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Record Group/Collection: George H.W. Bush Presidential Records
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Subseries: Chron File, 1989-1993

OA/ID Number: 13499
Folder ID Number: 13499-009

Folder Title:
"My Impressions of World War II" - Life Magazine 8/89 [4]

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
G	25	6	4	5

SEPBUSHC V:02 HJ:Y 00064 02-AUG-89 16:41 PAGE: 1
OP:LF1 ;08/02,16:38 OR:LAN FR:LF1-LFE FMT:12p6 FG:LFE
MS: OK: RP:8 NO:e7 ID:09-01-89 PF:g ***

- L 0001 LIFE September '89
- L 0002 Bush (Captions) Pp 70-76
- L 0003 Kinney/Simons/Sheehan/Geeslin
- L 0004 CG

- L 0005
- L 0006
- L 0007
- L 0008 Pp 71- Cap 9
- L 0009

««««
4 0

0009 (cc8p6)(cc8p6)(rr)(xh)
0009 (vs.5,2,.5)

- L 0010 Opposite: Late in 1944,
- L 0011 Lt. (j.g.) George Bush
- L 0012 with combat crewmen
- LN0013 Leo Nadeau (^{right}~~left~~) and Joe
- LN0014 Reichart (^{left}) was part of a
- L 0015 Naval air squadron in the

X
Lif crediting photos, credit Leo

L 0016 Pacific. Above: Bush fills

L 0017 out his flight log

L 0018 aboard the U.S.S. San

4

L 0019 Jacinto.

L 0020

0

«««««

15 1

0020 (cc10p)(cc10p)(vs.75,1,

C 0021 Pp 72 Cap 2

0020 1.5)(rc)(xh)

C 0022

C 0023 At Andover prep in 1942, senior

C 0024 George "Poppy" Bush was

CN0025 captain of the baseball team and

C 0026 George L. "Flop" Follansbee

C 0027 was the coach.

C 0028

C 0029 Cap 3

C 0030

CN0031 Bush's Grumman Avenger torpedo

CN0032 bomber was named

C 0033 "Barbara." His was the number two

C 0034 plane in his squadron. His other

C 0035 ^{three} ~~four~~ aircraft were named

CN0036 after his fiancée ^{e)} too.

C 0037

C 0038 Pp 74 & 75 Cap 1

C 0039

C 0040 After duty in the Pacific, Bush

C 0041 returned home, and on

C 0042 January 6, 1945, married Barbara

C 0043 Pierce at her family's church

C 0044 in Rye, N.Y. Their engagement had

X
this plane
was named
Y

SEPBUSHC

V:02 PAGE: 0003

C 0045 been a secret.

C 0046

C 0047 Cap 3

C 0048

CN0049 George Jr., the first of ~~four~~ ^{five children} sons,

C 0050 gets a lift at their home in

C 0051 New Haven while papa was still in

CN0052 college at Yale. ~~The Bushes~~

C 0053 ~~also had two daughters~~ ^{one died}

C 0054 ~~in infancy.~~

C 0055

C 0056 Pp 76 Cap 1

C 0057

C 0058 In Tokyo last February for the

C 0059 funeral of Emperor

C 0060 Hirohito, President Bush joined

C 0061 heads of state from 162

C 0062 other countries. The palanquin was

C 0063 carried through the streets by

C 0064 members of the Imperial Guard.

(END)

SEPWWII V:09 HJ:Y 00320 02-AUG-89 16:33 PAGE: 1
 OP:LAN ;08/02,16:24 OR:FGAN FR:LAN-LFE FMT:26 FG:LFE
 MS: OK: RP:8 NO:a8 ID:09-01-89 PF:g ***

- L 0001 LIFE SEPTEMBER WORLD WAR II Pps 70-78
- L 0002 Bush/simons/bentkowski/
- L 0003 goldberg/kinney/Geeslin
- LN0004 GHC CG
- L 0005
- L 0006 Caps 3, 4, 5 (DEPT SLUG)
- L 0007
- L 0008 ANNIVERSARY
- L 0009
- L 0010 Cap 7 (ART)
- L 0011
- L 0012 A BOY
- L 0013 GOES TO
- L 0014 WAR
- L 0015

«
5

0015

(unfiled)

SEPWWII

V:09 PAGE: 0002
0015 (cp22,,20p)*

L 0016 Cap 2

L 0017

L 0018 by GEORGE BUSH

L 0019

«««

0

L 0020 Cap 8

5

L 0021

L 0022 THE PRESIDENT RECALLS

L 0023 HIS THREE-YEAR TOUR

L 0024 OF DUTY AS A

L 0025 NAVY PILOT

LN0026

L 0027

«

0

L 0028

4

L 0029 Cap 1 PRECEDE TK

L 0030

L 0031

(cbp71,c1,l51)

0

0027

(st)

PAGE 71 COLUMN 1 51 LINES DEFINED

(cbp72,c1,l29,c2,l29)

(cbp74,c1,l34,c2,l34)

(cbp75,c1,l34,c2,l34)

(cbp76,c1,l24)

L 0032 ««December 7, 1941

1

0032 (lr58l,6p,17l,10p,33l,

0 0033 I was walking across the campus at Andover when I

0

0032 6p,1l,7p9,3l,6p,25l,

heard the

0032 10p,43l,6p,25l,10p,39l,

SEPWWII

V:09 PAGE: 0003

1 0034 news. I was 17. It came as a shock<-->a jolt<-->
 an awakening. I

0 0035 did not fully comprehend world affairs. My
 interests were our

1 0036 undefeated soccer season just finished,
 basketball<-->baseball

0 0037 coming up. Christmas vacation only a couple of
 weeks away,

1 0038 graduation, then college. Things changed
 instantly. I knew

L 0039 right then that I wanted to go into the service.

L 0040

L 0041 December 8, 1941

1 0042 1 Our headmaster, a great historian and tough
 0 disciplinarian,

1 0043 summoned us all into George Washington Hall, the
 school's

0 0044 assembly place. There was the normal joking,
 kidding, sloppy

0 0045 posture. Dr. Claude M. Fuess called to order the
 800 students

1 0046 by saying something like this: "Your country is
 at war. We

0 0047 have just played the *Star-Spangled Banner*. From
 4 0
 now on when

0 0048 the *Star-Spangled Banner* is played you will stand
 4 0
 at attention,

0 0049 hands at your sides and you will show respect."
 From that day

0 0050 on, without fail, I have stood at attention when

SEPWWII

V:09 PAGE: 0004

the national

L 0051 anthem was played.

L 0052

LN0053 June 12, 1942

2 0054¹
0 Secretary of War Henry Stimson, an alumnus of
Andover,

1 N0055 spoke at our commencement. He encouraged the
graduating

0 0056 class to get some college education before
serving. I was deter-

0 0057 mined not to go on to college but to become a
Navy pilot. Sec-

1 0058 retary Stimson was a towering world figure but I
wondered

L 0059 about this call of his.

L 0060

2 N0061 On the same day, my 18th birthday, I was sworn
into the

0 N0062 Navy as a Seaman Second Class, the first step
towards becom-

1 0063 ing a Navy pilot. I was a scared nervous kid. The
Navy had

0 0064 just changed the rules. It no longer required two
years of col-

0 0065 lege before becoming a Navy pilot; pilots were
urgently need-

2 0066 ed. Walter Levering, Lt. USNR, swore me in at
Boston. I

L 0067 went on active duty as an aviation cadet August
6, 1942.

SEPWWII

V:09 PAGE: 0005

L 0068

L 0069 August 6, 1942

0 0070 1 I climbed on a southbound train at Penn Station.
0

My dad was

0 0071 a big, strong guy. He put his arm around me and
said goodbye.0 0072 I'd never seen my dad shed a tear before. We
arrived in Chapel0 0073 Hill, N.C. and I met my great friend "The
Splendid Splinter"1 0074 Ted Williams of the Boston Red Sox. We all stood
in awe of

L 0075 the famous hitter who was in the same program.

L 0076

L 0077 June, 1943

1 0078 1 Having been stationed at Chapel Hill for
0 preflight, Minne-0 N0079 apolis for primary training, and Corpus Christi
for advanced,0 N0080 I received my Navy wings and Ensign's commission
June 9. I0 0081 was still 18 years old. I wanted to fly in
combat. All my class-1 0082 mates wanted to as well. I fell in love early on
with the low

END OF BLOCK PAGE 71 COLUMN 1

1 0083 and slow torpedo bombers. The Grumman Avenger
carried

1 0084 2,000 pounds of bombs, the biggest single-engine
aircraft in

0 0085 the fleet. It had a crew of three. I went off to
Fort Lauderdale

0 0086 to learn to fly it. Training up and down the East
coast, drop-

0 0087 ping torpedoes off Cape Cod, dummy bombs and
torpedoes in

4 0088 Lake Okeechobee, Fla., Chincoteague, Va.,
Charlestown,

0 0089 Rhode Island, Miami . . . I saw 'em all. I had an
ensign's stripe

L 0090 and an admiral's confidence. I was a Navy pilot.

L 0091

L 0092 Spring-Summer 1944

2 0093 1 I was assigned to Air Group 51, the first to be
0

0 0094 aboard the new fast carrier *San Jacinto*, CVL 30.
4 0

0 0095 We went on a shakedown cruise to Trinidad, put
0 0096 *San Jac* into commission at Philadelphia, headed
4 0

2 0097 for the Pacific via the Panama Canal, touched
0 0098 the U.S. one last time at San Diego and then went
L 0099 West.

2 0100 Many of the air group and ship's company

1 N0101 had spent no time at sea. One roommate, subse-

1 0102 quently killed, Tom Waters had a red face, but

0 0103 the seas were so bad that his face literally

SEPWWII

V:09 PAGE: 0007

turned

L 0104 green.

0 0105 We struck Wake Island on May 23, 1944. My
 1 0106 close friend and roommate, Jim Wykes went off
 1 0107 on a search mission, and never came back. I lay
 in my upper
 0 0108 bunk and cried for my friend. No one saw me<-->
 that wouldn't

L 0109 do.

L 0110

L 0111 September 2, 1944

END OF BLOCK PAGE 72 COLUMN 1

PAGE 72 COLUMN 2 29 LINES DEFINED

1 N0112 On this day at 0715, a division of VT-51,
 0 composed of Com-
 2 0113 mander Don Melvin, Doug West, Milt Moore and
 myself,
 1 0114 took off from the San Jacinto (my 50th combat
 mission) fly- *italics*
 2 0115 ing about 70 miles to destroy two radio stations
 at Chichi
 1 0116 Jima in the Bonin Islands. At the target area,
 the sky was
 1 0117 thick with black clouds of exploding enemy
 antiaircraft fire.

SEPWWII

V:09 PAGE: 0008

1 0118 Don Melvin led the attack on the target, followed
by Doug
L 0119 West and then me.

2 N0120 At about 0830, and moments after pushing
0 0121 over into my dive at 8,000 feet, I felt a jolt
as if a
0 0122 giant fist had rammed into the belly of the
plane.

0 0123 My plane had been hit in the engine area. Smoke
1 0124 poured into the cockpit and flames were spread-
0 0125 ing aft toward the fuel tanks in the wings. Navy
0 0126 training had taught us to complete the mission. I
1 0127 instinctively continued in the dive, homed in on
0 0128 the target, unloaded our four 500 hundred pound
0 0129 bombs, pulled away heading East toward the sea.
1 0130 A few miles from shore, I told my crewmen, Ted
0 N0131 White and John Delaney, to bail out. As I bailed
0 0132 out, my head struck the tail of the plane, momen-
1 0133 tarily knocking me out. I was landing in the wa-
1 0134 ter when the Japanese sent two boats out after
0 0135 me. Melvin, West and Moore along with our Hell-
L 0136 cat fighter escorts drove the boats away.

0 0137 I was in the life raft about two hours,
wondering if my life
1 0138 would be spared. I prayed to God, I was sick to
my stomach
0 0139 and again I cried. I was a very scared kid, just
20, away from
0 0140 his mother and dad, paddling against the wind
trying to

SEPWWII

V:09 PAGE: 0010

L 0161

L 0162 October 1944

3 0163 1 Back in Pearl Harbor for a week at a "rest
0 home" <--> then after some essential refresher fly-

2 0164 0 ing, I hitchhiked back to the fleet <--> Task Force

1 0165 38 under Admiral William "Bull" Halsey off the

1 0166 Philippines. I wondered at the tremendous Naval 0167 (co William(?))

0 0167 power in and around Pearl Harbor and at Ulithi

1 0168 Atoll. You could feel things moving our way. We

0 0169 were shown

0 0170 pictures of Japanese atrocities. It was

1 0171 Hirohito's fault. Hitler

1 0171 was beginning to get kicked hard in Europe but

0 0172 for us there

0 0172 was one unifying symbol <--> Hirohito and the evil

0 0173 he represent-

0 0173 ed. I wanted badly to rejoin my squadron <--> to

L 0174 fly more, to do

L 0174 my part.

END OF BLOCK PAGE 74 COLUMN 1

PAGE 74 COLUMN 2 34 LINES DEFINED

L 0175

L 0176 November 1944

0 N0177 1 I flew my final combat mission, the 58th, over
0 the Luzon area,

SEPWWII

V:09 PAGE: 0011

0 N0178 November 29. Puffs of antiaircraft fire, black
 and
 0 0179 menacing were nothing like the concentrated fire
 1 0180 over Chichi Jima. Still you wonder. There was a
 0 0181 sense of exhilaration in our ready room. We were
 1 0182 going home. We'd probably make it for Christ-
 1 0183 mas. Several of our V(F-5) squadron mates had
 0 0184 been killed, but that was accepted. In a sense,
 the
 0 0185 ferocity of the battle helped heal the hurt for
 our
 1 0186 fallen comrades. It was our duty, our honor. We
 1 0187 were fighting for the USA against tyranny. The
 0 0188 country was united. We, on a carrier, were a
 part
 1 0189 of something great and good. At times we were
 L 0190 scared, but there were never any doubts.
 L 0191
 L 0192 Christmas Eve 1944
 0 0193 I arrive home. I stop at the Rye, [N.Y.] Station
 0 on
 0 0194 the the way to Greenwich. There my fiancée, Bar-
 0 0195 bara, climbs on the train. We go the 10 minutes
 to
 1 0196 Greenwich. My mother and dad meet us. I was
 0 0197 glad to be home for Christmas Day, I counted my
 0 0198 blessings. I was glad to be surrounded by love.
 At
 1 N0199 church the next day, Christmas Day, I thanked
 0 0200 God I was home<-->and in the quiet of our

SEPWWII

V:09 PAGE: 0012

church I

3 0201 thought about Jim Wykes, Dick Houle, Tom
0 0202 Waters, Ted White, John Delaney and the others
L 0203 who would never come home for Christmas.
1 0204 I asked "Why?" but there was not any agony
about the
0 0205 cause. There were no divisions about the war. We
were right.
1 0206 God was on our side. We had suffered a surprise
attack and
1 0207 now, three years later, we were winning; and I, a
20 year old
0 0208 Lt. (j.g.) was part of the greatest fighting
force in the world. I

END OF BLOCK PAGE 74 COLUMN 2

PAGE 75 COLUMN 1 34 LINES DEFINED

1 0209 had grown up. I had flown with the best off a
great carrier
0 0210 that flew the Texas flag into battle. I was part
of a team. We
0 0211 cared about each other in our squadron. We
understood each
0 0212 other's fears and loves. We played together, sang
2 0213 together, flew together. We bitched about our
1 0214 Squadron Commander<-->too tough, too demand-

SEPWWII

V:09 PAGE: 0013

0 0215 ing, too serious. But we loved to fly on his wings

-->

L 0216 we respected Don Melvin.

1 0217 If we hot dogged it or risked the lives of the
1 0218 ship's crew by some careless maneuver, Captain
0 0219 Harold M. "Beauty" Martin would kick some se-
1 0220 rious butt, but we bragged about him. He didn't
2 0221 know me from Adam's off Ox. But why should
1 0222 he?<-->I had one stripe, finally 1<1/2>, and he

had 4.

L 0223 We gave him a lot of room, a lot of respect.

2 0224 We were the best pilots. When we ground-
0 0225 looped on land, it was that damned gust of wind,
1 0226 or it was low hydraulics in the left brake. When
0 0227 we missed the proper wire landing on the carrier,
0 0228 it was that crazy landing signal officer . . .

"Damn

0 0229 fool, had me too high all the way in, or too
fast, or

2 0230 too slow"; but we never told him. He held our
2 0231 lives in his hands. And besides, the skipper al-
L 0232 ways thought he was right.

0 0233 We were the best . . . cocky devils, sure of
our

3 0234 ability, sure of our mission. We knew exactly
LN0235 what had to be done. We knew we would win.

L 0236

L 0237 Winter - Spring 1945

0 0238 ¹ Having been engaged since the Fall of 1943 while
0 I was train-

SEPWWII

V:09 PAGE: 0014

0 0239 ing up and down the East Coast, on January 6,
 1945, Barbara

2 0240 Pierce and I exchanged wedding vows at the
 Presbyterian

1 0241 Church in Rye, N.Y. I was ^{probably} wearing my
 Navy uni- ^{prandly}

1 0242 form. My VT-51 squadron mates, Richard B.
 Playstead and

END OF BLOCK PAGE 75 COLUMN 1

PAGE 75 COLUMN 2 34 LINES DEFINED

0 0243 Milton Moore were in attendance. Barbara and I
 had time for

L 0244 a honeymoon at Sea Isle, Georgia.

1 0245 Then off we went to carrier re-qualification in
 the Great

2 0246 Lakes. We bought our first car<-->a 1941 Plym-
 0 0247 outh<-->price \$350 and drove across Canada to
 join

1 0248 our squadron in Lewiston, Maine. Up and down
 1 0249 the East Coast in VT-153, a new torpedo squad-
 1 0250 ron manned by some of my pals from VT-51. I

1 0251 checked out in the F4U, the hot-shot gull wing

0 0252 Corsair fighter . . . and for a moment I
 wondered if

0 0253 "low and slow" was good enough for me

SEPWWII

V:09 PAGE: 0015

anymore.

1 0254 A fleeting thought only, since by now the feel of
1 0255 the TBF was a part of my very existence. The
0 0256 TBF was a forgiving airplane<-->and though I
was
0 0257 a pretty good pilot, I'd still make some pilot's
er-
L 0258 rors that needed forgiveness.

L 0259

L 0260 August 14, 1945

1
0 0261 I'm just 21 now. We are based in Virginia. Barba-
0
1 0262 ra and I are having more time together. As our
0 0263 new squadron, with orders in hand to go back to
3 0264 the Pacific, starts our final training, the war
3 0265 ends. I'll never forget the screaming and the
2 0266 cheering and the dancing in the street and the
1 0267 praying. Bar and I went to church and we said
0 0268 thanks. The war's end meant we would not have
0 0269 to be separated, and that I would not have to
cov-

0 N0270 er any more landings of Marines on beaches<-->
see-

1 0271 ing them get slaughtered as the Japanese dug in
to defend

L 0272 their homeland.

L 0273

L 0274 September 18, 1945

1
0 0275 I am discharged from the Navy on "points" and
0
now I go to

1 0276 college. The togetherness of it all is gone. We

re-focus.

END OF BLOCK PAGE 75 COLUMN 2

PAGE 76 COLUMN 1 24 LINES DEFINED

1 0277 It's soccer, baseball<-->it's our first baby, and
economics classes. Barbara and I
0 0278 know family joy, and the happiness of being at
school and looking forward short-
0 N0279 ly thereafter to a new life in our West. We have
lots of new friends. The letters
L 0280 from the shipmates slow down. They are finding
their new way, too.

L 0281

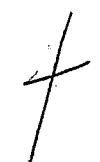
L 0282 June 1948

0 0283 ¹A brand new college grad, my first job ahead, I
₀drive to Odessa, Texas. The war
L 0284 seems, far behind<-->ahead lies a whole new
exciting life.

L 0285

L 0286 January 20, 1989

0 0287 ¹I am sworn in as President of the United States.
₀A TBF on a float goes by in our
0 0288 Inaugural parade. On it are some squadron mates
from VT-51. They are smiling
L 0289 and waving. No one knows who they are. But I
know.



SEPWWII

V:09 PAGE: 0017

L 0290

L 0291 February, 1989

0 0292 I am in Japan for the funeral of Emperor

0

Hirohito. It is an icy cold day and the

0 0293 long ceremony is beautifully done. Sitting there

in the cold, surrounded by world

1 N0294 leaders, I had time to think. Yes, I thought

about the burst of anti-aircraft fire

1 0295 from Chichi Jima that killed my friends, but that

thought did not dominate. I

0 0296 thought about Hirohito going to call on

MacArthur, about Japan's remarkable

0 0297 recovery and about her democracy. I thought about

the quiet little man and his

1 0298 love of nature and how that contrasted with the

horrible pictures we saw 45

1 0299 years ago . . . I thought of Japan. And I thought

of forgiveness. Our alliance is

1 0300 strong, our friendship is genuine. They are now a

democracy. How remarkable

END OF BLOCK PAGE 76 COLUMN 1

WARNING: NO MORE BLOCKS DEFINED

0 0301 that is. Maybe Ted White, Jack Delaney, Jim

Wykes, Dick Houle and Tom Wa-

0 0302 ters did not die in vain. It was right that I

SEPWWII

V:09 PAGE: 0018

went back to Japan to the Emperor's

L 0303 funeral. «|ã
1

0303 (ufbox)

(END)

TIME
INCORPORATED

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5 15 PM '89

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DATE..... 8/2

FAX COVER SHEET
=====

TO. CHRISTIN GEAR FAX #. 202 456 6218
FROM. Stewart for SIMONS DEPT. LIFE EDIT

NUMBER OF PAGE(S) TO FOLLOW: 21

212-522-0909
0907
0908

212-522-0909

212-522-0909

SEPBUSHC V:02 HJ:Y 00064 02-AUG-89 16:41 PAGE: 1
OP:LF1 ;08/02,16:38 OR:LAN FR:LF1-LFE FMT:12p6 FG:LFE
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- L 0008 Pp 71 Cap 9
- L 0009

«««««

4 0

0009 (cc8p6)(cc8p6)(rr)(xh)

L 0010 Opposite: Late in 1944,

0009 (vs.5,2,.5)

L 0011 Lt. (j.g.) George Bush

L 0012 with combat crewmen

LN0013 Leo Nadeau (left) and Joe

LN0014 Reichart was part of a

L 0015 Naval air squadron in the

L 0016 Pacific. Above: Bush fills

SEPBUSHC

V:02 PAGE: 0002

L 0017 out his flight log

L 0018 aboard the U.S.S. San

4

L 0019 Jacinto.

L 0020

0

««««

15 1

C 0021 Pp 72 Cap 2

0020 (cc10p)(cc10p)(vs.75,1,

0020

1.5)(rc)(xh)

C 0022

C 0023 At Andover prep in 1942, senior

C 0024 George ``Poppy`` Bush was

CN0025 captain of the baseball team and

C 0026 George L. ``Flop`` Follansbee

C 0027 was the coach.

C 0028

C 0029 Cap 3

C 0030

CN0031 Bush's Grumman Avenger torpedo

CN0032 bomber was named

C 0033 ``Barbara.`` His was the number two

C 0034 plane in his squadron. His other

C 0035 four aircraft were named

CN0036 after his fianc^e too.

C 0037

C 0038 Pp 74 & 75 Cap 1

C 0039

C 0040 After duty in the Pacific, Bush

C 0041 returned home, and on

C 0042 January 6, 1945, married Barbara

C 0043 Pierce at her family's church

C 0044 in Rye, N.Y. Their engagement had

C 0045 been a secret.

SEPBUSHC

V:02 PAGE: 0003

C 0046

C 0047 Cap 3

C 0048

CN0049 ^{W.} George Jr., the first of four sons,

C 0050 gets a lift at their home in

C 0051 New Haven while papa was still in

CN0052 college at Yale. The Bushes.

C 0053 ~~also had two daughters-->one died~~

C 0054 in infancy.

C 0055

C 0056 Pp 76 Cap 1

C 0057

C 0058 In Tokyo last February for the

C 0059 funeral of Emperor

C 0060 Hirohito, President Bush joined

C 0061 heads of state from 162

C 0062 other countries. The palanquin was

C 0063 carried through the streets by

C 0064 members of the Imperial Guard.

X

after grad he
moved to Rx
B went into
the oil business

(END)

SEPWWII V:09 HJ:Y 00320 02-AUG-89 16:33 PAGE: 1
 OP:LAN ;08/02,16:24 OR:FGAN FR:LAN-LFE FMT:26 FG:LFE
 MS: OK: RP:8 NO:e8 ID:09-01-89 PF:g ***

- L 0001 LIFE SEPTEMBER WORLD WAR II Pps 70-78
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- L 0005
- L 0006 Caps 3, 4, 5 (DEPT SLUG)
- L 0007
- L 0008 ANNIVERSARY
- L 0009
- L 0010 Cap 7 (ART)
- L 0011
- L 0012 A BOY
- L 0013 GOES TO
- L 0014 WAR
- L 0015

<

5

0015

(uflhed)

SEPWWII

V:09 PAGE: 0002
0015 (cp22,,20p)™

L 0016 Cap 2

L 0017

L 0018 by GEORGE BUSH

L 0019

« « «

0019 (cp28,30,16p6)(xh)(rr)

L 0020 Cap 8

5

L 0021

L 0022 THE PRESIDENT RECALLS

L 0023 HIS THREE-YEAR TOUR

L 0024 OF DUTY AS A

L 0025 NAVY PILOT

LN0026

L 0027

«

0027

(st)

L 0028

4

L 0029 Cap 1 PRECEDE TK

L 0030

L 0031

(cbp71,c1,151)

0

PAGE 71 COLUMN 1 51 LINES DEFINED

(cbp72,c1,129,c2,129)

(cbp74,c1,134,c2,134)

(cbp75,c1,134,c2,134)

(cbp76,c1,124)

L 0032 « «December 7, 1941

1

0032 (ir58l,6p,17l,10p,33l,

) 0033 i was walking across the campus at Andover when I

0

0032 6p,1l,7p9,3l,6p,25l,

heard the

0032 10p,43l,6p,25l,10p,39l,

SEPWWII

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1 0034 news. I was 17. It came as a shock<-->a jolt<-->
 an awakening. I

0 0035 did not fully comprehend world affairs. My
 interests were our

1 0036 undefeated soccer season just finished,
 basketball<-->baseball

0 0037 coming up. Christmas vacation only a couple of
 weeks away,

1 0038 graduation, then college. Things changed
 instantly. I knew

L 0039 right then that I wanted to go into the service.

L 0040

L 0041 December 8, 1941

1 0042 ¹ Our headmaster, a great historian and tough
₀ disciplinarian,

1 0043 summoned us all into George Washington Hall, the
 school's

0 0044 assembly place. There was the normal joking,
 kidding, sloppy

0 0045 posture. Dr. Claude M. Fuess called to order the
 800 students

1 0046 by saying something like this: "Your country is
 at war. We

0 0047 have just played the *Star-Spangled Banner*. From
₄ now on when ₀

0 0048 the *Star-Spangled Banner* is played you will stand
₄ at attention, ₀

0 0049 hands at your sides and you will show respect."
 From that day

0 0050 on, without fail, I have stood at attention when

SEPWWII

V:09 PAGE: 0004

the national

L 0051 anthem was played.

L 0052

LN0053 June 12, 1942

2 0054 Secretary of War Henry Stimson, an alumnus of
0 Andover,

1 N0055 spoke at our commencement. He encouraged the
graduating

0 0056 class to get some college education before
serving. I was deter-

0 0057 mined not to go on to college but to become a
Navy pilot. Sec-

1 0058 retary Stimson was a towering world figure but I
wondered

L 0059 about this call of his.

L 0060

2 N0061 On the same day, my 18th birthday, I was sworn
into the

0 N0062 Navy as a Seaman Second Class, the first step
towards becom-

1 0063 ing a Navy pilot. I was a scared nervous kid. The
Navy had

0 0064 just changed the rules. It no longer required two
years of col-

3 0065 lege before becoming a ~~Navy~~ pilot; pilots were
urgently need-

2 0066 ed. Walter Levering, Lt. USNR, swore me in at
Boston. I

L 0067 went on active duty as an aviation cadet August
6, 1942.

SEPWWII

V:09 PAGE: 0005

L 0068

L 0069 August 6, 1942

1

0 0070 I climbed on a southbound train at Penn Station.

0

My dad was

0 0071 a big, strong guy. He put his arm around me and
said goodbye.0 0072 I'd never seen my dad shed a tear before. We
arrived in Chapel0 0073 Hill, N.C. and I met (my great friend) "The
Splendid Splinter"1 0074 Ted Williams of the Boston Red Sox. We all stood
in awe of

L 0075 the famous hitter who was in the same program.

L 0076

L 0077 June, 1943

1

1 0078 Having been stationed at Chapel Hill for
preflight, Minne-

0

0 N0079 apolis for primary training, and Corpus Christi
for advanced,0 N0080 I received my Navy wings and Ensign's commission
June 9. I0 0081 was still 18 years old. I wanted to fly in
combat. All my class-1 0082 mates wanted to as well. I fell in love early on
with the low

END OF BLOCK PAGE 71 COLUMN 1

1 0083 and slow torpedo bombers. The Grumman Avenger
carried

1 0084 2,000 pounds of bombs, the biggest single-engine
aircraft in

0 0085 the fleet. It had a crew of three. I went off to
Fort Lauderdale

0 0086 to learn to fly it. Training up and down the East
coast, drop-

0 0087 ping torpedoes off Cape Cod, dummy bombs and
torpedoes in

4 0088 Lake Okeechobee, Fla., Chincoteague, Va.,
Charlestown,

0 0089 Rhode Island, Miami . . . I saw 'em all. I had an
ensign's stripe

L 0090 and an admiral's confidence. I was a Navy pilot.

L 0091

L 0092 Spring-Summer 1944

2 0093 I was assigned to Air Group 51, the first to be
0

0 0094 aboard the new fast carrier *San Jacinto*, CVL 30.
4 0

0 0095 We went on a shakedown cruise to Trinidad, put

0 0096 *San Jac* into commission at Philadelphia, headed
4 0

0 0097 for the Pacific via the Panama Canal, touched

0 0098 the U.S. one last time at San Diego and then went

L 0099 West.

0 0100 Many of the air group and ship's company

N0101 had spent no time at sea. One roommate, subse-

0102 quently killed, Tom Waters had a red face, but

0 0103 the seas were so bad that his face literally

SEPWWII

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turned

L 0104 green.

0 0105 We struck Wake Island on May 23, 1944. My

1 0106 close friend and roommate, Jim Wykes went off

1 0107 on a search mission, and never came back. I lay

in my upper

0 0108 bunk and cried for my friend. No one saw me<-->

that wouldn't

L 0109 do.

L 0110

L 0111 September 2, 1944

1

END OF BLOCK PAGE 72 COLUMN 1

PAGE 72 COLUMN 2 29 LINES DEFINED

1 N0112 On this day at 0715, a division of VT-51,

0

composed of Com-

2 0113 mander Don Melvin, Doug West, Milt Moore and

myself,

1 0114 took off from the San Jacinto (my 50th combat

mission)-fly-

2 0115 ing about 70 miles to destroy two radio stations

at Chichi

1 0116 Jima in the Bonin Islands. (At the target area,

the sky was

1 0117 thick with black clouds of exploding enemy

antiaircraft fire.

SEPWWII

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1 0118 Don Melvin led the attack on the target, followed
by Doug
L 0119 West and then me.
2 N0120 At about 0830, and moments after pushing
0 0121 over into my dive at 8,000 feet, I felt a jolt
as if a
0 0122 giant fist had rammed into the belly of the
plane.
0 0123 ~~My plane~~^{we'd} had been hit in the engine area. Smoke
1 0124 poured into the cockpit and flames were spread-
0 0125 ing aft toward the fuel tanks in the wings. Navy
0 0126 training had taught us to complete the mission. I
1 0127 instinctively continued in the dive, homed in on
0 0128 the target, unloaded our four 500 hundred pound
0 0129 bombs, pulled away heading East toward the sea.
1 0130 A few miles from shore, I told my crewmen, Ted
0 N0131 White and John Delaney, to bail out. As I bailed
0 0132 out, my head struck the tail of the plane, momen-
1 0133 tarily knocking me out. I was landing in the wa-
1 0134 ter when the Japanese sent two boats out after
0 0135 me. Melvin, West and Moore along with our Hell-
L 0136 cat fighter escorts drove the boats away.
0 0137 I was in the life raft about two hours,
wondering if my life
1 0138 would be spared. I prayed to God, I was sick to
my stomach
0 0139 and again I cried. I was a very scared kid, just
20, away from
0 0140 his mother and dad, paddling against the wind
trying to

END OF BLOCK PAGE 72 COLUMN 2

PAGE 74 COLUMN 1 34 LINES DEFINED

0 0141 get farther ~~(away)~~ from the Japanese-held island. I
later learned

1 0142 that my crewmen had been killed. Observers said
that two

0 0143 persons were seen leaving the plane. The
parachute of the oth-

1 0144 er ~~(person)~~ never opened, but mine did. God had

2 0145 spared me from that fate for whatever reason.

2 0146 Hellcat fighter pilots flew over my raft until I

1 0147 was rescued by the ~~(American)~~ submarine U.S.S.

L 0148 *Finback* around noon.
4 0

L 0149

L 0150 September 1944

0 0151 1 The *Finback* stayed on its war patrol in Japanese
0 4 0

0 0152 waters, and I along with two other rescued pilots

0 0153 and two crewmen spent the next 30 days standing

1 0154 watch and counting my blessings. We got depth

1 0155 charged by Japanese ships. The submariners in

2 0156 *Finback* didn't seem too concerned about that,
4 0

1 N0157 but Jim Beckman, Tom Keene and I, the ~~(three)~~

2 0158 rescued pilots, didn't like that a bit. *Finback's*
4 0

2 0159 skipper won a Silver Star for sinking Japanese

L 0160 ships.

SEPWWII

V:09 PAGE: 0010

L 0161

L 0162 October 1944

3 0163 1 Back in Pearl Harbor for a week at a ``rest
0

2 0164 home``<-->then after some essential refresher fly-
1 0165 ing, I hitchhiked back to the fleet<-->Task Force
1 0166 38 under Admiral William ``Bull`` Halsey off the
0 0167 Philippines. I wondered at the tremendous Naval 0167 (co William(?))
1 0168 power in and around Pearl Harbor and at Ulithi
0 0169 Atoll. You could feel things moving our way. We
were shown
0 0170 pictures of Japanese atrocities. It was
Hirohito's fault. Hitler
1 0171 was beginning to get kicked hard in Europe but
for us there
0 0172 was one unifying symbol<-->Hirohito and the evil
he represent-
0 0173 ed. I wanted badly to rejoin my squadron<-->to
fly more, to do
L 0174 my part.

END OF BLOCK PAGE 74 COLUMN 1

PAGE 74 COLUMN 2 34 LINES DEFINED

L 0175

L 0176 November 1944

0 N0177 1 I flew my final (combat) mission, the 58th, over
0 the Luzon area,

SEPWWII

V:09 PAGE: 0011

0 N0178 November 29. Puffs of antiaircraft fire, black
and
0 0179 menacing were nothing like the concentrated fire
1 0180 over Chichi Jima. Still you wonder. There was a
0 0181 sense of exhilaration in our ready room. We were
1 0182 going home. We'd probably make it for Christ-
1 0183 mas. Several of our VT 51 squadron mates had
0 0184 been killed, but that was accepted. In a sense,
the
0 0185 ferocity of the battle helped heal the hurt for
our
1 0186 fallen comrades.) It was our duty, our honor. We
1 0187 were fighting for the USA against tyranny. The
0 0188 country was united. We, on a carrier, were a
part
1 0189 of something great and good. At times we were
L 0190 scared, but there were never any doubts.
L 0191
L 0192 Christmas Eve 1944
0 0193 I arrive home. I stop at the Rye [N.Y.] Station
0
on
0 0194 the the way to Greenwich. There my fiancée, Bar-
0 0195 bara, climbs on the train. We go the 10 minutes
to
1 0196 Greenwich. My mother and dad meet us. I was
0 0197 glad to be home for Christmas Day, I counted my
0 0198 blessings. I was glad to be surrounded by love.
At
1 N0199 church the next day, Christmas Day, I thanked
0 0200 God I was home<-->and in the quiet of our

SEPWWII

V:09 PAGE: 0012

church I

3 0201 . thought about Jim Wykes, Dick Houle, Tom
0 0202 Waters, Ted White, John Delaney and the others
L 0203 who would never come home for Christmas.
1 0204 I asked ``Why?`` but there was not any agony
about the
0 0205 cause. There were no divisions about the war. We
were right.
1 0206 God was on our side. We had suffered a surprise
attack and
1 0207 now, three years later, we were winning; and I, a
20 year old
0 0208 Lt. (j.g.) was part of the greatest fighting
force in the world. I

END OF BLOCK PAGE 74 COLUMN 2

PAGE 75 COLUMN 1 34 LINES DEFINED

1 0209 had grown up. I had flown with the best off a
great carrier
0 0210 that flew the Texas flag into battle. I was part
of a team. We
0 0211 cared about each other in our squadron. We
understood each
0 0212 other's fears and loves. We played together, sang
2 0213 together, flew together. We bitched about our
1 0214 Squadron Commander<-->too tough, too demand-

SEPWWII

V:09 PAGE: 0013

0 0215 ing, too serious. But we loved to fly on his wing<

-->

L 0216 we respected Don Melvin.

1 0217 If we hot dogged it or risked the lives of the

1 0218 ship's crew by some careless maneuver, Captain

0 0219 Harold M. ``Beauty`` Martin would kick some se-

1 0220 rious butt, but we bragged about him. He didn't

2 0221 know me from Adam's off Ox. But why should

1 0222 he?<-->I had one stripe, finally 1<1/2>, and he

had 4.

L 0223 We gave him a lot of room, a lot of respect.

2 0224 We were the best pilots. When we ground-

0 0225 looped on land, it was that damned gust of wind,

1 0226 or it was low hydraulics in the left brake. When

0 0227 we missed the proper wire landing on the carrier,

0 0228 it was that crazy landing signal officer . . .

``Damn

0 0229 fool, had me too high all the way in, or too

fast, or

2 0230 too slow``; but we never told him. He held our

2 0231 lives in his hands. And besides, the skipper al-

L 0232 ways thought he was right.

0 0233 We were the best . . . cocky devils, sure of

our

3 0234 ability, sure of our mission. We knew exactly

LN0235 what had to be done. We knew we would win.

L 0236

L 0237 Winter - Spring 1945

0 0238 ¹ Having been engaged since the Fall of 1943 while

0

I was train-

SEPWWII

V:09 PAGE: 0014

0 0239 ing up and down the East Coast, on January 6,
1945, Barbara

2 0240 Pierce and I exchanged wedding vows at the
Presbyterian

1 0241 Church in Rye, N.Y. I was ~~probably~~ wearing my
Navy uni-

1 0242 form. My VT-51 squadron mates, Richard B.
Playstead and

END OF BLOCK PAGE 75 COLUMN 1

PAGE 75 COLUMN 2 34 LINES DEFINED

0 0243 Milton Moore were in attendance. Barbara and I
had time for

L 0244 a honeymoon at Sea Isle, Georgia. ✓ *Island*

1 0245 Then off we went to carrier re-qualification in
the Great

2 0246 Lakes. We bought our first car<-->a 1941 Plym-

0 0247 outh<-->price \$350 and drove across Canada to
join

1 0248 our squadron in Lewiston, Maine. Up and down

1 0249 the East Coast in VT 153, a new torpedo squad-

1 0250 ron manned by some of my pals from VT 51. I

1 0251 checked out in the F4U, the hot-shot gull wing

0 0252 Corsair fighter . . . and for a moment I
wondered if

0 0253 ``low and slow`` was good enough for me

SEPWWII

V:09 PAGE: 0015

anymore.

1 0254 A fleeting thought only, since by now the feel of
1 0255 the TBF was a part of my very existence. The
0 0256 TBF was a forgiving airplane<-->and though I
was
0 0257 a pretty good pilot, I'd still make some pilot's
er-
L 0258 rors that needed forgiveness.

L 0259

L 0260 August 14, 1945

0 0261 I'm just 21 now. We are based in Virginia. Barba-
0 0262 ra and I are having more time together. As our
0 0263 new squadron, with orders in hand to go back to
3 0264 the Pacific, starts our final training, the war
3 0265 ends. I'll never forget the screaming and the
2 0266 cheering and the dancing in the street and the
1 0267 praying. Bar and I went to church and we said
0 0268 thanks. The war's end meant we would not have
0 0269 to be separated, and that I would not have to
cov-

0 N0270 er any more landings of Marines on beaches<-->
see-

1 0271 ing them get slaughtered as the Japanese dug in
to defend

L 0272 their homeland.

L 0273

L 0274 September 18, 1945

1 0275 I am discharged from the Navy on "points" and
0
now I go to

1 0276 college. The togetherness of it all is gone. We

re-focus.

SEPWWII

V:09 PAGE: 0016

END OF BLOCK PAGE 75 COLUMN 2

PAGE 76 COLUMN 1 24 LINES DEFINED

1 0277 It's soccer, baseball<-->it's our first baby, and
economics classes. Barbara and I
0 0278 know family joy, and the happiness of being at
school and looking forward short-
0 N0279 ly thereafter to a new life in our West. We have
lots of new friends. The letters
L 0280 from the shipmates slow down. They are finding
their new way, too.

L 0281

L 0282 June 1948

0 0283 ¹ A brand new college grad, my first job ahead, I
₀ drive to Odessa, Texas. The war
L 0284 seems, far behind<-->ahead lies a whole new
exciting life.

L 0285

L 0286 January 20, 1989

0 0287 ¹ I am sworn in as President of the United States.
₀ A TBF on a float goes by in our
0 0288 Inaugural parade. On it are some squadron mates
from VT 51. They are smiling
L 0289 and waving. No one knows who they are. But I
know.

SEPWWII

V:09 PAGE: 0017

L 0290

L 0291 February, 1989

0 0292 I am in Japan for the funeral of Emperor

0 Hirohito. It is an icy cold day and the

0 0293 long ceremony is beautifully done. Sitting there

in the cold, surrounded by world

1 N0294 leaders, I had time to think. Yes, I thought

about the burst of antiaircraft fire

1 0295 from Chichi Jima that killed my friends, but that

thought did not dominate. I

0 0296 thought about Hirohito going to call on

MacArthur, about Japan's remarkable

0 0297 recovery and about her democracy. I thought about

the quiet little man and his

1 0298 love of nature and how that contrasted with the

horrible pictures we saw 45 ✓

1 0299 years ago . . . I thought of Japan. And I thought

of forgiveness. Our alliance is

1 0300 strong, our friendship is genuine. They are now a

democracy. How remarkable

END OF BLOCK PAGE 76 COLUMN 1

WARNING: NO MORE BLOCKS DEFINED

0 0301 that is. Maybe Ted White, Jack Delaney, Jim

Wykes, Dick Houle and Tom Wa-

0 0302 ters did not die in vain. It was right that I

44

SEPWWII

V:09 PAGE: 0018

went back to Japan to the Emperor's

L 0303 funeral. «jā
1

0303

(ufbox)

(END)