

PREDDY MEMORIAL FOUNDATION



Bill & George at Lorraine American Military Cemetery



***Bail Out* by Troy White**



Hickory Aviation Museum



***Cripes A'Mighty*. From Ken Wagon to Bill Wiemann.**



***Cripes A'Mighty 3rd*; new photo by Sam Sox.**

**ANNUAL REPORT
SEPTEMBER 2007**

Preddy Memorial Foundation

September 2007 Annual Report



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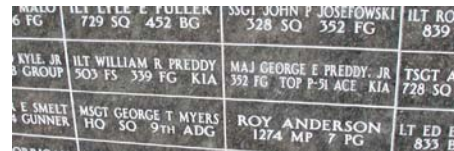
Samuel L. Sox, Jr., CLU,
Myrtle Beach, SC

Directors Emeritus

Carson Bain

Craig Harris

This report is dedicated to the memory of Craig Harris, a PMF board member who died in August at home in Durham, NC. The PMF is in the process of determining whether or not Craig has a memorial plaque at the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum where he served on the board and as past president. If not, we will donate one to



his memory. We have one there for George and Bill Preddy, and now we have one for George's two crews, 487th & 328th Fighter Squadrons. See inserted page.

Board Meeting

PMF President Tim Key and



Bill Moore arranged for a dedication of the Preddy House plaque in connection with the May 2007 PMF Board meeting. Following the board meeting at the Major George Preddy VFW Post 2087, some members adjourned to 605 Park Avenue for the ceremony. The PMF thanks the current owners of **The Preddy House, Gavin Douglas and Nadja Cech**, for allowing us to place the plaque on their home. And we thank Nadja for taking the above photo.

Board Members

Note the list of PMF Board Members in the left column. Bob Huddleston and Dolph Overton have been removed from the retired list. The reason for this is that they are more than able to communicate via email and telephone, and we need and get their advice and their votes!! We have other

board members who live too far away to make many of our board meetings: Bob Powell, Bob Reese, and Steve Hicks. But their advice and votes are also needed and available by email.

Hickory Aviation Museum

Sam Sox provided some photos and other memorabilia to the new Hickory Aviation Museum recently. Joe Noah and Eddie Smith visited Kyle Kirby, a director, and took him several more items and \$500 worth of Preddy merchandise on contingency. However, they paid for all of it immediately. Kyle and Jim Malcolm gave me a full tour of their Museum and plans. They plan to devote one full room to the Preddy brothers, and we plan to fill it! Otto Gaskins has ordered five more busts of George and one will go to Hickory. We have a new painting by Troy White entitled "Bail Out" which represents the day, January 29, 1944, when George had to bail out of his Jug into the cold English Channel. That painting will be loaned to the Museum, but other prints and the bust will be donated.

Cripes A'Mighty

Ken Wagon has sold his Oshkosh Champion Mustang (shown on cover) which he had restored in the markings of George Preddy's last mount. He sold it to Bill Wiemann of Alpine, WY. Bill hopes to take *Cripes A'Mighty* to Columbus, OH for *The Gathering of Mustangs and Legends* taking place at the end of September 2007. Several PMF Members plan to attend the event. Kermit Weeks will not take his *Cripes A'Mighty 3rd* (see photo) which he keeps at his Fantasy of Flight Museum near Orlando; instead he is taking his P-51C restored in the markings of a Tuskegee Airman Mustang. Art Teeters, Cal Pacific Airmotive, one of the oldest warbird restorers in the world, traces the transition to

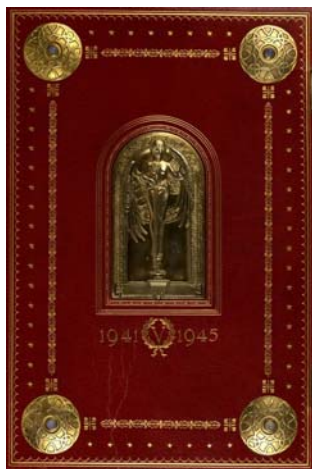


restoring aircraft to their WW II markings to the ambitious owner of a particular Mustang, Kermit Weeks and *Cripes A'Mighty 3rd*. Art says, "the popularity of that one airplane after

its first restoration in 1983 struck up an interest in historic authenticity. Kermit put a lot of effort into getting it right, and that really caught people's fascination." In 1992, however, Hurricane Andrew leveled the Weeks Air Museum in Tamiami, Florida, severely damaging *Cripes* and most of the other aircraft in the collection. A subsequent rebuild, this time by Cal Pacific, further raised the standard of historic restoration. Public appreciation of the greatest generation's greatest fighter grew, along with interest from wealthy warbird aficionados." *Cripes A'Mighty 3rd* won an unprecedented second Experimental Aircraft Association Grand Champion award at Oshkosh in 1999; then Ken Wagnon won the award later with his *Cripes A'Mighty* restored by Mike Vadeboncouer..The black & white photo on the cover of this report was taken on 19 July 1944 when the 352nd Fighter Group had on display four Mustangs belonging to aces, *Cripes A'Mighty 3rd* being one of them. This photo was in bad shape when Sam Sox found it, so he improved it immensely with PhotoShop. July 19th was the day of the Big Review of the base by 8th Fighter Command dignitaries. Guests included Generals Kepner, Spaatz, Doolittle, and War Secretary Henry L. Stimson.

St. Paul's American Roll of Honour

"Inscribed in this Roll of Honour are the names of those Americans serving with the Candian, British and United States Armed Forces who gave their lives while enroute to or while stationed in the United Kingdom. It also includes those members of units permanently based in the United Kingdom who made the supreme sacrifice between D-Day and VE-Day."



When Joe & Betty Noah were living in London in 1979-80, we discovered that Bill Preddy's name was missing from the Roll. Perhaps this was because Bill was listed as Missing in Action until October 1945 when he was declared Killed in Action. We did not learn what happened to Bill until 1991. In any

event, Betty visited the US Embassy and they had the error corrected. However, his name had to be added at the end of the Roll, not in alphabetical order. When the Mighty Eighth decided they would digitize all the names on the Roll, the PMF made a significant donation to help. Many problems have developed between the 8th and the British on this project, but I have been assured by Ivan McKinney, President of the 8th AFHS, and by Bob Book, Project Manager, that the project will get done! We are most interested in this so that Americans will not have to travel to England to view the names on the Roll, and George and Bill will have their names in alphabetical order.

Remember, George and Bill Preddy were the only brothers both of whom were killed in combat while flying the P-51 Mustang fighter! And George will forever hold the record as the world's top Mustang ace!

Medal of Honor

It has been suggested by many over the years that we should try to get the Medal of Honor for George Preddy. Recently, Brig Gen Larry Boyd suggested to Eddie Smith that PMF contact Maj Gen James Livingston, USMC(Ret), a Medal of Honor recipient, and get his advice. Gen Livingston advised us to write to the Secretary of the Army. He said that it would take about 60 days to get a reply. Our letter is dated 29 July 2007.

New Brochure

We have new brochures now. The old brochure used the Greensboro Historical Museum as our address. We didn't have a web site when we designed the brochure. Now we do, and that is given as our address on the new brochures:

www.preddy-foundation.org

New Book

Please review the insert about the *Blue Nosed Bastards of Bodney*, Robert Powell, Editor, with much help from Sam Sox, Marc Hamel and Tom Ivie. I think all of you will find it to be most interesting!

White Flight

Several years ago, the PMF bought the remaining stock of prints of *White Flight* by Darrell Crosby. We have sold many of them, but now we are placing them in public places where the recipient agrees to frame and display it.



PMF Finances

As of August 22, 2007, the PMF has \$6398 in it's checking account, and \$28,527 in mutual funds. We have no current liabilities. We have \$4300 in loans for the BNT and for seats at The Gathering of Mustangs & Legends.

KEEPING THE MEMORY ALIVE!



The Preddy Memorial Foundation was established to ensure that the Preddy brothers and their comrades-in-arms will continue to be honored for their significant contributions to victory during World War II.



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PREDDY MEMORIAL FOUNDATION
Post Office Box 523
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