



Send photos & letters to: Jeane Kennedy Toynbee, Editor
PO Box 243
Copperopolis, CA 95228

Or email to: jeanenbob@caltel.com If you'd like items returned, include a note along with a self-addressed, stamped envelope

Submitted to www.Taloo.org...

Thanks for the wonderful web site and the opportunity to read the newsletter online. Love it--it all brings back fond memories of my years with TALOA. All the best, Jennie Levy Cook *****



Just read the newsletter and really enjoyed it! Nice job--really great you are keeping the flame burning! Nice to see pictures of Edith and Holly, I haven't seen them since last fall when they came through O'Hare -- at the time Dick Veale was having his operations at Mayo Clinic. I hope I can make another Taloo reunion before too much more time goes by. As for me, I have a new book coming out next spring (hardcover) from the Naval Institute Press (United States Naval Institute at Annapolis, MD) titled: *Flying From The Black Hole: B-52 Navigator-Bombardiers Of Vietnam*. It tells both the story alluded to in the title, as well as the history of the rated military positions of navigators and bombardiers. I'll send along more details later as the publication date nears; just wanted to give you a heads-up! Take care, and as Uncle Orvis always used to say, "Keep your nose down in the turns!"

Bob Robert O. Harder. *****

Great newsletter! I am going to visit the museum when back in the area. My brother lives very close to the airport. George Gracy *****

Personal Search: I volunteer at the Minter Field Air Museum in Shafter, California. During a bull session one evening, I mentioned that my father, Mathew L. Ward from Antioch California, flew for Transocean back around 1949-1953. My older sister and conversations with Dad are my only sources. Steve Manning here at the museum loaned me a copy of *Folded Wings*. Marvelous



book. My questions are: Would you folks have any personnel records going back that far? I should like any information you might be able to give on Dad's employment with Transocean -- again sometime around 1949 to 1953. My last question is: How may I purchase a

copy of *Folded Wings*? I can't seem to find it anywhere. I would be more than willing to compensate for the effort. If we can confirm Dad's flying for Transocean, I would like to join your Association.

My information is that my dad flew First Officer. He may have made Captain, but I'm not sure, neither is my sister. The story that is told is that Dad had a difficult time getting on board with Transocean. He flew P-38's in the South Pacific and was highly decorated. But the airlines considered them fighters and not applicable to multi-engine time as would bombers. He went to TALOA Academy and got his ATR and Transocean hired him. He first tried with Flying Tigers. A neighbor, William Brown, across the street in San Lorenzo, flew for Tigers and tried to get Dad on there but failed.

I talked with my sister again yesterday. She remembered that Dad flew the Oakland -Hawaii - Wake - Guam - Okinawa route. I have no pictures that would definitely prove his employment. I have several that my sister believes were take on layovers in Hawaii. His youthful looks almost certainly puts the pictures in that time frame. Thanks for any help you might be able to give me. Jeffrey A. Ward, Wasco, California

Jeffrey, I have sent out several email regarding your request for information. First, I've contacted Arue Szura, the author of Folded Wings to see if we can obtain a copy of that book for you. Next, I sent an email to Capt. Joe Stachon to see if he remembers your dad. I will also be meeting with former Chief Pilot, Bill Keating, at a Nov. Board meeting of TALOA so I'll ask



him as well. Lastly, I'll go through my dad's (Capt. Frank Kennedy) log books to see if I can find a mention of your dad. So stand by...hopefully we'll have some answers for you. TALOA just had our yearly reunion so give some thought to joining us and perhaps coming to the next reunion - Sept 2009. Memberships & Lifetime memberships are available and information about joining can be found at

<http://www.taloo.org/members.html>

Sincerely, Jeane Kennedy Toynbee

And a later email...Hi Jeff, I think I may have found what your father was doing during a certain period of time from the remarks in one of my father's logbooks. The other pilots he listed were Claude Turner, Russ Steinhauer, & Bill Keating. Looks like during this period

of time they were mostly flying DC4s. The dates are from Nov 5th to Dec 17th, 1949. Your father may very well have flown the Honolulu run with crew other than my father, but my father's log books show our dads flew together on numerous flights to Alaska. Take a look at these images (attached to email correspondence) I made of 3 pages in my dad's log books. Take care, Jeane



Jeane, This is very exciting! Dad had flown to Alaska many times and told some hilarious stories about the trips. I've flown up there with him several times although much later. He never mentioned Transocean that I recall. My sister, Helen is quite certain that Dad flew the Oakland to the Orient route before he left the airline. It's quite probable that he flew with your father in another capacity to get some experience. It's unlikely that a newly minted ATR would get his own ship over more experienced pilots. By the way, Dad kept his ATR until he died in 1969. That rating opened a lot of doors for him in General Aviation.

I'm sending 4 pictures that I hope might help me find someone who remembers my father. #1&2 is me and Dad (Matt). I'm told I was 6



months old here. This would place the picture around August 1953. Keep the chuckles about my size to yourself!! Dad had just bought me those jeans and Mom positively hated them. My sister said that Mom



would throw them away and Dad would just buy more. Mom finally gave in but to the day she died she never bought jeans for ANYONE in the family. #3 is a barrack's shot in his "goatskin"...looks new. This was taken around 1945.



#4 is Dad in his p-38 "Antioch Ape", in Dec. 1944. Thanks again for all your help, Jeff

Reunion Feedback...

By Laurie Hudson Leong

(daughter of Herbert Hudson in a note to Pat Stachon Kearns)



Laurie Hudson Leong and husband Joel. Photo taken at the 2008 TALOA Reunion, Oakland, Calif.

That was such a great visit for me. There have always been so many unanswered questions and it was so nice to get some information. It may seem odd 55 years later (!) however, with my Mom's desire to put this part of her life behind her, combined with my recent search on the internet it has become very interesting to me at this point in my life. All day today I was thinking about the things your dad (Joe Stachon) has seen and done! It's wonderful that there are those to tell the amazing story of

Transocean. Please thank your father for the calendar and for the book. I hope to keep in touch. You will probably think this is funny, but I just ordered *The High and the Mighty* and *Fate is the Hunter* by Ernest Gann and that will keep me busy for awhile, but I want to read as much as I can find. I can't wait. The reunion has still been on my mind. I have a coworker here at the City of Sacramento whose dad was a pilot during WWII and also died before she had a chance to know him. I told her about the reunion and how amazing it was to talk to your dad and Bill Keating. We were just laughing this morning because I told her I now want to visit Wake Island! My husband Joel said to me afterwards, "Well I can tell you one thing, those guys have guts!" It was such a startling revelation to think of those flights without radar. The museum is really a tribute to the human spirit. Thanks for everything, Laurie

Zoo!? We were the world's luckiest kids. John, thanks again, for stirring up old memories. *****

ED LANDWEHR HONORED



The TALOA Alumni Association presented its founder, Ed Landwehr, with the plaque pictured below. In recognition of his accomplishments, Arue Szura told him, "Ed, on behalf of the TALOA Alumni Association Board of Directors, I'm honored to present this gift to you." Wording on the plaque:

EDWARD LANDWEHR

*In Appreciation for the Establishment of
 and Years of Dedicated Service to
 The TALOA Alumni Association
 from 1981 to 2007*

**The TALOA Alumni Association
 September 2008**

After he opened it and read it he was all smiles and he said, "That is SO nice. I'm going to hang it on the wall above my desk. Thank you so much." *****

ARUE SZURA RESIGNS

At the November Board meeting of the TALOA Alumni Association, Arue presented her resignation letter. Though an email interview with current Board Chairman, Jeane Kennedy, Arue wrote the following, "I joined the Association in 1981, just as soon as I received the notice from Ed announcing the formation of the alumni

Little Kids...Big Memories

Aloha, John Foster!

by Pat Stachon Kearns

Thank you, John Foster, for bringing some of my childhood memories out of the shadows. I remembered spending vacations in Hawaii, but few details.

When I read your account (*Ed...Oct 2008 newsletter*), I could almost smell the plumeria in the air! This photo of my sister Kathy, my dad Joe Stachon, mom Bettie, and me, was taken in 1952.

As you said, Waikiki Beach was a long expanse of golden sand, with only the Royal Hawaiian, Moana, and Outrigger Club taking up space. I now remember the 'open air' Catholic Church on Sundays, *Hawaii Calls* at the Banyan Court, and eating at the Mayflower (there was one waitress who always made a big deal over us!) And, does anyone else remember a little house in that area, with a pet



mynah bird that could sing the *Star-Spangled Banner*!? Or how about riding a Galapagos tortoise at the Honolulu

association. I originally volunteered just to be a roving reporter, but ended up writing the second newsletter and published 3 a year for the next 22 years.

I originally worked with Red Emery, who took care of the graphics/printing until he passed away, then I took over the entire newsletter. We had more than 500 members at the time.

Fortunately, I had access to Red's collection of films, photographs, etc., Then Jeff Nelson took over and did a good job as editor for quite a while. Now you are the editor and doing a fine job. You understand all the latest technology. I am computer challenged but did manage to get the newsletter out and keep the former employees of TAL together."

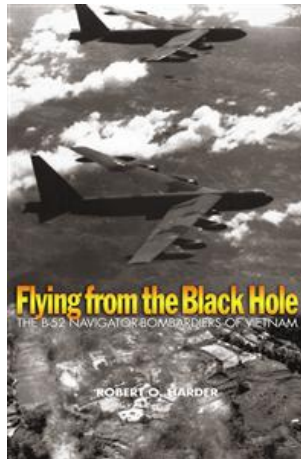
"In the meantime, I spent 25 years collecting all of the memorabilia (still doing it) for the TAL exhibit at the Oakland Aviation Museum (and getting photos and posters framed and secured to the wall). I had help from Tom Northrop (friend of TAL) in mounting the rest of the photographs, otherwise that would have been an overwhelming job. I chaired TAL's 50th reunion, published a small booklet in commemoration, put together a video of TAL's golden years for the occasion, and also wrote *Folded Wings - A History of Transocean Air Lines* over a 5-year period and sold it to a publisher. It came out in 1989, and is now out of print, although occasionally a copy becomes available on eBay or Amazon.com

"I loved Transocean Air Lines and would do it all over again."*****

Letter to the Editor...

Hello Transocean family!

As many of you already know, I have been long working on the story of Air Force navigators and bombardiers, and even more specifically how that development related to the B-52 navigator-bombardiers of Vietnam. At long last, it's come to pass! The Naval Institute Press has posted its Spring '09 catalog on its website: www.usni.org Go to Books and key up the Spring '09 Catalog. Or do an Amazon search with my name and the book – *Flying from the Black Hole* –. Also, after May, the book can be ordered direct from any bookstore in the country.



FYI...Orvis gets a couple of cameos in Chapter 5, when I discuss the pre-WW2 bombers-- the Keystone and the Martin B-10. Thanks! Bob Harder

Hey Kids! Honor your folks and keep the memory of all their great accomplishments alive by becoming a **TALOA KID**.



Your **Lifetime Membership**

in the TALOA Alumni Association will fund the publishing of www.taloea.org which attracts thousands of viewers every month! Send \$100 to: Pat Stachon Kearns, 1516 Richardson Ave, Los Altos, CA 94024

SAVE THE DATE! SEPTEMBER 12th !!_

This year's TALOA Reunion promises to be the best ever! Thanks to second generation membership support and one very generous donation, we will be able to offer the reunion at no charge to you this year! Admission & luncheon are **FREE!** So make your travel plans early and come enjoy the day with fellow Taloans. July's newsletter will have all the details, including the mail-in reservation form. Or even better yet...watch for a *Reunion Alert* on www.taloea.org

In addition...all TALOA Alumni members who attend will be presented with a brand new membership card. We only have a limited number of these collector items so plan on coming and getting yours before they're gone forever!



TALOA Alumni Association **LIFETIME** memberships are available for \$100. Your dues help fund the publication of our website - www.taloea.org -and tell the Transocean story to the world.

Not a current member? Send \$20 for a current year membership or \$100 for a Lifetime membership to: Pat Stachon Kearns, 1516 Richardson Ave, Los Altos, CA 94024

Got pictures you want to share? Send them to the editor: Jeane Kennedy Toynbee, PO Box 243, Copperopolis CA 95228 Photos will be returned upon request.



This photo was sent to us by Capt. Joe Stachon...



Sign says, "WANTED! GOOD WOMAN Must be able to clean, cook, sew, wax aircraft and navigate. Must have airplane and hangar. PLEASE SEND PHOTO OF PLANE AND HANGER"

Dear Readers, This newsletter requests all responses be sent directly to Capt. Joe Stachon. Thank you, Editor

MONA FINLASON ASSUMES NEW ROLE

The TALOA Alumni Association has enjoyed the long term secretarial duties of member Ramona Finlason. No one on the Board could remember a meeting that Mona had either missed or was even late to! And now she has accepted a new role – Membership Chairman. So you may be getting a call or note from Mona shortly as she checks her roster and updates names & addresses. Mona's secretarial duties on the Board will be taken over by Kathleen Kennedy.

TALOA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBERS:

- Jeane Kennedy Toynbee, Chairman
- Pat Stachon Kearns, Treasurer
- Kathy Kennedy, Secretary
- Janet Stachon Farmer, Reunion Coordinator
- Mona Finlason, Membership Coordinator
- Bill Keating, Technical Advisor





LIFETIME MEMBERS: Robert & Barbara Allardyce, Trenton W. Barber, Val G. Barrett, Clifford G. Berg, Augie Blasquez, Lillian A. Bunbury, Chiseko Chapin, Scotty Charnley, Richard "Chic" Collins, Sarah Collins, Jennie

Cook, Claudia Turner Cook, Verna Cravens, Don & Alice Crooke, Joseph & Susan Delazerda, George E. Dijeau, Helen Dillard, Stuart Downing, Martha-Jane Ekstrand, Raymond Foster, Mike A. Gambino, M. C. "Manny" Garcia, Derrel T. Gibbins, Bob Glattly, Francis R. Grinnon, Dorothy Guinther, Earl S. Holmquist, Lee & Marion Jenkins, Carol Johnson, Marion Johnson, Billie Joiner, Stu & Elva Jones, Pat Stachon Kearns, William & Billie Keating, Nadine Kendall, Colm J. Kennedy, John Ketler, Barbara & Robert Kilian, Mildred Kosteff, Ed & Gun Landwehr, Lorraine Landwehr, Robert & Rita Lang, Gene Longo, David McQueen, Florence Morjig, Mrs. Orvis Nelson, Ralph & Eileen Padilla, Gordon & Marty Palmquist, Sheldon Paul Purdy, Mary Richter, Jose & Maria Rimorin, Janis Roach, Eddie Robeson, Douglas & Pamela Rogers, Shirley & Daniel Seid, Renee Sheets, Charles W. & Tokuko Smith, Margaret Soares, Joseph Stachon, Robert & Inger Stearns, Richard & Jean Stuber, Arue Szura, Elaine Yuen & Carl Timm, Jeane Kennedy & Bob Toynbee, Holly Nelson & Dick Veale, Tom Von Eckardt, Richard & Margaret Werling, Laverne Witteveen

2009 MEMBERS: Val Bednekoff, John J. & Jane Benterou, Walter & Mary Blessing, Veronica Dixon, Donna Ferrell, Anne & Charles Gobel, Bill Gower, Harold Green, Oscar Grohs, Delores Hamm, Robert O. & Doris Ann Harder, Henry D. & Dang Thai Holt, Rosemary Baumgartner Jones, Elizabeth Ann Kearins, Katharine Graham Kohler, Charles Mac Quarrie, Erik Moberg, Sue Nelson, Floyd & Georgene Pileggi, Dr. Charles Quarles, Jack & Gloria Ratliff, Sigvard N. Sivertsen, Bernald & Marilyn Smith, Rick Stachon, Rodney Stich, Louis & Erma Sylvia, Janet Whitaker, Ron Winiker, Robert V. Withrow, Paul & Yasuko Zimmermann

His request approved, the Fox News photographer quickly used a cell phone to call the local airport to charter a flight. He was told a twin engine plane would be waiting for him at the airport. Arriving at the airfield, he spotted a plane warming up outside a hanger. He jumped in with his bag, slammed the door shut, and shouted, "Let's go!"

The pilot taxied out, swung the plane into the wind and took off. Once in the air, the photographer instructed the pilot, "Fly over the valley and make low passes so I can take pictures of the fires on the hillsides."

"Why?" asked the pilot.

"Because I'm a photographer for Fox Cable News, he responded, "and I need to get some close up shots."

The pilot was strangely silent for a moment, and then finally stammered, "So, what you're telling me is . . . you're **NOT** my flight instructor?!"

