



# The Flyer



## Spitfires buried in Burma to be returned to UK

Twenty iconic Spitfire aircraft buried in Burma during the Second World War are to be repatriated to Britain after an intervention by David Cameron.

The Prime Minister secured a historic deal that will see the fighter aircraft dug up and shipped back to the UK almost 67 years after they were hidden more than 40-feet below ground amid fears of a Japanese occupation.

David Cundall, 62, spent 15 years doggedly searching for the planes, an exercise that involved 12

trips to Burma and cost him more than £130,000\*. "Spitfires are beautiful aeroplanes and should not be rotting away in a foreign land. They saved our neck in the Battle of

(see *Spitfire* on page two)



[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Ray\\_Flying\\_Legends\\_2005-1.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Ray_Flying_Legends_2005-1.jpg)

### WING LEADER REPORT BY MIKE HEDRICK



May is a busy month for all of us, whether we are attending the school related functions of our children or getting started on the summer vacation

season. Don't forget Mother's Day on May 13th (and no last minute trips to Walmart for a token gift)!

One thing that I hope you won't forget is our Memorial Day celebration at the CAF. Several years ago we hosted a short ceremony in the Memorial Garden that was attended by less than a hundred people. Across the street, hundreds of motorcycles were lining up for a Memorial Day ride beginning at the Vietnam Memorial, and other celebrations were taking place around Midland and Odessa. My thoughts at the time were, "why don't we work to make the CAF the center of all patriotic holidays during the year?" Our campus,

and our reason for existing, is to do just that!

Well, through the efforts of many people, we have started down that road. Memorial Day at the CAF, with open hangars, open cockpits, open museum exhibits, regional fly-ins, memorial fly-overs, and the smell of hotdogs and hamburgers, has come to be a popular event with growing attendance every year.

This is an excellent opportunity to open our doors to the general public and show them what we do. We have the chance to show off the aircraft that we diligently maintain, and tell the stories of the brave patriots that flew them in the defense of our country and way of life. This is also a time to leave a lasting memory with the children that walk through our doors... they will always remember the experience, and many will be inspired to flight when they come of age.

### Newsletter Information



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So come out to the Monthly High Sky Wing Meeting on the 24th and get involved in the Memorial Day planning and festivities.



Join us for a fun day of showing off our wonderful facilities and aircraft, and

telling the stories of our heroes. What could be more fun and fulfilling?

I look forward to seeing you there!

**MUSEUM TOUR UPDATE**

Our first museum tour will take place on Saturday, May 26th to the 12th Armored Division Museum, 1289 N. 2nd St. in Abilene.

“This museum is dedicated to honoring the 12th Armored Division, based out of Camp Barkeley, near Abilene, that served during World War II. The ‘Hellcats’ fought in the European Theatre, Germany, and France, and finally, occupied Japan. The museum displays the Division’s historical collection, serves as a teaching museum for the study of World War II and its impact on the American people, and offers academic access to historical materials.” –The Dispatch, March 2012, pg. 17

This is the first in a series of tours of military-themed museums in west Texas. While you do not have to register in advance, it would help for planning purposes for you to do so. Contact **Greg Gutting** at 210-326-5983 or [ggutting@earthlink.net](mailto:ggutting@earthlink.net)

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Meet in the CAF museum parking lot at 8:30 am. We will organize our caravan and depart at 8:45. It is approximately 160 miles to our destination. Upon arrival in Abilene we will stop for lunch. After lunch we will visit the museum, with an estimated departure time of 3:00 pm.

*(Spitfire, cont'd from page one)*  
Britain and they should be preserved.”

He said the Spitfires, of which there are only around 35 flying left in the world, were shipped to Burma and then transported by rail to the British RAF base during the war.

However, advances in technology and the emergence of more agile jets meant they were never used and officials abandoned them shortly before the end of the conflict.

“They were just buried there in transport crates,” Mr Cundall said. “They were waxed, wrapped in

greased paper and their joints tarred. They will be in near perfect condition.” A team from the UK is already in place and is expecting to begin the excavation, estimated to cost around £500,000\*, imminently. It is being funded by the Chichester-based Boulton Flight Academy.

Mr Cundall said the government had promised him it would be making no claim on the aircraft, of which 21,000 were originally produced, and that he would be entitled to a share in them.

“It’s been a financial nightmare but hopefully I’ll get my money back,” he said.

“I’m hoping the discovery will generate some jobs. They will need to be stripped down and re-riveted but it must be done. **My dream is to have a flying squadron at air shows.**” (emphasis added)

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/defence/9203822/Spitfires-buried-in-Burma-during-war-to-be-retuned-to-UK.html>

\* £ 1.00 ≈ \$1.62

Please be prepared to pay for lunch, admission fees (\$4.00 adults; \$3.00 seniors, military and students; \$1.00 children 7-12), personal purchases, and a proportionate share of the gasoline costs for your vehicle.

**READ THIS:** *Please understand that the Commemorative Air Force, the High Sky Wing and any individual members of those organizations will assume no liability for any adverse actions that may take place during the tour, or travel to or from the destination. This is a purely voluntary event and each individual involved assumes responsibility for their own actions and safety. Participants will be required to sign a standard Hold Harmless form prior to joining a tour.*

**ROAD TRIP!!**

**CANCELLATION/CHANGE:**

- 1) Due to illness, the presentation by Mr. Louis Zamperini scheduled for May 17 at 6:30 pm in the CAF Museum has been cancelled. There is no word at this time if the event will be rescheduled.
- 2) Due to technical problems, the HSW mailbox ([comments@highskywing.org](mailto:comments@highskywing.org)) is currently unable to accept e-mail. Please address your inquiries to a specific staff officer.

## SUMMER MUMMERS

### What is Summer Mummerners?

Summer Mummerners is a live show performed on the stage of the Historic Yucca Theatre in Downtown Midland every Fri and Sat during the summer. The show starts at 8pm so you want to get there a bit early to get something to drink and some popcorn for throwing. All seats are reserved so you can get there a bit early and check out the Yucca theatre and the Summer Mummer Experience! The Yucca theatre is something to see itself. Completed in 1929 it's architecture has an Assyrian themed movie palace look. Featuring gilded lotus columns on either side of the proscenium arch on the stage and a pair of Lamassu on each side of the lower organ loft, representing a "stylized" pair who guarded the entrance to the throne room of King Sargon II's palace at Dur-Sharrukin (modern-day Khorsabad, Iraq). A lamassu is a protective spirit, ours are shown as a composite being with the head of a human, the body of a lion, and the wings of a bird. When viewed from the side, the creature appears to be walking; when viewed from the front, to be standing still. The show itself is a melodrama augmented with a locally shot and produced movieola.

### olla podrida

The second part of the show is the Olio! And while the Olio is pretty slick, it should not be confused with the oleo used on your bread. Ours is a collection of short skits and songs designed to engender the greatest of enjoyment from a "seasoned" crowd of Mummerners. (its a variety show with a beautiful card girl, equally attractive dancing ladies, and many other local talents) The show is live and geared toward a fun loving crowd. (show is for adults, no one under 16 is recommended) Show runs from 8 pm to approximately 11:30 pm this year. Depending on . . . well many things. Just as the best parties are never fully scripted Mummerners is a slightly different show each night.

Source: <http://www.summERMummerners.com/>

*(Bingo, from page five)* unique layout of three rows and nine columns. The numbers within the boxes ranged from 1 through 90. Only five squares within each row contained numbers which subsequently led to the design of modern day bingo. Hugh J. Ward standardized the modern game at carnivals in and around the Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania areas in the early 1920s. He went on to copyright "Bingo" and author the rule book on it in 1933. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bingo\\_\(U.S.\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bingo_(U.S.))

## SAFETY REPORT BY PAUL COOPER



Well, Dyess AFB was HOT! We need to be aware of the temperature whether you're inside or outside of the heat. For your own safety, please take a moment to read some info:

### Symptoms of Heat Exhaustion and Heat Stroke

There are various symptoms of heat exhaustion which can ultimately lead to heat stroke. The skin can be warm and red initially with profuse sweating. As the individual becomes dehydrated, blood pressure can decrease and the blood vessels constrict in order to

maintain blood pressure. Then the skin can be cool and clammy and pale. The individual may feel lightheaded and dizzy because of the dehydration and lower blood pressure. Other symptoms can include nausea and vomiting, irritability or confusion, or even loss of consciousness and coma.

### Treating Heat Stroke

Heat stroke should be considered a medical emergency. Activation of the emergency medical system should be performed. Get the individual out of the heat. This may be into a building or out of the sun into the shade. Try to cool the person by spraying cool water on them or having them drink some cool water or sports drink. Turn a fan onto the individual. Allow professionals to do their job when they arrive.

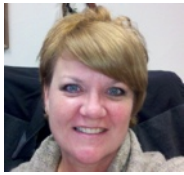
Summer can be a fun and exciting time, but you need to be careful not to overdo the outdoor activities in extreme heat. Pay attention to the forecasted heat index since a heat index above 105 degrees makes heat exhaustion likely. Know the signs and symptoms of heat exhaustion and take the appropriate precautions being careful not to overdo it.

Source:

<http://kidgas.hubpages.com/hub/Heat-Exhaustion-Safety-Tips>



**ADJUTANT REPORT BY PATTI COLLINS**



As the Adjutant, I deal with Membership, that being said, I would like to invite our High Sky Wing members to join in on the festivities of Memorial Day. There will be

plenty for the entire family to partake in. Young or seasoned, there is something for you! The Hi-Sky RC Club will join us down at the Main Hangar, providing the spectators with fantastic demonstrations! The *B-17 Texas Raiders* will be selling rides all weekend long as well as giving you the opportunity to hear first-hand from the B-17 crew what it is like to be a member. Congressman Mike Conaway (R-TX) will be our guest speaker. And, don't forget, there will be a lunch offered by the High Sky Wing cook crew! The High Sky Wing has been asked to perform a fly-over as well.

If you are still wanting some camaraderie, I have been working on a Summer Mummer's HSW outing for **Friday, July 13<sup>th</sup>**. Tickets are on a first-come, first-sold

basis. Between the HSW, CAF and DCP Midstream, we will have the ENTIRE Pit of the Yucca Theater that night. If you remember the Dudley Dooright/Penelope Pitstop cartoon, picture it in a LIVE version! This melodrama is sure to have you leaving with your sides hurting! See the related story on page three.



All parties interested need to get with me ASAP, since the tickets are going quickly. Tickets are \$20 each. Popcorn is extra (just an FYI). But, the fun is FREE! For those members coming in from out of town, the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Midland Plaza is within walking distance. Their reservation number is: (432) 683-6131. If you are interested in tickets, please contact me as soon as possible... [collinsp5@yahoo.com](mailto:collinsp5@yahoo.com), or call (432) 631-7072.

**XO REPORT BY GREG GUTTING**



It's all about spreading the word. Our Speaker's Bureau program is just about up and running. We have purchased the equipment and prepared a presentation and now all we need is people to present our program and people to present it to.

The program consists of a ten minute DVD produced by the CAF and a PowerPoint presentation. Our purpose, of course, is to educate our communities about the CAF/HSW and to solicit memberships and/or donations.

We are in need of names of community leaders with groups like the Lions, Rotary, and Optimist organizations, churches, chambers of commerce, etc. We need contact information for these people so that we can make arrangements for a presentation to their group. Please let me know if you can help.

Additionally, if you are interested in participating in the presentations, also let me know. You don't have to be the speaker, if you don't want to. Just come along as a representative of the CAF and HSW. You can help set up, pass out brochures, and answer questions.

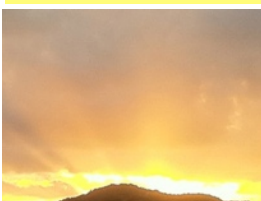


You don't have to commit to every presentation, just one would be great.

However, feel free to come along for any or all presentations. And if you want to be a speaker, we can train you on the equipment.

We will be giving a demonstration of the presentation at the next Wing Meeting on Thursday, May 24<sup>th</sup>. See you there.

The High Sky Wing staff, at their May meeting, discussed the possibility of participating in the downtown Fourth of July celebration sponsored by the Midland Chamber of Commerce. This event has been absent from Midland for a while and the Chamber is hoping to re-energize it. Our participation could include a fly-over and/or selling "patriotic" burgers from our new portable cook-kitchen. Stay tuned for more.



**MEMBERS OF THE HSW FAMILY WHO HAVE GONE WEST**

Long-time wing member Richard Dean Collier, 76, of Odessa, died Monday, April 30, 2012 at Regency Hospital in Odessa. He was the step-father of wing member Bobby Meroney, and will be missed by all of his friends in the wing.

**TURN AND BANK BY STEVE BOLIN**



I can count all the dollars, but the real wealth of our Wing is in our members. Take advantage of the opportunity to get to know someone new at the next Wing meeting. You won't regret it.



The normal finance report for the month. We had no unusual expenses, and Bingo made us \$9000 this month.

The game of bingo can be traced back to a lottery game called "Il Giuoco del Lotto d'Italia" played in Italy in c.1530. By the eighteenth century, the game had matured, and in France, playing cards, tokens, the reading out of numbers had been added to the game. In the nineteenth century, Bingo was widely used in Germany for educational purposes to teach children spelling, animal names, and multiplication tables.

Le Lotto was then subsequently created by the French in 1778. This unique lotto variation featured 27 squares in a (see *Bingo*, page three)

We lost another asset of the Wing also. We wish Richard Collier God Speed as he heads West. To Kathryn and Bobby our condolences.



**MISCELLANEOUS MISCHIEF**

**TORA at Oshkosh**

The "Tora! Tora! Tora!" aerial re-enactment of the events of Dec. 7, 1941 — one of the most dazzling warbird air show performances flying today — will be part of the EAA AirVenture Oshkosh afternoon warbird shows for the first time this summer.

The 60th annual EAA AirVenture fly-in convention will take place July 23-29 at Wittman Regional Airport in Oshkosh.

Source: [www.generalaviationnews.com/](http://www.generalaviationnews.com/)

**Electric Airplane?**

This spring, Volta Volare will begin testing its four-passenger



GT4. Constructed around a standard airframe, the plane runs on a hybrid powertrain similar to the one in the Chevrolet Volt,

with batteries plus a backup gasoline engine.

An electric plane could be significantly less expensive to operate than a conventional aircraft. A 200-mile electric-powered flight in a single-engine personal plane would consume about \$20 of electricity, compared with about \$80 worth of aviation-grade gasoline, and an electric motor has only one moving part, so it would be largely maintenance-free.

[www.generalaviationnews.com/](http://www.generalaviationnews.com/)

**DID YOU KNOW?** **Memorial Day** is a United States federal holiday observed annually on the last Monday of May. Formerly known as **Decoration Day**, it originated after the American Civil War to commemorate the fallen Union soldiers of the Civil War. (Southern ladies organizations and southern schoolchildren had decorated Confederate graves in Richmond and other cities during the Civil War, but each region had its own date. Most dates were in May.) [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Memorial\\_Day](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Memorial_Day)

# High Sky Wing Newsletter

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## *UPCOMING EVENTS*

*May 19th*

Hondo Air Show/Fly-In

*May 24th*

Monthly Wing Meeting

*May 26th*

Ranger Air Show/Fly-In

*May 26th*

Museum Tour to Abilene

*May 28th*

Memorial Day Celebration

*June 16th*

Denton and Snyder Air Shows

*June 16th*

Disaster Drill at MAF

Check the Events tab on the web page for the most current information.

<http://highskywing.org>

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HANGER PHONE HAS BEEN DISCONNECTED. PLEASE ADDRESS YOUR INQUIRIES TO ANY STAFF OFFICER