

PLANEGRAM

-VAMPIRE TALES- STORIES OF TWO BRAVE MEN. CHARLES F. "CHUCK" SHALLENBERGER AND WILLIAM" F. "BILL" STARKE From Lightning Strikes JULY 2010

In June 1944, Chuck found himself on Guadalcanal in the South Pacific as a P-38 replacement pilot assigned to the 44th "Vampire" Fighter Squadron of the 13th Air Force's 18th Fighter Group. The squadron Subsequently moved west to Sansapor in New Guinea, the island of Morotai and then to various bases in the Philippines. By the time he returned home in June 1945 as a first lieutenant, Chuck had flown 102 combat missions and been awarded a Distinguished flying Cross and four Air Medals. He retired from the Air Force Reserve in 1965 as a lieutenant colonel.

The mission for which chuck won his DFC took place on November 3, 1944. It was a very long B-25 escort from Sansapor to two airfields on the island of Negros in the Philippines. It was intercepted by a couple dozen Japanese fighters, and a vicious air battle ensued. According to the 44th FS history:

As Lt. Shallenberger's four-plane flight reached the target, 15

enemy fighters attacked. He immediately dropped his bomb and make an overhead pass on one of the enemy planes, scoring hits on its right wing and forcing it to break off an attack on another P-38. He was about to make the final kill when his guns jammed and he had to leave the flight.

When another enemy fighter came around from the right, Lt. Shallenberger maneuvered to get on its tail, but again he had to break off his attack because his guns were inoperative. As he was pulling up, he noticed that one P-38 in his element was being boxed in by two Jap Zeros, one of which was closing quickly. Fully aware that he had no firepower and that he would be in serious trouble should the enemy decide to turn on him, he made a pass at the Jap. Just as he was in range, the Jap pilot discontinued his attack. Lt. Shallenberger's unselfish action probably saved the P-38 pilot's life.

The "Zeros" were actually Japanese Army Air Force Oscars, and Chuck's first victim was credited to him as "damaged" He re-

membered this mission as being "pretty exciting and pretty scary."

William F. "Bill" Starke was also a pilot with the 44th Fighter Squadron in the South Pacific. He recalled recently "how we loved cigarettes when we were stationed on Guadalcanal, Bougainville, New Guinea and other such exotic places. When we went to Australia or New Zealand on rest leave, we always filled our parachute bags with cartons and cartons of cigarettes that were given to us. When we were in Sydney or Auckland we would use those cartons of Cigarettes as money to rent cars and buy scotch, bourbon, gin, etc. Because American cigarettes sold for about \$20 a carton down there-and when we came back to the islands, our supply of liquor was like GOLD! We could use it to bribe the Marine or Navy cooks out of steaks!

"I especially remember one time, late in the war, when our squadron was hastily moved from

continued inside

Mission Statement:

We are a leading professional organization committed to the advancement of general and agricultural aviation technology. Our team provides a vital resource to the aviation community and is dedicated to the highest satisfaction and well-being of those we serve.

our handsome beach homes that we had the locals build us at Lingayen Gulf on the northern tip of Luzon down to the dusty, windy, dirty island of Mindoro. The area we were assigned to had no fresh water available, so all water for drinking, cooking or bathing had to be brought in by tank truck. The constant wind and swirling dust made water a very important commodity.

"As our commanding officer was in the hospital with malaria and I was now operations office, I decided I had better do something. Our diamond-tipped well-drilling bit was broken, and we could not dig a well for water. I grabbed my parachute bag full of liquor, got in my P-38 and flew from Mindoro to Leyte Island and landed at Tacloban airstrip. I found a Navy supply building and went in and told the seaman behind the counter what I needed. I put the broken drill bit on the counter and told him our squadron was unable to shower because we needed to dig a new well for fresh water. He told me he was sure they didn't have anything like that, so I put my parachute bag on the counter, lined up all my bottles of scotch, bourbon and gin and said, Chief, I really, really, really need a new diamond-tipped drill bit today. You take another look-okay." He did, and a few minutes later he returned with a beautiful new bit. I flew back to Mindoro and in two

days we had running water and showers.

"Yes, we really loved cigarettes

out there, although few of us smoked!"

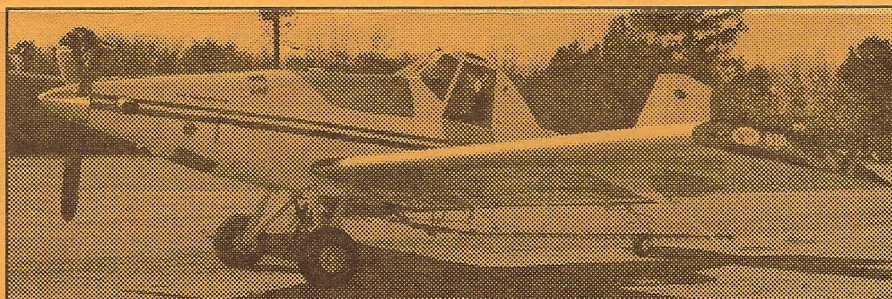
COMPANY STARS



Laurie Curtis, Assistant Treasurer, has been working at Mid-Continent Aircraft Corp. since Oc-

tober, 1993. She is a very important part of our behind the scenes Account Dept. Her duties include Payroll, Accounts Payable/Accounts Receivable as well as many other Human Resource duties. She enjoys new people that are always stopping in just to visit!

Laurie has lived in Caruthersville all of her life and enjoys spending time with her family. She has two children Timothy (28) and Amanda (21). She also spends time working in her family owned restaurant, "TWISTERS", as time permits. You can also find her spending time at the Mall with her daughter and daughter-in-law!!



**DO YOU REALIZE HOW HAPPY
NEW THRUSH OWNERS ARE?
IT'S A WHOLE NEW WORLD
2011 NOW AVAILABLE
IN PRODUCTION 510-34 IN STOCK**

Mid-Continent E-Mail Directory

A/C Sales	sales@midcont.com
A/C Parts	parts@midcont.com
A/C Insurance	acinsurance@midcont.com
GPS Sales/Serv	cpatterson@midcont.com

Our Mission

To keep you flying.

Since 1949, Mid-Continent Aircraft has been the leader in Agricultural Aviation by providing a variety of services that exceed our customers' expectations.

As we move into each day, we will continue to grow with your business and provide the tools you need to be a success.

GPS • Sales • Services • Insurance • Parts & Services

PLANEMART



Check our website
for more pictures
and specs.
www.midcont.net

**AG-Aviation's most complete inventory of new and used aircraft, ground support systems
with parts and maintenance service - backed by 62 years of experience and integrity.**

THRUSH

Taking orders for 710
Thrush with -65 or -67
Rugged Construction
Proven Productive

Thrush Dealer
U.S., Canada, Mexico
Special price savings.
Equipped as sprayers. In
Stock

2012 Thrush 510-34

All options, NEW.

FUTURE SPECIALS

Several low time T34
Thrushes with Bantam,
2010, 2011 available
November from our fleet.

**PT6-34 firewall cowlings
from Cascade Conver-**

sions. BIG SAVINGS

1976 Thrush 510 Gallon
(Walters 601 1752 hr.)
Johnson conversion 2008,
super clean, Northern a/c,
M3, long wing, big fuel
bottom fuel, powder coated
frame, rt hand boom shut
off.

NDT
WING INSPECTION
AVAILABLE
THRUSH
AIR TRACTOR

AIR TRACTOR

1990 Air Tractor

502 PT6-34, 950 left on
spars, M3, 7050 TT, new
annual, "0" HSI

DISTRIBUTOR
Cascade Pressure Cowl
Air Tractor - Thrush
Save Fuel, Runs Cooler

Superior experienced, quality, no corners cut,
FAA certified Repair Station:
Specialist Spar Replacement

AG CAT

1979 Ag Cat B PT6-20

330 Hopper, GPS, Recent
Paint, Extended Wing, Zero
HSI, Mills Kit, M3.

1978 Ag Cat B

4600 SMOH, Covington 600
HP, 300 gallon, Litestar GPS,
smoker, CP's, Ag 100-2 prop.

1978 Ag Cat B R1340

460 SMOH, Litestar, sprayer,
780 TT, extended wing,
Northern aircraft.

1975 Ag Cat 450

"0" Covington, 80 fuel,
sprayer, new annual in
progress. No damage.

1975 Ag Cat 450 HP

Extended wings, sealed
cockpit, servos, weathero,
all yellow, hydromatic, "0"
engine, 80 fuel.

CESSNA

We Need Cessnas
Ag Trucks & Ag Wagons

1983 Cessna Husky

950 SMOH, 4100 TT,
Smoker, flagger, air,
winglets, CP's, VG's.

PIPER

1971 Pawnee C 235

2800 TT, 250 Factory
remand, KT 76 Radio,
Aircare exhaust, sprayer,
always hangared.

1965 Pawnee B 235

3082 Total, 914 SMOH, light
star, smoker, flagger,
ceconite, AD, CW, New
annual.

IN CANADA: 1981 Pawnee
D235

370 TT, new annual, COM,
booster tips, always
hangared

GENERAL AVIATION

We Are A

General Aviation Cessna
Single Engine Distributor

Call us for New/Used

Aircraft

and All Cessna Parts.

Cessna 162 LSA

"Skycatcher"

Now taking orders

2008 Cessna T182

Full instruments, 64 since
new, Immaculate, Storm-
scope, no damage

Mooney Super 21

3796 TT, 93 hours since
major, 3 blade prop, refurb,
2006 paint, IFR's. A real good
buy.

1976 Cessna 177RG

5478 TT, 106 SMOH, Auto
Pilot, King NAV COMM,
glidescope, push to talk.

WANT TO SELL OUT?
INVESTORS ARE
INTERESTED

INSURANCE

Sharon Watkins

Ins. Mgr/Producer

Laura Terrett, Producer

Kristin Pullam, Producer

Josh Rittenberry,

Producer

Jennifer Bullington, CSR

Heather Riggs,

Claims/Producer

800-325-0885

Fax: 573-359-0384

E-Mail:

acinsurance@midcont.com

TRUCKS

Several load trucks
foldover boom, water also.

From \$6000.00 and up

1996 Internation 4700 Load
Truck

12" Auger, load cell, 1000
fuel, 35,000 miles. Beautiful.

PARTS

World's Largest
CP Nozzle
Dealer

New Swathmasters

Piper Brave, Pawnee, Air

Tractor, Thrush, Ag Cat

All Types Spreaders New

& Used - 25", 38", 41"

Transland, Breckenridge.

Cool Start Kit
for Turbines

Load Hawg

Efficient, Safe,

mechanical

loading of solids,

eliminate wing man, STD

Makes solid work

easier!

Top of The Line
Hand Held Garmins
GPSMAP 496 or 396

Also other models
for sportsmen

•••••
• **FOR THE LIFE OF ME** •
• **(MY ENGINE)** •
• **CASCADE TURBO** •
• **INLETS** •
• **Saves fuel - Lower ITT** •
• **Distributor:** •
• **Mid-Continent Aircraft** •
• **573-359-0500** •
•••••

Thrush Spar Caps
Now Available
Let Mid-Continent
install your next spar.
Sign up now.

Free Pilot Placement

SATLOC Level III
Service Center
Del Norte Systems
Full in house repair
New Or Used
WAAS Updates
BANTAM



Aircraft Corporation
1601 Highway 84
P.O. Box 540
Hayti, Missouri 63851

Address Service Requested

PRST-STD
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
HAYTI, MO
PERMIT NO. 1

Phone: 573-359-0500
800-325-0885
Fax: 573-359-0538
E-mail: sales@midcont.com

SERVICE
KNOWLEDGE
INTEGRITY
EXPERIENCE

We're On The Web
www.midcont.net

MAY

2012

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 Mother's Day	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28 Memorial Day	29	30	31		