

*Missions for America  
Semper vigilans!  
Semper volans!*



Publication of the Thames River Composite  
Squadron  
Connecticut Wing, Civil Air Patrol  
300 Tower Rd., Groton, CT.

Issue 17.32

19 September, 2023

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21-24 SEP-Durham Fair Parking Detail  
23 SEP-Scarecrow Festival-Preston  
04 NOV-Col Palmer Cadet Ball

### **CADET MEETING**

*19 September, 2023*

*submitted by*

*Capt Steven Deignan-Schmidt*

Capt Deignan-Schmidt led a character development seminar about patience. A promotion ceremony was held.

### **SENIOR MEETING**

*19 September, 2023*

Lt Pineau briefed the officers about the agenda of the CTWG Annual Conference which was held last Saturday.

Plans were made to carpool to our duty station at the Durham Fair on Friday.

### **LONG ISLAND SOUND PATROL SEASON ENDS**

*Submitted by*

*Capt Adam Spreca*

The CTWG's Long Island Sound Patrol mission flown in cooperation with the U.S. Coast Guard and supported by Connecticut's Department of Emergency Services and Homeland Security has completed another successful year.

The patrols are generally flown on weekends with pilots alert for boats in distress, either by aerial observation or radio messages over the marine distress channel. From time to time, the U.S. Coast Guard, Sector Long Island Sound based in New Haven might direct one of the patrol aircraft to a specific position which they believe needs an eyes-on investigation.

Between May 27<sup>th</sup> and the 9<sup>th</sup> of September, 55 sorties were dispatched and 136 flight hours were logged. A typical crew consists of a mission pilot, an observer and sometimes, a scanner or aerial photographer. On three flights this year, CTWG carried Coast Guard personnel on familiarization flights.

### **CTWG CONFERENCE**

The annual Connecticut Wing Conference was held at the Courtyard Marriott in Cromwell on Saturday.

The opening assembly featured two guest speakers and the annual presentation of awards. The first speaker was Celeste Pearce, an American Airlines Boeing 777 first officer who spoke about the three missions which she flew as part of the Civil Air Air Fleet transporting Afghani refugees and members of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division. The second speaker was Brenda Bergeron, Deputy Commissioner of Connecticut's Department of Emergency Services and Homeland Security. Attorney Bergeron detailed the responsibilities of each of the five sub-units of DEHMS which are responsible for day-to-day routine operations and mustering and directing personnel to respond to major emergencies.

The Wing presented awards to 25 cadets and officers for outstanding performance in 2022. Thames River Composite Squadron garnered eight of them:

C/LtCol Rhys Thornell-Cadet of the Year  
 Lt Col Stephen Rocketto-Senior of the Year  
 Capt Adam Spreccace-Operations Officer of the Year  
 Capt Steven Deignan-Schmidt-Communications Officer of the Year  
 Maj J. Scott Farley-Finance Officer of the Year  
 C/1<sup>st</sup> Lt Matthew Fago-Frank Brewer Aerospace Education Cadet of the Year  
 Lt Col Stephen Rocketto-Frank Brewer Aerospace Lifetime Achievement  
 Lt Col Stephen Rocketto-Historian Officer of the Year

A followed the morning assembly. Afternoon activities were a series of seminars: pilot meeting, women in aviation, safety and risk management and unmanned aerial vehicles.

Squadron Commander 1stLt David Pineau lent support and Capt Jennifer Thornell was in charge of registration.

LtCol Rocketto conducted an aerospace education contest for cadets using a "Jeopardy style" format. Most of the questions were drawn from CAP's *Aerospace Dimensions* books and consisted of questions about general CAP knowledge, aircraft

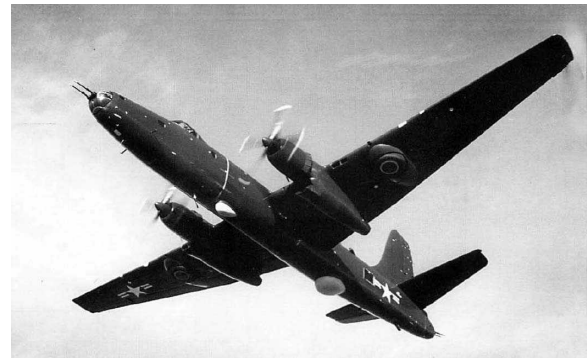
systems and airports, meteorology, astronomy and rockets. Two additional categories tested cadet knowledge about newsworthy geography and aircraft identifications.

C/CMSgt Alexander Knets of Thames River scored the most points and was declared the winner. He received a prize at the squadron meeting.



## AEROSPACE CHRONOLOGY

Sept. 20, 1946 – First flight of the Martin P4M Mercator which competed unsuccessfully for the role of a long-range maritime patrol aircraft with the successful Lockheed P2V Neptune.



*The P4M-1Q electronic intelligence variant. The aircraft has four engines, two P&W Wasp Major piston engines and two Allison J-33 turbojets in the aft end of the engine nacelles.*

Only 21 were built and they ultimately flew signal intelligence missions along the coasts of the Soviet Union, China, North Korea and North Vietnam. One was shot down on August 22nd, 1956 by the Communist Chinese and all 16 members of the crew were lost. A second Mercator was attacked by North Korean fighters incurring heavy damage and serious injury to one crew member.

Sept. 21, 1938 – US Army Air Corps Chief Maj. Gen. Oscar Westover is killed while attempting a

cross-wind landing at the Lockheed Air Terminal, Burbank, California. The aircraft, a Northrop A-17AS was a high speed staff transport, a modified attack aircraft.

Only two were built and the other one had crashed a year earlier killing Col. William McChord. Westover was succeeded by Brig. General Henry Arnold.



*Maj General Westover and a Northrop A-17AS.*

Westover held aeronautical ratings as a balloon observer, airship pilot, airplane pilot, and airplane observer.

Sept. 22, 2003 – Adventurer David Hempleman-Adams becomes the first person to cross the Atlantic Ocean in an open-air, wicker-basket Rozière hot air balloon flying from New Brunswick, Canada to Blackpool, England. The Rozière ballon is a hybrid with two lifting chambers, one for a non-heated lifting gas such as helium and a second for hot air. It is fuel efficient, capable of long flight and the buoyancy is controllable. The balloon used was a Cameron R-90 with an open 7 foot by 3 foot wicker-basket.



*(AP Photo/Gene J. Puskar)*

Hempleman-Adams has also visited all the poles,

both geographic and magnetic, climbed the highest peaks on all seven continents, and set a wide range of ballooning and ground travel records.

Sept. 23, 1911 – Earle Ovington makes the first United States airmail flight. Sworn in as U.S. Airmail Pilot No. 1, he flew a Queen Airplane Company aircraft named *Dragonfly*, modeled on a Bleriot XI, with a sack containing 640 letters and 1,280 post cards. The flight distance about three miles! Arriving a Mineola, he dropped the sack from 500 feet. The sack burst open scattering the mail but the waiting crowd scrambled to retrieve the letters and cards and they were then forwarded by normal channels to the recipients, each canceled "AEROPLANE STATION No.1 - GARDEN CITY ESTATES, N.Y."

*Postmaster General Hitchcock passes the mail sack to Ovington.*



Sept. 24, 1958 – The People's Republic of China had started shelling the islands of Quemoy and Matsu testing the resolve of the Republic of China and the United States willingness of the United States to assist the Taiwanese. The armed conflict escalated.

The Chinese Nationalist first line fighter were North American F-86F Sabres. The United States Marines modified 20 of the Sabres to carry the new AIM-9 Sidewinder infrared homing air-to-air missile and instruction was provided using USAF F-100s simulating Red Chinese MiGs.



*(Credit: Takayoshi Wada)*



The first air battle in which the Sidewinder was used involved 32 Sabres and reportedly a hundred or so People's Liberation Army MiG-15 and MiG 17 aircraft. Numerous kills, perhaps a dozen, were reported in this first combat use of the Sidewinder.

Reportedly, in an engagement of September 28<sup>th</sup>, one Sidewinder failed to explode and lodged in the tail of one of the MiG-17s. The missile was removed by the PLA and reportedly sent to the Soviets who reverse engineered it producing the AA-2 Atoll. Another story claims that the specifications of the Sidewinder were given to the Soviets by a Swedish Air Force officer, Col. Stig Wennerström.

Sept. 24–25, 1938 – Stalin exploited aviation as a propaganda tool for the Soviet system. Long distance record setting flights were a common tour de force used to demonstrate the quality of Russian aircraft and the prowess of airmen and airwomen. Three women were granted the status of Heroes of the Soviet Union for setting a new *Fédération Aéronautique Internationale* (FAI) World Record for Distance in a Straight Line Without Landing when they made a 3,671 mile flight from Moscow to Khabarovsk Krai almost making it the Pacific coast.

Pilot in command was Valentina Stepanovna Grizodubova, a Ukrainian and like her crew mates, a holder of numerous flight records. Polina Denisovna Osipenko was co-pilot and Marina Mikailovna Raskova served as navigator. The aircraft was a Tupolev ANT-37 named *Rodina* (*Motherland*).



(l-r) Polina, Valentina and Marina

After flying for 26 hours, 29 minutes and lost in bad weather, they ran out of fuel. Raskova was ordered to bail out and the two pilots executed a successful crash landing in a forest near the Sea of Okhotsk. It took eight days for rescuers to find the wreck and the two pilots. Two days later Raskova managed to get to the rescue site. She was a navigator after all.

Sept. 26, 1947– General Carl A. Spaatz becomes the first Chief of Staff of the United States Air Force.

Some highlights of his career. A West Point graduate, he shot down three German aircraft during the Great War. In 1929, he commanded the Atlantic-Fokker C-2A which set a world endurance record of 151 hours. During World War II, he commanded the U.S. Strategic Air Forces in Europe and after the German surrender, went to Guam and assumed command of the U.S. Strategic Air Forces in the Pacific. From 1948 until 1959, he served as the first Chairman of Civil Air Patrol's National Board.



## AND SPEAKING OF SPAATZ

In issue 17.30, an historical reference about Col Donald Blakeslee noted that he flew over 500 combat missions in Europe during WWII and this might be a record for the USAF. However, Col Larry Trick from the MDWG referred me to Col Douglas C. Roach, CAP's first Spaatz Awardee. He flew 516 combat missions while serving in Vietnam. After, Col Roach flew as Thunderbird #6 and later as staff director for the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces.



From The Collection Of Michael Jacobssen

Col Trick also verified the Coastwatcher guess that the Vultee XA-31 Vengeance which made an emergency landing in a tobacco field in Windsor Locks on September 15, 1942 was a test bed for the proof-of-concept Pratt & Whitney R-4360-1 Wasp Major engine.



The 4,300 hp 28 cylinder “corn cob” engine was the height of development of the very large radial engines but it did not reach operational service until the war was over where it could be found in the Convair B-36, the Goodyear F2G Corsair and the Hughes H-4 Hercules.



*The “Corn Cob” nickname came from the slight twist applied to the banks of cylinders which allowed a better flow of cooling air.*

Larry Trick, a frequent contributor to The Coastwatcher is Spaatz #452. During a 35 year career with the Navy, he served as the program manager for the the X-49A Vectored Thrust Ducted Propeller Advanced Technology Demonstrator and Chief Engineer for the Naval Aviation Center for Rotorcraft Advancement. He holds Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in aerospace engineering from Penn State University and previously commanded CAP’s Maryland Wing.



The Piasecki X-49 "SpeedHawk" is an experimental high-speed compound helicopter which Piasecki Aircraft based on the airframe of a Sikorsky YSH-60F Seahawk. The aircraft uses a vectored thrust ducted propeller and lifting wings to study how the system affects performance.