

BIOGRAPHY OF STEPHEN CROWE

BY CHUCK COLWELL (2002)





For some of us, the door of opportunity opens and we are not quite aware of it until later on in our lives. Sometimes due to circumstances beyond our control, we miss that opportunity.

This story is about a young man flying light planes in the San Fernando Valley just out of his teens and having pretty much the time of his life. There is a war going on over in Europe and there comes an opportunity for Stephen Crowe to meet a man at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel who flew in World War I in the Lafayette Escadrille. He would arrange for Stephen to leave the country and join the RAF Eagle Squadron 133.

Stephen was only 21 years old when he arrived in England. He was shown the operations manuals on the Spitfire, he was taken aloft for gunnery practice and then he moved into his business office, the cockpit of a Spitfire in combat.

While flying a Lysander and dropping spies behind enemy lines, Stephen's squadron went on a mission to Brest, France. They encountered severe weather, heavy flack, ran low on fuel and almost all of the squadron was lost. Most of us could not even imagine volunteering for this type of serve. However, we are very lucky that heroes like Stephen Crowe stepped up to the opportunity of the moment. We

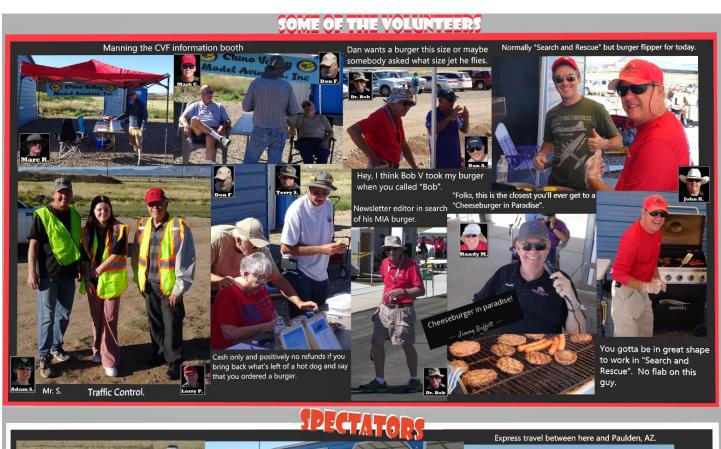
know it changed his life. All the people in England and America owe their freedom to young men like Stephen.

There is no way anyone could adequately give all the details of Stephen's long aviation career in one small article. Here's a thumbnail synopsis: 1) He shot down four enemy aircraft; 2)He met the King and Queen of England; 3) He came back to the US as a flight training instructor for our pilots; 4) After the war, he became a bush pilot in Alaska for about 8 years; 5) He has been a modeler all of his life; 6) and most important, he was inducted in the Aviation Hall of Fame in 2002.

As time goes by, we lose some of

our history and our heroes, sometimes not even knowing who they were or how they impacted our lives. Our Stephen Crowe has passed on to the ages but not to our memories. We owe him a big "Thank You", because his partly responsible for the lives we now lead and our freedoms.

On a personal note, I believe some people are momentarily thrust into positions and circumstances. They become heroes. I do not intend to denigrate them, however to me, someone who has a choice and then lays it on the line to either shoot someone down, or be shot down on every mission is truly my hero.









Cost a little over 10,000.00







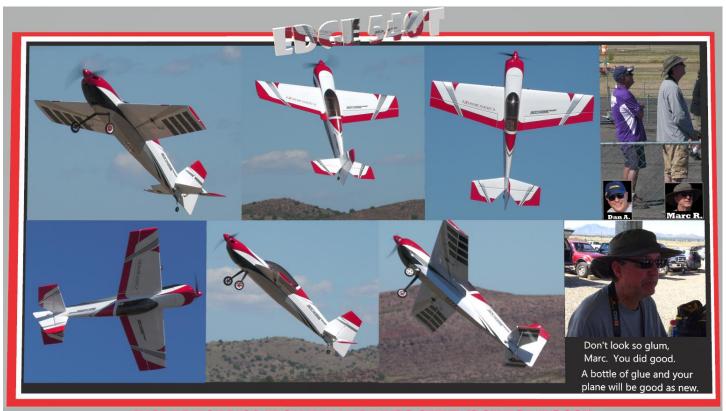












SHORT PILOT BIOS FROM THE MARK LIPP STEVE CROWE PLAYBOOK

