



Missions for America

*Semper vigilans!*

*Semper volans!*

**ATTENTION**

**All officers should make sure to throw the lock dead bolts before leaving the building.**

**Cadets-Write letters of thanks to the uniform donors. It is the right thing to do.**

**SENIOR MEETING**

*09 June, 2020*

*Commander's Call*

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

<http://ct075.org>

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Hap Rocketto, 2nd Lt, AUS, (ret'd.) Feature Writer

Capt Edward Miller, Feature Writer

The safety briefing provided directions to a State of Connecticut website providing information about the Governor's current ukase about the Wuhan flu.

Maj Farley gave us a "heads-up" about the UJSAF compliance inspection due in the fall. The aircraft in our custody will be one of those inspected.

The monthly goals review indicated that our flying time was up to 19 hours. The major failures to meet goals were due to the ordered operations stand-down.

Maj Farley showed the "draft" video which will be viewed on Groton Public Television as part of the virtual Fourth of July Parade. He commended Cadet Noah Bosse who is in charge of producing and arranging it.

Issue 14.23

**10 JUNE, 2020**

- 16 June - Senior Meeting
- 17 June - Cadets: Character Development
- 20-21 June - LISP
- 23 June - Senior Meeting
- 24 June - Cadets: Aerospace
- 30 June: Senior Meeting
- 1 July - Cadets: Leadership
- 7 JUL - Senior Staff Meeting
- 8 July - Cadets: Aerospace / Leadership
- 14 JUL- Senior Meeting-Commander's Call
- 11-12 JUL-LISP

- 14 JUL-Senior Meeting - Commander's Call
- 15 JUL-Cadet Meeting
- 25-26 JUL-LISP
- 8-9 AUG-LISP
- 29-30 AUG-LISP
- 19-20 SEP-LISP



*34PB at PVC*

Lt Col Rocketto presented his illustrated homage to the Douglas DC-3, Methuselah *With Wings*. Lt Gauthier related some of her experiences flying with Providence-Boston Airlines. PBA had an eclectic fleet of aircraft centered around a half dozen Gooney Birds.

John Van Arsdale started flying passengers for P-Town to Boston in a "Bamboo Bomber," the Cessna T-50 Bobcat. The operation expanded until it became one of the largest commuter airlines in the United States.



*Bobcat in the snow on the Hyannis ramp.*

**CADET MEETING**

*10 June, 2020*

Lt Docker gave a safety briefing on the identification and treatment of different types of bleeding.

Lt Col Rocketto presented a illustrated story about the incredible last flight of a B-17 named *Meathound*.

Lt Thornell ran a contest in which the cadets attempted to answer questions about the UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter.

Once a again, a plea was made to the cadets that they write thank-you notes to the service members donating the BDUs to the Squadron.

**REPORT ON WEEKLY OPERATONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

*Promotions*

Cadet Olivia Busher received the Charles Lindbergh Award and has been promoted to Cadet Master Sergeant. Cadet Reuben Minter received the Eddie Rickenbacker Award and has been promoted to Cadet Technical Sergeant. Cadet Johnpaul Wolfe received the Hap Arnold Award and has been promoted to Cadet Airman First Class.

*AIAA Award Winners*



The Connecticut Section of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics has announced the names of the winners of their 2020 essay contest. Three members of Thames River Composite Squadron will receive cash prizes for their work.

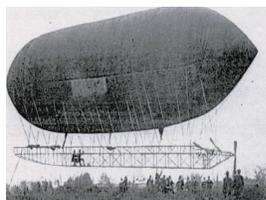
Cadet Joseph Busher, winner in the 7th grade category, has been awarded \$150. Cadet Stephen Buchko took the second place award of \$50. Cadet Nathan Dhillon received an honorable mention prize of \$25.

**AEROSPACE CHRONOLOGY FOR THE WEEK**

10 June, 1908 - The New York Aeronautical Society rented the former Morris Park racetrack and modified it to create an unobstructed "flyway" one kilometer long. This became an early, if not the earliest, formally created airport.

The Belmont Stakes were once held at the track and it was a venue for auto racing. Louis Chevrolet won a gold watch for driving his 90 hp Fiat to a record speed of 52.8 mph.

Among the early flying machines exhibited or demonstrated was Wilbur K. Kimbull's helicopter. The largest dirigible, at that time, the American Eagle, was built at Morris Park and a 17 year old, named Lawrence Lesh flew his glider from the grounds.



*(Credit: Bronx-Times Reporter)*

June 11, 1929 or maybe 1928 depending upon the source - Fritz Stamer flew the first aircraft powered by rockets. The aircraft named *Ente* (Duck) was designed by Alexander Lippisch. The aircraft was powered by two black powder rockets.



*Aft View of a Replica Ente* (Credit: Bergefeller2)

On the first flight, the rockets were fired serially and Stamer flew a 5,000 foot circuit. On the second attempt, Stamer ignited both rockets simultaneously but one rocket exploded and Stamer made a hasty force landing and abandoned the flaming aircraft.

Lippisch went on to make important contributions to the theories of tail-less aircraft and delta wings. The Me 163 was his most famous design.

June 12, 1965 - First flight of the Britten-Norman Islander.

*New England Airlines Islander awaits passengers at Block Island*

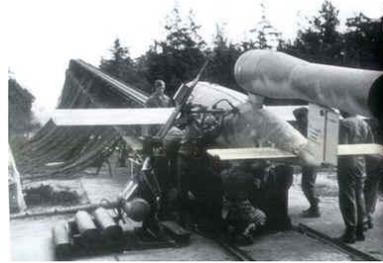


Need some Chinese food from the mainland. The scheduled flights of Bill Bendokas's New England Airlines will be happy to deliver.

June 13, 1944 - The first Vergeltungswaffe 1 (V-1) attack is launched against England. One of the first of the cruise missiles it was built by Feisler and designated Fi 103, powered by a pulse jet and carried a 1,900 lb. warhead.



*Ground crew hustling a V-1 to the launch ramp*



*Buzz bomb poised on its launch ramp*

(Photo Credits: Bundesarchiv)

By the time that the launch sites were overrun by allied land forces, 9,521 "vengeance weapons" had been launched. From new sites, the Nazis launched almost 2,500 more against Belgium and the port city of Antwerp.

June 14, 1982 – First flight of the Beechcraft Lightning. Beech took a Baron 58P fuselage and installed a Garrett turboprop in the nose and then mated it to a Bonanza wing. After testing, they replaced the Garrett with a Pratt Canada PT-6.



Dealers who had a surprisingly lot of influence did not like the look of the long schnozzle and the market forces were unfavorable so only two were ever produced.

June 15, 1927 – A strong advocate of aviation, publisher Van Lear Black charters a KLM Fokker F.VIIa and flies from the Netherlands to Batavia in the Dutch East Indies. This is the first international charter flight.

*Black, friends and Fokker in Thailand, the country once known as Siam.*



At the time, Black was believed to have flown more passenger miles than anyone else. He continued flying long distance flights but his career ended when he fell off his yacht *Sabalo* and drowned. He liked to perch on the taffrail while he enjoyed a smoke. Another proof that smoking is bad for your health.

June 16, 1922 – Henry Berliner demonstrates an early helicopter for the US Navy. He and his father, Emile Berliner worked together researching helicopter design. Emile invented the gramophone, an acoustic tile and an improved rotary engines

The Berliner Helicopter No. 5 used a Nieuport 23 fuselage, a Bentley 220 hp engine, and a "triplane" configuration incorporating three rotors.



*Triplane version*

Underpowered, it barely clawed itself aloft. After improvement, in 1924 it managed to record its best flight, altitude 15 feet, (Flight Level 015 for you who are accustomed to cruise at or above 18,000 ft.)

*Biplane Version*



The 1924 "biplane" version, Helicopter No. 5 is now on exhibit at the College Park Aviation Museum in Maryland.

Henry was a principal of a number of aircraft builders, most important of them were Berliner-Joyce Aircraft and the Engineering and Research Corporation (ERCO) which developed the ERCO Ercoupe.

## AVIATION BOOKS

A Goodfellow from a hangar in Fort Lauderdale reports that his fellow pilots are reporting "Min fuel" in regard to home entertainment. They have exhausted their supply of books and videos. "Like guys in a holding stack at BOS as the weather drops to WOXOF, they are looking for good alternatives. Recognizing the plight of fellow airmen, The Coastwatcher answers their Mayday call.

Most of the book are available new, on library loan, or on the used book market. Our choices cover a range of topics, aviation, military, commercial aviation and history of aviation.

### 1. *Wings Over America* by Harry Bruno

"The story of American aviation" by a participant and Quiet Birdman plank-owner.



### 2. *Air Commando One* "Heinie Aderholt and American's Secret Air Wars" by Warren A. Tres

From Korea to Indochina, if you had a secret war to fight, Aderholt was your man.

### 3. *The Day We Bombed Switzerland* "Flying with the US Eighth Air Force in World War II" by Jackson Granhom

Supposedly, the Norden bomb sight could put a bomb in a pickle barrel from 20,000 feet. But first you have to find the right city and make sure that the pickle barrel is not a fondue pot.

### 4. *Roscoe Turner, Aviation's Master Showman* by Carroll V. Glines

Air racer extraordinaire His pet lion, Gilmore, wore a parachute and checked in with him at the hotels they stayed in.



*Turner and Gilmore*

After Gilmore retired, he was placed in the loving care of an animal refuge. When he died, his stuffed body was exhibited at the NASM next to Turner's Lockheed Vega, *Winnie Mae*. However, Gilmore had to be removed because children kept plucking out his whiskers.

5. *Letters from a War Bird* "The World War I Correspondence of Elliot White Springs" David K Vaughn, editor

An excellent writer, Springs flew with both the Royal Flying Corps and the U.S. Army

6. *My Secret War* by Richard S. Drury

Drury, an aviator of the old school, flies the incomparable round engine tail dragging Douglas Skyraider in Laos, a place which even now, is a little known chapter of U.S. fighting in Indochina.



*Drury and the Skyraider*



7. *Nanette* "Her Pilot's Love Story" by Edwards Park

WWII-New Guinea-Nanette is a quirky P-39. Man and machine become one as Parks leads seven other Airacobras in a spiraling decent, possibly the most erotic imagery found in any aviation book.

8. *Flying the Andes* "The Story of Pan American-Grace Airways" by William A. Krusen

The establishment of routes along the west coast of South America by the unusual partnership of Pan American and the Grace Shipping Company

9. *A Dream of Eagles* by Ralph A. O'Neill

O'Neill pioneered the east coast route to South American with his New York, Rio and Buenos Aires Line flying Consolidated Commodores.



10. *Flying Upside Down* "True Tales of an Antarctic Pilot" by Mark A. Hinebaugh

A pilot of Navy VXE-6 relates what it is like flying to "The Ice." flying the LC-130 to Antarctica

11. *The Sky Beyond* by Sir Patrick Gordon Taylor

When an engine fails on their Fokker Trimotor, *Southern Cross*, between Australia and New Zealand Taylor makes six trips outside and used a briefcase, to transfer oil from the useless starboard engine to the working port engine. This story alone is worth the price of the book.



*A filmed dramatization of Taylor's oil exchange.*

12. *Think Like a Bird* "An Army Pilot's Story" by Alex Kimbell

Kimbell's training with the Royal Army and his subsequent posting to the Arabian Peninsula are the heart of the book. When Kimbell enters advanced fixed wing training flying a Beaver, his flight instructor is Mr. Summers who teaches him to think like a bird. A worthwhile read for any pilot.

13. *Flight of Passage* by Rinker Buck

Two teen age brothers rebuild a Piper PA-11 Cub Special and fly from the Atlantic to the Pacific. A taildragger, two kids, Moon Pies, and Guadalupe Pass. How can you go wrong?



14. *Blimps and U-Boats* "U.S. Navy Airships in the Battle of the Atlantic" by J. Gordon Vaeth

A little known aspect of the longest campaign in WWII, the Battle of the Atlantic

15. *The Canvas Falcons* "The Men and Planes of World War I" by Stephen Longstreet

The aviators, aircraft, and technological advances during WWI.

16. *A Summer Bright and Terrible* "Winston Churchill, Lord Dowding, Radar and the Impossible Triumph of the Battle of Britain" by David E. Fisher

Hugh Dowding development of an integrated air defense system and the tactical disposition of his forces is arguably the key to winning the Battle of Britain.



*Lord Dowding reviewing Pinewood Studios set for the film Battle of Britain*

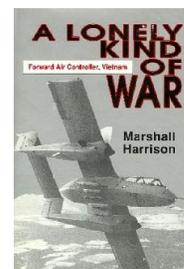
17. *Bernt Balchen, Polar Aviator* by Carroll V. Glines

The life of the greatest polar aviator ever including his bitter interactions with Richard Byrd about the supposed first flight over the North Pole. Balchen pioneered the development of the North Atlantic Ferry Routes in WWII.



*Balchen landed a Catalina on the Greenland Ice Cap to rescue some marooned AAF flyers.*

18. *A Lonely Kind of War* "Forward Air Controller, Vietnam" by Marshall Harrison



Living with the troops and flying an OV-10 Bronco to provide close air support.

19. *Bennett and the Pathfinders* by John Maynard

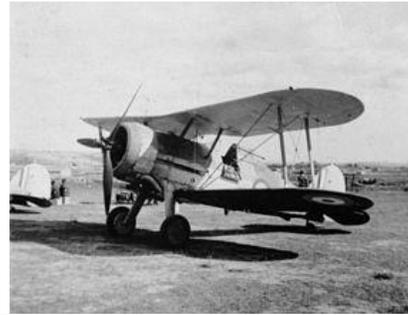
Story of a master pilot and navigator who developed the night target marking system used by RAF Bomber Command in Bomber Command.

Bennet also holds the record for the longest flight in a seaplane. He and his mechanic flew the Mercury seaplane, the top half of the Maia-Mercury Composite from Dundee to Alexander Bay, South Africa, 6,045 miles.



**COASTWATCHER HALL OF SHAME**

Reader Larry Trick has pointed out that the aircraft shown two weeks ago in the piece on sinking the Bismarck were not Gloster Gladiators by Fairey Swordfish. The Gladiator is a fighter famed for its defense of Malta in WWII.



*Sea Gladiator on the ground at Hal Far during the siege of Malta.*

Below: Swordfish II HS138 "B" of No. 816 Squadron being "struck down" aboard the escort carrier H.M.S. Tracker, while above, another squadron aircraft leaves the deck at the start of a rocket strike. Both pictures were taken in 1943.



As soon as the Coastwatcher proofreader recovers from his recent incarceration in the dungeon below the print room, he will be sent to an optometrist.

20. *Vulcan 607* "The Epic Story of the Most Remarkable British Air Attack Since WWII" by Rowland White



The Falklands War-Single ship Vulcan bomber raids from Ascension Island to the Falklands and return-6,600 nautical miles and 16 hours, requiring a three waves shuttle of 15 Victor tankers which had to refueling each other to refuel the Vulcan.

**BEFORE THE TORNADO**



*Bradley Air Museum before the 1979 Tornado. Note the B-17 equipped to fly with five engines.*