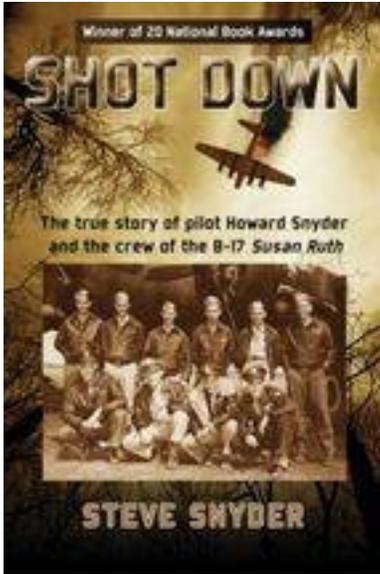


Interview with Steve Snyder, author of Shot Down



What prompted you to write Shot Down?

Growing up I knew the basics of my father's World War II history. However, it wasn't until I retired in 2009 that I had the time to dig deeper into my father's war experiences to learn more. At that time, I had no intention in writing a book. I just wanted to go through and organize all the information my parents had kept from the war years.

Two items were most significant. One was a diary that my father had written while he was missing in action about his plane being shot down which was absolutely riveting. The other item was all the letters my father had written to my mother while he was stationed in England and reading them was fascinating. I became totally fascinated with the story of my father and his crew, and it became my passion.

It wasn't until the end of 2012 that I finally decided to write a book. After all that I had learned during the previous 3 years, I came to the conclusion that the story of my father and his crew was so unique and so compelling that it had to be told and people needed to read about it.



Was there a lot of research behind the information in the book?

Yes, a great deal. I went on a quest to find relatives of my dad's B-17 bomber crew and asked them for any information they had about "their vet". I read book after book about the air war in Europe. I spent countless hours on the internet doing research and downloading declassified military documents. I joined numerous WW II organizations and started attending their reunions where I listened to veterans tell their stories. I even found the German Luftwaffe pilot, Hans Berger, who shot down my father's plane and interviewed him for the book.

From the time I started my research in 2009 to the time the book was published was 4 ½ years. It took me 12 months to actually write the manuscript and another 8 months to publish it. I formed a one-person limited liability company, Sea Breeze Publishing (the street I live on) and contracted with independent professionals for all the necessary services, such as editing, graphic design, interior layout, printing and fulfillment.

However, I'm not sure I would have written the book if it were not for two Belgian gentlemen, Dr. Paul Delahaye and Jacques Lalot who were young boys during World War II. Later in life, they became local historians and interviewed Belgian citizens and members of the Underground; recording their testimony about events that took place. They provided me with a tremendous amount of detailed information that would have been lost forever without their extensive research and documentation. I owe a great debt to these two wonderful men.

How did you come about becoming the President of the 306th Bomb Group Historical Association?

My father was in the 306th Bomb Group while stationed in England during the World War II, and after I retired, I joined the Historical Association. My first reunion was in 2011, and I became a Board Member a couple years later, then Vice President. I just finished a two year term as president, but I am still on the Board of Directors as Immediate Past President. Our mission is to remember the air war over Europe, honor the men who fought it, and educate the public about it; especially younger generations.

Are you working on another book now?

No, however I've started working on a documentary about the story. Hopefully, it will be completed by the end of 2018.

Had you ever written anything before Shot Down?

No. I had no writing background or training at all. However, I always enjoyed writing and seemed to have a knack for it. My career profession was in sales and sales management with the last 36 years being with Vision Service Plan (VSP). Having a career in sales has helped me a great deal in marketing my book.

Are there any other writers in the family?

None

Where is Shot Down available to purchase?

Of course on Amazon and any bookstore or library can order it from wholesale book distributors Baker & Taylor or Ingram. It is also sold in the gift stores of about 20 air and war museums in the U.S. Shot Down is available in both hard and soft cover, in all eBook formats, and as an audio book on Audible, iTunes, etc. The print editions have more than 200 time period photographs of the people who were involved and locations where the events took place. The eBook only has 24.

Do you offer signed copies?

Yes. On my website at <http://SteveSnyderAuthor.com> by scrolling down to the bottom of the home page and clicking on the BUY NOW button.

How can fans reach you?

Either by email at Steve@SteveSnyderAuthor.com or by calling me on my cell phone at 562-355-0461

Do you have a website or blog?

<http://SteveSnyderAuthor.com>

Pets? Hobbies? Children?

We, or I should really say my wife, Glenda has a large parrot, a Macaw named Peso. I enjoy gardening and our main residence in Seal Beach, CA is a virtual botanical garden with about 75 different species of palm trees planted in the ground surrounded by all sorts of tropical plants. At our other home in Sedona, AZ, I have about 30 different species of cacti. We have three grown boys; Doug, Devin, and Clayton and one grandson Ben with another grandson due this December.

You've have several book signings and speaking engagements. Was there a lot of work involved in that?

Yes, very much so. Promoting my book is basically a full-time job. I spend hours every day doing it. I am constantly contacting organizations about making PowerPoint presentations at their events and functions. As far as just signing books without speaking, I really only do that at air shows around the country. With an exception every now and then, I stopped signing books at bookstores and libraries because the turnouts are so low.

Shot Down has also won several National Awards. Did you use any kind of technique or strategy to enter all those contests?

Yes, about 25 since the book was released on August 15, 2014. After receiving awards in the first few contests I entered, I gained confidence and began entering everyone I came across. I figured more is always better. I've been very fortunate.

Is there anything else you'd like to add?

At the end of World War II, there were 16 million veterans and that number has been rapidly diminishing. No other event in history affected more people than World War II. It changed the course of the United States and the world forever. The brave, young men who fought and died for freedom truly are The Greatest Generation, and their sacrifice must never be forgotten. It's our duty to remember.

Steve Snyder graduated from UCLA with a B.A. degree in Economics and has lived in Seal Beach, California since 1972. After 36 years in national sales and sales management, he retired from Vision Service Plan (VSP) in 2009.

Soon after retirement, Steve began his quest to learn about the World War II experiences of his father, pilot Howard Snyder, and his crew of the B-17, Susan Ruth, named after his older sister. It became his passion, and after 4 1/2 years of dedicated research, resulted in his book, SHOT DOWN which has received over 25 national book awards.

One result of his new career as a World War II historian is that he is a member of numerous World War II organizations and Immediate Past President of the 306th Bomb Group Historical Association.

