



NEWSLETTER FOR THE TALOA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

JULY 2015

Send photos & letters to: Jeane Kennedy Toynbee, Editor PO Box 243, Copperopolis CA 95228
Or email to: jeanenbob@caltel.com To have items returned, include a note along with a self-addressed, stamped envelope



Readers...I have a couple of notes regarding past editions of our newsletter. First, the May 2015 edition: 42 hardcopies were sent out which contained 3 typos. Since many of you print and save each edition, I wanted to let you all know that corrections have been made and published online at www.taloe.org

Next, I was quite taken by the email that Norm sent to Andrew and copied me in on. His note [below] references our February 2015 issue. It's remarkable to me that the TALOA Alumni Association Newsletter is forwarded and sent around the world for others to enjoy! Also, I have to note - I'm becoming a fan of emoticons! Sincerely, Jeane Kennedy Toynbee, Editor

Andrew, The Wherrett family flew to Manila on March 19, 1954 aboard a PHILIPPINE AIR LINES Douglas DC-6 (21 hours: Hawaii > Wake Island > Guam > Manila). Transocean Air Lines was one of several late 1940s/50s/60s "non-scheduled/charter airlines" typically flying post-WW2 Douglas DC-4s. I first contacted Jeane a year+ ago to ask if she knew whether Transocean might have supplied a contract cockpit crew to P.A.L. Capt. W.C. Ballinger flew our Douglas DC-6, painted as PAL's "BATAAN", across the 180th meridian (International Dateline). Back then, when small countries launched their 'own' airline, they often first utilized U.S. crews and airliners.

Since my inquiry, Jeane and I have been corresponding. PLEASE read my comments and her reply on Page 2.... This newsletter is all about the vital world-wide role Transocean played after WW2.

ENJOY!!!! Norm

Hello, Thank you for this excellent website! [www.taloe.org] Do you have any information about the 2-letter-abbreviation (ICAO-Code) and the ATC-callsign used by Transocean?



Kind regards from Germany, Jens Dohrn

Good morning Jens, It's gratifying to hear that you enjoyed our website. I searched several websites and didn't find any ICAO information for Transocean Air Lines. Perhaps because the airline has been out of business for about 55 years. The hundreds of men & women who were Transocean Air Lines called themselves "Taloans". This was a combination of the call letters used for Transocean Air Lines - TAL, and the letters used for the home airport - Oakland. Therefore: TALOA - Transocean Air Lines Oakland. Thank you for your kind words.

I was rummaging through some old photos and ran across these two that I thought might bring back a few memories.

My Dad was chief supervisor in the Pan Am, San Francisco Radio Shop. Frank McQueen died last summer in Millbrae at 95. When I was little in the early 50s sometimes he would take me out to the airport to climb aboard some of the airliners in for maintenance. One time he left me in the pilot's seat of a Strato-Clipper while he went aft to speak to a mechanic. I located the rudder pedals and stretched as much as I could to move them in and out. Dad ran back up to the cockpit telling me to stop because someone was working on the rudder and my actions had nearly knocked him off.

I loved the B377. It was so big and I was so small. You could get lost in that cockpit. We lived in South San Francisco and I could always tell when a Clipper 377 was going to fly overhead by the sound of those R-4360s. So in late 1958 on a Sunday morning we had just gotten home from church and I heard that unmistakable sound. I looked for it and to my surprise the familiar blue and

white color scheme of the Clipper had been replaced by a yellow tail and yellow striped fuselage. I had no idea what airline it was. The next week the same thing happened again and I was ready for it with binoculars. The tail said "TAL" with 2 bird like arrows on a white oval. The fuselage read: *TRANSOCEAN*. It was the first time I had ever seen a Transocean aircraft, not surprising since it was rare for a "non-sked" to be seen at SFO.

It wasn't too long after that my Dad was persuaded (by me) to drive us over to Oakland Airport to see the Transocean base and other airlines with names I had never heard of. We stopped near the Transocean hangar and I snapped a picture from a distance. Then Dad drove closer to the gate. I was 13, got out of the car next to Hangar 4 and 5. I had a little Kodak camera and went up to the chain link fence to take a few pictures of the Transocean and BOAC B377s parked there. The security guard saw me and I was afraid he was going to tell me I couldn't photograph anything. But, no, to my surprise he came over smiling and told me I could

get better pictures on the other side of the the gate and he let me go inside. The pictures attached were taken that day. Color film was expensive. The '377 in the Transocean livery was at that time N1027V (later N401Q), an ex-Pan Am aircraft that had been sold to BOAC. Over the next few years until Transocean folded we made regular trips to Oakland so I could take more pictures. Those were wonderful memories from a time gone forever in more ways than one.

Dave McQueen

Thanks for the wonderful memories Dave!



AEMCO C-82 OVERHAULS

By Simon D. Beck www.c82packet.com

In 1953 AEMCO upgraded 12 or more C-82 aircraft for extended service life with various ADC units as support aircraft.

25 C-82A Packets were upgraded during 1953 with flight-deck communications and electronic equipment. These were designated as Group A upgrades by the USAF.

14 of these upgrades were carried out by the Aircraft Engineering & Maintenance Co. (AEMCO) at Oakland Intl. Airport who also completed a general overhaul of each aircraft.

Most of the Group A upgraded C-82As were assigned to air defense fighter groups like the 501st, 521st and 567th in unit support roles.

These 14 AEMCO upgraded aircraft are all in the last 16 C-82s operated by the USAF and all were retired to Davis-Monthan AFB early in 1955. The other two C-82s were Group A converted Packets at Elmendorf AFB in Alaska.

Nearly all were sold to various civil operators from 1956.

S/n: 44-23015 would later go on to star in the 1965 James Stewart film *The Flight of the Phoenix* with reg.: N6887C.

<u>USAF s/n</u>	<u>In</u>	<u>Out</u>	<u>Upgraded at</u>	<u>New Assignment</u>
44-23015	12 Jul 53	28 Apr 54	AEMCO	501 st Air Defense GP
44-23027	3 Jul 53	5 Jan 54	AEMCO	567 th Air Defense GP
44-23033	1 Aug 53	1 Feb 54	AEMCO	1 st AACS INST&MNT SQ & 567 th Air Defense GP
44-23046	21 Jul 53	19 Jan 54	AEMCO	521 st Air Defense GP
44-23057	26 Jun 53	1 Dec 53	AEMCO	3 rd Air Materiel SQ then 568 th Air Defense GP
45-57734	18 May 53	6 Jan 54	AEMCO	1800 th AACS WG
45-57744	14 Apr 53	4 Sep 53	AEMCO	521 st Air Defense GP
45-57767	17 Apr 53	1 Aug 53	AEMCO	501 st Air Defense GP
45-57777	5 May 53	9 Feb 54	AEMCO	521 st Air Defense GP
45-57806	14 Apr 53	7 Feb 54	AEMCO	567 th Air Defense GP
45-57811	21 Apr 53	3 Jan 54	AEMCO	567 th Air Defense GP
45-57812	14 Apr 53	Late 53	AEMCO	521 st Air Defense GP
45-57828	5 Jun 53	15 Dec 53	AEMCO	1 st AACS INST&MNT SQ
48-569	21 Jul 53	6 Jan 54	AEMCO	567 th Air Defense GP



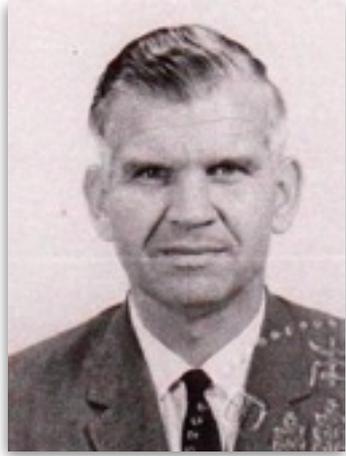
Pictured above: One of the DC-3s (17314) flown in *Island in the Sky*. Photo by Bill Larkins from the collection of Simon D. Beck.



Val G. Bednekoof

Aug. 8, 1930 - April 28, 2015

Val G. Bednekoof was born in Harbin, China. He was raised in Seattle Washington and after becoming a United States citizen he served his country in the United States Army. Later he became a pilot for Air America. After many years serving in the United States military, Mr. Bednekoof became a commercial airline pilot for Transocean. His service and career of flying spanned more than 50 years. He was predeceased by his wife, Edna.



Thank you for all you do with the TALOA Newsletter. I was just introduced to it last year and find it most interesting and heartwarming that you keep all these people in contact with each other and that through your efforts and storytelling "No one will forget the history". It brings tears to my eyes and I'm not related to anyone.Regards, Beverly Miller

Hi just found your site. Are you all still getting together or have a newsletter? I'm the daughter of [Captain Darrel E Root](#). Thanks, Priscilla Root

Hi Priscilla! I'm so glad you found us. Yes, memberships are still available - either \$20 per year or a Lifetime membership of \$100.

The TALOA Alumni Newsletter is published approximately every quarter, depending on how much material we receive. My goal as editor is to answer questions, pass along information, and keep the TALOA family in contact with each other. But there are many airline & airplane aficionados that live around the world who enjoy receiving our publication.

I hope you'll join us. You can send your dues to: Pat Stachon Kearns, 15592 Maplewood Dr, Sonoma CA 95476

I'm also hoping that you'll pass along any stories or memories of TAL days from your father. Would you happen to have any pictures of him you'd like to share?

Oh terrific! The site said your last alumni meeting was in 2009 so I thought maybe you had disbanded.

We grew up on stories about my Dads flying experiences...hiding in a meat locker during a typhoon in Guam...snakes on a plane...one wrapped around the landing gear...cargo being dropped when engines stopped...to hear my Dad flew with 3 out of 4 engines dead wasn't as terrifying as French bras hanging on the tail for all to see!...being a test pilot for the Air Force...getting to Texas by tying gas cans to the outside of a model T...screaming at people to put out their cigarettes from Michigan to Texas!

Dad learned to fly on a Jenny, I believe. For years I thought he named the plane after his Mom, named Jenny!

All these are childhood memories that we grew up on from the greatest story teller I've ever known, my Dad. He had a 8th grade education, had a metal shop in the back of his house in Alameda where men would drop by and dad would "fix em up" with a part he'd made to make their part do whatever it was suppose to do. They'd say "you need to patten this" and Dad would say No. Fixing a roof the day before he died at 86, we found piles and containers of carefully selected metal shavings, sawdust, and chips of misc. parts. These were especially saved for making mud pies with his granddaughter Mary as he'd done for my brother Norman and I years before. He was an original. Darrel Dad!

Yes I would love to be a member. Please mail to 1123 SW Shoremont Avenue Normandy Park, WA 98166. Thank you so much! Priscilla Root

P.s. I'll work on the pictures!

I have been a long time member of the Transocean Alumni but have allowed my membership to lapse due to over sight. I was having lunch with Billie Keating recently and we were discussing old friends and the newsletter and she passed along your address. I would like to renew my membership and receive the newsletter. Please let me know the annual dues amount so I can send it to you. [Warren Vest](#)

Hi Warren. It will be good to have you aboard again! You can send your dues to our Treasurer: Pat Stachon Kearns, 15592 Maplewood Drive, Sonoma CA 95476

Annual dues are \$20, however, you may want to consider a once only payment of \$100 in order to become a Life-time member.

As you probably found out from your conversation with Billie, Taloans LOVE to stay connected. If there are any stories or remembrances you'd like to share with our readers, I'd be happy to

publish them. Pictures are always a plus! Welcome aboard!

TALOA Alumni Association Membership

Lifetime: Dr. Charles Quarles, Barbara Nemer, Billie Joiner, Bill Broussard, Chiseko Chapin, Carol Johansen Hill, Claudia Turner Cook, Charles W. & Tokuko Smith, David McQueen, Douglas & Pamela Rogers, Richard & Jean Stuber, Holly Nelson & Dick Veale, Mrs. Orvis Nelson, Ed & Gun Landwehr, Capt. Gary Ogg, Derrel T. Gibbins, Warren & Ingrid Vest, Judy Grohs Cubillo, Janet T. Farmer, Jeane Kennedy & Bob Toynbee, Donal Goggin, Colm J. Kennedy, Kathy Kennedy, Lee & Marion Jenkins, Miles D Mackey, Martha-Jane Ekstrand, Pat Stachon Kearns, Rick Stachon, Augie Blasquez, Robert & Doris Ann Harder, Ron Winiker, Richard & Ruth Price, Billie Downing, Sam Vail, Linda Bountis, Terry Mantz Dalessandro, Val G. Barrett, Barbara Allardyce, Betty Bountis Anderson, Val Bednekoff, Jane Bountis Berthet, Sarah Collins, Verna Cravens, Joseph & Susan Delazerda, Mike A. Gambino, Bob Glattly, Francis R. Grinnon, Oscar Grohs, Virginia Dewey Hager, John M Kearins, Billie Keating, Barbara

& Robert Kilian, Lorraine Landwehr, Sharon Minson Linford, Penny Loerke, Gene Longo, Florence Morjig, Ralph & Eileen Padilla, Gordon Palmquist, Dr. David & Catalina Quintero, Mary Richter, Jose & Maria Rimorin, Robert & Inger Stearns, Arue Szura, Elaine Yuen & Carl Timm, Jeff Ward, Richard & Margaret Werling, Mary Kay Whitaker Zainab, Laverne Witteveen

2015 Members: Walter & Mary Blessing, Arthur & Joanne Buckelew, John M Davis, Gail & Edward Fisher, John Foster, Bill Gower, Harold Green, Delores Hamm, Elizabeth Lambert Kearins, Katharine Graham Kohler, John & Gloria Lannom, Erik Moberg, Sue Nelson, Sherry Waterman Parker, Rodney Stich, Janet Whitaker, John Willhalm, Robert V. Withrow

Taloea Kids: Claudia Turner Cook, Kathy Kennedy, Sam Vail, Rick Stachon, Tamsin Kearns, Jeane Kennedy Toynbee, Janet Stachon Farmer, Judy Grohs Cubillo, Betty Bountis Anderson, John M Kearins, Pat Stachon Kearns, Jeff Ward, Catalina Aguilar Quintero, Jane Bountis Berthet, Virginia Dewey Hager, Holly Nelson Veale, Doug Rogers, Sharon Minson Linford, Linda Bountis, Mary Kay Whitaker Zainab

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Postage

Here

ADDRESS

CORRECTION

REQUESTED