

# Hangar Tales

*Official Newsletter of the National Warplane Museum*



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## "Whiskey-7" Suffers Engine Failure At Conneaut (OH) D-Day Event

On the afternoon of August 17<sup>th</sup>, after making low passes over the beach at the Conneaut (OH) D-Day commemoration, Whiskey-7 suffered problems with its number one engine. Quick action by the pilots, Reuben Alexander and Chris Polhemus, allowed Whiskey-7 to safely return to the Northeast Ohio Regional Airport (HZY) in Ashtabulla (OH) on one engine. Whiskey-7 landed safely and no one was injured. Catastrophic engine failure was confirmed and the rest of flights were cancelled. The crew returned to Geneseo by car, leaving Whiskey-7 in Ohio.

We are in the process of replacing the engine with an overhauled unit. We cannot say enough about our friends at D-



**W7 on the ramp at Northeast Ohio Regional Airport. The plastic tote is for the 30 gallons of oil still in the engine. It will be recycled to heating oil for a local establishment**



**Removing the cowling, oil, and all connections took most of the afternoon that Friday.... The team at Northeast Ohio Regional Airport were great to work with and were happy to lend a**

Day Ohio and the Northeast Ohio Regional Airport (HZY) as they continue to support our efforts. A team from the museum went to the airplane and removed the engine, propeller, and all oil system parts and returned them to Geneseo for cleaning and inspection. We ordered a overhauled engine and it has arrived. The old engine has been stripped down and readied for shipment back to the shop as an exchange part. The other parts have been inspected and cleaned of all possible residual oil and installed on the new engine.

This entire process is expected to cost over \$75,000 once the airplane is back in the air. A chicken barbeque held on Living History Day raised almost \$1,000. A Halloween costume party fund raiser will be held on October 26<sup>th</sup>.

You can also use the "Donate" button at the top of our Facebook page (donations are tax deductible). It will be a tough period as we have several more events we are trying to attend through the end of the season. Your help will

be much appreciated and 100% goes to getting W7 back into the air.



We are not sure exactly what the engine weighs, but the old standby was one pound per horse power so it was likely just over 1/2 ton. The team at the airport lent a hand with running the lift we used... it was very smooth



Removing the cowling, oil, and all connections took most of the afternoon that Friday.... The team at Northeast Ohio Regional Airport were great to work with and were happy to lend a hand



Bringing the engine home. The propeller blades are on the back of the trailer. The hub and dome have been cleaned and reassembled to install back on the new engine. It will be pulling W7 through the air soon!



The nacelle was wrapped to keep the weather out. We will be back soon with a new engine W7!

**To Donate**

**Make checks payable to:  
National Warplane Museum  
P.O. Box 185  
Geneseo, NY 14454**

**Write "Whiskey 7" on the  
memo line**

Pictures and captions from the National Warplane Museum's Facebook page were exclusively used to prepare this story.

The Editor

## **NATIONAL WARPLANE MUSEUM'S C-130 RESTORATION PROJECT!**

*Modified by Larry Jones*

### **THE IMPORTANCE OF THE C-130**

C-130's were first produced in 1954 and are still in production today! This is the longest military aircraft production run ever. They have been used by approximately 70 nations and have been well-known as a true work horse. C-130s were involved in many different types of operations including airborne assault, search and rescue, scientific research, reconnaissance, aerial refueling, and aerial firefighting. Some noteworthy specific examples include the mid-air recovery of films from the KH-7, or Gambit, which was a reconnaissance satellite launched via a Titan rocket. More recently The New York Air National Guard's 109<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing has flown them to Antarctica on support missions for the National Science Foundation.



### **OUR C-130**

Built in 1958 by Lockheed with the serial number 57-460 our new arrival was put into service with the United States Air Force. In October 1972 she was lent to the VPAF (Vietnam People's Air Force) until August of 1975 where she once again came back to the USAF. Nicknamed "Saigon Lady," she was one of the last C-130s to make it out of Saigon before the fall. With your help, we would like to restore her as a monument to the veterans of the Vietnam War. Her story is an interesting one that highlights the struggle in Vietnam and the impact that these planes had in the region.



After her retirement in 1989 Saigon Lady was acquired by the Smithsonian National Air & Space Museum and was stored at Dulles International Airport for 30 years. Donated to The National Warplane Museum, the costs of transportation and related expenses have amounted to more than \$150,000 to date. Site preparation and restoration of the aircraft will result in many more needed funds.

Pham Quang Kheim was a pilot in the VNAF at the time of the collapse of South Vietnam. His amazing story of escape and flying his family out of Vietnam on Saigon Lady can be found on the following website:

<http://www.t28trojanfoundation.com/vnaf.html>.



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

## COMING SOON TO A MAILBOX NEAR YOU!

National Warplane Museum's Charity Raffle

**Restore "Lady Saigon!"**



**GRAND PRIZE!**  
**\$10,000!**

**\$20 Donation or 6 for \$100**

Proceeds benefit National Warplane Museum's C-130 Restoration Project.

Drawing: Saturday May 2nd, 2020 - 3489 Big Tree Lane, Geneseo, NY  
Must be 18 Years or older to Enter - Need Not Be Present to Win

NY State Games of Chance # GC 24-204-499-10238

As you know we have adopted our newest member "Lady Saigon!" She is sitting here looking ever so proud awaiting her makeover! In order to help pay for her transportation from Dulles International Airport in Washington DC (over \$150,000!) and to help pay for her restoration, we will be holding a raffle! Along with selling tickets here locally at the museum, we will also be mailing out 6 (six) tickets to each of our members in hopes that you will be able to purchase them. Our letter should reach members by November 1<sup>st</sup>. As with all raffles, each ticket will include a drawing stub for your information so we may contact the winner. Our drawing is scheduled to be held on Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> to coincide with our spring "Rides Day" here at the museum. We are very excited about Lady Saigon and honoring our Vietnam Era Veterans.

**Grand Prize \$10,000**

We thank you in advance for your participation in our fund raising efforts and invite you to visit Lady Saigon! We also are asking for donations in addition or in lieu of our raffle to aid in the process of either our C-130 or the replacement of the engine on Whiskey 7 which has a price tag of over \$75,000! Your tax deductible check can be made to "National Warplane Museum," PO Box 185, Geneseo, NY 14454. Please signify where you would like your donation to go on the bottom of your check.

Again, **THANK YOU** for your continued support of your National Warplane Museum. Without people like you we would never accomplish our goals in honoring and memorializing our military veterans.

Larry Jones  
Volunteer

## A VIEW FROM THE LONG HANGAR

Most days you could roll a bowling ball all the way through the long hangar, and not hit a thing. Well, during our air show, if you rolled that ball you'd score a perfect game each time. We had so many activities and visitors in the display hangar it was often a chore to navigate through it all. Now, that is a good thing to have people come in to see the artifacts, and displays during air show, not just to find a 'real' restroom.

As folks came in the door, Jan Wiseley, and her friend, Jay, were there to greet them, and give basic directions. Jan's dad was lead crew chief of the W7 squadron, and she brings in many of his wartime items, and various books, poems, and pictures. We again had a very interactive Lego set up that had all sorts of moving parts, and model Lego airplanes to buy. The kids, of all ages, get a close up look at hours of work those guys do to set up this moving scene, all made of all those small parts that young parents step on in the dark at home.



The fellows from 'Wargames Among the Warbirds' found a spot to set up, and demonstrate their hobby to the visitors. I truly do not understand what they do, but it sure fascinates many a 'gamer'. Every time I walked by I would ask Beau Langless how the Geek Fest was going, in jest of course, and he would laugh, and say it was just fine. Hey, I am a collecting geek, so I can do that!

On Saturday Janet Cruz, an exceptional, local photographer set up her photos of last year's air show to view, and buy. Her photos are actually printed on the hallways of the buildings at the new Sky Bird Landing apartments, really amazing in such a large format. We set her up in the space leading to America At Home which helped get people into that area.

( A VIEW FROM THE LONG HANGAR continued)

We all know about Type A personalities; focused, strong willed individuals. Well, I set up two rows of six tables each for parachute repacking, and those Liberty Jump Team folks are all Triple A personalities! I'd get behind them in any bar fight, and stay there! Talk about Gung Ho, boy, they sure are, but I guess that is all part of jumping out of an open door of an airplane high above the Earth. They took up a lot of room, but folks enjoyed watching them carefully packing the parachutes.



I try to change up, or add displays each year. This year I used one empty display case for a tremendous collection of 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Bernard Newmark's, B-24 items. Shown is his full, fleece flight suit, several uniforms, pictures, mint flight suit, parachute with harness, and more. Of special interest was the original Walt Disney art for his squadron in the 8<sup>th</sup> Army Air Force. He had the Disney Studios design the nose art, and one copy is on display. I have the original well hidden.

Only a week before the show, a lady brought in her dad's items. He was a B-17, Ball Turret gunner 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force. The display includes his medals, including a Distinguished Flying Cross, gunner wings, silk escape map, documents, a letter home to his sweetie, and even the figure of a soldier and wife from his wedding cake, as he was married during the war.



## A VIEW FROM THE LONG HANGAR continued)

Another collection that came to us a year ago is now behind glass. It is from a 15<sup>th</sup> Air Force, B-17 Navigator's items, a local man. It includes his superb uniform with his navigator wings, an Italian, custom made, uniform, pictures taken from his nose position, including one shot through the sextant dome of another B-17 above them, and some of an escort P-40.



Added to the display are other navigator tools including a sextant.

In the American at Home area, I added the gorgeous, A-2, leather jacket with a leather patch of the 'Liberandos' from the 15<sup>th</sup> Air Force. The B-24 Capt., the pilot, was from Rochester, and it also features a picture of him with his crew, and his medals, including the DFC for leading a Pathfinder mission during the horrid Ploesti oil refinery raids into Romania. You all need check out what is new to see in the display hangar.



So, what did I miss? Oh, the indoor plumbing, it was a big hit, and Roger & I kept it unclogged, running, and resupplied with TP, and towels. I had replaced a broken toilet seat in the men's room, and really should get union rate for that job, as I did it before the area was cleaned! Remember: to get a good job, get a good education!!

Jamieson R. Steele  
Volunteer Collections & Display Mgr.  
( & Plumber )

# The Eighth Annual

# *Gala in the Valley*

To Benefit United Way of Livingston County



The National Warplane Museum was proud to host the United Way's Eighth Annual "Gala in the Valley" on Saturday, September 21, 2019. This event, sponsored by Wegman's, is a major fund raising event for the United Way. Nikki Rudd, News 10 WHEC, was the emcee for the event. The dinner and decorations were handled by Partyman, with live music and dancing by Darby Road.



The United Way of Livingston County supports the following agencies:

- ARC of Livingston - Wyoming
- Clara Barton / Livingston Chapter American Red Cross
- Boy Scouts of America—Iroquois Trail, Inc.
- Catholic Charities of Livingston County
- Chances and Changes
- Dansville Ecumenical Community Food Pantry
- E.A.R.S. Lifeline Program / NOYES
- Focus on the Children
- Genesee Valley Health Partnership
- Genesee Parish Outreach Center
- Hillside Children's Center— Livingston County Services
- Livingston Cty Youth Advocacy Program
- Livingston Cty Office for the Aging—Home Delivered Meals
- Santa Hat Society
- Source of Success
- Soaring Stars
- Teresa House



These agencies provide critical support to the people in our community every day. The National Warplane Museum will be proud to host the Ninth Annual Gala next year.



## Walter D. France Collection Dedication



On July 6<sup>th</sup>, we had the formal dedication of the Walter D. France Collection. The models of this collection, featured in the January-February '19 issue of Hangar Tales, are housed in Swanson Hall, with the books being housed in the library in the Admin Bldg.

These models were made during the 40's and 50's by Walter D. France of Waterbury, CT. His son, Walter Jr., preserved this collection when it came to him. Walter Jr. and Walter III (goes as Wayne), and their wives, approached us about housing this outstanding collection back in 2016. They have paid for the



Wayne France



The France Family

transportation, set up, electrician, and carpenters to install this for us. They spent many days setting the models in the cases. Mac "Ducky" McLean and Andy Ginsberg have also adopted this project, and have helped with the endeavor, as have others. You all need to see this amazing display. We all owe the France family a huge debt of thanks!

# C-119 Boxcar Boys Update



Some of the Boys on a Wednesday afternoon. Left to right: Bob Cox, Dan (with Buttercup the dog), Dougie Brickett (a recent volunteer from Scotland), Kevin House, and Dave Kolchuk

The Boxcar Boys have had a busy summer. They entertained visitors during the airshow and received many compliments on the improvements to the appearance of the airplane. They continue to do maintenance and restoration projects as illustrated by the accompanying photos. Some of the projects include:

- Securing cowl flaps and painting engine covers/Cowl flaps
- Install new propeller blade end protectors (yellow)
- Paint flag backgrounds on tail fins.
- Repair damage to elevator and secure.
- Repaint top of elevator aileron.
- Clean and apply bird repellent to booms/tail fins.
- Starting to replace three new main gear tires.
- Lift repair and maintenance.

This list goes on! They are a very hardworking and dedicated team!



Larry Jones working on the cowl flaps



Dave Kolchuck applying bird repellent



Kevin House and Peter Bonneau painting cowl flaps.



The twin booms are looking good!

Fundraiser for W7

# HALLOWEEN Costume Party

October 26, 2019  
7:30PM - 11:30PM

1940's Zombie Theme - Prizes for Best Overall  
Costume, Most Creative and True to Theme

Raffles, Silent Auction and 50/50

Live DJ - Open Beer/Wine Bar and snacks

\$30 a Person and \$50 for a Couple

For Tickets: [nationalwarplanemuseum.com](http://nationalwarplanemuseum.com) - 585.243.2100

3489 Big Tree Lane, Geneseo, NY

# 2019 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Our **Ride Days** at the National Warplane Museum in Geneseo, have concluded for this year, Thank you to all who participated and made them a success!! Continue to check the website for next year's dates,

There are still opportunities for rides this year as the "Movie Memphis Belle" and "Whiskey 7" finish the year with events down South. Check the website to reserve a seat, or call the office to ask a question.



### Remaining Air Shows:

**B-17 & C-47 at Stuart (FL)** - Oct. 31st - Nov. 3rd

**B-17 & C-47 at Monro (NC)** - Nov.7th - 10th

### Other NWM events to put on your Calendar:

**Halloween Costume Party (and Fund Raiser)** - October 26th

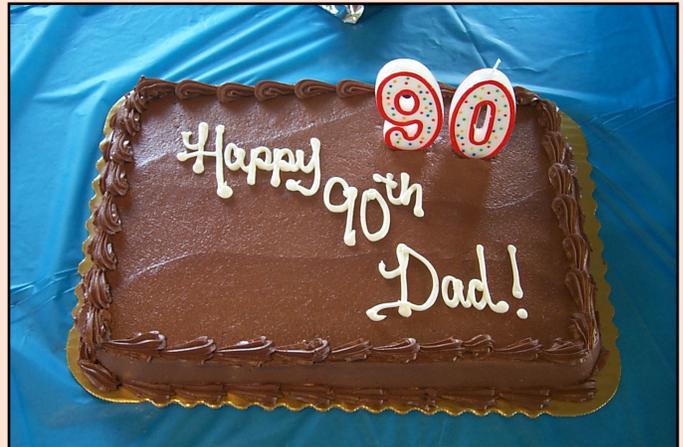
**Winter Hours Begin** - November 1st

**Veteran's Day Open House** - November 11th

**Christmas Party** - December 14th

## Boxcar Boy George Norsen Celebrated a Surprise 90th Birthday at the Museum.

(There was even a W7 flyover in his honor when the airplane returned from a day giving rides at Brockport.)



## FROM THE EDITOR

Things are still going strong here at the National Warplane Museum. We are coming off a busy summer season that saw lots of interesting work completed. Our Air Show is behind us, as are several weddings and the United Way Gala. Whiskey 7 is still out in Ohio, awaiting a new engine, which just recently arrived and is being prepped. The Movie Memphis Belle was out on the road for shows and giving rides, and is currently beginning its annual. We are still busy with events at the hangars. We hope to keep you informed of the happenings here, but we need help. I'm looking for people who would like to write and take photos for the newsletter. I'm also looking for story ideas, questions about the museum and its collections, personal interest stories, etc. If you would like to help out, contact me at:

**[newsletter@nationalwarplanemuseum.com](mailto:newsletter@nationalwarplanemuseum.com)**

Together, we can have one heck of a newsletter. But it takes more than 1 or 2 people! Thank you.

Brian Trzaskos  
Editor

### IN FUTURE ISSUES

- Recapping The Greatest Show on Turf
- Highlighting our volunteers
- The DUKW
- Our "new" C-130
- Fokker D-7
- The Saturday Crew

Next Newsletter will be available Dec. 4th (Submission deadline Nov, 27th)

## "Bombs Away!"

*The "Win a Ride on our B-17" Raffle Winners Announced!*

On July 17<sup>th</sup> two lucky winning tickets were drawn for a ride for 2 on "The Movie Memphis Belle!" Scott Weis from Rochester, NY and Wyatt Lawler from Scottsville, NY each won the opportunity for a ride for 2 on our B-17 within the coming year! A big thank you to all who helped in selling tickets including Kaylie Flanigan and Ichiro Okamoto who worked the crowds. Also a big thank you to Eileen LaFave-Bickford and Rene Conner in the Membership booth who both diligently oversaw many sales. A hearty thank you to all those who participated and helped in raising over \$2,700 for our C-130 restoration project!



Pictured above (from left to right) after the drawing are NWPM members Mary Ann Martin, Donna Walker, Dougie Brickett, Larry Jones, Jamie Steele, and Bob Cox.



**NATIONAL WARPLANE  
MUSEUM**

3489 Big Tree Lane  
PO Box 185  
Geneseo, NY 14454-0185

585-243-2100 (office)  
585-245-9802 (fax)

newsletter@nationalwarplanemuseum.com

**Museum Hours:**  
November 1 through April 30  
Mon., Wed, and Sat. 10 a.m.—3 p.m.  
May 1 through October 31  
7 Days a week 10 a.m.—4 p.m.

The National Warplane Museum is a not-for-profit (501 (c) (3) public corporation with a Provisional Museum Charter issued by the New York State Board of Regents. We are dedicated to the restoration, preservation and operation of vintage and historical aircraft, particularly aircraft associated with World War II, the Korean War and the Golden Age of Aviation. The facilities and 5,000-foot grass runway are located adjacent to the picturesque village of Geneseo, NY. Founded in the 1980s, the Museum continues to promote and encourage the appreciation of military and civilian aviation, aeronautics and aviation history. It serves the community with flying events, museum displays, social functions and educational opportunities associated with these aircraft and their history. To date, we have twenty historic aircraft owned by or associated with the Museum. We are operating profitably and have increased the attendance to our annual Geneseo Airshow in each of the last five years. Plans for the future include expanded facilities and additional aircraft.

**A P P L I C A T I O N F O R M E M B E R S H I P ( O R R E N E W A L )**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ e-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

City : \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership entitles you to free admission to the airshow and museum, a 10% discount at the museum store, a window sticker for your car, and a membership card which is required for admissions and benefits.

Membership fees:

Please check if New Membership   
or Renewal

- \_\_\_\_\_ Regular (18-59) \$ 45.00
- \_\_\_\_\_ Senior (age 60 and up) \$ 40.00
- \_\_\_\_\_ Junior (17 and under) \$ 15.00
- \_\_\_\_\_ Family (parents and children under 18. Please provide names & dates of juniors) \$ 85.00
- \_\_\_\_\_ Lifetime \$600.00
- \_\_\_\_\_ Check here if you need a new decal for your car

**Mail this application with your check or money order to the address above.**