



Missions for
America

Semper vigilans!

Semper volans!

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

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SQUADRON CALENDAR

22 FEB-TRCS Meeting

23 FEB-Special Olympics-volunteers needed

23-24 FEB-ICS300 Course & ICS400 Course

26 FEB-TRCS Meeting-squadron Down Day

26-27 FEB-CAP Legislative Weekend-
Washington

05 FEB-TRCS Meeting-Staff

12 FEB-TRCS Meeting-Commander's Call

19 FEB-TRCS Meeting

26 FEB-TRCS Meeting

16 MAR-CTWG SAREX

29-31 MAR-Cadet Competition-Camp Nianti06

06 APR-CTWG SAREX

17-19 MAY-USAF Evaluation of CTWG

15 JUN-Commander's Cup Rocket Contest

10-17 AUG-CTWG Encampment



Well, I think that we felt that we had filled a gap. Whether the gap was really worth filling, I really don't know. The sinkings right off the mouth of the Delaware Bay did stop. We didn't have any more after that. Sinkings didn't stop, but the one right there did. So anyhow somebody must have spread the word that the mouth of the Bay was being guarded at least. How much credit our flying should have to that, I have no idea. But if it saved one tanker, it was worth while.

*Maj Hugh R. Sharp, Jr., CAP
CAP Oral History Interview
17 October 1983*

CADET MEETING

05 March, 2019

Lt Col Rocketto presented an illustrated lesson on the similarities between aircraft and submarines. The scientific and technological aspects in the fields of physics, engineering, oceanology, and electronics were compared in regard to the design and operation of both types of vehicles.

The second part of the lesson covered the history of aircraft-submarine interactions with emphasis on submarine borne aerial vehicles and the history of aerial anti-submarine activities in World War II and the Cold War.

five years older than him!

SENIOR MEETING

05 March, 2019

Department Heads reported the current status of their areas of responsibility. The upcoming TRANEX was discussed.

MISSIONS

Majs Neilson and Farley and Lt Spreccace flew an eastern sector ice patrol on March 3rd. Flight conditions were excellent but no ice was discovered

AEROSPACE HISTORY AND WEEKLY CHRONOLOGY

Mar. 5, 1942 – Coastal Patrol Base 1 (Bader Field, N.J.) and Coastal Patrol Base 2 (Rehoboth Beach, Del.) were both activated on February 28th but Rehoboth Beach flew the first sortie commanded by its operations officer, Hugh Sharp.



This Fairchild 24 bearing factory colors and the wartime CAP insignia was based at Rehoboth Beach.

Mar, 6, 1961 – The B-52H made its first flight and was last produced in 1963. The H model is still in service today. Capt. Erik Nelson, USAF, former TRCS Cadet Commander and his wife both fly the “H” out of Minot AFB, N.D. Given that the youngest “H” is 35 years old, his aircraft is at least



Nelson's Stratofortress on final at Bradley.



Squadron members were treated to a guided tour by Capt Nelson.

The B-52B was the first operational model. Each turbojet engine contributed 10,900 pounds of thrust and the maximum take-off weight was 420,000 pounds. The B-52H turbofans each contribute 17,000 pounds of thrust and the maximum take-off weight is 488,000 pounds.

Mar 7, 1961 – The # 2 North America X-15 became the first manned aircraft to exceed Mach 4 when pilot Capt. Robert M. White reached a speed of 2,905 mph which, at the flight altitude of 77,450 ft. is Mach 4.43.

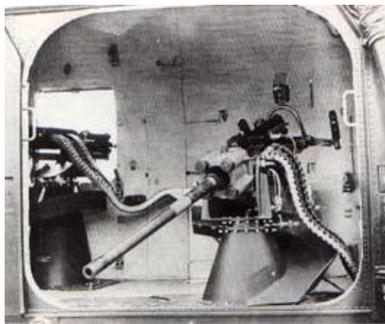


Mar 8, 1954 – First flight of the Sikorsky S-58. As the H-34, the aircraft was called Choctaw by the Army, Seabat by the Navy, and Seahorse by the Marines. Counting licensed built versions by Westland in England and Sud-Est in France, over 2,000 were produced.



French S-58

The aircraft was one of the first armed helicopters when employed by the *Aviation Légère de l'Armée de Terre* (French Army Light Aviation) during the war between France and the Algerian National Liberation Front (1954-1962).



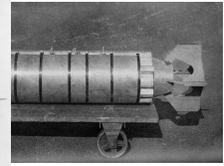
Machine guns mounted in an ALAT S-58

In conjunction with the H-19 Chicksaw and Piasecki H-21 Shawnee transports, FALA's operations were the precursor to the airmobile doctrine developed during the United States engagement in Vietnam.

Mar 9-10, 1945 – Operation Meeting House! General Curtis LeMay sends almost 300 20th Air Force B-29 bombers to Tokyo using new tactics. The bombers were stripped of their gunners to allow a larger bomb load of incendiaries and sent in on a low altitude night attack. The attack is arguably the most destructive air raid in history, burning down 16 square miles of Tokyo and killing between 90,000 and 125,000 people.



Left: Incendiaries cascade from B-29s. Below: M69



*incendiary cluster bomb.
(Credit: USAF)*

By comparison, the first atomic bomb destroyed five square miles of Hiroshima and killed around 75,000 people. The second atomic bomb attack, Nagasaki, killed an estimated 35,000. In Europe, the February raid on Dresden carried out by 1,300 USAAF and RAF bombers using high explosive and incendiary bombs destroyed 2.5 miles of the city and killed around 25,000 people.

Mar 10, 1956 – Lt Cdr Peter Twiss becomes the first person to exceed 1,000 mph and sets a new airspeed record of 1,132 mph flying a Fairey Delta 2.



FD.2 at the Fleet Air Arm Museum

Mar 11, 1912 – Lt. Frank P. Lahm sets up an Army Air School at Fort William McKinley, Philippine Islands. Two soldiers volunteer to be the first students, Lt. Moss L. Love and Cpl Vernon L. Burge. Burge will be the first enlisted pilot in Army service.



*Frank Lahm
(hand on
upright by gas
tank) with
Orville Wright,
July 27, 1909.*

eight stops at promising sites along the way concluding the flight at Valparaiso, Chile.



Frigate Bird II (Credit: Ben Dannecker Collection)



*Burge at controls
of Wright aircraft.*

Burge served in the air service until World War II, retiring as a colonel. Love was killed in a training accident in 1913.

Mar 12, 1947 – First flight of the Douglas Cloudster II. At the end of WWII, the industry suffered a loss in government contracts and expected a boom in private aviation. The heavy aircraft manufacturers such as North American and Republic produced the semi-successful Navion and Seabee.

The aircraft, VH-ASA for Australia to South America was named *Frigate Bird II*. The flight was commanded by Gordon Taylor, an eminent aviator and navigator with a long record of accomplishing long distance flights. He crewed with Charles Kingsford Smith the first Australia to USA flight in 1934, navigated the first flight from Australia to Africa across the Indian Ocean in 1939 and captained *Frigate Bird I* from Bermuda to Mexico, Clipperton Island, New Zealand and Sydney in 1944.

Taylor was awarded the Empire Gallantry Medal for an extraordinary feat of courage and athleticism in 1935. He was navigator with Charles Kingsford Smith on a mail flight across the Tasman Sea from Australia to New Zealand. The aircraft *Southern Cross*, a Fokker FVIIb/3m trimotor lost its starboard engine. The overheating port engine was burning oil at a prodigious rate and failure was imminent. Taylor exited the aircraft and made six trips along connecting struts transferring oil from the disabled starboard engine to the port engine.



Douglas "Cloudster II"

The Cloudster II was the Douglas entry equipped with two engines buried in the fuselage driving a tail mounted pusher prop. Only one was built.

Mar 13, 1951 – The Australian airline Qantas begins a survey flight from Rose Bay, Sydney to Valparaiso, Chile with a Consolidated PB2B-2 Catalina. The aircraft covered 8,451 miles making



*A Tough Way to Add Oil to an Engine
(Painting by Wilf Hardy)*