



*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 14.50

03 December, 2020

08 DEC-Senior Meeting-Commander's Call

09 DEC-Cadet Meeting

15 DEC-Senior Meeting-Change of Command

17 DEC-Cadet Meeting-Character Development

No meeting during the weeks of 22 & 29
December

26-30 DEC-Regional Cadet Leadership School

05 JA-Seniors Staff Meeting

06 JAN-Cadet Meeting

12 JAN-Senior Meeting-Commander's Call

FRUIT DELIVERY AND DISTRIBUTION

The scheduled deliver is on Friday, December 4th at 0700. Volunteers are requested to unload the truck.

Distribution will be on Saturday, 0900-1200 and Sunday, 1200-1500. Volunteers are requested to help customers load their purchases.

SENIOR MEETING

01 December, 2020

Staff Meeting

Lt Col Doucette, Finance Officer, reported that the current status of Squadron finances is "healthy."

Maj Peske and Lt Spreccace, Professional Development, reported that a new spread sheet which simplifies the new CAP requirements for advancement is under development.

CADET MEETING

03 December, 2020

submitted by

C/SMSgt Noah Bosse, Cadet PAO

Maj Alcino Almeida, a Korean War veteran, gave a presentation on aircraft of the Korean War. C/TSgt Stephen Bucko assisted.

During the break-out sessions, Cadets chose topics for discussion such as the relief of General Douglas MacArthur, the torpedo attack on the Hwachon Dam and the USAF supply by parachute of bridging equipment to help Marines and Army troops escape from possible entrapment at the Chosin Reservoir.

Cadets are reminded that PT training is scheduled at 1000 at Fitch on Saturday.

WEEKLY MISSIONS, ACTIVITIES AND AWARDS

TRCS Earns Aerospace Award

Thames River is one of only three squadrons in the Wing to qualify for the CAP Aerospace Achievement Award. The award recognizes strong aerospace leadership and administration and specified activities in both internal and external aerospace missions.

Brothers Qualify as NRA Sharpshooters



C/TSgt Stephen Buchko and C/Amn Nicholas Buchko earned the Winchester-NRA Sharpshooter Badge at the Quaker Hill Rod & Gun Club's Junior Marksmanship Program.

Bosse Sends News Release to Day

C/CMSgt Noah Bosse, Cadet Public Affairs Officer, has submitted a news release on the recent promotion ceremony to the *New London Day*.

Promotions and Awards

Benjamin Kelly received the Goddard Award and has been promoted to Cadet Chief Master Sergeant.

Reuben Minter received the Rickenbacker Award and has been promoted to Cadet Technical Sergeant.

Mathew Fago received the Arnold Award and has been promoted to Cadet Airman First Class.

Cadet Anna Minter received the Curry Award and has been promoted to Cadet Airman.

THE REAL BIRTHDAY OF CAP?

Last week, *The Coastwatcher* celebrated the date, December 1, 1941 which traditionally marks the "birthday" of the Civil Air Patrol. But historians use a fine rake when studying historical evidence and the mills of academia grind fine.

Dr. Frank A. Blazich, Jr., Col, CAP is the former National Historian of the Civil Air Patrol and currently Director of the Louisa S. Morse Center for Civil Air Patrol History and Curator of Modern Military History for the Division of Armed Forces History at the Smithsonian Institution National Museum of American History has taken a close look at the documentary evidence which exists and has published an historical monograph: *"FOUNDING" Versus "ESTABLISHMENT" A Perspective On Civil Air Patrol's Recognized Date Of Origin.*

Two documents were analyzed. The first is the familiar Administrative Order No.9 dated 1 December, 1941 by Fiorello H. LaGuardia, U.S. Director of Civilian Defense. This was published in its entirety in volume 14.49 of *The Coastwatcher*. However, there is evidence that the document printed and dated on 1 December as shown in *The Coastwatcher* was actually officially published on December 8th, the day after the Pearl Harbor attack, This officially published document, according to Dr. Blazich, is the legally binding document which establishes the Civil Air Patrol as an organ of the Office of Civilian Defense.

The first document, the original draft, also dated 1 December, did not carry an official imprimatur. Apparently, LaGuardia drafted it for the purpose of immediate publication and as Blazich suggests to acknowledge "...the work of small group of individuals in the fall of 1941 to shepherd the idea of the Civil Air Patrol into reality.

So, we leave it up to you. Do you accept the "announced" birthdate or the "official" birthdate?

AEROSPACE CHRONOLOGY FOR THE WEEK

December 2-A Popular Day to Launch Space Shuttle Missions

1988-Space Shuttle *Atlantis* STS-27 lifts off on a classified mission to deploy a Lacrosse radar imaging surveillance satellite.



1990-Space Shuttle *Columbia* STS-35 totes the ASTRO-1 quartet of ultraviolet and x-ray telescopes for nine days of 24 hour coverage of the celestial sphere.



1992-Space Shuttle *Discovery* STS-53's main payload is the Defense Department's SDS-3 communications relay satellite.



1993-Space Shuttle *Endeavour* STS-61 spent nine days in orbit and supported a record of five spacewalks to service the Hubble Space Telescope.



(Credits: NASA)

Dec. 3, 1934 – Noted long distance flyer Charles Ulm and his crew, co-pilot George Littlejohn and navigator-radio operator Leon Skilling disappear while flying over the Pacific Ocean somewhere between Oakland, California and Hawaii.



Ulm, Skilling, Littlejohn and Cyril Wescott, study the flight plan. (Credit: State Library of New South Wales)

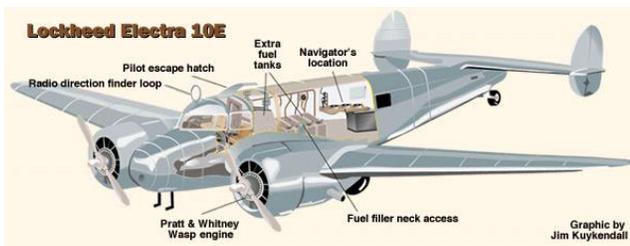
In 1928, he partnered with Sir Charles Kingsford Smith to make the first crossing of the Pacific Ocean in the Fokker VIIb/3m *Southern Cross*. In the same year of his death, he flew the Arvo X, *Faith in Australia* and carried the first official airmail from New Zealand to Australia and from Australia to Papua New Guinea.

Their disappearance had many similarities with the loss of Amelia Earhart and Fred Noonan two and a half years later. Both aircraft did not carry life rafts to save weight and both depended upon astro-navigation and dead reckoning, each of which have limitations in accuracy.

Both aircraft, Earhart's Lockheed Electra 10 and Ulm's Airspeed Envoy, *Stella Australis*, were heavily laden with fuel. The navigator's stations were separated from the cockpit by fuel tanks. Noonan and Earhart communicated using notes attached to a clothes-line like pulley system. Similarly, Skilling used speaking tubes to speak to Ulm but could directly discuss navigation with reference to logs and charts with Ulm and Littlejohn.



*Airspeed Envoy
Stella Australis*



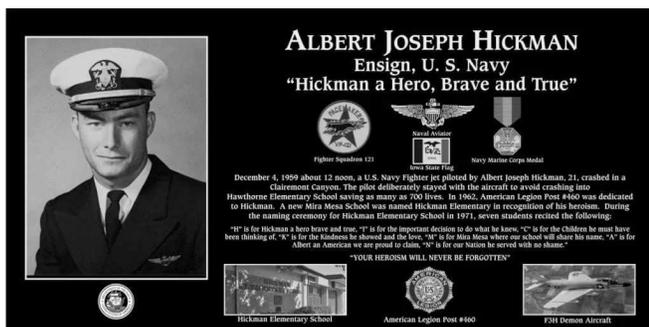
Earhart's Lockheed 10E illustrating the separation of the pilot and the navigator.

Dec. 4, 1958 – While practicing landings at Naval Air Station Mirimar, Ensign Albert Joe Hickman's McDonnell F3H-2 Demon lost power at 2,000 feet above ground level. Directly in the path of the rapidly descending aircraft was the 700 student body Hawthorne Elementary School. Hickman eschewed ejection and turned the aircraft away from the school.



Demon on display at the Museum of Naval Aviation, Pensacola

Too low to eject, he crashed into a nearby canyon and was killed upon impact. He was posthumously awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal for "heroic performance...in an act involving very specific life-threatening risk to the awardee." The community has honored him by naming a school and an American Legion post after him.



Dec. 5, 1931 – Record setting racing pilot Lowell Bayles goes West in the crash of a Gee Bee Model Z Racer, the City of Springfield.



Bayles and the City of Springfield

Motion picture analysis of the crash showed that while traveling over 300 mph, a fuel tank cap directly in front of the canopy came loose, smashed through the windscreen and likely either killed Bayles or knocked him unconscious. The aircraft pitched up and the wing failed.

Dec. 6, 1975 – The Tupolev Tu-144S made its first commercial run carrying mail from Moscow to Alma Ata. Passenger service commenced on November 1st, 1977. In its operational life, the 16 "Conkordskis" built made 102 commercial flights, only 55 of which carried passengers.



Dec. 7, 1972 – Apollo 17 makes the final Apollo landing on the moon. Mission Commander Eugene Cernan and geologist Harrison Schmitt fly the Lunar Module *Challenger* while Ronald Evans tends house in the Command Module *America*.



(Credit: NASA)



B-17E and a P-35 at Iba, October, 1941

Dec. 8, 1941 – Ten hours after the Pearl Harbor attack, Japanese aircraft strike the airfields of the US Far Eastern Air Force in the Philippine islands. Although warned by telephone and radio messages and radar tracking, U.S. forces under the command of General Douglas MacArthur exhibit an almost unbelievable lack of command coordination, failure to make critical decisions and inactivity.

The Far East Air Force (FEAF) consisted of approximately 100 Curtiss P-40 B/E Warhawks, about three dozen obsolescent Seversky P-35 and Boeing P-26 Peashooters, three dozen Boeing B-17D/E Flying Fortresses and 18 Douglas B-18 Bolos.

At this time, the FEAF had more aircraft than those stationed in the Department of Hawaii! Tactical surprise was complete and within an hour, the FEAF lost half its strength and within two days was rendered ineffective.

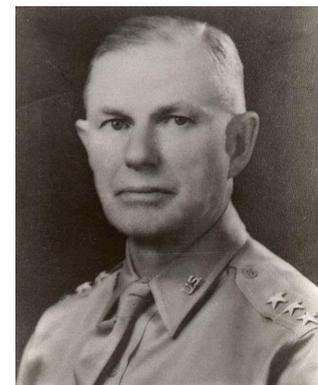
Of the seventeen B-17s on the ground at Clark Field, twelve were destroyed, four were damaged, and one escaped damage. Thirty-four P-40s were destroyed on the ground or in aerial combat

Immediately after the Pearl Harbor attack, Admiral Husband Kimmel was relieved of his command, demoted, and retired. Army Major General Walter Short received similar treatment.



P-40Bs lined up at Clark Field, Luzon Island, the Philippines

B-17D at Iba, another Luzon air field.



*The Scapegoats
Kimmel and Short*

The commanders in the Philippines received quite different treatment. General Douglas MacArthur received a half-million dollars from Philippine President Quezon for past services and the U.S. Congress awarded him the Medal of Honor. Major General Louis Brereton, Commander of the FEAF, served in various capacities in both the Pacific and European campaigns and retired as a lieutenant general.



Heroes?

*MacArthur and
Brereton*



LIMA, QUEBEC AND QUARANTINE



Squadron Commander Farley, Attorney Steadman, Brother Hap, Valentine Vi and even Mike Walz from far off Billings, Montana contributed answers

to the query about the meaning of a November or Quebec signal flag flown by a ship in the roadstead of the Islets of Langerhans.

Arise your prisoners of Quarantine. Arise you wretched of the earth.

The solid yellow flag, Lima, is also called the "yellow jack," a clever expression which combines the slang term for yellow fever with the flag flow from the jackstaff on the bow of a ship.

Quarantine is the period of isolation required under some circumstances to prevent the spread of a contagious disease. It stems from the Venetian term, *quaranta giorni* (forty days), a Biblical reference often used to signify a time of trouble and probably adopted to a period of time which allows a disease to run its course and lose its ability to infect others.

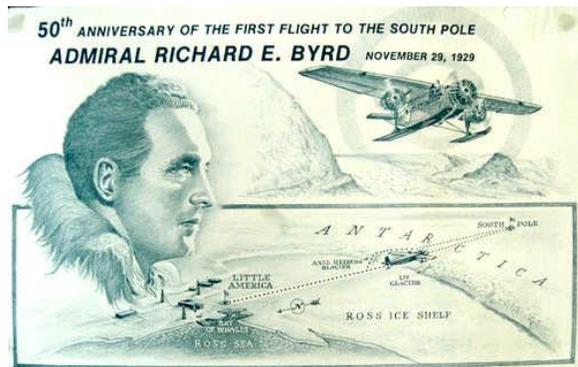
The meaning of the flags have changed. Originally, "Quebec" signified that there are sick aboard. It now indicated that it is free of disease and requests boarding for inspection.

"Lima" used to represent a quarantine but now is a request to stop.

Mike Walz added that at the beach, a yellow flag indicates a moderate hazard from surf or currents but we doubt he sees it much on the Billings Montana beaches.

ERRATUM

Custodian of Typographical Truth Hap Rocketto points out that a decimal point was left out of the time which it took for the first South Pole flight. The correct time for 1,800 miles is 19.1 hours.



The Flight Path