

# The Squadron

## EAA Warbird Squadron 4 News

A newsletter for Squadron members and friends of Warbird aircraft

January 2000

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## **Squadron 4 Annual Dinner**

**Jan. 28, 2000**

A very special evening is planned for our Jan.28<sup>th</sup> meeting. The guest speaker is an aviator that participated in one of the most significant events in not only military aviation but in the history of all the world! We will be honored to have Lt. Col. (Retired) Fred Olivi, the co-pilot of the B-29 "Bockscar" that dropped the atomic bomb on Nagasaki, present a program on the mission details. As an added benefit, Lt. Col. Olivi will have available copies of his recently published book about the mission. The following is a description of this extraordinary and informative account of the aircraft and personnel involved with the Aug. 9, 1945 bombing mission.

### **DECISION AT NAGASAKI**

#### **The mission That Almost Failed**

This is a must read account of the atomic bomb dropped on the Japanese city of Nagasaki. Overshadowed by the "Enola Gay" Hiroshima event shrouded in misinformation for over 50 years – the mission to Nagasaki of the B-29 Superfortress "Bockscar" at the end of World War II is still virtually unknown, until now.

## **January 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner**

Where: William Tell Holiday Inn

6201 W. Joliet Road

Countryside, IL

(708) 354-4200

When: Friday Jan 28, 2000

7:00 PM - 11:00 PM

Cost: \$40.00 Per Person

Includes Dinner, Open Bar and Raffle

Guest Speaker: Lt. Col. Fred Olivi

Co-Polit of B-29 "Bockcar"

Please R.S.V.P. by Jan. 23, 2000 to Jim Delany

565 Aztec Drive Carol Stream, IL. 60188

(630-773-5211)

Please make checks payable to

E.A.A. Warbird Squadron 4

Pre-paid orders will be taken at the dinner for

Squadron 4 hats and shirts

A small number of hats will be available at the dinner

### **The C.O.'s Desk**

The most important element in any endeavor is the enthusiasm and perseverance to see the project through. We have been fortunate in Warbirds' Squadron 4 to have a staff of dedicated officers and members who have contributed greatly to the success we have experienced. Without mentioning names, because I invariably forget some one, they helped bring us great programs and have allowed us to meet and see some most historically significant people and aircraft. There is more come, but as I look back over the last three years, the squadron has featured meetings that covered WWII, the Korean conflict and the Vietnam war. Our guests have included high altitude recon pilots to ground-based men who kept all types of aircraft flying and everything in between. From the BI-plane to the Spy-plane, and Privates to Generals moved among you and us wouldn't know the difference at the meetings. EAA Chapter 579, Aurora Airport, Air Classics Museum, Joliet Park District Airport, and the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum have been generous toward the Squadron and we thank you. The key objective is to maintain momentum into the 2000's and keep exploring new avenues for the education, enjoyment and benefit of the Squadron as a whole. So a hart felt "Thank You" is in order for all of you who have there and I look forward to enjoying the future surprises from EAA Warbirds of America, Squadron 4. **Keep Em' Flying The C.O.**

### **Squadron 4 Commander**

### **(editor's note)**

Squadron 4 has been fortunate to have had the benefit of two excellent commanders over the past 6 years with Will Martin and Bob Molinets. And if you read between the lines in the C.O.'s Desk you will see a farewell message from our present commander, Bob Molinets. Bob Molinets. Bob has informed me that he stepping aside as Commander of Squadron 4 after the January meeting. He has said tat he will continue as an active member of Squadron 4 and will help the new commander whenever possible. His main focus will now be directed to the restoration of an L-17 Navion that he insists will be flown to one of our meetings in the near future. It has been exciting and enjoyable tour of duty for Bob and the squadron and we would like to thank him for his dedication and contributions to the ongoing success of Squadron 4. Volunteers are encouraged to apply to fill this vacancy. The support staff will remain in their present assignments if needed. **The editor**

### **September 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting Recap**

The third quarterly meeting in 1999 of Squadron 4 took place on Saturday September 25<sup>th</sup>, 1999 at the Aurora Airport in Sugar Grove Ill. The aircraft that was highlighted at the meeting was the UH-1 Huey Helicopter provided by the Air Classics Museum. The featured speaker was Staff Sgt. Tony Spiewak, a Huey Helicopter crew chief during the Vietnam War. He flew over 400 missions during his tour of duty, was shot down 7 times and received 2 purple hearts and the Bronze Star as a result of his valor in combat. Staff Sgt. Spiewak was assisted during the presentation by Spc. 6 Bob Jankovich, also a crew chief on the UH-1 Huey in Vietnam. They provided us with informative and graphic descriptions of the flying and maintenance of the Huey in combat situation. Our thanks to both of these veterans for their outstanding contributions in their service to their country and also for sharing some of those experiences with Squadron 4.



A number of outstanding aircraft were flown in to the meeting starting with "Doc" Hilson and his "Weary Warriors" crew flying in the B-25, "Barbie III". Rides in the B-25 were available at the meeting and there were a number of individuals that took advantage of this great opportunity to fly in this classic WWII bomber. Maybe we can ask them to do this at another Squadron 4 event for those that were unable to participate this time. Craig Payne did a number of fly-byes in his colorful "Nanchang" and then put it on static display. Also flying in that day were "Col." Tom Buck in his new acquisition, a beautifully restored Navy TBM Avenger, Will Martin brought in his classy T-34 Mentor and Vlado Lench finished the fly-in with his exquisite P-51 Mustang, "Moonbeam McSwine". Thank you to all the warbirds for their great addition to a fantastic outing. We look forward to seeing them again.

### **Squadron 4 Centerfold**

A special section devoted to the officers, members and some of the great aircraft seen and heard at recent meetings of Squadron 4 is being provided in this newsletter. (as seen on the home page) Our thanks go to Squadron 4 member Ted Koston for providing this layout. Ted was also instrumental in helping us acquire Lt. Col. Fred Olivi as our guest speaker for January dinner. His skill as a professional photographer, his knowledge of aviation, and his circle of friends and acquaintances in the aviation community is nothing short of amazing. If you want to know anything about the people and planes that made aviation history, talk to Ted. He probably piloted or flew in and photographed every conceivable type of aircraft known to man and has quite a collection of photos to prove it. Thanks again Ted for the excellent memento.

## **Oshkosh "AirVenture 2000"**

Just a short reminder that our E.A.A AirVenture chairman Jim Delany will be one again seeking volunteers to help with the setup and manning of the Warbirds recruiting tent during the annual Oshkosh event. Jim says that the time prior to and during the convention is filled with many exciting Warbird activities. There are a number of special events and free outings available to Warbird volunteers to make the time spent very worthwhile. Check with Jim at our next meeting and he can fill you in on the details.

## **Squadron 4 Y2K (Year 2000)**

### **Calendar of Events**

Friday Jan. 28, 2000: Annual Dinner & Squadron Awards

William Tell Inn - Countryside, ILL.

Guest Speaker - Lt. Col. (Ret.) Fred Olivi

Co-pilot of the B-29 "Bockcar" that completed the atomic bombing mission on Nagasaki, Japan.

The following dates and events are tentative and subject to change.

Saturday Mar. 25, 2000: Quarterly Meeting Aurora Airport - TBM Avenger Profile

Saturday June 24, 2000: Rantoul Airfield Flu-In & Drive-In

Saturday Sept. 23, 2000: Quarterly Meeting Aurora Airport - Primary and advanced trainers and Liaison aircraft profiles

Saturday Nov. 25, 2000: 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Military Aviation Veterans Forum

## Warbird Squadron 4 Photo Album

Photos taken by John & Diane Churchill

