



hyperspectral imagery: imagery derived from subdividing the electromagnetic spectrum into very narrow bandwidths for precise terrain or target analysis

ICBM: acronym for Inter-Continental Ballistics Missile

Iceberg: code name for series of battles fought during World War II in the Japanese Ryukyu Islands, centered on the island of Okinawa, and included the largest amphibious assault in the Pacific War (i.e., "Operation Iceberg")



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Words to Ponder:

"To move swiftly, strike vigorously, and secure all the fruits of victory is the secret of successful war."

~ Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson



Pray for our Deployed Members:

Chaplain Brian Palmer and Family: serving the Lord in Fort McCoy, Wisconsin
Cpl Timothy Robinson, USMC: Praise!! Timothy was promoted to Corporal effective August 1, 2016!

Together in Scripture Reading:

This month:
the book of Philippians



Good Angel - 'Bad Angel'

Colonel Steve Martin

During the course of World War II, only a handful of pilots laid claim to having shot down aircraft from each of the Axis powers (Germany, Italy, and Japan). To accomplish this feat, you would have to be assigned to two separate theaters of war between 1941 and 1945; and few pilots flew in more than one theater during the WW II. While flying over Bataan on February 10, 1945, American pilot, Lieutenant Louis Edward Curdes, P-51 Mustang, proudly bore the flag emblems of a fighter ace (more than five enemy kills). Flag decals below the cockpit of the plane are referred to as "kill marks" designating the number of aircraft shot down. By war's end, Curdes' P-51 mustang named "Bad Angel" would sport seven German flags, one Italian flag, and one Japanese flag. However, by the end of this day "Bad Angel" will add one additional flag to the cockpit - an American flag.

Lieutenant Curdes joined the Army Reserves in March 1942, and by December 1942, had earned his pilot wings at Luke Field, Arizona. Shortly after receiving his wings he was assigned to the 95th Fighter Squadron as a part of the 82nd Fighter Group seeing action over North Africa, Sardinia and Italy. While flying his P-38 aircraft he scored eight total victories over enemy aircraft. In July 1943, Curdes was shot down while flying support for B-24's over Benevento, Italy. He was taken prisoner by the Italians. On September 30, 1943, Lt. Curdes escaped from the Prisoner of War (POW) camp and with the help of Italian partisans, he amazingly evaded enemy patrols until he crossed enemy lines into Allied territory on May 24, 1944. Following his return, he requested transfer to the Pacific Theater and was assigned to the 4th Fighter Squadron as a



Louis Edward Curdes

part of the 3rd Air Commando Group in August 1944.

On the afternoon of February 10th, Lt. Curdes and three other pilots patrolled the skies over the Japanese held Bataan Island. The four P-51 Mustangs encountered heavy anti-aircraft fire and when one of the aircraft flown by Lieutenant La Croix was hit, he parachuted into the ocean. Lt. Curdes stayed to fly protective cover over La Croix who was now in a raft. The other two P-51s returned to base and in route radioed for a PBY Catalina (Patrol Bomber - floating plane) to pick up La Croix. As darkness was approaching, Lt. Curdes noticed the familiar silhouette of an aircraft on a glide path to land on Bataan Island. As he moved in closer to investigate, he recognized the American flag and realized that the American C-47 was about to land on the enemy held island. If it landed, all crew and passengers would be taken prisoner or worst yet killed by the Japanese.

Lt. Curdes immediately tried contacting the C-47 via radio, but there was no response. Next, he made three passes in front of the aircraft hoping to get it to veer off-course, but to no avail. Finally, Curdes took up a position directly behind the C-47 and carefully shot out both of its engines. He stayed aloft and watched as the C-47 glided to a relatively soft landing in the ocean off of Bataan Island. When rafts deployed out both doors of the C-47, he could tell that they were safe for the time being and they were in close proximity to Lieutenant La Croix who was in a raft also awaiting rescue. Curdes dropped a note to the survivors from about 50 feet saying, "For God's sake, keep away from shore. Japs there."

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'The four P-51 Mustangs encountered heavy anti-aircraft fire and when one of the aircraft flown by Lieutenant La Croix was hit, he parachuted into the ocean.'

Did You Know: Stories From Air America (Part 1)

Editor's Note: We're introducing a variation of the popular "Here's Why" feature, calling it "Did You Know" to more accurately reflect the nature of the articles depicted in the series. This month, we bring you the first of several stories from Air America. But we must first answer the question: What is Air America? Did you know?

According to William M. Leary, Professor of History at the University of Georgia, the story of the real Air America begins in 1950, when the CIA decided that it required an air transport capability to conduct covert operations in Asia in support of US policy objectives. In August 1950, the Agency secretly purchased the assets of Civil Air Transport (CAT), an airline that had been started in China after World War II by Gen. Claire L. Chennault and Whiting Willauer. CAT would continue to fly commercial routes throughout Asia, acting in every way as a privately owned commercial airline. At the same time, under the corporate guise of CAT Incorporated, it provided airplanes and crews for secret intelligence operations.

In the 1950s, the CIA's air proprietary, as it was known in the lexicon of intelligence, was used for a variety of covert missions. During the Korean War, for example, it made more than 100 hazardous overflights of Mainland China, air dropping agents and supplies.

CAT also became involved in the French war against Communist insurgents in Indochina. In April 1953, the French appealed to President Eisenhower for the use of US Air Force C-119 transports and crews to fly tanks and heavy equipment to their hard-pressed forces in Laos.



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Life As a Military Kid (part 2)

Editor's Note: We're picking up the story from where we left off last month by hearing from the "real experts" on life as a military kid, as told to spouseBuzz.com staff writer, freelance journalist, and Navy wife & mom Mari Krueger.

Zane, 4

Zane's mom worries that talking to her 4-year-old son about their upcoming move or his dad's deployment might make him feel sad if he wasn't already thinking about it. When she tested the waters, it turned out he is thinking about it anyway.

"I feel sad about Dad being gone," Zane says. "I really miss Daddy. I know I'll see him again, but I don't know when I'll see him."

When asked what helps him feel better, his answer is quick: visits from his out-of-state cousins. "That makes it better!" he says enthusiastically.

He knows what his dad does is important: "He is protecting us." Zane is also looking forward to moving

because he gets to watch extra TV while the movers pack the house, and when moving to the new duty station. "I like watching cartoons in the car all day when we're driving and driving," he said.

As for the friends, teachers and classmates he'll leave behind when the family moves this summer, he acknowledged he'd miss them, but

his real concern was for a smiley brunette in his class: "Carla isn't going to see me anymore," he says shyly before running off to play.

Annika, 6

Annika is already anxious about the family's next move, even though it's two years away. "When we move, I'll be sad,

because I'll have to break up with Jackson," she tells her mom, Mary.

Staying put is an option for the family, but Annika is the one who wants the family to move back to their previous overseas post in Japan.

"She's torn," says Mary. "She wants them both, equally!"

'Annika says the new places she's visited because of her military family lifestyle is fun: always nice and adventurous.'

Annika says the new places she's visited because of her military family lifestyle is fun: always "nice and adventurous." And besides visiting Tokyo Disney and her friends, the other things she misses might surprise you: "I miss all the sumo wrestling," she says. "I miss a lot of that."

Annika is proud of what her dad does, both because it makes him happy, and because it makes her happy: "I really like that he's in the Navy, because we can move to different places, and we can explore new things!"



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Good Angel - 'Bad Angel'

With darkness quickly approaching, it was apparent that the PBV would not be able to pick up the survivors until morning and Curdes returned to base.

Before dawn the next morning, Lieutenant Curdes and his wingman took off and went back to Bataan Island to fly cover over the awaiting Americans until the PBV could land and rescue them. Curdes later learned that the C-47 had gotten lost in bad weather, had lost its radio, and the fuel gauge was on empty when he saw the landing strip. He had no idea that he was about to land on an enemy island. Lieutenant Curdes was surprised when he found out that two of the thirteen passengers on the C-47 were Army

nurses. He was even more surprised when he saw the names of the nurses and realized that he had taken one of the nurses on a date just a few days earlier!



Lt Curdes in his P-51

Lieutenant Colonel Louie Edward Curdes retired from the United States Air Force in 1963. His wife, Valorie was the same nurse he had shot down over the Pacific years earlier. He retired with many decorations from his military career, but none probably held the same significance as the Distinguished Flying Cross he received for shooting down an American aircraft on that February afternoon. Lt Colonel (Ret) Curdes has the distinction of being only one of three American pilots credited with shooting down an enemy plane from three Axis

nations and the only American decorated for shooting down an American aircraft in aerial combat with his future wife on-board.

Have you ever been gliding along the path of life, sure of your destination, proceeding with plans you have made - then all of a sudden something happens to upset your life and your plans? I've sure been there! It is one of the most unsettling times in a person's life. We all have plans and dreams for our life and as long as things are going according to our plans we think that life is treating us fairly and that God is pleased with our plans. However, when our best laid plans are interrupted or even abruptly stopped, our first thought is that we are being punished for offending God or that He must have something against us or wants something less than the best for our lives.

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Life as a Military Kid (part 2)

When her dad's deployed, Annika says it feels like she has a great family, just not a full family. "It feels awful," she says. Still, she knows it's important—and ok—to have fun and spend time with friends. And once he's home, she knows he's safe.

"I feel proud," she says.

So if you're worried about how the military lifestyle is affecting your kids, talk to them! You might be surprised what you learn.

About the author: *Mari Krueger is a freelance journalist and Navy wife with two little kids. She's written for daily newspapers, magazines and blogs, been a stringer for Bloomberg*

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News, and contributed to the New York Times, Life and Style Magazine, and the Associated Press. She likes meeting her sailor in exotic ports of call.

For more information, visit www.spousebuzz.com



9/11 COMMEMORATION:

Sunday, 11 September 2016: a special service to remember the 15th anniversary of the 9/11 terror attacks will take place at the Cornerstone Baptist Church in Raleigh. The service begins at 9:30 am and the brunch will follow. Current and former first responders are welcome to wear their uniforms to the service.

LOCATION:

*Cornerstone Baptist Church
2405 Wade Avenue
Raleigh, NC 27607
Meeting at Jaycee
Park Community
Center*

*Spread the word;
save the date!*



The Ride of Your Life (part 1)

(Ronnie Polaneczky)

Editor's Note: *This is part one of a two-part feature adapted from an article by Ronnie Polaneczky, columnist for the Philadelphia Daily News, originally published in 2005.*

It started last Christmas, when Bennett and Vivian Levin were overwhelmed by sadness while listening to radio reports of injured American troops.

"We have to let them know we care," Vivian told Bennett.

So they organized a trip to bring soldiers from Walter Reed Army Medical Center and Bethesda Naval Hospital to the annual Army-Navy football game in Philly, on Dec. 3. The cool part is, they created their own train line to do it.

Yes, there are people in this country who actually own real trains. Bennett Levin (native Philly guy, self-made millionaire and irascible former L&I commish) is one of them.

He has three luxury rail cars. Think mahogany paneling, plush seating and white-linen dining areas. He also has two locomotives, which he stores at his Juniata Park train yard. One car, the elegant Pennsylvania, carried John F. Kennedy to the Army-Navy game in 1961 and '62. Later, it carried his brother Bobby's body to D.C. for burial.



"That's a lot of history for one car," says Bennett.

He and Vivian wanted to revive a tradition that endured from 1936 to 1975, during which trains carried Army-Navy spectators from around the country directly to the stadium where the annual game is played.

The Levins could think of no better passengers to reinstate the ceremonial ride than the wounded men and women recovering at Walter Reed in D.C. and Bethesda, in Maryland.

"We wanted to give them a first-class experience," says Bennett. "Gourmet meals on board, private transportation from the train to the stadium, perfect seats — real hero treatment."

What happened next? *Be on the lookout for next month's issue of the Patriot News to find out!*

**TO BE CONTINUED
NEXT MONTH**

Did You Know: STORIES FROM AIR AMERICA

(Continued from page 2)

CAT/Air America performed superbly for the CIA. The skilled aircrews and ground personnel of the air proprietary had given CIA the air transport capability that it required for a variety of covert operations in Asia. Although the air complex had caused legal problems for the CIA's Directorate of Administration, there is no question that personnel in the Directorate of Operations considered CAT/Air America as an essential tool for their work.

During the war in Laos, Air America was called upon to perform paramilitary tasks at great risks to the aircrews involved. Although lacking the discipline found in a military organization, the personnel for the air proprietary nonetheless continued to place their lives at hazard for years. Some Air America pilots flew in Laos for more than a decade, braving enemy fire and surmounting challenging operational conditions with rare skill and determination. As pointed out by a senior Agency official during the dedication of a plaque to Air America personnel at CIA Headquarters in May 1988: "The aircrew, maintenance, and other professional aviation skills they applied on our behalf were extraordinary. But, above all, they brought a dedication to our mission and the highest standards of personal courage in the conduct of that mission."

The Air America operations at Udorn, Thailand were closed down on 30 June 1974. Air America's operating authority was cancelled by the CAB (forerunner of the FAA) on 31 January 1974.

Next month: *"All In A Day's Work" (by Samuel T. Jordan)*



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SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

- Bob Shaut - 2
- Andrew Perez - 9
- Becky Reece - 12
- Ken Folz, Teresa Ralph - 14
- Ashante Parchue - 18
- Shelly Dupree - 26

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES:

- Shelly Dupree - 3
- Jamie & Jennifer Hughes - 15
- Bob & Rita Shaut - 20



THIS MONTH IN MILITARY HISTORY

1 Sep 1939 - Adolf Hitler orders "Close your hearts to pity," invades Poland, initiating World War II, and also orders the extermination of the mentally ill.

2 Sep 1901 - US VP Theodore Roosevelt cites the African proverb, "Speak softly and carry a big stick" for the first time.

4 Sep 1804 - The *USS Intrepid* blows up during an unsuccessful attack on Tripoli.

8 Sep 1939 - US President FDR declares a "limited national emergency" due to war in Europe.

9 Sep 1903 - The New York National Guard wins the first National Rifle Matches; Sea Girt, NJ.

11 Sep 2001 - Death of Lt Gen Timothy J. Maude, the highest ranking U.S. military officer killed in the September 11 attacks.

13 Sep 1847 - General Winfield

Scott wins the last major battle of the Mexican-American War, storming the ancient Chapultepec fortress at the edge of Mexico City.

14 Sep 1969 - The US Selective Service selects September 14 as the First Draft Lottery Date.

16 Sep 1832 - Birth of George Washington Custis Lee, Maj Gen in the Confederate Army, eldest son of Robert E. Lee, step great-grandson of George Washington.

Good Angel - 'Bad Angel'

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I think of times in the Bible when people were going about their lives with their best laid plans and God interrupted these plans. Think of Abraham walking up Mount Moriah with Isaac knowing that God was expecting him to sacrifice his only son and heir. Think of Joseph as he was first sold into captivity by his brothers, and then as he begins to prosper in Potiphar's house, he is falsely accused and imprisoned. From both of these accounts, we see the proof spoken of in Isaiah: "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts." In difficult circumstances, both of these men trusted God as he changed the course of their plans. Joseph realized that God's course correction in his life had greater long term purposes when he said to his brothers: "But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God

meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive."

18th Century Hymnist and Poet William Cowper struggled with depression and great frustration with life; yet in his last written hymn he penned the words to "God Moves in Mysterious Ways" which in part states:

*Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,
But trust Him for His grace;
Behind a frowning providence
He hides a smiling face.*

*His purposes will ripen fast,
Unfolding every hour:
The bud may have a bitter taste,
But sweet will be the flower.*

There will be times in your life where God will make a course correction to accomplish His purposes. God's plans are always for your



Close-up of Lt. Curdes' P-51 fuselage (see the "kill marks")

good and for His glory.

It may sometimes seem like God is shooting you down when all He is doing is adjusting your course for your own good and protection. Trust Him in these times and allow Him to guide you! Behind the difficult circumstances of your life, you will find a smiling face – the Bridegroom looking out for the Bride!



And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose.

Romans 8:28

Prayer Notes, Event Announcements

Please continue to keep Ashley Huskey in your prayers as doctors are treating her for vasculitis over the next few months. Ashley is the daughter of Todd and Tammy Huskey; please pray that the treatments she is taking will completely stop the vasculitis. Please keep Phil Wagher in your prayers as he is experiencing some health issues at this time.

Congratulations to Justin and Kimberly Reece on the birth of their

new son Lincoln Abram Reece: born on July 30th weighing 9 lbs. 15 ozs. Congratulations also to the proud grandparents Dan and Becky Reece! Justin is in the Air Force and currently assigned to Pensacola Naval Air Station. Please also pray for Brian and Ivey Palmer as they minister to soldiers and families at Ft. McCoy, Wisconsin.

~ Colonel Martin

Coming up Next Month:

- Meet the Military: An Auschwitz Volunteer?? (a different type of article)

