

Lou Ives Personal History

Lou was born on the *Ives* of March 1928. He grew up, attended grammar and high school in Alhambra, California, and matriculated at Southern Cal at age 16.

He joined the Navy V-5 Program in June 1945 as Apprentice Seaman, fleeted up to Aviation Cadet in June 1946, Aviation Midshipman in December 1946, got his wings as Aviation Midshipman, USN, in June 1948. In December 1948, during a tour in Hawaii with VA-213 flying TBM torpedo bombers, he received his commission as Ensign, USN.

During a tour with VA-134 flying F4U Corsairs, Harry Truman and Omar Bradley conspired to give him \$300 and kick him out in December 1949. Their timing was bad - the Korean Fracas started in June 1950. Recalled from flying F6Fs in the Reserve, Lou joined VF-781 at San Diego flying F4Us and F9Fs. 1950-1953, he made two tours with the squadron on the USS *Bon Homme Richard* (CV-31) and the USS *Oriskany* (CV-34) with Task Force 77 in Korea.

He flew 129 combat hops over North Korea, mostly deep fighter reconnaissance, flak suppression, and combat air patrol. Shot both ways - up 6, down 2; ditched twice - once in the Sea of Japan and the other in Wonsan Harbor.

Lou left active duty in July 31, 1953, and stayed in the Reserve until 1959, flying F2Hs, F9Fs, and HUPs at Los Alamitos and Oakland. Had 2,000 flight hours, 189 carrier landings, and 5 cargo ship landings (in HUPs).

He was one of the pioneers (1955-1965) in the commercial helicopter industry, flying Bell 47s in Central California doing powerline patrol, fire fighting, construction sling-load, and agriculture. Got another 2,000 flight hours.

That was the fun part.

Lou received his only degree (MBA) from University of Virginia's Darden Graduate Business School in 1967 at age 39 (after six undergraduate schools - with no degree) - 23 years between matriculation and graduation.

Thereafter, followed 30 years mundane work in management and consulting in the Virginia Piedmont area - mostly with small companies. He has phased out this consulting work to put full time on The Brown Shoes History.

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