



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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Issue 13.34

24 September, 2019

### **SQUADRON CALENDAR**

21 SEP-Maintenance  
21 SEPT-Orientation Flights  
24 SEP-TRCS Meeting  
29 Sep-Scarecrow Festival-Preston  
01 OCT-TRCS Staff Meetings  
05 OCT-Groton Fall Festival  
08 OCT-TRCS Commander's Call and Promotions  
12/13 OCT-CTWG TRANEX  
15 OCT- TRCS Meeting  
22 OCT-TRCS Meeting  
29 OCT-Fruit Sale Ends

## **THE FRUIT SALE IS ON!**



*In the full of spring on the banks of a river---  
Two big gardens planted with thousands of orange  
trees.*

*Their thick leaves are putting the clouds to shame.*

Tu Fu

8th Century Chinese Poet

### **CADET MEETING**

24 Sept., 2019

The aerospace lesson by Major Bourque examined the purposes, use and construction of aircraft instruments.

Cadet Jeznach discussed an asteroid, 1998 HL1, which will pass near earth about a week before Halloween and will be moving at around 25,000 mph At its nearest, the asteroid will be 4 million miles away, about 16 times the distance from the earth to the moon.

### **SENIOR MEETING**

24 Sept., 2019

Seniors worked on individual projects: training and administrative.

Lt Richards reported that the manning for the Scarecrow Festival is adequate but more volunteers are needed to cover the Groton Fall Festival.

Lt Col Doucette explained Wing regulations concerning the submission of invoices for reimbursement.

Doucette also explained what information should be submitted on the fruit order forms when the money is turned in.

Lt Kopycienski reviewed the status of the maintenance program. He noted that he is building new VHF and HF antennas. Members contributed and future projects were placed on an agenda.

Daniel Docker, a retired Navy corpsman and infantry officer with strong emergency services credentials was introduced. He will be joining the Squadron.

On Saturday, Cadets Burton, Trinidad and Rathbone and Senior Members Johnson, Richards, Sprepace, Kopycienski, Minter, Rathbone and Snow worked on the exterior lighting window insulation, and painting.



*Cadets Burton, Trinidad, and Rathbone on the painting detail. (Photo Credit: Lt Adam Sprepace)*

## QUALIFICATIONS AND AWARDS



SM Jason Otrin has earned the Yeager Ribbon for completing the Aerospace Education Program for senior members.



*SM Otrin was awarded by being allowed to exercise the weed-whacker during last Saturday's maintenance exercise. (MATEX)  
(Photo Credit; Maj Scott Farley)*

Twenty-eight TRCS senior members have qualified giving the Squadron an 88% completion rate.

## FACILITY MAINTENANCE

On Thursday the 19<sup>th</sup> SM Otrin and Major Farley cleaned up of the so called "Doucette's garden" which is the patch of weeds in front of the Squadron sign. The weed patch honors LTC Doucette who previously had made a noble effort to contain the vegetation. The plan is to treat the area with mulch and allow the low lying evergreens to recover.

## MISSIONS

### *Training*

On Friday the 20<sup>th</sup> SM Otrin and Major Farley conducted an ELT search training mission. It served four objectives- to familiarize SM Otrin with an ELT search, including communications, refresh Major Farley's skills for the same, engage LT Kopycienski on Comms, and to verify LT Kopycienski's repair (new batteries) of the squadrons training ELT. All objectives we solidly met and the squadron now has two functioning ELT training beacons.

### *Orientation Flights*

On Saturday the 21<sup>st</sup> Cadets Minter and Bury received their first powered O-flights with Maj Farley. They launched from Groton, identified their respective homes from the air, and experienced flying the airplane. Once on the ground, the crew cleaned the smashed insects off the leading edge of the wings.

### *Proficiency Flight*

Lt Adam Sprepace completed a proficiency flight which included night operations. Maj Neilson supervised the exercise.

## Current Events

### *US Bomber Force-Now and Then*

At the present time, the USAF has three heavy bombers in its inventory 75 Boeing B-52H Toastmistresses, 60 North American-Rockwell B-1B Lancers and 20 B-2 Spirits.

### *Now/2019*



*The B-52H in this photo is under the command of Capt Erik Nelson, former Cadet Commander at TRCS.*



*The Bone-B1B  
(Credit: USAF)*

*B-2 Spirit,  
sometimes called  
the Boomerang*



By comparison, on February 3rd, 1944, the Eighth Air Force launched about 1,000 Boeing B-17 Flying Fortresses and just over 400 Consolidated B-24 Liberators. The Forts hit Berlin and the Libs attacked the synthetic oil plant at Madgeburg.

## *Then/1944*



*B-17G Nine-O-Nine landing at GON*

*B-24J Witchcraft landing at GON*



*B-29A Fifi departing Whitman Regional, OSH*

*The Dominator was a back-up to the B-29. Only a handful were built and they saw WWII service in the Pacific.*

*(Credit: USAF)*



The current force of about 150 aircraft can deliver 13 million pounds of ordnance, The Berlin-Magdeburg raid used about 1,400 aircraft and dropped around 6 million pounds of bombs.

Essentially one current Air Force bomber carries the equivalent of 20 WWII bombers.

A second factor to consider is that much of the current ordnance is designed for precision delivery whereas WWII raids might place 15% of the bombs within 1,000 feet of the aiming point and the standard 500 pound bomb might cause total destruction within a 50 or 100 foot radius so

hundreds of aircraft might be needed to destroy a target like an aircraft factory. Today, the 500 pound GBU-39 Joint Direct Attack Munition equipped with the Mk-82 general purpose warhead can strike a specific building.

## AEROSPACE CHRONOLOGY

Sept. 25, 1955 – The Royal Jordanian Air Force is founded



*First and Current Fighters of the Jordanian Air Force*



*de Havilland vampire and General Electric F-16*

Sept. 26, 1986 – First flight of the Piaggio Avanti. The canard layout used two turboprops mounted as pushers.



*Avanti Visits Groton*

Sept. 27, 1946– Geoffrey de Havilland, Jr., goes West when the second prototype of the de Havilland DH 108 Swallow breaks up in flight, and crashes into the Thames Estuary.



Note the reference to the speed of sound. The British were in good position to be first and some thought that they had done it. Their weak economy and poor government decisions strangled their program and much of their research was handed over to the United States.

However, a 1952 British film made by David Lean in the style of a documentary and called *The Sound Barrier* or alternately in the United States, *Breaking the Sound Barrier* led many to believe that the British had done it first. This was a mistaken belief in that Chuck Yeager had accomplished the feat in 1947 unless you believe that George Welch had done it two weeks earlier in the XP-86! Do readers wish to argue? Send a reply!

Well, the cinema is not the most reliable source of historical truth. The Australian born Errol Flynn did not drive lead the U. S. Army's Merrill's Marauders and defeat the Japanese as depicted in Warner Brother's *Objective Burma*, a film which so infuriated Prime Minister Churchill and British veterans' groups that it was banned in the Sceptered Isles.

Nor did the American crew of Universal's *U-571* manage to capture an Enigma machine on the high seas, and this affront to the Royal Navy, which actually did so, raised questions in Parliament! So let's call the "Battle of the Cinemas" a draw and do our best to maintain the "Special Relationship" which exists between the United States and the Mother Country.



De Havilland DH 108 Swallow



Geoffrey de Havilland Jr

Geoffrey was the second of Geoffrey de Havilland's sons killed in a test flying accident. John de Havilland was killed in an aerial collision while flying a de Havilland Mosquito.

*Capt. Geoffrey de Havilland, Sr. circa 1919.*



*A WWII Photo of John de Havilland studying notes on the Mosquito.*

Three Swallows were built to investigate sub-sonic performance of a swept-wing design with no horizontal stabilizers. All were destroyed in fatal accidents. In 1950, Squadron Leader Stuart Muller-Rowland crashed in the third prototype and three months later, Squadron Leader George E.C. Genders was killed during sideslip and stall testing. The three aircraft made a total of 480 flights.

Captain Eric "Winkle" Brown, arguably the greatest test pilot ever, narrowly escaped a crash when flying a Swallow in 1949 and described the aircraft as "a killer."

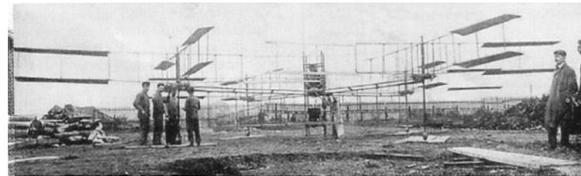
Sept 28, 1980 – Iraqi Tupolev Tu-22 Blinders land in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia after bombing Iran.



*Blinder bombing blind?*

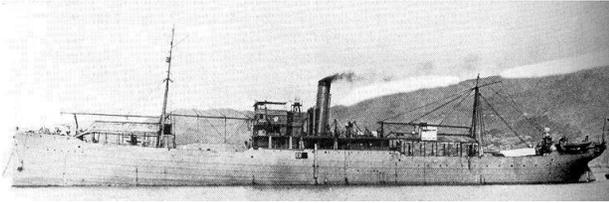
The Iraqis under Saddam Hussein and the Iranians under the Ayatollah Khomeini fought an eight year war starting in 1980. The United States supported Iraq. How times change. Interestingly, Iraq, a Shia Moslem state was being run by Sunnis and was being supported by Saudi Arabia, predominately Shia as is Iran.

Sept 29, 1907 – The Breguer-Richet Gyroplane No. 1 becomes the first rotorcraft to lift a person off the ground. The flight was in ground effect and control was exercised through cables by ground personnel.



Sept 30, 1914 – World War One. The Japanese seaplane carrier *Wakamiya* is damaged by a naval mine and forced to retire from the Siege of Tsingtao, ending the first combat deployment of an aviation ship in history.

The Germans held Tsingtao after forcing a 99 year lease out of the Chinese and based their East Asiatic Squadron there. At the behest of the British the Japanese declared war on Germany and the Allies laid siege to the city. Within a week, Japanese land forces over-ran the German defenses and Tsingtao fell.



*Wakamiya and one of her Farman seaplanes.  
After the ship was damaged the were transferred  
to a land base.*

Oct. 1, 1950– The Royal Danish Air Force is re-established



*The newly constituted Danish air force was  
equipped with LFIXc Spitfires.*



*F-16 with livery honoring the 800th anniversary  
of the Danish flag. The Danes now operate 30  
Vipers and have 37 F-35As on order.*

### **READER COMMENT**

The seaplane pictures in last week edition led Mike Walz from Billings, Montana to comment about his father's service on the *U.S.S. Albemarle*, a seaplane tender.

Mike was one of The Editor's junior rifle shooters back in the 70's. After high school, he joined the Army and served in The Old Guard., 3rd U.S. Infantry. It is the oldest active duty unit in the army and was established in 1784. Today it serves as the official ceremonial unit in the national capital and it best known for its honor guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

After Mike left the Army, he went to college and joined the National Guard. He taught science and coached and retired from the Guard as a captain.

Seaplane tenders are a special class of warship and once were of considerable importance. Most navies supported at least one. Curiously, the WWII German navy operated none but the Luftwaffe deployed 19.

Albemarle was a Curtiss class seaplane tender which supported the operations of Navy flying boats. Over a 33 year career, she served in the Caribbean, Atlantic, and Pacific. In 1946, the *Albermarle* provided support facilities for the technical staff at Bikini Atoll, site of the second

and third tests of the atomic bomb.

Two years later, the ship returned to the Pacific and supported three more atomic tests.

Aircraft which the *Albemarle* tended included the Consolidated PBY Catalina and the Martin PBM Mariner and P5M Marlin. A conversion in 1956 enabled the *Albemarle* to maintain the Martin P6M Jetmaster. The Jetmaster project was abandoned so the *Albermarle* never utilized its specialized handling equipment.



Photo No. 80-G-201836 USS *Albemarle* (AV-5) on 7 September 1943



*The Albemarle servicing a PBM Mariner.*

In 1965, the *U.S.S. Albemarle* was decommissioned and transferred to the Maritime Commission where after major modifications, emerged as the *U.S.N.S. Corpus Christi Bay*, a helicopter maintenance facility.

Her last assignment was servicing U.S. Army helicopters in Vietnam.



*Last Call-U.S Army UH-1 Hueys aboard the aft mounted landing platform. (Credit U.S. Army)*

### VARIOUS GROUPS OF AIRCRAFT DESIGNERS PROJECT THEIR VIEW OF THE IDEAL DESIGN



### HIATUS IN COASTWATCHER PUBLICATION

*The next edition of The Coastwatcher* will be published on October 22nd after The Editor returns from a tour of aviation museums in Italy, Switzerland, and German.