

My memories of Stan are of a man who had lived an interesting life but was modest about his achievements; to visit him to research various history group projects was almost therapeutic as I asked if he knew about a certain subject and he would answer in a manner that made it interesting as well as informative. The relaxing afternoons were always helped by the obligatory beer (or 2). I only knew Stan for his last 4 years but I know his memory will last me for a lot longer. The story that sums up Stan to me was when I was researching the brave pilots of WWII who went on to be test pilots at De Havillands who drank in the Crooked Chimney It was a popular venue for the de Havilland pilots from Hatfield during the late 1930s through to the 1960s. (Geoffrey de Havilland junior and John Cunningham met up there after parachuting into fields nearby following baling out from a Moth Mino aircraft which refused to recover from a spinning test!) He told me a story of the test pilots having a merry time in the Crooked Chimney and one pilot accused another of being drunk . The pilots reaction was to get in his Jag (Before drink driving Laws!) drive to De Havillands get in a test jet Fly over the crooked Chimney and do a loop the loop, fly back to base and drive back to the crooked Chimney. He was part of this team and his own wedding at St Johns Lemsford was celebrated by his comrades with another Loop the Loop over St Johns in a viper Jet as he left the church with his new wife Maureen.

Later Stan was part of the team that helped to investigate a series of Comet crashes, eventually attributed to metal fatigue. Stan helped me compile a list of great men (attached the article he helped me write) who served in WWII and went on to be test pilots not from books or the internet but his life. I asked him about John (Cats Eyes) Cunningham round-the-world trip in a Comet in 1955 he told me the places they went and how long it took and various information about the trip. At the end of a fascinating afternoon I remarked that it must have been a great experience for the crew, he answered ' it was' Stan was part of that team that travelled around the world but during our conversation that afternoon had not thought worth mentioning, a great and modest man, who will be missed.