



Mission for America

Semper vigilans!
Semper volans!

The Coastwatcher

Newsletter of the Thames River Composite Squadron
GON
Connecticut Wing
Civil Air Patrol

website: <http://cap-ct075.com/default.aspx>

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The editor of the *The Coastwatcher* will be at Fort Benning next week so no edition will be published.

Schedule of Coming Events

January

29 TUE BDUs/Emergency Services

February

05 TUE PT
06 WED Wing Commander's Call/CAC
12 TUE BDU/Squadron Commander's Call
16 SAT Aircrew Training/BCUT
19 TUE Blues
29 WED Wing Staff Meeting
26 TUE BDU

Long Term Planning

12 Apr-SAT-SAREX
26 Apr-SAT Wing Convention
28 Apr-5 May-USAFA Graded Training Event
10 May-SAT-ACUT
21 Jun-SAT Wing Rocket Competition
4-13 July Encampment
19 July SAREX
20-24 July AIAA Power Plant Conference

GROUND OBSERVER CORPS REDUX

Cadet Shawn East correctly identified last week's mystery aircraft as a Consolidated B-24, homely stepsister to the more glamorous Boeing B-17 flying Fortress. In fact, some claimed that the portly Liberator was the crate in which they shipped B-17s.



Boeing B-17



Consolidated B-24

Nonetheless, the B-24 possesses a number of advanced features which included a tricycle landing gear, a retractable ball turret, unique bomb bay doors, and the controversial Davis air foil. It was faulted for its heavy control forces and its inability to sustain heavy battle damage but it also flew faster and further than a B-17 and carried a larger bomb load.

The long range of the Liberator suited it for over water operations and the RAF used it to patrol the Mid-Atlantic Gap and thereby harass the U-boats which menaced the Atlantic convoys. Likewise, the U.S. Navy utilized the "Lib" as the PB4Y-1, replacing the Emerson bow turret with an Erco turret and renaming the aircraft as the Privateer. Consolidated produced an advanced model, the PB4Y-2 which provided a lengthened fuselage and a single tall tail in place of the double fins of the original B-24. A cargo version, the C-109 served in the Air Transport Command and tankered gasoline from India, over the Himalayas to the forces in China, a route immortalized as "The Hump."

On August 1, 1943, five Groups of B-24s, a total of 177 aircraft departed Benghazi, Libya and headed for the oilfields at Ploesti, Romania. Navigational errors and a strong German defense wreaked havoc among bombers but the force prosecuted the attack, losing one-third of their number. Five Medals of Honor were awarded for that one action.

Production of the B-24 exceeded that of the B-17 by about 50% and by the end of the war, over 18,000 were produced. Almost half of these were produced at Ford's huge Willow Run plant, at that time, the largest enclosed factory in the world with a one mile production line. When the plant finally reached full production, a bomber rolled off the line about every 90 minutes.

Although never receiving the publicity which the B-17 garnered, the B-24 soldiered on in all theaters, fulfilling a wide range of assignments.

Our next mystery aircraft is another lesser known stepsister to a more famous cargo aircraft. See if you can identify this World War II airplane.



QUIZ OF THE WEEK

1. What is this edition's mystery aircraft?
2. What was the purpose of the XB-41?
3. The Davis Air Foil was a high-aspect air foil. What does this mean?
4. In what city did the Granville Brothers make the famous GB racers?
5. Where is the Dardanelles?
6. What famous inventor is associated with the Silver Dart?
7. In what state is Willow Grove?
8. What nation produced the *Viggen*?
9. What is the famous Air Force Base located at Muroc Dry Lake?
10. What is the curious derivation of the name "Muroc?"

Memories of February's Past

01/1912 The first incident of aircraft being struck by bullet occurs during Italo-Turkish War.

02/1925 President Calvin Coolidge signs the Kelly Act which allows the Post Office to let out contracts to private companies to carry airmail.

03/1928 Due to a dispute with the Smithsonian Institution over whom developed the first successful controllable, heavier than air, man carrying powered aircraft, Orville Wright has the original Wright Flyer shipped to England. It will remain there for two decades.

04/1948 The Douglas D-558-2 Skyrocket completes the first phase of its tests at Muroc.

05/1919 *Deutsche Luftfreederie*, the first civilian airline, commences routes between Berlin, Leipzig, and Weimar.

06/1926 Pratt and Whitney introduces the first Wasp engine, a nine cylinder, 400 HP radial.

07/1927 Georgetown University offers the first course in aviation medicine.

08/1967 The Saab 37 *Viggen* makes its first flight.

09/1924 The U.S. Air Mail Service wins the Collier Trophy for establishing the practicality of night flying.

10/1956 Father of the RAF, Marshal of the Royal Air Force, Lord Trenchard, goes west.

11/1962 Gary Francis Powers arrives back in U.S. after a spy swap for "Col Rudolph Abel."

12/1934 Zantford D. Granville, GeeBee designer goes west in crash at Spartanburg, N.C.

13/1943 The Vought F4U Corsair makes operational debut in a raid on Bougainville.

14/1930 The Navy accepts the Boeing 205 for testing. It is the first monoplane designed for aircraft carrier operations. It is designated as the XF5B-1.

15/1975 The first pre-production Fairchild A-10A makes its maiden flight.

16/1982 The first production Airbus A310 rolls out of factory in Toulouse, France.

17/1915 HMS Ark Royal, the first seaplane carrier commences operations in the Dardanelles.

18/1943 Extraordinary test pilot "Eddie" Allen goes west in crash of XB-29.

19/1915 Robert Goddard commences a series of solid fuel rocket experiments.

20/1965 Eugene L. Vidal, former Director of Air Commerce, goes west.

21/1921 Lt W.D. Coney makes the first transcontinental solo flight from San Diego, Calif. to Jacksonville, Fl. in a DH-4B.

22/1987 First flight of Airbus A320 introducing fly-by-wire control to the commercial market.

23/1909 The Silver Dart is the first airplane to fly in Canada.

24/1939 Pan American Airlines accepts the first Boeing 314 Clipper.

25/1956 The first launch of the prototype Nike-1 SAM is made at White Sands Missile Range.

26/1946 The Eighth Air Force ends operations in England.

27/1969 Colin Campbell Mitchell, developer of the steam catapult, is reported as having gone west.

28/1925 Testing the earth inductor compass, Lt. H.P. Whitten and Navigator Bradley Jones fly from Dayton, Ohio to Boston, Mass. using only navigation instruments.

29/1960 The USAF accepts the North American X-15.

CADET MEETING MINUTES **22 January, 2008**

C/MSgt Molinari led the Cadets in the opening ceremony.

Capt. Rocketto introduced the Cadets to the first part of Module 3. The topics of thermal equilibrium, insolation, the effect of the inclination of the earth on seasons, the development of wind belts, and methods of heat transfer. Demonstrations were presented for the Coriolis effect and the effect of angle of inclination on the diffusion of light energy. Slides were shown which illustrated the movement of the sun along the horizon over the course of a season.

A video was shown which covered the history of the Army Air Service from its first aircraft purchase to the demonstration by Billy Mitchell of aircraft versus naval vessels.

U.S. COAST GUARD ACADEMY **LECTURES**

Thursday-14 FEB Measuring Indian Ocean Flow Around Southern Africa and into the Atlantic as Part of the Ocean Conveyor Belt Circulation

Tuesday-18 MAR When Will We Discover the Extraterrestrials?

Monday-21 APR Black Holes and Thermodynamics

Details are posted on the Squadron Bulletin Board.