# VJ Day â€“ 61 Years Later

## Description

***Welcome LGF and MilBlogs readers!**** Feel free to look around the blogâ€¦

One more anniversary passes of the end of WWII.

VJ Day Sailor Kiss

Wouldnâ€™t you know it was a Sailor who made the timeless pose for the celebration of the end of WWII.

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For those of you who have been reading a while, you may have read the stories of my friend who flew gliders way back then. This day, 61 years removed, set history as a man with his youth, his French girlfriend, a small spotter plane, and full of bravado did something, well, shall we say â€œdifferentâ€• (but certainly not out of character for those who venture into the skies in combat aircraftâ€¦)

This past June 6th, I posted some more details Jim Helinger, Sr., passed along to me regrading his duty. By this time, I had also scanned in the few remaining pictures he has of those days gone by. They are in that post.

So, hopefully youâ€™re still scratching your head and wondering what Jim did, and what a French girlfriend has to do with VJ day in 1945.

The story begins here. If you want the details, chase the links to part II and then to the final segment, Part III (link provided for those with little patience, or time today).

I used to wonder about Jimâ€™s claim of this â€œfirst,â€• but have come to see itâ€™s entirely feasible. I found these excellent photos by Christopher Michels (who was a Navy P-3C Naval Flight Officer). One of his sets was of the Eiffel Tower at night.

Eiffel Tower at night

Using your old intel photographer training, you can see from the size of the people under the tower that thereâ€™s plenty of room for an L-5 Stinson Spotter plane to ge through there safely.

L-5 parked

Thanks to LGF for a place to share good news and John of Castle ARRGGHH!! for the trackback and Plankâ€™s Constant for the Open Trackback, < ahref="http://www.conservativecat.com/mt/archives/2005/12/continue_the_co.html">The Conservative Cat for the floating trackback festival, Blue Star Chronicles for the Open Trackback, The Pirates Cove

for the Open Trackback!

If youâ€™ve read this far, hereâ€™s the bonus reading:

Jim spoke of the orphanage he found while driving the countryside, and how he and his squadronmates passed the hat for money to buy some sporting goods. When I got to see his snapshots, most of them were not of combat, but the majority were of the orphanage. American service members have been caring for the displaced and those who lost much for generations.

Jim's Orphanage Picture

Here is a sargent from Jimâ€™s squadron teaching the German war orphans how to play football.

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