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- Steve Perry, webmaster USSLeyteCV32.com, August 2017

Robert F. Brennan

note to Pat Francis



FLIGHT TRAINING *UBAG*

Here's a little story on UBAG – with 2 actual completed ones (plus the notes on the back of the 2nd one).

If you get a ß DOWN (FAIL) a PINK SHEET is put in and the powers that be decide your fate – they gave me a 2nd A-18 flight.

Interestingly, although I knew about UBAGs, Pink Slips, etc., I never actually saw them or the entire file! The instructor had them and used them for each post-flight briefing



fragment of note to Pat Francis

3/26/96

1. Memorial at front of each ["Cruise Book"]. I assume most Ensigns were former Mid'n:

Korea: Jesse Brown, E.G. Wagner

Med: Dean Steves, Ken Grim

2. Air Group 3 - most group pictures – Korea – no names; Med – shows names. My count of former Mid'n on Med Cruise VF-31 8, VF-34 10, VF-33 9, VA-35 12, other ?

About 20 pilots per squadron X 4 = 80 total, 39 Mid'n – Almost Half!!

3. Korea: ENS Weber shot down a MiG.

ENS Lyman – F9F on a "cold cat shot" going into the drink off Korea.

ENS Kirkpatrick – AD going off the side.

4. Med: ENS Ken Beckman – after ditching.



Bob Brennan

Name: Robert F. “Bob” BRENNAN

Spouse: Elizabeth “Libby” MOORE

Pre-Flight Class 15-48

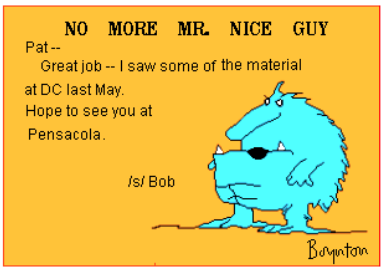
Wings 5/8/50

Naval Aviator #T 616

File #506152

Present Occupation: Retired

Still Flying: No



HIGHLIGHTS OF MIDSHIPMAN CAREER

1. It seems my career as a midshipman was quite routine and uneventful and yet memorable and exciting. Met lots of great guys and had many good and *exciting* times.

2. *Quandry*: I was supposed to be a “hot pilot” but my mother always told me, “Remember, Bobby, always fly low and slow!” Aw, Ma!!!

3. *Strange but true story* (really): Whiting Field, 0800 Saturday, December 1948. Captain U. S. Marines, addressing the battalion (of hundreds of hot-to-trot Mid’n who were ready for a wild weekend):

Capt: It has been brought to my attention that 50 new waste baskets which were received only last week are missing. Some of you jokers have stolen them and I want them back right now. Until they are returned, there will be NO LIBERTY.

Voice from the rear ranks: Give me liberty or give me death !!

Capt: Who said that ???

Voice: Patrick Henry !!!

The entire battalion collapsed in laughter, was dismissed, and went on liberty.

4. *Signs at Whiting* … that made an indelible mark on me:

“Flying in itself in not inherently dangerous, but it is *mercilessly unforgiving* of human carelessness.”

“There are old pilots, and bold pilots, but no old bold pilots.”

HIGHLIGHTS OF CAREER

1. Four sons … 3 of whom went into the Air Force???
2. 32 years at Eastman Kodak in data processing.
3. 22 years in the USN Reserves.



U. S. NAVY

PRE-FLIGHT CLASS 15-48

HISTORY

INTRODUCTION

U. S. Navy Pre-Flight Class 15-48 started training on July 14, 1948 at Mainsides, Pensacola, Florida with about 140 bewildered souls. Seventeen weeks later the class graduated and was ready to “FLY“. Attrition had already started to take its toll and continued during flight training, but eventually, 69 were awarded their coveted 'Wings of Gold'.

Now, almost 50 years later, as "Self-Appointed Historian", I am trying to compile a history and fill in as many gaps as possible. This is an all-hands effort and I am grateful to the warm response and encouragement that I've received from many classmates.

In mid-March, a class 'info-pac' was sent to 50 classmates and 14 replies have already been received.

*The first item needed was a class roster. [We had a list of 121 names]; most of the class. To this we have added 12 more, so only a few are missing.

*The next item was to identify the 110 'heads' in the class graduation picture. 50 now have a 'name', so more effort is needed to identify the other 60.

Now, more info is needed: bios, pictures, stories (True and almost true!). So search out your classmates and get them into this effort. And let us hear from you, so we can have a full rich treasury of memories.

And now for the grand surprise: a Class 15-48 FIFTIETH REUNION is being planned for 1998, Let's all plan to be there and to encourage other classmates to share in this once-in-a-lifetime event! If you want to share in the fun of planning, contact me.

Best wishes.



Bob Brennan



From: Bob Brennan, Class 15-48 "Self-Appointed Historian"

To: Class 15-48 Members

Dear Classmate,

GREETINGS

[In the past two years], I've met many of you – for the first time in almost 50 years! I feel like Rip VanWinkle, and am now anxious to renew more old acquaintances.

Pre-Flight Class 15-48 started with about 130. The attached roster is fairly complete, but I've added Al Braun and Dave Thompson, and there are probably others. According to these figures, 69 got our wings.

NOW TO GET DOWN TO BUSINESS

I would like to compile a history of our class, and I ask your help by sending me:

1. Any additions/corrections to the attached class roster

2. The names of our classmates in our class picture. The copy is not great, but hopefully you have an original

4. A brief autobiography (1 page max)

5. Wild stories (mostly true), remembrances, events, etc. Pictures!

I already have some material from Lou Ives/Pat Francis, including great stories from Jerry Canaan (shot down in Korea at *night*!), Al Hauge (flying at Whidbey Island) and Norm St. Louis (flight training and Navy experiences).

I will compile all of this and send a copy to each who responds.

AND A LITTLE ABOUT ME

After getting my wings, I joined VF-33 and flew Corsairs in Korea on USS *Leyte* 8/50-2/51, then to Sanford, FL, then a Med Cruise on the *Leyte* 9/51-12/51: all this with Ken Beckman, Porter Clemens and Bill Wilkinson of 15-48. I left the Navy 5/52, finished college at Wharton, and went to Kodak at Rochester for 30 years – retired in 1986. I got my "20" in the Reserves (Willow Grove, Niagara Falls and Grosse Isle) flying Corsairs, Banshees and HUP-2 Helicopters.

I re-married 8 years ago, have four sons, four G'kids, am in pretty good health and enjoy life. I like tennis, golf, travel, hiking, teaching (including ground school to Sea Cadets), partying and napping. Before my knees gave out, I also skied (downhill and XC), tried hang gliding, racketball and bicycling (including a 4 week trip: Los Angeles to Atlantic City – my butt is still sore!).

WHAT NEXT ?

First, I'd like to get the info requested above – *by the end of March*. Why not take a minute now and just DO IT? Then, I'd like to get explore ways that we might all get together:



* Maybe a reunion of all 15-48. I'd be willing to host it – at Rochester in January !!! But who the hell would come ?

* Maybe tie in to the next Flying Midshipmen meeting

In any event, I hope to hear from you so I can compile all this stuff and get it back to you before May.



Bob Brennan

U. S. NAVY

PRE-FLIGHT CLASS 15-48

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And now for the grand surprise: a Class 15-48 FIFTIETH REUNION is being planned for 1998, Let's all plan to be there and to encourage other classmates to share in this once-in-a-lifetime event! If you want to share in the fun of planning, contact me.

Best wishes.



Bob Brennan

CONTENTS



Greetings Letter

Class List from Flying Midshipmen Roster

Additions to List

Addresses Not in Flying Midshipmen Roster directory – 1997

Class Graduation Picture

"Fuzzy" Copy of Picture

Picture Names

Replied to Greetings

Ralph Bennie (just a note, more to follow)

Ray Demming

Al Hauge (by phone)

Jerry Huber

Leroy Ludi

Al McNally

Don Mitchell

Ray Oakes

Jerry Parent

Bob Rulis

Joe Sherin

Bob Stratton

Marty Twite

ARTICLES

Jerry Canaan Korean Memories: Shot down at Night and POW Recollections of North Korea

Foundations Magazine, Fall 1995

Al Hauge Back to Whidbey Island

John Reynolds A Naval Aviator in Korea

"Warbirds" Magazine, 1991

Norm St. Louis Career History

HISTORIAN - POEMS AND STUFF

Bob Brennan In Memoriam: John Clark Cooper, 15-48-1

The US Navy Haul-a-way Plan

Remember Lt. Manno, USMC?

Night Carrier Operations

Flying Midshipmen Reunion - Pensacola - May 1996

Bio

U-B-A-G ??? What's a UBAG?

Wheels - What Other Way?

Anymouse Tied Up at the Moment

Pre-Flight Class 15-48

Braun, Alfred R. (from Cleveland, OH)

Godshalk, James W.

Quinn, Jack

Schuck, Al

Stack, Dick

Speiser, Jack E. 508264 (killed in an A4)

Taylor, George

Thompson, David (from Healey, Alaska, but not there now)

Trestrail ??? (name from Marty Twite, not sure of spelling)

Tuomela, Clyde H. (died in a light plane crash Oct. 1989)

Weiss, Don

Williams, James R. 507727 (killed in an F-8 or AD-1 FCLP)

Morton Boyd

James E. Carr

Gerald A. Huber Warren, PA 16365

Jack McWhirter Corinth, MI 38834

Me

CNATra Form ATJ-21-1 CNATra-P&PO-PNAS-399(1-19-49)-8M

BINDER MARGIN
DO NOT WRITE ABOVE THIS LINE

Notes should preferably be made in the air. Marks will be awarded on a relative basis by comparing the student's performances and attributes at this stage and period of training with the performances and attributes of all other students which the instructor has observed in this same stage and period of training.

Mark only Maneuvers Performed with V:	U	Bottom 20 Pct B	Middle 60 Pct A	Top 20 Pct G	— too fast, too much, high, over, early — too slow, too little, low, under, late ~ for variable, or erratic.
Cockpit Checks					Pre Flt ☐ check list ☐ voice rpt ☐ start proc ☐
Taxiing					spd ☐ brakes ☐ taillock ☐ steer ☐ park ☐
Take Offs					thrt ☐ hdng ☐ attitude ☐ pulloff ☐ swerv ☐ bounc ☐
Flight Attitudes					climb ☐ gld ☐ turn ☐: spd ☐ alt ☐ slp & skd ☐ tab ☐ pwr ☐
Climb & Glide Turns					slp & skd ☐ spd ☐ thrt ☐ tab ☐
Transitions					tabs ☐ thrtl ☐ alt ☐ spd ☐ hdg ☐ skds & slp ☐
Steep Turns					slp & skd ☐ bank ☐ orien ☐ alt ☐ control ☐
Spirals					pwr on ☐ pwr off ☐: spd ☐ contrl ☐ bnk ☐ slp & skd ☐
Level Flight					hdng ☐ spd ☐ alt ☐ power ☐ trim ☐
Clean Stalls					entry ☐ rec ☐: attit ☐ recog ☐ skd ☐ spd ☐ hdng ☐
Whls & Flp Stalls					entry ☐ rec ☐: attit ☐ recog ☐ skd ☐ spd ☐ hdng ☐
Slow Flight					clean ☐ W & flps ☐: spd ☐ thrtl ☐ stl ☐ alt ☐ tab ☐
Spins					entry ☐ recov ☐: contrl ☐ spd ☐ allron ☐ orien ☐
Landing Patterns					entry ☐ alt ☐ spd ☐ trim ☐ abeam ☐ interval ☐
Approaches					90 ☐ 180 ☐: spd ☐ thrtl ☐ pattrn ☐ trim ☐ strtway ☐
Grass Landings					lvls off ☐ drift ☐ stall ☐ runout ☐ skd ☐ whls ☐ stk ☐
Runway Landings					lvls off ☐ drift ☐ stall ☐ runout ☐ skd ☐ whls ☐ stk ☐
High Alt Emerg					react ☐ fld choice ☐ spd ☐ plan: abov 1000 ☐ below ☐
Low Alt Emerg					react ☐ procedure ☐ spd ☐ fld choice ☐
X Wind Landings					drift recog ☐ drift corr ☐ runout ☐ contl ☐ land ☐
X Wind Take Offs					drift corr ☐ heading ☐ pulloff ☐ bounce ☐
Total marks this hop					
CUMULATIVE FLIGHT TOTALS:					The CUMULATIVE totals provide a rapid index of a student's absorption of, and adjustment to, training.

Always Mark with /:					CUMULATIVE U	B	A	G	— mildly + markedly ~ repeatedly
Headwork			✓				/		Doesnt: know ☐ think ☐ pay atten ☐ rememb ☐ plan ☐ use judgment ☐
Air Discipline			✓				/		Doesnt observe: safety ☐ course rules ☐ area rules ☐ other craft ☐ air courtesy ☐
Reaction Toward Flight:			✓				/		spin ☐ stall ☐ land ☐ emerg ☐: nervs ☐ excit ☐ sick ☐ tense confused ☐ afraid ☐
Mental Attitude			✓				/		dislikes ☐ indiff ☐ lazy ☐ uncoop ☐ careless ☐ impatient ☐ iniative ☐

USE BACK, IF NECESSARY, FOR ADDITIONAL REMARKS.

☒ UP ☐ DOWN CHECK

Landing Field — Crosswind
Indicate by — +

Instructor's Signature [signature] LT/G-USN

Student: R.F. BRENNAN **Original Class this station** 1-E **Flight No.** A-1

Date: 14 FEB 1949 **Squadron** BTU-1A

BASIC SNJ STAGE "A" DUAL—FAMILIARIZATION

U S NAVY PRE-FLIGHT CLASS 15-48

2	Anderson, R. R.	38	Foster	98	Peters
3	Annin	39	amble	99	Petrick
4	Bachman	40	Godshalk	100	Peyron
5	Bardecki	41	Goldman	101	Prosser

6	Barnasevitch	46	Hall	102	Quinn
7	Bartolic	47	Halle	103	Radican
8	Baxter	53	Henry	104	Reyher
9	Beckman	58	Huber	105	Reynolds, K. C.
10	Belter	59	Hubinger	106	Reynolds, J.
14	Boyd	61	Irelan	109	Roos
15	Braun	62	Jacobs	111A	Sample
16	Brennan	68	Knoop	113	Schneider
17	Brown, H. H.	75	Littell	117	Sherin
18	Brown, R. S.	78	MacDowell	119	Shkorupski
20	Canaan	82	McCort	120	Smith
21	Carr	83	McNally	121	Speiser
22	Chafee	84	McWhirter	122	Stack
25	Cooper	87	Mitchell	123	St Louis
26	Crawford	90	Nigels	124	Stratton
27	Crow	92	Oakes	128	Tuomela
29	Davis	93	O'Laughlin	129	Twite
31	Demming	94	Owens	130	Webb
32	Dennis	95	Parent	131	Weiss
		97	Peplinski	133	Wilkinson
		77	Ludi	134	Williams
				135	Wilson, R.

NOT IDENTIFIED IN PICTURE

1	Anderson, L.	54	Hofmeister	88	Molnar
11	Bennie – to 16-48	55	Houk	89	Nichols
12	Blair	56	Howard	91	Nulton – to 17-48
13	Bolds – wash	57	Hubacker	96	Parkes
19	Bussell	60	Huelsbeck	107	Rogers
23	Clark	63	Johnson	108	Romka
24	Clemens	64	Kidd	110	Rulis
28	Crowe	65	Kleburg	111	Runninger

30		Davis,		66	Klieser	112	Sangala
33		Desjardins		67	Knight	114	Schulk
34		Dupnik		69	Kobialka	115	Semon
35		Dwyer	70		Koski ??		Shaw
36	Eisenhauer		71	Lafayette		116	Sheary
37		Eliason	72		Larson	118	Simensen
42		Gordon	73		Lee	125	Taylor
43		Grote	74		Lehman	126	Thompson – wash
44		Hahn	76		Loyer	127	Trestrai
45		Hale				132	West
48		Halter		79	Mackey	133	Treichler
49		Hauf		80	Martin		
50		Harrington		81	Mathews		
51		Harrison		85	Miller		
52		Hauge		86	Million		

Class Picture	110 faces	Class roster	136
People Identified	74	Identified in Picture	74
Not Identified	36	Not in Picture (sick)	2
		On Roster, not identified	60

Contact Us

The Brown Shoes

This is the generation the historians forgot to write about. This generation was in “the golden age” of aviation. The earliest trained in burlap and bailing wire N2S trainers. The last flew supersonic aircraft. These men are now passing into history — their stories are recorded in these pages.

Contact Us

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About The Project