



Award winners (from left) Dr. Fleming Fuller, Dr. John W. Chandler, Egbert L. Davis Jr., Ben C. Fisher and James W. Mason. Victor G. Sorrell and Lt. Gen. Frank A. Armstrong were not present when pictures were taken.



Dr. C. S. Black (left) and Dr. A. C. Reid

WF Alumni Hear General

Alaska Called Indefensible

By Joe Goodman
Staff Reporter

In a 3½-hour session last night Wake Forest College alumni jammed into the school cafeteria to praise one another, hand out awards and listen to a retired Air Force general explain the military shortcomings and strengths of Alaska.

Lt. Gen. Frank A. Armstrong, a Wake Forest alumnus and native of Hamilton, said that Alaska is a position for offense, not defense. In fact, he added, the territory can't be defended.

He speculated that if the Russians should airdrop troops into the area and overcome the two reinforced battle groups there, the United States might be

forced to make the decision whether or not to use a nuclear weapon on Alaska, thereby destroying part of the American civilian populace there.

Armstrong also said that if a single railroad bridge and a single highway bridge were bombed on the Alcan Highway between Alaska and the rest of the United States, Alaska couldn't be evacuated.

He pointed out that the nearness of Alaska to the rest of the nation was a cause of grave concern during World War II.

"They put some Japs on the Aleutian Islands and the West Coast went absolutely ape," he said.

Yet he called Alaska the most valuable piece of real estate

owned by the United States.

One of the main announcements at last night's banquet reunion, was that the A. C. Reid Philosophy and Endowment Fund has reached \$98,000.

The fund, named in honor of the college's philosophy department head who retires this year, will be used to establish an A. C. Reid chair of philosophy.

Reid was honored last night along with C. S. Black, retiring chemistry department head. Black was presented a letter and plaque of appreciation. And Reid was presented a plaque and a bound volume of essays by his colleagues, all former students of his.

Seven alumni were also honored for distinguished service in their particular fields. They were Armstrong, for his military service; Egbert L. Davis Jr. of Winston-Salem, business; John W. Chandler, acting provost of Williams College, education; Ben C. Fisher, director of the division of Christian Education of the Baptist State Convention, education; Dr. Fleming Fuller of Winston, medicine; James W. Mason of Laurinburg, law; and Victor G. Sorrell, baseball coach of North Carolina State University.

Rev. Carl To Preach WF Serm

The Rev. Warren T. Church, pastor of Wake Forest Church, will deliver the calaureate sermon at Forest College at 11 a.m. in Walt Chapel.

Other commencement today include:

3 p.m. — senior oration the presentation of award medals in DeTamble Alumni of the Humanities Building.

4:30 - 6 p.m. — Pro and Mrs. Tribble's reception graduates and their visit the main lounge of Re Hall.

7:30 p.m. — a commencement recital by students in Chapel.

Senior orations, in conjunction for the A. D. Wartor's Medal, will be given by Jerry B. Attkisson of K "Reflections of a Senior"; the Jane Swain of Fayette "Toward the Prize of the Calling"; Chester Neal T Gastonia, "Democracy in Action"; and Donia Mann Wil of Bethesda, Md., "Life and the Practical Man".

The program for the commencement recital will

"Chorale in A Minor, A by Franck, Ronald Sch of Washington, D. C.,

"Duet: La ci darem la r from "Don Giovanni" by zart, Jeanette Stone of Rovers, Richard Brantley Nashville, Tenn., baritone K. W. Lacy of Ahsokie, T

"Ten Bagatelles, Op. 57 by erepina, Judith Lea of L ton, piano; and "Rastlose L by Schubert, "Verborgenen and "Gesand Welya's" by

and "Cacille" by Strauss, nette Stone, soprano, and Lucille Harris, instructo Wake Forest, piano.

10 Per Cent More WF Alumni Contribute Funds

A 10 per cent increase in giving among Wake Forest College alumni was reported yesterday. James B. Turner Jr. of Raleigh, new president of the college's alumni association, said alumni giving for the current fiscal year will total more than \$220,000 and that the percentage of giving has increased from 9 to 19 per cent over the previous fiscal year.

Pointing out that the national average for giving among college alumni is 30 per cent, Turner noted that 38 per cent of those Wake Forest alumni who actually graduated are now participating in the annual giving program.

He gave major credit for the increase to M. Henry Garrity who became director of development and alumni affairs about a year ago.

Turner was elected president of the alumni at the luncheon meeting where he made his report. The new first vice president is J. Smith Young of Lexington. The second vice president is Mrs. Thomas B. Van Poole Jr. of Arlington, Va., C. C. Hope Jr., Charlotte banker, is the retiring president.

Elected new members of the alumni council were George W. Hamrick, Shelby; W. Reid Station, Winston-Salem; Dr. J. Sam Holbrook, Statesville; Addison Hewlett Jr., Wilmington; Mrs. Clifton G. Parker Jr., Woodland; Dr. Thomas H. Feltzer, Raleigh; Dr. O. Woodrow Pittman, Ahsokie; James F. Justice and Dr. Reid Gaskins, both of Charlotte; Bert L. Shore of Brimingham, Ala.; Edmund P. Hovey, Elliott

lingsworth told the luncheon group of more than 200 that the "ultimate image of Wake Forest College is spelled out in the lives of its alumni . . . The college recognizes that there is something unique in every personality and tries to develop it. In turn, the college depends on every alumnus to prove the validity of what it seeks to do."

A gavel made of wood from the Alumni Building on the old campus was presented to Hope by Mrs. Everett C. Snyder of Wake Forest in memory of her husband who managed the college book store a number of years.

Earlier yesterday the college's board of trustees held a routine meeting.



Wake Forest Photograph Index

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TOTALS:

Printed 11 of the 31,564 records.

PRIMARY SORT FIELD: NAME

SELECTION CRITERIA:

(NAME="Armstrong, Frank")

Check BIOGRAPHY FILE folder first.!!! JRW

OFF BEAT

Old War Horse Remembers Those Days Over Germany

By ED CAMPBELL

Staff Reporter

LT. GEN. FRANK A. ARMSTRONG, whose exploits in flak-black air over Germany in 1943 formed the basis for the book, movie and TV series "12 O'Clock High," came to Winston-Salem last week to address fellow alumni of Wake Forest College.

We phoned him at his motel room soon after his arrival by car from his home in Tampa, Fla., where he lives in retirement. We told him we'd like an interview.

"What do you want to talk about?" he said.

"Oh, we can talk about World War II and Viet Nam and '12 O'Clock High' . . ."

"How about six o'clock high?"



CAMPBELL

THE OLD WAR HORSE with the strong face and the grey going white sat on the edge of his bed and fixed his eyes on his guests. The eyes were blue-grey, the color the sky over Germany might have been in 1943 had it not been for the time and the events. He was in a shortsleeved shirt and seersucker trousers. Mothballed back home were the uniform and the Distinguished Flying Cross, Service Cross, Silver Star, Service Medal, Air Medal, British Distinguished Flying Cross, Belgian Croix de Guerre and the rest . . .

"Scared on a raid? On all of them," he said.

"I nearly got shot down over Antwerp. My navigator got his legs shot off. My copilot got hit. Killed. They hit us pretty bad that day.

"I stayed scared. Anyone who tells you he isn't afraid, I don't think he has a good mind. If you're not scared when they're shooting at you, your mind's way off somewhere, I'll tell you that.

"You've got a lot of company if you're afraid."

MORE BULLETS, bombs, blood and 22 years later, Armstrong is a civilian who likes to ease his cabin cruiser off the Florida coast and run for the big water, where it's deep and quiet and where the only

bombs he drops are baits for king mackerel and . . .

Yeah, I miss it, he said. Not the bombs and certainly not the smell and feel and sight and sound of death, but the military service.

"It takes you a long time, really, to get back into civilian life. After I got out, I used to go down to the commissary, something I never did before. I'd get one of those carts, you know, and push it around the place and those women would bump me and I couldn't find anything on the shelves . . ."

He broke it off.

"How about letting me have one of those," he said.

He took up the tossed cigarette and tore a red-head from the matchbook and struck it and lit up and drew heavily.

"One before my wife gets back."

World War II Hero Was Wake Alumnus

Lt. Gen. Frank A. Armstrong, hero of the famed first daylight raid on Nazi-occupied territory in France in 1942, will be buried with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Va., at 3 p.m. Monday.

Armstrong died Wednesday in Tampa, Fla.

The 67-year-old retired Air Force officer, a native of Hamilton, inspired the book, movie and television series "12 O'clock High" with his 1942 raid.

He was an alumnus of Wake Forest College, where he had an outstanding athletic career. In the spring of 1962 he was awarded a Distinguished Alumnus Award during a Wake Forest alumni reunion.

He was an uncle of I. T. (Tim) Valentine Jr., a Nashville lawyer and N. C. State Democratic chairman from 1966-68.

Armstrong spent his early life at Hobgood, in Halifax County. He graduated from Hobgood High School and attended Guilford College for two years.

In 1920 he entered Wake Forest, where he received an LL. B. degree in 1923 and a B. S. degree in 1925. He was first baseman on the Wake Forest baseball team for each of his four undergraduate years and captain of the team in his senior year. At the same time, he was hailed as "the best

blocking back" ever to play on a Wake Forest football team. Armstrong also managed the law school's basketball team.

During a 1942 chapel speech to Wake Forest students, Armstrong said he drew his war tactics from his football days at the school.

Armstrong taught school and coached at Selma until he entered Air Force flight school in 1927. In 1928 he graduated with honors and was commissioned a first lieutenant.

During his early years in the Air Force, Armstrong served as pilot for various dignitaries, as a flight instructor and as a mail pilot in 1934, when the Air Force took over air mail service.

Armstrong received the Distinguished Flying Cross in 1935 when he brought a twin-engine amphibian plane and all its passengers to safety after one of the plane's engines exploded over Panama.

He was an aerial warfare observer in England in 1940, acting in secrecy because the U.S. had not yet entered World War II. After the U.S. entered the war, Armstrong was sent back to England.

In 1943 he led the 99th and 305th bomber groups in B-17 raids over Germany. He was promoted to major general that year.

When he retired in 1961, Arm-



F. A. ARMSTRONG

strong was unified commander of all armed forces in Alaska. He campaigned to have intermediate range missile sites built in Alaska.

Armstrong's daring won him numerous decorations and honors, including the Distinguished Service Cross, the Distinguished Service Medal with an oak leaf cluster, the Silver Star Medal, the Air Medal with an oak leaf cluster, the Belgian Croix de Guerre with palm, and the Gold Medal of the Aero Club of Norway. He was the first American to receive the British Distinguished Flying Cross. Four oak leaf clusters were added to his Distinguished Flying Cross.



HISTORIC GARMENT—The uniform that Maj. Gen. Frank A. Armstrong Jr., native of Hobgood, wore on the historic bombing raids over "Festung Europa" in World War II will be placed in the Air Museum at Riverside Inn, Calif. Mrs. I. T. Valentine of Nashville is a sister of the general.

Halifax Native:

Uniform Museum Piece Now

BARKSDALE AIR FORCE BASE, Ala., Dec. 9—A well-travelled uniform is about to make its last trip.

At the request of the director of the Air Museum, Riverside Inn, Calif., Maj. Gen. Frank A. Armstrong Jr., is donating for permanent display the Air Corps uniform he wore on historic daylight bombing raids over "Festung Europa." Gen. Armstrong is now commander of Second Air Force, SAC, with headquarters at Barksdale AFB, La.

The 12-year-old uniform was brought out of the General's wardrobe this week. He recalled that he ordered it upon his arrival in England early in 1942, and that he wore it during his tour of duty under Gen. Ira Eaker, whom he served as operations officer.

Eighth Air Force headquarters at that time was located in a vacated school for girls at High Wickam, but the famous shoulder patch of the Eighth had not been designed when this uniform was tailored. It bears the simple winged-star device of the old U. S. Army Air Corps—the one they wrote the song about.

Gen. Armstrong, then a colonel, wore this uniform on two of the most famous raids of World War II.

One was the first daylight bombing raid over Axis-held Europe. In August 1942, Gen. Armstrong led a flight of B-17 bombers in an attack on the railroad marshalling yards at Rouen-Cottesville, France, plastering the target with 36,900 pounds of bombs from an altitude of 23,000 feet, and returning to British bases without the loss of a single life or airplane. Prior to this time the RAF had carried the brunt of the counter-attack against Axis targets, using area-bombing tactics on night missions only.

Gen. Armstrong's daylight achievements on this raid brought him the first British Distinguished Flying Cross ever awarded to an

American flier. The United States Army Air Corps recognized his accomplishments with a Silver Star medal and an Oak Leaf Cluster to his Distinguished Flying Cross, which he originally received at Barksdale in 1936.

Col. Paul Tibbets, who later made history himself by delivering the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima, was Gen. Armstrong's co-pilot on the Rouen raid.

The uniform also went along on the first heavy-bomber raid over Germany in January, 1943, when Gen. Armstrong led the famous attack on Wilhelmshaven. Here the targets were the submarine pens, where the Nazi undersea raiders were serviced for their wolf-pack attacks on Allied convoys in the North Atlantic. His co-pilot on the flight was Col. Claude Putnam, who is now Deputy Director of Plans, at Headquarters Strategic Air Command.

Gen. Armstrong still fits the uniform, to the envy and despair of many former and some present Air Force officers. After all, in 12 years a fellow is apt to gain a bit of weight.

Convinced that the old OD will never replace the Air Force blue uniform, Gen. Armstrong is willing for this one to become a museum piece.

HERE FROM BRITAIN ON THE YANKEE CLIPPER

The News and Observer
JULY 12, 1944.

When U. S. B-29's rained explosives on Japan's steel works, there was a story behind the scenes regarding the officer who trained those expert pilots.

That officer is Brig. Gen. Frank A. Armstrong, one of the most daring and best-loved officers ever to fly a plane over Germany. For months, Armstrong, based in England, was in command of raid after raid over enemy territory—and led them himself. At that time, he held the rank of colonel. Several times, planes were almost shot out from under him, but he kept on flying.

Coupled with his daring, "Old Army," as they call Armstrong, had an unusual knack of getting close to his men. They worshipped him.

So General "Hap" Arnold wisely decided to capitalize on this by bringing Armstrong back to the U.S.A. to train the crews which were to undertake the most difficult bombing missions of the war—over industrial Japan.

Knowing that Armstrong might be shot down sooner or later if he insisted on flying with his men over Germany, Arnold ordered "Old Army" home and out to Grand Island, Nebraska. There, above the prairies of Kansas and Nebraska, he has been training the men who raided Japan and who will make many more such raids before the war is over.



Frank A. Armstrong, United States Army, who served in London as an observer.

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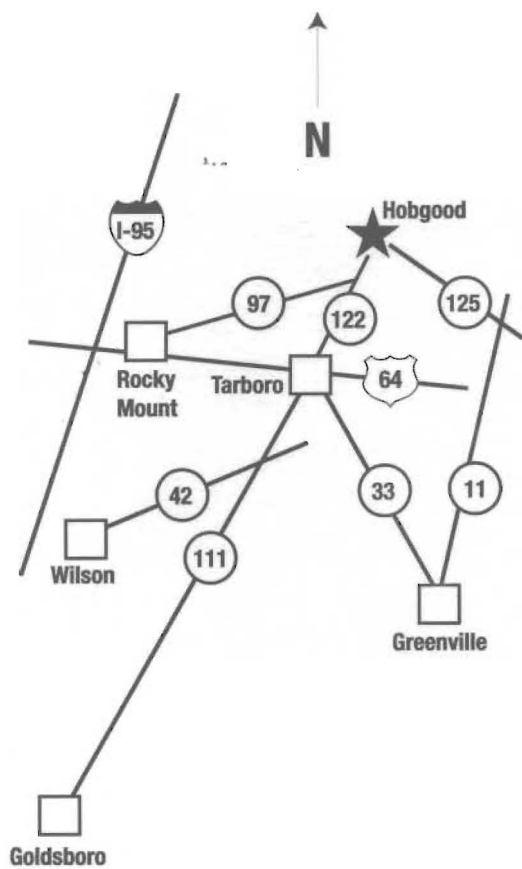
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A.B. 1925
B.S. 1925

The North Carolina Division
of Archives and History
The Town of Hobgood
Former Congressman Tim Valentine and
James Valentine
cordially invite you to
the unveiling of the Highway Historical Marker
in honour of
Lieutenant General Frank Armstrong
Friday, the twentieth of April
Two-thousand and one
at eleven o'clock in the morning
on NC Highway 125 across from the Town Hall
Hobgood, North Carolina
Lunch will be available at a modest price
near the site of the ceremony
at 12:00 noon

See map on reverse side





Lieutenant General Frank Armstrong
1898 - 1969



Highway Historical Marker
Dedication Ceremony

~ Program ~

Lieutenant General Frank Armstrong

Highway Historical Marker Dedication

April 20, 2001 at 11:00 a.m.

Host Tim Valentine

Presentation of Colors U.S. Air Force Color Guard
Seymour Johnson AFB, Goldsboro, NC

Invocation Reverend Glascoe Mercer

Pledge of Allegiance Dan Vaughan

Welcome Tim Purvis, Mayor of Hobgood

Recognition of Special Guests Tim Valentine

Remarks Michael Hill
Division of Archives and History

Remarks Major General James Hildreth, USAF-Retired

Remarks Colonel George Dalferes, USAF-Retired

Remarks Lieutenant Colonel Rett Newton, USAF

Unveiling of Marker Frank Armstrong IV, Grandson
Ryan Armstrong, Great-grandson

The National Anthem

While today's ceremony honours the memory of
Lieutenant General Frank Armstrong, it is dedicated to Major Frank
Armstrong III and all other men and women who gave
their lives in the service of the United States of America.

A Brief History

Frank A. Armstrong, Jr. was born in Hamilton, North Carolina on May 24, 1898 to Annie Hobbs Armstrong and Frank A. Armstrong, Sr. From infancy to his late teens he lived in Hobgood, North Carolina. He graduated from Wake Forest College (now Wake Forest University) in 1923.

In 1928, Frank joined the Army Air Corps and received his wings and commission in 1929. On March 6, 1929, he married Vernelle Hudson of Richmond, Virginia. They had one child, Frank A. Armstrong III, who followed his father into the Air Force. Major Frank Armstrong III, always "Fuzz" to his father, was killed in action in VietNam in 1967.

Armstrong retired in 1961 with the rank of Lieutenant General. His wife Vernelle, whom he called "Fluffy", died a few months after his retirement.

During World War II, then Colonel Armstrong led the first daylight raid by the U.S. over Axis territory. For this successful mission, he was awarded the Silver Star and an Oak Leaf Cluster to his Distinguished Flying Cross (he received his first DFC in 1936 in Panama). For this achievement, he became the first American officer to be awarded the British Distinguished Flying Cross.

Early in 1943, Brigadier General Armstrong led the first heavy bomber raid over Germany proper. His experiences during this period became the inspiration for the novel Twelve O'Clock High by Bieme Lay and Cy Bartlett. The book was made into a film starring Gregory Peck and later became a television series.

Later in the war, General Armstrong became Commander of the 315th Bomb Wing and took this unit into combat in the Pacific in May of 1945. He led numerous missions over targets in Japan and, in August of 1945, flew from Guam to Honshu, the longest and last very heavy bombing raid of the war.

(continued on back cover)

In November of 1945, Armstrong led the first non-stop flight from Hokkaido, Japan to Washington, D.C. in a Boeing B-29 Bomber.

In June of 1948, he headed the Alaskan Air Command and pioneered a non-stop air route from Alaska to Norway and from Norway to New York.

His last active duty post was as Commander of all American Forces in Alaska with rank of Lieutenant General.

He retired in 1961 and passed away in 1969. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

~ Decorations and medals ~

Silver Star

British Distinguished Flying Cross

Distinguished Service Cross

Air Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster

Distinguished Flying Cross with four Oak Leaf Clusters

Distinguished Service Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster

Belgian Croix de Guerre

The Gold Medal of the Aero Club

(Norway's highest civilian award)

General Armstrong's papers are in the

Special Collections Department

Joyner Library

East Carolina University

Greenville, North Carolina 27858

Francis Armstrong

