

TBM 960

The Past and The Future of Aviation with the Same Enthusiasm



By Tango Lima

Aviation and history enthusiast who has the uncontrollable urge to be in and around aeroplanes all day.

Earlier this year, a TBM 960 rolled out of the final assembly line with markings that made me bounce with excitement.

The World War II U.S. Army Air Forces insignia was on its tail and, on both sides, under the cockpit windows, it displayed the name of Lieutenant-Colonel Addison E. Baker. Lt-Col Baker was the Commanding Officer of the 93rd Bombardment Group of the 8th Air Force. On August 1, 1943, Lt-Col Baker led his Group in Operation Tidal Wave, to bomb the oil refineries at Ploiesti, in Romania. Flying very low, sometimes only a few meters above the ground, the B-24 Liberator made their approach on target under hellish anti-aircraft fire. Lt-Col Baker's "Hell's Wrench" was hit several times and both wings caught fire. But he decided to stay on course to lead his formation to the target. After his group dropped their bombs, he tried to gain some altitude for his crew to bail out, but "Hell's Wrench" wings were too weakened and the Liberator crashed, killing all 10 men on board. Lieutenant-Colonel Addison Earl Baker, 1907-1943, was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor on March 11, 1944. His remains were only identified in April 2022 and he was finally laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery on September 14, 2022.

Having one of our TBM 960 adorned with his name is, in itself, an immense honor for our company. But what I keep in mind is the passion and enthusiasm I share with my colleagues at Daher, who saw me and my mustache jump with excitement all around the plane and tell the story of Lt-Col Baker to everybody.

A Daher, I can witness first-hand, we talk about the past and the future of aviation with the same enthusiasm and that's one of the reasons I feel at home here.





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