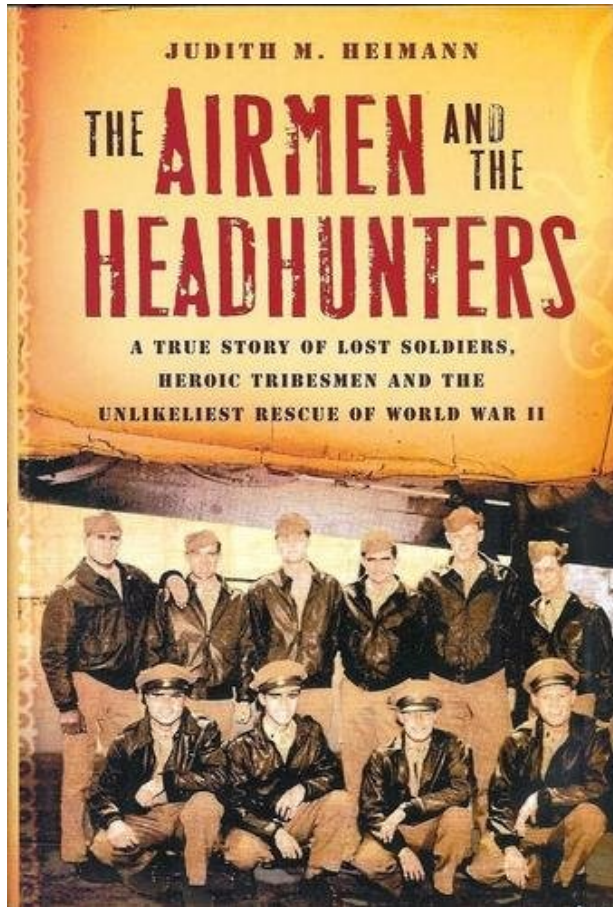


Sole-Surviving Airman, Dan Illerich, will tell his story from Judith Heimann's book *The Airmen and the Headhunters* at Friendswood Public Library

Dan Illerich lives in Friendswood, Texas with his wife Mary. He is the last surviving Airman in The Airmen and the Headhunters story. He provides the only first hand testimony of the American Airmen's experiences with the Dayak tribes in Borneo. Of the ten men in the B-24 bomber crew shot down by the Japanese in November 1944, seven survived the parachute from the plane. Dan tells their story. Corporal Dan Illerich was the crew's radio operator. He was 19 years old when he landed in Borneo. Dan and his fellow airmen lived with the Dayak tribes' people for several months before being rescued by Allied Special Forces. Dan Illerich was the last American airmen to leave Borneo. He stayed for as long as possible to assist the Z-Special forces with radio operations. Dan arrived back in America on 1st September 1945. He left the air force and enlisted in the reserve corps as a radio operative gunner. He attended University of Nevada and gained a BSC in Mechanical Engineering in 1950. He was a 2nd lieutenant in the Senior Reserve Officers Training Corps until 1954 when he transferred to the Californian Air National Guard and became a captain. In 1960 Dan was recalled for active service as an engineering officer in the US air force. He retired as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1973. Dan was never a pilot for the air force, he was an aircrew member. He stopped flying for the air force the day his crew were shot down in Borneo. However, after he retired Dan obtained his FAA certifications, and became a certificated flight instructor. Dan Illerich spent 22 years working as a flight instructor. He retired in 1994. —From PBS.org



Dan Illerich was also featured in the PBS Documentary *The Airmen and the Headhunters*.

Wednesday, May 30th
at 7pm

Friendswood Public Library 416 S. Friendswood Dr.
Friendswood, TX 77546 281-482-7135

