



Missions for  
America

*Semper  
vigilans!*

*Semper volans!*

Publication of the Thames River Composite  
Squadron  
Connecticut Wing  
Civil Air Patrol

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07 August, 2018

### SQUADRON CALENDAR

11-18 AUG-CTWG Encampment  
18 AUG-CTWG Commander's Call-Niantic  
19 AUG-National Aviation Day-Groton  
21 AUG-TRCS Meeting-Blues-Mitchell and  
CoC  
28 AUG-TRCS Meeting  
22 SEP-Preston Scarecrow Festival  
25 SEP-Fruit Sale Starts  
29 SEP-Glider Flights-Springfield, Vt.  
TBD SEP-SUI  
06 OCT-Groton Fall Festival  
11-12 OCT-UCC  
11-14-CTWG/NER Conference  
10 NOV-Cadet Ball  
25 DEC/01 JAN-No Meetings

### CADET MEETING

07 August, 2018

Lt Schmidt directed "Sectional Battleship," a game in which the cadet teams used sectional charts to and basic navigational knowledge to attempt to determine the location of an other team's vessel.

### SENIOR MEETING

07 August, 2018

Departments reported the present status of their responsibilities.

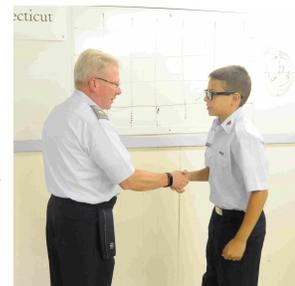
Maj Noniewicz discussed precautions to be used in scheduling encampment O flights.

Lt Heard reported on work done and plans for infrastructure improvement.

### PROMOTIONS AND AWARDS



*Cadets Simmons  
(above) and Hayes  
(right) were promoted  
to Cadet Airman First  
Class.*



*Cadet  
Kirkpatrick  
was promoted  
to Cadet  
Master  
Sergeant*



*Cadet Thornell was promoted to Cadet Senior Master Sergeant.*



Bright explained the history, purpose, and current activities of CAP, focusing on Connecticut Wing and Thames River Composite Squadron. Cadet and senior programs were explained and an invitation was extended to attend our meetings. A question and answer session concluded the presentation.

*Lt Schmidt received the Benjamin O. Davis, Jr Award for completing Level Two of the Senior Member Professional Development Program.*



## **AVIATION HISTORY**

### ***UNDERSTUDY AIRCRAFT***

In live theatre, an understudy is an actor or actress who learns the role of regular members of the cast in order to be able to act as a replacement if the principal is unable to perform due to illness or some other emergency.

Aviation enthusiasts who attend films which feature aircraft are quick to spot an aircraft which is either stands-in for another aircraft or represents a fictional aircraft.



*Lt Drost received his two year membership ribbon.*

### ***World War II***

Many of the familiar World War II epics which have emerged from Hollywood resort to other types of aircraft to depict Axis fighters and bombers.

Aircraft representing Luftwaffe models are relatively easy to find. Spain's Hispano Aviación obtained a manufacturing license from Messerschmidt in 1942 to manufacture variants of the Bf 109 as the HA-1112.



*This actual aircraft appeared in the Battle of Britain and Dunkirk.*

## **RECRUITING EFFORT**

Recruiting and Retention Officer Lt Col Larry Bright and Public Affairs Officer, Lt Col Stephen Rocketto, met with two dozen youth and parents at Groton-New London Airport on Friday. The youngsters were attending a week-long FAA sponsored Aviation Career Education Academy directed by Aerospace Education Member Stuart Sharack.

*The Real Deal  
from the  
Budesachiv  
collection*



Several hundred were built and they were not retired until 1965 and when they were disposed of by Spain, they were purchased by warbird enthusiasts, museums, and commercial enterprises. Various marks of the HA-1112 can be seen in the *Battle of Britain* (1969), *Memphis Belle* (1990), *The Tuskegee Airmen* (1995), and *Dunkirk* (2017).

Spanish sources also supplied many of the aircraft which flew as Nazi bombers. Construcciones Aeronáuticas SA (CASA) were licensed by Heinkel to build modified versions of the He 111 under the name CASA 2.111. Like the HA 1112, several hundred were built and remained in service until 1956. They appeared in the *Battle of Britain* and *Patton* (1970).

*A Taifun decked out in Nazi regalia photographed at Provincetown.*

To depict Japanese aircraft, the movie makers turned to modified U.S. WWII trainers. Three movies centered on the Pearl Harbor attack. *Tora, Tora, Tora* (1970), The science fiction film *Final Countdown* (1980), and the lamentable *Pearl Harbor* (2001). *Midway* celebrating the victory that turned stemmed the Japanese tied, was released in 1976.

North American T-6 Texans were modified to resemble the Mitsubishi A6M Zero and the Nakajima B5N Kate. Modified Vultee BT-13s served to represent the Aichi D3A Val.



*CASAs in a scene from the Battle of Britain*



*A Texan modified to resemble a Zero*

*A surviving He 111 in the Technik Museum, Sinshiem Germany (Credit: AlfanBeem)*



*Zero on display at the Smithsonian*



In 1934, Willi Messerschmidt's Bf 108 Taifun took wing. The Taifun was a sleek light sport aircraft roughly comparable to a Piper PA-24-180 Comanche. It starred as its big brother, the Bf 109 in *The Longest Day* (1962), *The Great Escape* (1963), *633 Squadron* (1964), *Von Ryan's Express* (1965) and *Mosquito Squadron* (1969).



*A Texan Cross-dressing! A North American SNJ-4 in heavy makeup pretending to be a Nakajima Kate*



*In the Taming of the Shrew, Shakespeare Katrina tells Petruchio that “If I be waspish, best beware my sting.” The Kate had a tail gunner.*



*An HA 1112 bearing a British civilian registration number, D-Day invasion stripes and a fiberglass “falsy” was used as a P-51B. The side-opening cockpit is a dead give-away but most movie aerial scenes made such differences trivial given the artful work of the cameramen.*



*A Hollywood Val*

A classic BBC series, *Piece of Cake* had to make do with Supermarine Spitfires since the Hawker Hurricanes that were featured in Derek Robinson's book from which the television series was adapted.



*Val assigned to the carrier Akagi.*



*The Reliable Hurricane*

*The Vultee BT-13 before the characteristic Val “wheel pants” addition.*



*The Glamorous Spitfire*



*Patton* required a scene with P-51B Mustangs so the the Hollywood artisans crafted fiberglass “air intakes” which they attached to the undersides of some HA 1112s giving them the classic Mustang profile.

The German aircraft in *Piece of Cake* were the HA 1112 Buchons and the CASA 2.111 which also appeared in the Battle of Britain sequence in *Pearl Harbor* and briefly in *Patton*.

### *Helicopters*



*P-51C*

*Full Metal Jacket* (1987) uses variants of the Sikorsky model S-58 which the Marines designated as the HUS-1 Seahorse. The aircraft used in the filming is the Westland Wessex, a turbine powered version of the Sikorsky design. A comparable Sikorsky version, the S-58T shows up as the S-58 military variant, CH-34 Choctaw, in the lame *Air America* (1990).



*A USMC  
Seahorse*

*A Westland built  
Wessex with a bulbous  
nose housing the  
turbine engine*



*Rules of Engagement* (2000) involves the airlift of personnel from a besieged embassy in Yemen. The Marine rescue team is transported in Boeing-Vertol CH-47 Chinooks rather than the CH-46 Sea Knights to which they bear a a close resemblance.



*An Army Chinook performed as a Marine Sky  
Knight to which it bears some resemblance.*



*Korea and the Cold War*

The straight-winged Republic F-84 ThunderJet and its swept-wing refinement, the F-84F Thunderstreak got roles as North Korean MiG-15s. The F-84, suitable painted and adorned with red stars showed up in *The McConnell Story* (1955) and the 1958 film, *The Hunters*.



*Thunderjets and  
Thunderstreaks stood-in  
for the MiG-15 Fagot in  
films about the air war in  
Korea.*



James Salter, a who flew Sabrejets in the Korean War, wrote *The Hunters*, based upon his experiences. Twentieth Century Fox butchered the novel and in 1958 produced a film with little resemblance to the book.

Howard Hughes and John Wayne teamed up in the early '50s to film *Jet Pilot*. A variety of aircraft were used to represent Soviet planes: the Bell X-1, Lockheed T-33, Boeing B-50, Northrop F-89 Scorpion, and North Americans F-86 Sabre.

The film was an egregious abuse of the intelligence of any film-goer who knew aircraft. Hughes failed to produce another *Hell's Angels* and Wayne considered it one of his worst movies. Chuck Yeager and master aerial choreographer Paul Mantz were actively involved in the flying scenes, some of which were interesting but not worth paying money to view.

### *Fictional Aircraft*

The Northrop F-5 Tiger was used in *Top Gun* (1986) to play the fictional MiG-28.



*F-5N at Anoka. The  
Tiger was used by  
the USN and USMC  
as adversary  
aircraft in  
dissimilar air  
combat training.*

Martin's XB-51 stars as the Gilbert XF-120 in the 1956 production, *Towards the Unknown* (an English translation of the motto of the USAF Flight Test Center).



*The XB-51 as the Gilbert XF-120 accompanied by an F-100 chase plane*



*The Supermarine 535 stood-in for the fictional Prometheus.*

### *Sikorsky's Contributions*

Biernie Lay, Jr., an Eighth Air Force veteran and the writer fails to approach the excellent *Twelve O'Clock High* which he co-wrote with another 8th vet, Sy Bartlett. This being said, the film was heavily supported by the Air Force is a showcase of the aircraft and experiments which were being carried out at Edwards Air Force during its "golden years."

U.S. cinema boasts for what were British achievements have always rankled the Brits. Errol Flynn and American paratroopers did not liberate Burma as portrayed in *Objective Burma* (1945) and the film was withdrawn from distribution when it was first released in the United Kingdom. The 2000 war film *U-571* was loosely based on the Royal Navy's capture of U-110 and its Enigma machine and cipher books.

But Hollywood is not the only celluloid sinner. In 1952, a British film, *The Sound Barrier*, implied that the United Kingdom produced the first manned supersonic flight. The story was loosely based upon the characters of Geoffrey de Havilland and his son, killed in an attempt to break the sound barrier. The fictional aircraft was called Prometheus and its stand-in was a Supermarine 535, the prototype of the Swift.

In *Hell's Angels* (1930), Howard Hughes used a Sikorsky S-29-A as a German Gotha bomber. The S-29-A was the first aircraft which Sikorsky built after coming to America. Only one was built and it was damaged beyond repair during the filming.



*The sole Sikorsky S-21-A*



*A Gotha G.V*

A 1959 MGM film, *The Gallant Hours*, used a Sikorsky VS-44A to portray a Consolidated PB2Y-1 Coronado which was used by Admiral William Halsey.



*The Imposter. The VS-44A can be viewed at the New England Air Museum.*



*In World War II, the Navy requisitioned Excambrian for transport duties between the United States and Europe. The Navy designation was JR2S-1  
(Credit: US Navy)*

The VS-44A was acquired by Charlie Blair for use with his Antilles Air Boats service in the Virgin Islands. It was damaged beyond economic repair in a taxi accident and donated by the Museum of Naval Aviation. Blair was killed in a flying accident and his widow, Maureen O'Hara gave permission to present it to the New England Air Museum on permanent loan.

The only surviving Coronado is at the Museum of Naval Aviation in Pensacola. It carried Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz to Tokyo Bay for the Japanese surrender ceremonies, September 2, 1945.



*Nimitz's Coronado landing in Tokyo Bay. The USS Missouri is in the background*



*The Real Deal. Nimitz's Coronado at the National Museum of Naval Aviation.*

A list of aircraft “stand-ins” used in the production of domestic and foreign aviation related films may be found in the Internet Movie Plane Database. They claim to feature 5,929 movies and television shows and over 1,302 aircraft. To visit the site, go to:

[http://www.impdb.org/index.php?title=Category:Movie/TV\\_List](http://www.impdb.org/index.php?title=Category:Movie/TV_List)