is currently conducting research to create a video for the Eva Sparrowgrove Exhibit in the Gallery of Heroes and is also working on a video related to the Father/Son Knife Exhibit in the Gallery of Heroes.

**Sarah Scheiman** was born and raised in Media, Ohio. She is now a senior Digital Media Production major at Kent State University. She is working as an intern at MAPS where she needs to get 150 hours in total to complete her educational requirement at Kent. After graduation, she hopes to find a career in television where she can help with the writing or producing process.



She is currently working on a video of Medal of Honor recipients from Ohio, focusing primarily on the story of Robert Pinn. She is also researching and digitizing photos for the museum that includes photographs that became the property of MAPS after the 356 Fighter Group Restaurant closed.

We thank Alex, Erin and Sarah very much for all they are doing for us at MAPS and hope that the experiences they have here will stay with them and contribute to the success we wish for them in their chosen career paths.



# MAPS

## AIR MUSEUM

*Where History Takes Flight!*

2260 International Parkway  
North Canton OH 44720  
Phone 330-896-6332

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

*The BRIEFING Newsletter*  
Copyright © 2015, MAPS Air Museum

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

MAPS will be closed to the public beginning November 23, 2020 until at least the first week in January 2021 when a decision will be made based on COVID-19 spread and Governor DeWine's recommendations.

MAPS will remain open for our volunteers to come and work in their areas during this shut down.

Merry Christmas



Merry Christmas to all MAPS members, their families, friends and loved ones.

We wish you all a happy, peaceful and healthy 2021.