



Missions for
America

*Semper
vigilans!*

Semper volans!

You can always tell when a man has lost his soul to flying. The poor bastard is hopelessly committed to stopping whatever he is doing long enough to look up and make sure that the aircraft purring overhead continues on course and does not suddenly fall out of the sky. It is also his bound duty to watch every aircraft within view take off and land.

*-Ernest Gann-
Fate is the Hunter*

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

Errata

<http://ct075.org>

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Proofs that someone reads *The Coastwatcher* are the corrections sent to The Editor.

The Coastwatcher regrets leaving the name of 2d Lt Jennifer Thornell off the list of those who participated in moving the fruit from Grasso to the airport.

Issue 12.47

11 December, 2018

The article on the Japanese attack on HMS Prince of Wales and HMS Repulse misidentified the Japanese attack planes. They were G3M Nells as correctly stated but the photo was of a G4M Betty. Capt Edward Miller pointed out the mistake and sent a picture of a model of the G3M which he built.

SQUADRON CALENDAR

15 DEC-Ground Branch Directors Course
16 DEC- TASMG Holiday Party
18 DEC-TRCS Holiday Party
26-31 DEC-Regional Cadet Leadership School
25 DEC & 01 JAN-No Meetings

08 JAN-TRCS Meeting/Staff
15 JAN-TRCS Meeting/Commander's Call
19-29 JAN-DAART Training-Brainard
22 JAN-TRCS Meeting
29 JAN-TRCS Meeting
07-14 SEP-Regional Staff College-Niantic



PROMOTIONS

Cadet Christopher R. Munzner successfully completed the second phase of the cadet program and earned the General Billy Mitchell Award and promotion to Cadet Second Lieutenant. The award honors Maj General William “Billy” Mitchell, advocate of an independent air force and military aviation visionary.



C/2d Lt Munzner determined early to advance in the cadet ranks and focused his efforts in a carefully planned program. He held a number of positions of leadership and was appointed First Sergeant at the beginning of the year. Three months ago, he became Commander of the cadet squadron.

Munzner is qualified as a Mission Radio Operator and is one of the staff who run participate in the CTWG radio net each Tuesday night. His current goal is qualification as a Mission Staff Assistant. During the past two summers, he attended the CTWG Encampment and in the second year served on the logistics staff.



Munzner was lauded by State Representative Holly Cheeseman and State Senator Paul Formica.

A talented musician, Christopher is a string bass player in the East Lyme Middle School Orchestra and has been selected to perform with the schools Invitational Chamber Orchestra and the Eastern Regional Orchestra.

One of his hobbies is rifle marksmanship and Christopher has earned the NRA Sharpshooter Medal.

He performs public service with the Niantic Community Church working on a mission farm in New Hampshire and a local food pantry.

C/2d Lt Munzner's goal is to attain the grade of Cadet Colonel and upon graduation from high school, attend the United States Air Force Academy.

Six Cadets and Two Seniors were also honored.

Three Cadets made their first steps on the adventure from stripes to diamonds and earned the Gen. John F. Curry Award and promotion to Cadet Airman:



Mitchell Owen Rathbone



Michael Robert Jenzach



Lillian Madison Meier



Newly minted C/AIC Benjamin Arthur Kelly is congratulated by Squadron Commander Farley.



Cadet Seth Raphael Trochaud receives C/SrA stripes from Maj Farley as he follows his brother's CAP path, C/Col Keith Trochaud.



Cadet Ian Scott Diaz is Thames River's newest Cadet Technical Sergeant by completing the Captain Eddie Rickenbacker achievement



Cadet Rhys I. Thornell is awarded the Neil Armstrong Ribbon and promotion to Chief Master Sergeant.



1st Lt Michael Kopyciensky was presented with the Benjamin O. Davis Award



Thomas Ceniglio has been promoted to 2d Lt.

CADET MEETING

11 December, 2018

Cadets prepared the main room of the trailer for the Mitchell ceremony.

SENIOR MEETING

11 December, 2018

Senior members worked on individual projects and then attended the Mitchell ceremony in the Cadet trailer.

AEROSPACE HISTORY AND CHRONOLOGY

Dec. 13, 1972– Eugene Cernan and Harrison Schmitt conduct the third “Moonwalk” of the Apollo 17 mission. Ronald Evans manned the orbiting command/service module.



Lift-off, the only nigh-time launch of an Apollo mission. Schmitt on the lunar surface. Return and recovery by the USS Ticonderoga. (Credits: NASA and US Navy)



Years later, after serving a term as U.S. Senator from New Mexico, Schmitt tells Capt Rocketto what really happened on the moon!

Dec 14, 1956 – Brazil purchases *HMS Vengeance*

from the United Kingdom. After four years of modernization, she is commissioned as the *NaeL Minas Gerais*. She is the second aircraft carrier serving in a South American state. Argentina had been the first when she purchased *HMS Warrior* from the UK and renamed her *ARA Independencia* in 1959.



Minas Gerais with a deck-load of Douglas A4KU Skyhawks purchased from Kuwait and Sikorsky Sea Kings.

The *São Paulo* was decommissioning in 2017 but has been replaced with the former *HMS Ocean*, renamed PHM Atlantico. PHM stands for *Porta-Helicópteros Multipropósito* (Multi-purpose helicopter carrier) The *Atlantico* carries a mix of versions of the IH-6B (Bell 206), Sikorsky Seahawk, and the Airbus UH-15 Super Puma.



Vought Corsairs and Grumman S2F Trackers were carried by the Independencia.



Twelve nations now operate aircraft carriers but many of them are classed as helicopter carriers or amphibious assault ships, designed for anti-submarine warfare or landing troops.

Dec. 15, 1944 – Famous big-band leader Glenn Miller, a major in the USAAF and two other officers disappear on a flight from RAF Twinwood Farms, Bedfordshire, England to Paris.

Argentina's second carrier was purchased from the Netherlands, the *HLMNS Karel Doorman*, formerly *HMS Venerable*, and entered service in 1969. She bore the name *ARA Veinticinco de Mayo*.



Sea Kings perch on the bow of the Veinticinco de Mayo. Skyhawks are visible midship and Trackers are tied down aft.



Credits (USAAF)

Miller was on his way to Europe to give a concert for the troops who had liberated Paris. The aircraft was a Noorduyn UC-64 Norseman.

Brazil countered Argentina when, in 2000, the French sold them the *Foch* which was renamed *São Paulo*

The São Paulo air wing consisted of Skyhawks and a mix of helicopters. A Bell 206 is visible aft of the island.



Miller and the AAF Band entertaining troops.

The most likely cause for the disappearance is that an inexperienced pilot, foggy weather, and a carburetor which had just been worked on led to carburetor icing, loss of power, and a crash. A second less likely theory suggests the possibility that the Norseman wandered at low altitude into a area over the English Channel into which RAF Lancasters were salvoing bombs. One of the explosions brought down the aircraft.

Miller was probably in a Norseman like this one, painted with D-Day invasion stripes.



As might be expected conspiracy theories abound. Two such are that powerful forces of the government covered up his death by a Nazi assassin or of a heart attack in a Paris bordello.

Dec 16, 1921 – *USS Wright (AV-1)* is commissioned as the United States Navy's first and only balloon ship. Named after Orville Wright, the unique ship is fitted out with a "balloon well" which allows her to store and service a kite balloon. After testing, the Navy abandoned the idea and the Wright was converted into a seaplane tender.



Artist Conception of the USS Wright flying a kite balloon. (Credit: USN)

A kite balloon is a tethered observation balloon used, in World War I, by an underway ship to provide a platform to observe submarines. They were aerodynamically optimized so as to maintain directional stability in winds in which normal spherical balloons were unable to perform efficiently.

Dec. 17, 1938 – The German *panzerschiff Admiral Graf Spee* is scuttled in the estuary of the River Plate, off Montevideo, Uruguay. The ship had been forced into the neutral port after suffering damage in a running battle with three cruisers, *HMS Ajax and Exeter* and *HMNZS Achilles*.



Pocket Battleship Graf Spee
Note the Arado on the catapult aft of the stack.
(Credit: Navy Historical Center)



The Arado Ar 196 floatplanes carried by the Graf Spee used to spot merchant ships for the Graf Spee but were not employed in the battle with the cruisers.

One noteworthy episode in the battle was the use of a Fairey Seafox floatplane catapulted from *Ajax* to spot shot-fall and correct aim. This was the first use of a ship-based aircraft to perform this function in World War II. The pilot, Lt. D.D.G. Lewin was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.



HMS Ajax and a Seafox reconnaissance plane visible on the midship catapult.
(Credit: Imperial War Museum)

The Fairey Seafox



While German diplomats attempted to extend its stay in Uruguayan waters, the Seafox flew daily reconnaissance missions. Meanwhile, the British initiated a disinformation campaign which convinced the Germans that the cruisers had been reinforced by heavier units of the British Fleet and were waiting off-shore for the Graf Spee to make a run for the open ocean. Captain Hans Langsdorff chose to save his crew from an almost certain slaughter and had the Graf Spee scuttled.

Dec. 18, 1934 – The first of 10,346 Stearman Kaydets was delivered to the military. Stearman, a Boeing subsidiary, produced a total of 10,346 Kaydets which served as a primary trainer.



This PT-17 is being flown by Augie Gorreck who is giving former TRCS member Father Daniel Mode a ride. Father Mode is now a Captain serving as Planning and Operations Officer in the Office of the Navy Chaplain at the Pentagon.

The first aircraft delivered was a PT-13 with a Lycoming 225 hp radial engine for the US Navy. Depending upon the engine and relatively minor modifications, the Kaydet was most commonly designated as a PT-13, PT-17, or N2S.



Aviation Cadet George H.W. Bush logged two flight in this N2S-2 at NAS Minneapolis in January of 1943. The aircraft is on display at the National Museum of Naval Aviation, Pensacola, Florida.

Dec 19, 1919 – The IJS *Hōshō* (*Soaring Phoenix*), the first purpose built aircraft carrier, is authorized by the Japanese government.

The ship was used for development of carrier operation techniques and as bigger ships joined the fleet, reverted to a training vessel.

Hōshō survived the war and was used on nine missions to repatriate some 40,000 Japanese troops from overseas stations. She was scrapped in 1946.



The three stacks on the starboard side can be folded outboard during air operations. The five degree downward slope of the foredeck is designed to assist take-offs. Note the crane forward of the island used to lower aircraft to the hangar deck.

(Credit: Kui Maritime Museum)