

# LIBERTY AVIATION MUSEUM



Norman L. Paeth Sr. Collection

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## **Introduction**

This collection of papers was given to the Liberty Aviation Museum by Mr. Norman Paeth Jr. via Mrs. Genevieve Paeth, ca. 2013-2014. This collection of papers is a small collection of personal and military papers that were the property of Norman Lee Paeth. Permission to use this collection for research purposes was granted by the donor.

## **Biographical Sketch**

This collection features archives of papers from Norman L Paeth. Mr. Paeth served in the United States Army Air Forces as a fighter pilot during World War II. Norman L. Paeth was born in Fremont, Ohio on 20 May 1923 to Carl and Jennie Paeth. He attended the Fremont City Schools and graduated from Ross High School in 1941. After graduation, he went to work at the Henkle-Claus Co. in Fremont, Ohio as an Electroplater from June 1941 to May 1942. From May 1942 to December 1942, he worked at the Erie Proving Grounds in Lacarne, Ohio as a Civilian Gunner. He fired artillery pieces to test armor plating and bullets, sealed gas tanks, fired cleaned and repaired 30 cal. rifles, machine guns and cannon. At some time before or during the war years, he married Genevieve Widman of Fremont, Ohio.

He enlisted in the United States Army on 12 January 1943. He entered the Army Air Corps as an aviation cadet and completed his training and graduated as a fighter pilot. He completed much of his training in the Western United States. He went on active duty on 12 March 1944 and was sent to England to enter wartime service.

He was assigned to the 367<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron, 358<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group of the USAAF 9<sup>th</sup> Air Force. At the time of his assignment, he had been promoted to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant and was based out of RAF High Halden. As a fighter pilot, he flew mainly in the Republic P-47 Thunderbolt. The main objectives of his fighter squadron were to dive bomb marshalling yards, attack enemy communications and fly escort, interdiction, and close air support missions during the Allied drive through France and into Germany. In early 1945, he was promoted to 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant. He fought in air battles and air campaigns in Southern France, Northern France, the Ardennes, the Rhineland, and Central Europe. During the war, he had flown a combined total of 114 missions. Lt. Paeth returned home to his family on 3 June 1945. For his faithful and meritorious service, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal w/ 16 Oak Leaf clusters, the European-African-Middle Eastern Service Medal, and the Victory World War II medal.

During his post-World War II years, he went to work for architect, C.H. Shively of Fremont, Ohio and eventually into business with Bob Henkle, forming Henkle & Paeth Architects of Fremont, Ohio. Mr. Paeth never attended college for his architectural career, he studied Bob Henkle's architectural textbooks, took a certification test and passed, thus allowing him to become a licensed architect. He served in the US Air Force Reserves throughout the 1950s and 1960s and eventually retired with the rank of Major. Mr. Norman L. Paeth, after eating dinner at the 818 Club in Fremont, died of a sudden heart-attack on the evening of 29 February 1976 at the age of 52. He was buried in the Oakwood Cemetery in Fremont, Ohio.

### **Scope and Content**

This collection consists of documentation and operations records relating to Norman L. Paeth's time of military service in the United States and Western Europe while serving in the US Army Air Forces during World War II. The majority of the records relate to his pilot training time in the Western United States concerning certificates of proficiency, physical examination, crew assignment, tests and examinations, acknowledgement of regulations handbooks, individual qualifications, i.e. pilot instrumentation, altitude training, blindfold cockpit checks, transition flying certificates for diverse types of aircraft, dinghy drill training, close and tactical formations, navigation, acrobatics, camera gunnery, interception and attack time (w/ camera), air combat (with and w/out camera), low altitude, simulated dive bombing and strafing, gunnery and night flying training. There are also documentation concerning flight planning, meteorology, air traffic regulations, radio phraseology, weight and balance, link trainer and several other types of

training. Another significant section of documents are his actual flight time records in diverse types of basic and advanced types of training and combat aircraft. Other documentation includes shipping certificates and receipt of personal flight gear, uniforms, equipment, supplies etc. There are also documents such as diplomas for training, discharge & report of separation documents (DD-214's), award certificates, a presidential recognition certificate signed by President Gerald Ford, photographs, P-47 reunion newsletter and magazine clippings.

Many of these documents demonstrate the thorough training that US military pilots received and the depth of how well supplied US military personnel were during World War II. They also show the dedication and aptitude of one pilot who excelled and assisted his country in winning the war over tyranny in Europe during World War II. These items were categorized and organized by theme, and then chronologically, into five (5) folders and stored in one archival box.

## **Inventory**

### **Box 1**

#### **Folder 1**

Certificate of Proficiency of ground school subjects at Luke Field, Phoenix, Arizona, dated 12 March 1944

POR Qualification Card, dated 28 June 1944

Pilot Instrument Certificate Application and Flight Check Form

Graduation list of pilots who completed advanced SE training and P-40 transition training

Personnel orders and promotion of rank to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant lists

6<sup>th</sup> Altitude Training Unit, altitude indoctrination report on 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Norman L. Paeth

Physical examination report on 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Norman Paeth, dated 19 April 1944

Acknowledgement certificate of regulations, signed Lt. Paeth, dated 26 April 1944

Authentication form of completion of a blindfold cockpit check at Galveston AAB, dated 26 April 1944

Transition Flying Certificate, dated 4 April 1944

Transition Training Record and Test/Examination of 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Norman L. Paeth, dated 27 July 1944

Certificate of Dinghy Drill for 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Paeth, dated 2 August 1944

Replacement Pilot Training Record w/ thumbnail photo of 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Paeth, dated 19 August 1944

Acknowledgement certificate of receipt of Handbook of Instructions and is aware of operating knowledge of all military aircraft systems, dated 18 January 1945

Pilot's Individual Combat Record of 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Norman L. Paeth

Ground Training Certificate for Air Transport Pilot certification, dated September 1945

Temporary Record of Compliance Certificate, dated 21 July 1945

AAF Regulation Examination, Napier Field, Dothan, Alabama, dated 21 July 1945

Classification of Pilots memo, Municipal Airport, Memphis, Tennessee, dated 4 September 1945

Pre-Flight Training Certificate, Municipal Airport, Memphis, Tennessee, dated 21 September 1945

Twenty-Four (24) "Flight Time Record" training and certification forms, dating from July 1943 to October 1945

## **Folder 2**

Thirteen "Shipping Tickets" of personal gear, uniforms, supplies and equipment

Six (6) "Individual Gear Records"

Four (4) personal gear "tally" forms

One (1) personal gear inspection list form

(all forms dating from 9 March 1944 to 5 May 1945)

## **Folder 3**

Photocopy of Aviation Cadet Honorable Discharge and Enlisted Record certificate, Form No. 55, dated 11 March 1944

USAAF Advanced Single Engine Pilot School Diploma, Norman L. Paeth, dated 12 March 1944 and issued at Luke Field, Phoenix, Arizona

USAAF Combat Flight Training Diploma, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Norman L. Paeth, completed and issued at 269<sup>th</sup> AAF Base Unit, Strother Army Air Field, Winfield, Kansas

Honorable Discharge and Military Record & Report of Separation certificate, Form No. 53-98, dated 12 November 1945 and issued at Provisional Separation Base. Patterson Field, Ohio (Dayton, Ohio)

US Army Separation Qualification Record certificate, dated 1945

Award certificate for The Distinguished Flying Cross for involvement in aerial operations, European Theater of Operations, 25 February 1945, issued 27 January 1950

Award certificate for The Air Medal w/ Sixteen (16) Oak Leaf Clusters for involvement in aerial operations, European Theater of Operations, WWII, issued 27 January 1950

Presidential Recognition Certificate for Norman L. Paeth, issued and signed by President Gerald R. Ford, ca. 1976

#### **Folder 4**

“AFA” Air Force Association decal, 3.5”x3.5”

Seven (7) photographs of Norman L. Paeth while overseas in Europe during WW II

“20<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary of the P-47 Thunderbolt, 1941-1961” newsletter from Republic Aviation News, dated 19 May 1961

Thirty-One (31) magazine clippings of various types of, WWII era, military aircraft, pilot, and air tower.

One (1) #10 business envelope of Hinkle & Paeth, Architects firm with printed name and address

#### **Folder 5**

Various printed documents found online concerning Norman L. Paeth’s background from newspapers.com, fold3.com, findagrave.com, rbhayes.org, photocopies of training records, declassified missing air crew reports of Lt. Paeth (fold3.com) etc.

These documents were from research performed by of the Liberty Aviation Museum and were included in this collection for reference purposes only to give a more expanded story of Norman L. Paeth’s military background and personal life.

\* Objects in relation to the Norman L. Paeth Sr. papers of the Paeth Collection, Accession 2016.60, can be viewed upon request, on site, at the **Liberty Aviation Museum** in Port Clinton, Ohio. \*