



Missions for
America

*Semper
vigilans!*

Semper volans!

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

<http://ct075.org>

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11 December, 2018

SQUADRON CALENDAR

18 DEC-TRCS Holiday Party
26-31 DEC-Regional Cadet Leadership School
25 DEC & 01 JAN-No Meetings
28 DEC=Guided Tour 1109th TASMG-1000

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
09 FEB-Ground Branch Director Course CTWG
HQ/Middletown
10 FEB-Mission Safety Officer Course-CTWG
HQ/Middletown
07-14 SEP-Regional Staff College-Niantic



*And from the crew of Apollo 8, we close with good
night, good luck, a Merry Christmas – and God
bless all of you, all of you on the good Earth.*

*Frank Borman, Apollo Eight Commander
Lunar Orbit,
December 24, 1968*

THAMES RIVER COMPOSITE SQUADRON HOLIDAY PARTY *18 December, 2018*

The party commenced with an abundance of food
with a remarkable assortment of appetizers,
entrees, desserts and drinks. The second part of the
party was devoted to a trivia contest with a
seasonal theme devised by Deputy Commander of
Cadets Thornell



*The de facto TRCS social director, Lt Martin,
setting up the cornucopia.*



*The feeding frenzy
starts.*



These two submariners know good chow.



The photographer panics as the last scoop of vanilla ice cream is taken, ruining his plans for pie ala mode.

Ah! Ham and mac topped off with a deviled egg.



Cupcake of a Cupcake!



Relax! The photographer is not after your food, only your soul.

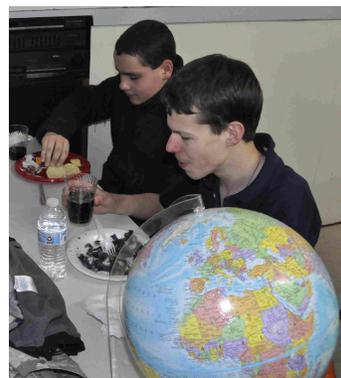


The Paparazzi and the Social Director, tied by digital cords to their electronic masters.

The Puzzlemaster and the Puzzlemaster's Apprentice direct the trivia contest.



Winner and Runner-Up in the dandy dress-up division but the sartorial rules are strict and food stains on the wardrobe cost points.



After checking his list twice, Santa sentences these two naughty boys to bread and water in the corner of the room.

1109th TASMG HOLIDAY PARTY

The Squadron joined with the members of the 1109th Theater Aviation Sustainment Maintenance Group (TASMG), their family members, and the Young Marines to celebrate the holiday season.

The festivities included promotions, events for the youngsters, and a dinner. TRCS Cadets assisted with the dinner as part of our public service missions.

Participating members were Cadets Thornell, Burton, Higganson, Schaffer, Rowan Meier, Lillian Meier, Munzner, Race, Martin, Trototchaud, Jeznack, and Wischmann.

AEROSPACE HISTORY AND CHRONOLOGY

20 Dec., 1954 – The Convair YF-102A Delta Dagger makes its first flight at Edwards Air Force Base.

President George Walker Bush flew the Delta Dagger with the Texas Air National Guard.

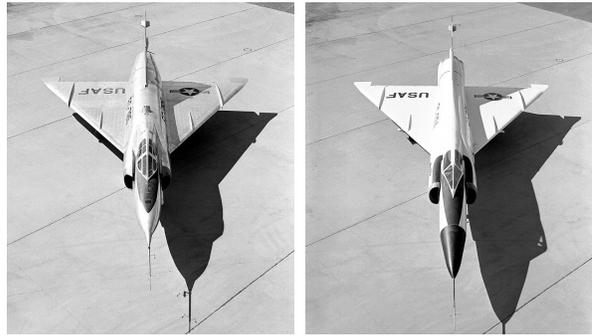


The aircraft was also flown by Connecticut's own Flying Yankees, known as the 103rd Fighter Interceptor Wing between 1965 and 1971,



Third of the century series of US fighters, the Deuce as it was better known, could not exceed the speed of sound in its original configuration.

Engineers applied Whitcomb's Area Rule to the fuselage and the reduction in drag allowed the “102” to achieve a maximum speed of Mach 1.25.



Before (YF-102) and After (F-102A) (Credit: NASA)

Whitcomb intuited that the high drag which occurred in trans-sonic flight was a three dimensional problem which could be solved by taking into account the cross-sectional area of the aircraft. By modifying the fuselage with a “wasp-waist,” the extra cross-sectional area of the wings could be reduced which improved air flow and reduced drag.

21 Dec, 1936 – A second wave of American pilots who had signed up to fly for the Spanish Republican Air Force against Franco's Nationalist rebels were being assigned with no combat training to fly obsolete aircraft on bombing missions. They were not happy with their lot.

All of them had interesting backgrounds. Their leader in mischief, Bert Acosta had acquired the title “Bad Boy of Aviation “womanizing, drinking, gambling, and when he found time, breaking flying regulations. In 1928, Connecticut suspended his pilot certificate when they learned of his plan to fly under the Whittemore Memorial Bridge in Naugatuck. A year later, the Department of Commerce revoked his certificate after he failed to pay a \$500 fine for low flying and in 1930 he was arrested by Connecticut State Troopers for flying without a license.

Gordon Berry served in World War I. He was Acosta's drinking buddy and one of the plaintiffs

when Acosta attached a lien to a Spanish ship in New York in an attempt to get compensation due from the Spanish Government.

*Acosta and Berry,
Hellraisers
Extraordinaire*



Young Eddie Schneider trained at Roosevelt Field in 1928-29 and was the youngest person in the United States to receive a commercial pilot certificate. He also, as a teenager, set a transcontinental record flying a Cessna Model AW. Schneider was killed in a mid-air collision at Floyd Bennet Field in 1940 when a Stearman belonging to the Navy Reserve struck his aircraft.



*Eddie Schneider and
the Cessna in which
he sent trans-
continental records.*

Frederick Ives Lord joined the Royal Flying Corps in World War I and achieved ace status. He also fought in the Russian Civil War, the Mexican Revolution, and World War II.

Hilaire du Berrier, nephew of a congressman, had just returned from flying against the Italian invaders of Ethiopia. After Spain, he went to Shanghai and during the Japanese occupation worked as a spy. After the war, du Berrier had a checkered career as an anti-Gaullist, a right wing author, and a journalist in Vietnam.



Hilaire du Berrier, 1942, Standard-Examiner

*Du Berrier
on the left
and Lord
above.*



Before Spain, Vincent Schmidt flew for the Chinese against the Japanese in China and afterwards showed up in Finland to lend a hand against the Russians in the Winter War.

Edward Semons was a New Yorker who first informed Acosta and his friends about the financial opportunities flying for the Spanish Republicans.

When they arrived in Spain, they were issued decrepit aircraft, allowed no training time, and told to join the fray. Lord protested and was threatened by the Spanish. For a short time they flew bombers such as the obsolescent Potez 54, known to the Spanish as the *Ataúd Volante*, the Flying Coffin.



*Republican
Potez 54
bombers
under attack
by Nationalist
rebels flying
the Fiat
CR.32.*

Their protests brought down the disfavor of the Loyalist government and four of them attempted to escape Spain by boat, were captured and jailed. Released and back in the States, they sued for back-pay and received some money but little satisfaction.

The Republican government, crippled internally by rival political factions and exploited by Joseph Stalin and the Soviet Union went down to defeat. Generalissimo Francisco Franco, supported by the fascist governments of Germany and Italy, took absolute power and ruled Spain 39 years.

22 Dec., 1961 – U. S. Army helicopters engage in their first combat operation in Vietnam as the 8th Transportation Company's H-21 Shawnees airlift South Vietnamese ground troops to landing zones south of Saigon.

Shawnees carrying troops into battle.



Frank Borman, James Lovell, and William Anders. This is the first manned mission to leave low orbit and travel around the moon. Borman goes on to become President and CEO of Eastern Airlines. Lovell achieved fame as the Commander of the ill-starred Apollo 13 mission. After leaving NASA, Anders serves on the Atomic Energy Commission and becomes CEO of General Dynamics.

23 Dec., 1986 – Dick Rutan and Jeanna Yeager land at Edwards Air Force Base in California completing the first aerial circumnavigation of the earth non-stop and non-refueled.

Voyager circling Edwards prior to landing.
(Credit: NASA)



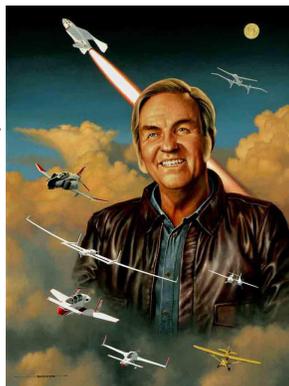
Borman, Anders, and Lovell (Credit: NASA)



Voyager, Jeana and Dick (Photo Credit: Doug Pizac/AP)

The Voyager aircraft was designed by Dick's brother, Burt Rutan, one of the most innovative and prolific aircraft designers extant. Distance flown was 26,366 miles 9 days, 3 minutes, 44 seconds.

Burt Rutan and some of his aircraft. (Credit: BurtRutan.com)



25 Dec. A Christmas Miracle and a Christmas Mistake

1979- *The Mistake*-Anotov Soviet An-12 Cubs and An-22 Cocks landed at Kabul Airport, Afghanistan, bringing in 5,000 airborne troops in the first 24 hours. The Soviet intervention was provoked by an internal feud between two factions of the ruling Afghan Communist Party.



The Cock and the Cub

The Soviets had failed to learn the lessons which the British learned in the First (1839), Second (1878) and Third (1919) Anglo-Afghan Wars. Afghan history indicates that fighting the Afghans is like what George Bernard Shaw described as wrestling with a pig. “You both get dirty and the pig likes it.”

24 Dec., 1968 – Apollo 8 orbits the moon carrying

The Soviet intervention ended ten years later with a complete withdrawal of troops, a war sometimes styled the “Soviet Vietnam.”

1981- *The Miracle* – A day after the Air Force suspended the search, the *Odyssey*, a fishing boat picks up Lt Thomas Tiller from his raft 35 miles off the coast of North Carolina. Tiller was cold, wet, and very thirsty after ejecting from an F-4E and spending six days without food or water. Tiller was the Weapon System Officer of the aircraft which while on a night intercept training mission was brought down by a catastrophic electrical failure. Tiller and the pilot, Lt Michael Matson ejected.



How commodious is a one man life raft?

*Here is a picture of Astronaut Wally Schirra in a one man life raft.
(Credit: NASA)*

Looking at data for water and air temperature in the vicinity of the crash indicate that the air and water temperature, thanks to the proximity of the Gulf Stream were both in the 45 degree Fahrenheit range plus or minus 10 degrees. Survival time if immersed is measured in hours. Presumably, Tiller was wearing protective garments such as an anti-exposure dry suit and was relatively dry in his raft.

Dec 26, 1967– The Soviet Union commissions its first helicopter carrier, *Moskva*. She was equipped with Kamov Ka-25 Hormones and Mil Mi-8 Hips. She was decommissioned and then broken up in 1997.



*Moskva with five Hormones visible.
(Credit: Department of Defense)*

1948 – I. V. Fedorov becomes the first Soviet pilot to break the sound barrier. The aircraft used was a

Lavochkin La-176 in a full throttle dive.



The Plane

Fedorov's flew combat in the Spanish Civil War, the Khalkin-Gol Incident, the Russo-Finnish War, and World War II and his kills may have exceeded 100.

The Pilot



Amazingly, Fedorov was awarded the Iron Cross from the hands of Hitler personally. The duplicitous Communist and Nazi governments had a history of cooperating politically and economically with each other. In 1939, they signed the German-Soviet Nonaggression Pact honoring each others spheres of influence in Europe and culminating in the Soviet annexation of the Baltic countries of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania and the seizing of Finland's Karelian Isthmus and their joint invasion and bifurcation of Poland.

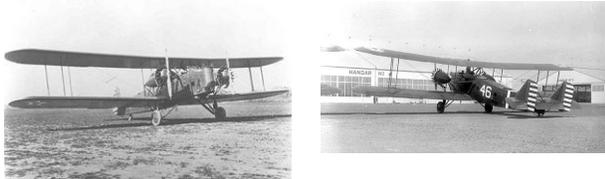
In June of 1941, Fedorov and some of his fellow pilots visited Germany and put on an airshow for Hitler and his entourage. Fedorov flying a German He 100 put on a dazzling display of aerobatics and so impressed the Führer that he decided that a special award was warranted. On June 18th, 1941, Hitler decorated Fedorov with the Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross with Oak Leaves. Four days later, June 22, 1941, Hitler launched Operation

Barbarossa, the invasion of the Soviet Union!

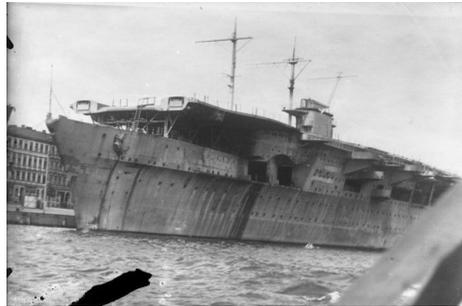
28 Dec. Nazi and Communist Aircraft Carriers

27 Dec., 1935 – The Army Air Corps assigned four Keystone B-3A and two LB-6A bombers to bomb a lava flow from Mauna Loa, Hawaii which threatened the Hilo waterworks. Twenty 600 pound bombs, each containing 300 pounds of explosives were dropped. Five hits were scored but no effect on the flow was observed.

1936 – The keel of Nazi Germany's first aircraft carrier is laid in the Deutsche Werke yards in Kiel. She will be names *Graf Zeppelin* but never completed due to higher priority projects. A month before the Nazi surrender, the crew scuttled the ship. A year later, the Soviets salvaged the ship and ending up sinking her, once again, in weapons testing experiments.



B-3A and LB-6



The never to be completed Graf Zeppelin.
(Credit "Bundesarchiv")



*A hit, a very palpable hit
Hamlet Act 5, scene 2,
Shakespeare
(Credits: US Archives)*

1975 – The *Kiev*, first Soviet ship capable of operating fixed-winged aircraft is commissioned. The VSTOL capable Yak-36 Forger and the Ka-25 Hormone helicopter.

The outfit assigned to the task was the 23 Bomb Squadron, now flying the B-52H out of Minot AFB, North Dakota.

*The ski-ramp equipped
Kiev, Forger, and
Hormone. Note the
array of anti-shipping
missile tubes of the
Kiev's forecastle.*



Former Thames River Cadet Commander, Captain Erik Nelson, USAF is now a Superfortress aircraft commander and temporarily stationed in Guam, no doubt to be within easy flying distance of any threatening volcano on the Pacific Ring of Fire!!!



Erik and the 23 Bomb Squadron Patch



29 Dec., 1939– First flight of the Consolidated B-24 Liberator. She flew in the shadow of her more glamorous cousin, the Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress. The “Lib” was a beast to fly, especially in formation and did not have the “Forts” reputation for ruggedness.



The “Strawberry Bitch, a B-24D on display at the USAF Museum operated out of North Africa and displays a “desert pink” camouflage”

But the Liberator was the most produced bomber in World War II, 18,500 compared to 12,731 for the Flying Fortress. The Liberator also had a longer range and could carry a heavier bomb load.



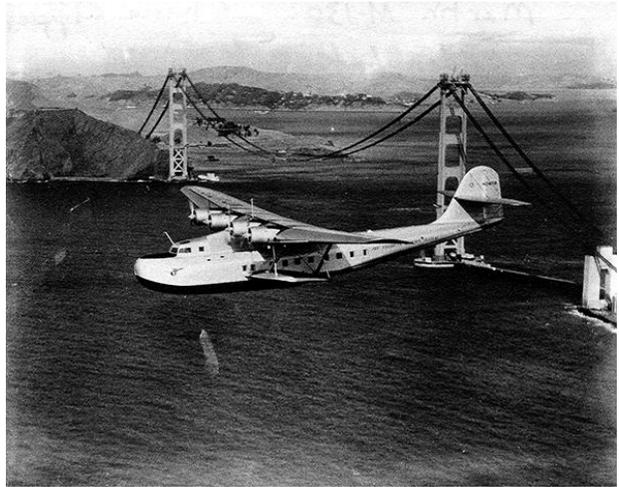
The Commemorative Air Force flies “Diamond Lil,” an LB-30A built for the British government converted to a transports and operated by the USAAF.

Famous B-24 pilots were Jimmy Stewart, Ernie Gann, Don Herbert (Mr. Wizard), and George McGovern,



The Collings Foundation flies their B-24J on their annual Wings of Freedom tour.

30 Dec., 1934 – First flight of the Martin M-130 flying boat. The Clippers flew the first scheduled weekly Pacific service, San Francisco to Manila via Hawaii, Midway, Wake Island, and Guam. Only three were built, all for Pan American: the *China, Hawaii, and Philippine Clippers*.



The China Clipper passes the unfinished Golden Gate Bridge.

The *China Clipper* flew the first trans-Pacific airmail route in 1935. She survived until 1945 when she was destroyed in a landing accident at Port of Spain, Trinidad.

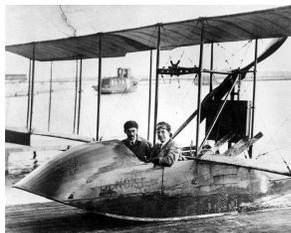


The beaching gear used to remove the flying boat from the water was a crucial piece of equipment at the bases.

The *Philippine Clipper* survived the attack at Pearl Harbor but in 1943 flew into terrain near Booneville, California.

Hawaii Clipper was the shortest lived. She disappeared between Guam and Manila in 1938. Of course, conspiracy theories abound as to its loss.

01 Jan., 1914 – The St. Petersburg-Tampa Airboat Line is the first airline to start regular service using the Benoist XIV flying boat, *Lark of Duluth*. Anthony Jannus carries passenger A. C. Pheil from St. Petersburg to Tampa.



Jannus, Pheil, and the Lark of Duluth

St. Petersburg-Tampa AIRBOAT LINE
Fast Passenger and Express Service

SCHEDULE:

St. Petersburg	10:00 A. M.
Arrive Tampa	10:30 A. M.
Leave Tampa	11:00 A. M.
Ar. St. Petersburg	11:30 A. M.
St. Petersburg	2:00 P. M.
Arrive Tampa	2:30 P. M.
Leave Tampa	3:00 P. M.
Ar. St. Petersburg	3:30 P. M.

Special Flight Trips
Can be arranged through our office or by correspondence directly with Mr. St. Petersburg. **Notes:** This service on the above route is subject to the time of water and other conditions. **URGENT SERVICE:** A minimum charge of \$15 per Special Flight.

Rates: \$5.00 Per Trip. Round Trip \$10. Booking for Passage in Advance.

NOTE:—Passengers are allowed a weight of 200 pounds including hand baggage; excess charged at \$1.00 per 100 pounds, maximum charge 25 cents. EXPRESS RATES for packages and letters, mail matter, etc., \$1.00 per hundred pounds, maximum charge 25 cents. Express cannot be taken to Tampa only, delivery and storage by shipper.

Tickets on Sale at Hangers or
"THE HOLE IN THE WALL"
275 Central Avenue



The nominal fee was \$5 one-way for the 20 mile flight but an auction was held for the first two-way ticket and Mr. Pheil, former mayor of St. Petersburg made the winning bid, \$400. The same trip by land around Tampa Bay took 5-15 hours by train and 20 hours to drive.

02 Jan. 1891 – Didier Daurat, a French pioneer of commercial aviation is born. As a fighter pilot in World War I, he achieved fame by spotting the “Paris Gun” which the Germans were using to bombard Paris from 75 miles away. When the war ended, Daurat joined a pioneer commercial airline, Aeropostale, one of the companies which amalgamated to form Air France in 1932.



(Photo Credit: G. Garitan)



As Operations Director, Didier was a hard taskmaster with little tolerance of those employees who failed to display *l'esprit du courrier*, the “spirit of the mail.” Little loved, even feared but well respected, his twin goals of punctuality and reliability established a model for airline operations.

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry used him as the model for Rivière in the novel *Night Flight*, an account of flying the Andean mails in South America. For those interested in leadership, Saint-Exupéry renders real the price paid when bearing the weighty cross of leadership.

A pilot, Fabien, married six weeks, had been lost. Rivière has just learned of the death of Fabien. A dispatcher reports for orders. Rivière glances at his watch. “it is two. The Asuncion mail will land at two ten. See that the Europe mails takes off at two fifteen. Rivière then returns to his office “...and as he passed, the clerks quailed under his stern eyes; Rivière the Great, Rivière the Conquerer, bearing his heavy load of victory.”