

May 21 Meeting Report

Welcome to the 21st Century

By Stephen Patrick & Bob Ridgway

The first ZOOM meeting of the CFSC drew 32 attendees on May 21, 2020. Jim Cooney and Steve Patrick were the hosts. Technology was not 100%, but most got to speak and hear each other. The theme of the evening was WW II since we are in the 75th anniversary of the war's end. **Bill Goglas** checked in from Philadelphia where he has been working in his cement business. He has made a contact with the company that repairs military monuments and has offered free cement where needed for repairs such as Arlington Cemetery headstones.

Gary Byrd collects the year 1945 and noted that the most expensive stamps that year were an overprinted set produced by Greenland in commemoration of the end of Nazi reign in Denmark. **Bob Sazama**'s father was on the *USS Guadalcanal* off the coast of Africa chasing Nazi submarines. He showed a souvenir piece of metal from a sunken U-boat. His ship also captured the U-505 that is now in the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry.



Bill Johnston shared the official telegram from the Naval Department about his father being injured from a kamikaze attack at the Battle of Okinawa. **Steve Patrick** wore his father's "tin pot" helmet and read his May 8, 1945, letter home about listening to Churchill's V-E day speech on the radio while in Salzburg, Austria. Josh Furman shared that some New Caledonia stamps sent from the war area sparked his interest in stamp collecting.

Francis Ferguson showed a prize 30 cent Transport cover, special because it was sent as prisoner of war mail. **Forrest Smith** shared a family letter describing the horrors of a regular soldier seeing a Nazi death camp for the first time. **Steve Strobel** shared a real photo postcard of the *USS Greely*, the Coast Guard ship his father served on in WW II. Others sharing father's war stories included **Carlos Guffain**, and **Robert Fisher**.

In other news, we will have another ZOOM meeting on June 4 with **Jim Cooney** hosting. **Mel Borofsky** is safe home from the hospital, but he discovered his computer has crashed losing his address book and other club records, so don't look for a new bourse for a while. We will wait-and-see until we have another person to person meeting again at the Marks Center. Your board will meet on how to address that issue. One sign is that the Orange County Library will accept in person visits starting June 5. "See you" at the next meeting.

[Pictures provided courtesy of Bob Ridgway.]

What is Your Dentist Doing in His Spare Time?

by Phil Fettig

Dentists are probably no different than other people in different occupations. Many go home after a hard day and go about normal family duties and try to relax. Some are driven in other directions.

In the 1920s, Dr. Lytle Adams was a Dentist by trade and an inventor by ambition. He developed a method of mail pick up by using a plane to fly low and snag a bag of mail set on a line hanging between 2 poles. **Figure F1** is a cover cancelled on the date of pick-up from Youngstown, Ohio. Further tests of this system were made for years although it never really became a common practice. The concept, however, is still used for many tasks today.



Figure F1



Figure F2

Not all of Dr. Adam's ideas worked. One he will always be remembered for is using bats as a weapon during World War II. Like many Americans he was angry at Japan after the Pearl Harbor attack. He remembered a trip to Carlsbad Caverns in New Mexico and seeing millions of bats leaving the caves. His idea was to attach a tiny timed incendiary bomb to the bats and release them near Japanese cities. The bats would land in or on the buildings and would explode and start fires. Dr. Adams and the U.S. Government actually worked on this plan, but it was a futile effort. **Figure F2** shows the potential "weapon".