

20TH AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION  
NEWSLETTER

1143 Glenview Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108 Phone & Fax (805) 969-2796  
Fall 1996



#### JOHN T. CORRELL NAMED HONORARY DIRECTOR

At its annual meeting on April 27, 1996 in Tucson, the board elected John T. Correll the first Honorary Director of 20th Air Force Association. As Editor in Chief, AIR FORCE MAGAZINE, his 1994-1995 articles were the kind of support Gen. LeMay told us in 1988 we must have. John Correll did what no other editor could or would do. Though Smithsonian curators figured they could ignore us, he saw through their duplicity and his powerful writing, and veterans' efforts nationwide, determined the outcome.

#### A GOOD MAN TAKES A TOUGH ASSIGNMENT

We are pleased Adm. Donald Engen, U.S.N., Ret. (an aerial combat veteran) has become Director, National Air & Space Museum (NASM), a tough job in an Alice in Wonderland setting. He deserves our full support, so let's not let him go down at the target.

#### STILL FIGHTING THE PROBLEM

Headline-hunting, off-the-wall historians still want America to agonize over what A-bombs did to people in Hiroshima & Nagasaki but never mention that much greater human suffering ended when those Bombs helped free hundreds of millions (subjected to years of brutal Japanese occupation) and 90,000+ abused and starving Allied POWs in Japanese hands. They condemn the Enola Gay exhibit for recognizing aeronautical advances the airplane represents without dwelling on suffering caused by the Bombs. They argue that Pres. Truman (1) 'should have' left those many millions to suffer under the Japanese and expended more American lives in hopes he could avoid using the Bomb (or harming Japanese), and (2) 'should have' demonstrated The Bomb as a 'signal' to Japan that we had it and would use it unless they stopped fighting 'soon'—a word with totally different meanings for those living in American comfort, or a Japanese occupied country, or suffering under the barbarians running Japan's POW camps. One method of killing being as moral/immoral as another, we are convinced of the morality of our ending that war quickly and as we did. From his World War I experience in the trenches of France, Truman knew young Americans at war, that those fighting in 1945 had experienced dramatic changes in their young lives, that most had grown up believing this was "The land of the free and the home of the brave," then woke one Sunday morning to find their world had changed...

To avoid using military force aims controllers advocate 'signaling' to one's opponent, but forget that, once The Bell Rings and you find yourself in a come-as-you-are war, expending lives on indecisive displays or to warn of more drastic measures that may follow suggests you are too stupid/weak to do what is necessary. 'Signaling' usually encourages an opponent to await your next move, and gradual escalation follows. In the summer of 1945, the combatants had been fighting—not 'signaling'—for 3+ years. When Truman became president, short of fighting to the bitter end, no one could tell him how to get Japan to stop. The Meiji Constitution (of 1889) assigned two cabinet ministries to the military, and major cabinet decisions required a consensus. By 1945, the military had learned it could withhold approval of a prime minister's policies, let the cabinet fall and, when selection of a new cabinet began, refuse to name a War Minister until the proposed cabinet met with its approval. That summer, the military refused to stop fighting, so the cabinet was unable to decide to seek peace. Civilian leaders were beholden to the military, and no Japanese--military/civilian—dared mention 'peace' for fear of dishonoring himself, his family, his community, his ancestors, the nation, and being assassinated immediately. Her navy may have been sunk, her ports choked with aerial mines, and her cities in ashes but there was no way the government could stop fighting. (The history of World War II being taught in Japan—hold onto your hat!—is that in the 20s, 30s, & 40s: Japan was the world's Far

Eastern bulwark against communism—as America later tried in Viet Nam? She was victimized by a bullying America that shut-off her oil and left her no choice but to forcefully seek to reestablish that supply and, once hostilities began, used its vastly superior strength to overwhelm and crush a small but noble Japan. They want the world to believe our use of A-bombs were war crimes that 'excuse' their barbaric treatment of POWs and subjugated peoples.) The world can forget about a Japanese apology...ever.

In 1945, Sec. of War Henry Stimson figured that dropping two Bombs in rapid succession might create the impression many more were about to follow. He tried it, and it worked. The rest is history. But these 'historians' try to use records of what American leaders thought to develop theories about what we 'should have done' to cause Japan to stop fighting. What the world needed was someone inside Japan with authority to tell the Japanese military, 'Stop fighting,' but for too long there was no such person. Finally, the Emperor (trained to 'Listen, counsel, but never participate') became that someone, but first, he had to decide—in his own mind—to violate imperial custom, by speaking up. Even then, military hotheads rebelled. These 'historians' don't explain why a modern Emperor would violate imperial custom, and interfere with/direct a cabinet decision. Their theories are not history but notice to America that some of our intellectuals—like the Japanese—want our children taught the Japanese version of 20th century history. We disagree.

#### NO MORE HIDDEN AGENDAS...AND NO MORE ANTI-NUKE SHOWS?

Throughout the Enola Gay battle, AIR FORCE MAGAZINE (AFM) asked for an exhibit providing 'balance, context, and fairness.' Curatorial duplicity made AFM unwilling to join them in a word-by-word, line-by-line editing (though, in good faith, the Legion stepped into that minefield) AFM pointed out deficiencies of succeeding scripts and repeated its request ('balance, context, and fairness') but NASM curators would have none of it. Believing powerful political friends and civil service rules enabled them to ignore management suggestions and critics until an exhibit became fait accompli—i.e. set in concrete—they were going to use Enola Gay in an anti-nuclear Hollywood horror-show. Not even resignations by droves of private Smithsonian supporters and congressional talk of reducing appropriations fazed them. Suddenly Smithsonian Sec. Heyman took control of Enola Gay because he saw the problem was more serious than merely appeasing Congress: Private member resignations had to be stopped, and as many as possible recovered. This meant curators' hidden agendas—the practice of choosing an exhibit's conclusion and selecting snippets of history to support that conclusion—had to cease. He recently told curators 'a full exposition of differing views in various situations is what is expected'... sound like AFM's 'balance, context, & fairness?' Because the Smithsonian is partly tax-supported, we think any American should be able to take a child to any of its exhibits and, on leaving, expect the child may look up and say, in effect, "Y'know...this country may not be perfect...but it has done many good things for humanity...and is a good country." Even an exhibit dealing with blotches on our past must help our children believe—even if curators disagree—that, while not perfect, America is a good country, made up of worthy people. Any public museum curator whose professional standards preclude his/her planning such exhibits should find work in private museums whose sponsors agree with the curator's views, and let their colleagues in colleges and universities challenge what the curator considers our national myths/childish beliefs. Nuclear exhibits not being within the purpose of our National Air & Space Museum, we they should be kept out of our National Air & Space Museum, so tell your congressman.

6th Bomb Gp Assn:	Dayton, OH late April 1997
7th Fighter Cmd.	Honolulu, HI, December 6-8, 1996 (joint with Womens Air Raid Defense Assn.)
9th Bomb Gp Assn:	Washington, DC, late August 1997
19th Bomb Gp Assn:	Chattanooga, TN late November 1997
20th AF Gp Guam:	Hershey, PA, Sep. 4-7, 1997
29th Bomb Gp Assn:	Tucson, AZ, mid-October 1997
39th Bomb Gp Assn:	Albuquerque, NM, August 14-17, 1997
40th Bomb Gp Assn:	Minneapolis, MN September 20-24, 1997
55th Wx Recon Sqdn Assn:	Las Vegas, NV, April 22-26, 1997 (during AFA's "Air Force 50" celebration)
58th Bomb Wg Assn:	Portland, OR, May 1997
73rd Bomb Wg Assn:	Salt Lake City, UT, May 22-25, 1997
315th Bomb Wg Assn:	San Antonio, TX, Sep. 17-21, 1997
330th Bomb Gp Assn:	Ft. Walton Beach, FL, October 16-19, 1997
504th Bomb Gp Assn:	Las Vegas, NV, April 22-26, 1997 (during AFA's "Air Force 50" celebration)
505th Bomb Gp Assn:	Las Vegas, NV, April 16-20, 1997
509th Comp. Gp. Assn.	Being planned

## PIMA AIR & SPACE MUSEUM CONTRIBUTIONS

Many of you and John Jennings (Past Pres. of 6th Bomb Gp. Assn. and 20 AF Assn.) have done a fine job on contributions, and we offer our congratulations. To date, contributions are:

#1 : \$28,057 from 315th Bomb Wg Assn;  
#2: 22,267 from 58th Bomb Wg Assn;  
#3: 11,264 from 6th Bomb Gp Assn;  
#4 9,160 from 330th Bomb Gp Assn;  
#5: 8,260 from 73rd Bomb Wg Assn;  
#6 8,231 from 9th Bomb Gp Assn;  
#7 5, 105 from 19th Bomb Gp Assn; #8:  
#9: 3,935 from 504th Bomb Gp Assn;  
#10: 3,111 from 509th Comp Gp Assn;  
#11: 1,130 from 505th Bomb Gp Assn;  
#12: 1,000 from Hq, 20th Air Force personnel;  
#13: 1,000 from 29th Bomb Gp Assn; #14: 365 from 40th Bomb Gp Assn;  
#15: 25 from 3 9th Bomb Gp Assn.  
Total: \$106,929.87.

4,000 from this association;

We set out to raise \$100,000, which you exceeded nicely. The Museum is grateful to all concerned. Future checks should be made payable to "Pima Air & Space Museum" and sent to our Treasurer so he can track contributions (and forward the checks).

### SHORT BURSTS (not more than 10 rounds)

a. Annual Dues & Membership Cards Dues (\$10 per year, due Sep. 30) are the primary source of our working Capital. "We Don't send statements. Our strength is in numbers, but we can't keep mailing to those who don't help. Send checks to board authorized annual membership cards, which have been well received by those whose dues are current.

b. Life Memberships. Several members asked for Life Memberships, so the Board chewed on the problem, and authorized them for \$50. George Allen is #1 Bill Cooper #2...Elbert Smith #13. ...and the checks keep rolling in.

c. "Air Force Fifty" Celebration, Las Vegas. April 22-26. 1997: AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION is sponsoring a 50th anniversary celebration of USAF's establishment— something 20TH AIR FORCE helped bring about. 20th Air Force people are invited, so come see the outstanding air shows and drop by our booth in the Convention Center. Registration Forms & Event Schedules available from: AFA Registration, P.O. Box 9129, Silver Spring, MD 20916-9129, FAX (301) 933-3884 (they prefer fax).

d. Iwo Jima Survivors Assn. : To enable us to express appreciation to Marines who took Iwo Jima, we have established informal contact with The Iwo Jima Survivors Association of Texas— an all-service organization of all who fought in that campaign. Headed by Cy Young (USMC), P.O. Box 1657, Bowie, TX 76230, ph.. (817) 845-3261, Fax (817) 872-1342, it's next reunion will be February 20-25, 1997, at Harvey Hotel, D/FW Airport, 4545 W. John Carpenter Freeway, Irving, TX 75063, Ph. (214) 929-4500. It welcomes 20th AF people. For reunion packets, write Iwo Jima Survivors Association at P.O. Box 668, Wichita Falls, TX 76307.

e. Something for Nothing? 330th Bomb GP. Assn. is contributing a plaque to Pima Air Museum on behalf of all 20th AF veterans. to thank those Marines who took Iwo. The gift is made in the name of 20 AF Association; so, non-3 30th people will receive credit for something they didn't do. Thanks, 330th! The dedication ceremony at the Museum is set for April 5, 1997. Invite a Marine and attend. Details available from Don Murray on (804) 598-7344 or Bob Flischel on (513) 855-7946.

f. Loss of a Good Man: Harry Mitchell, one of our directors and Past Pres.. 29th GP. Assn., passed away 6/27/96. He will be missed.

g. Taking Tax Deductions on Memorabilia: To insure tax deducibility, make gift to "Arizona Aerospace Foundation" (Pima Air & Space Museum is its subsidiary). Phone Kirsten Oftedahl, Curator of Collections, on (520) 574-0462 or Fax her on (520) 574-9238. Their 'Want List' is a mile long, so contact her for info, forms, instructions, etc., before sending anything.

h N on- Veteran Memberships? 20th Air Force Assn. Nametags? Non-veterans may be members. Membership applications are available from the Secretary, as are applications for 20th AF Assn. nametags- -Men's \$8.50, Ladies \$7.00.

I. B-29 Nose-Art Buff: David Brown, 43 Acorn Crescent, London, ON N6G 3V4, Canada is rounding-up nose art, serial numbers, sq.. GP., Wg, acft names, dates of loss & cause, etc. of WW II & postwar B-29s. Who's doing this for P-51s flown from Iwo?

j. AFA on the Web: The address is: <http://www.afa.org> For copies of AIR FORCE MAGAZINE'S Enola Gay articles, add: /enolagay/home.html If Tokyo Rose answers, hang up ...