

Taking Flight



The Tri-State Warbird Museum...a historic aviation museum dedicated to remembering those who fought for our freedom, and honoring those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Spring 2006 Volume 1 Number 2

Welcome to the Tri-State Warbird Museum!

Tri-State Warbird Museum

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Hours:

Wednesday 4pm-7pm

Saturday 10am-3pm

Admission \$12

Discounts available for veterans and students

Annual and lifetime individual and family memberships are available

The Tri-State Warbird Museum is having a wonderful first year...in fact there are so many things to talk about so far this year that only a few can be included here in this issue. Be sure to come and visit the Museum to see for yourself.

If you haven't been to the Museum since July then you'll need to come and visit to meet our newest addition...a beautiful PT-17 Boeing Stearman N224DF. This airplane was completely restored in 1991 and is painted in US Army paint with a blue fuselage and yellow wings. Stearmans were the early Primary Trainer for young World War II pilots just starting out in their military flying career. This airplane is a perfect compliment to our front row line-up of the AT-6 Texan and P-51 Mustang. Once the pilot learned the secrets of the tail-dragger open cockpit biplane Stearman they were then



ready for further training in "the pilot maker" the Advanced Trainer T-6 Texan. Completing their T-6 training would enable the pilot to begin flying a fighter like the P-51 Mustang, Corsair, a torpedo bomber like the TBM Avenger, or perhaps a heavy twin-engine bomber like the B-25 Mitchell. The airplanes were each unique according to their design and their job to do and so each pilot learned to master the skills required to fly them in a progressive manner, usually starting with the Primary Trainer PT-17 Stearman.

The Tri-State Warbird Museum is a 501(c)(3) organization which is fully dependent on the support and generosity of its volunteers, visitors and contributors.

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Tri-State Warbird Museum's TBM Avenger was seen on the Sci-Fi Channel Sunday November 27

The Sci-Fi Channel aired a story about the Bermuda Triangle on November 27th in an attempt to research and tell the story of the many mysterious disappearances in that area of the Atlantic Ocean over the years. Of particular interest is the story 60 years ago of Flight 19 which was a group of TBM Avengers off the coast of Florida on a routine training mission. The flight was having trouble with their navigational ability and all planes and crew were mysteriously lost and never found. With Museum President Paul Redlich and Museum Pilot Rick Siegfried our TBM flew to Ft. Lauderdale in late October. There Paul Redlich outfitted the airplane with movie cameras and flew formation in the camera ship Cessna Caravan while Rick Siegfried piloted the TBM along the course of Flight 19, through the Bermuda Triangle. Glad to report that our flight was successful and was never lost!



Formation flying over the Bermuda Triangle for the Sci-Fi Channel filming



Nathan Dalrymple getting the Avenger ready to go to Florida and the Bermuda Triangle



Museum pilot Rick Siegfried flying the TBM Avenger

New signs to be seen...



Have you noticed? WARBIRDS can be seen on the Tri-State Warbird Museum hangar from the Sporty's side of the Clermont County Airport runway 4/22...hard to miss! Many visitors are delighted to drop into the Museum after driving by our many directional road signs installed by Museum President Paul Redlich and Volunteer extraordinaire Dick Bodner...the signs are highly visible and very effective!



Don Lopez appears at the NKU/Tri-State Warbird Museum Military Lecture



Don Lopez



Paul Redlich, Don Lopez, David O'Maley and Francois LeRoy



A privilege to be here listening

Northern Kentucky University presented the Military Lecture Series at the Tri-State Warbird Museum on October 12th with Don Lopez as the featured speaker. Together with about 400 attendees it was a privilege to listen to Mr. Lopez speak about his experiences as a P-40 and later a P-51 pilot with the 23rd Fighter Group of the 14th Air Force. In the China Theater of World War II the mission for these young pilots in 1943 and 1944 was to impede the Japanese advance throughout the vast and rugged China countryside. The stories were educational and fascinating as he spoke of aerial battles, navigation, friendships and losses.

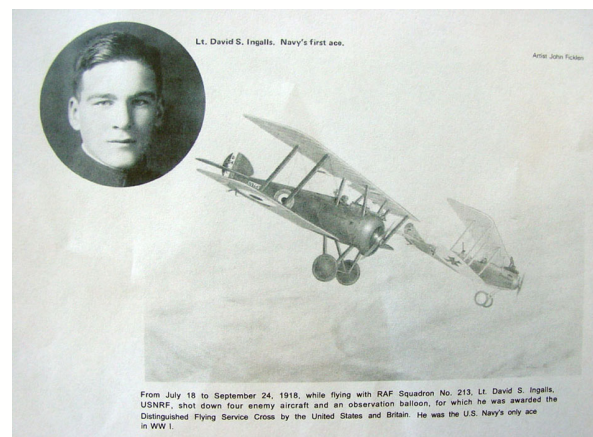
Don Lopez has been with the Smithsonian/National Air and Space Museum since 1972 and is currently the Deputy Director still working full-time despite his early 80-something age. After World War II Don spent six years at the Air Force Test Pilot School testing fighters, then spent a combat tour in Korea flying North American F-86's. His career also includes a tour at the Pentagon, teaching aeronautics at the US Air Force Academy, and Systems Engineer on the Apollo-Saturn Launch Vehicle and the Skylab Orbital Workshop for Bellcomm, Inc. Don Lopez is the author of three books: *Into the Teeth of the Tiger*, *Fighter Pilot's Heaven: Flight Testing the Early Jets* and *The National Air and Space Museum: A Visit in Pictures*.

The Tri-State Warbird Museum was honored to have Don Lopez speak at our facility. It was wonderful to work with the Northern Kentucky University and to be a part of their outstanding Military Lecture Series.

We are thrilled to have on display the bronze bust of David S. Ingalls as well as two pictures depicting some of the history of this American aviation hero.

The story of David Sinton Ingalls is a fascinating one...he is the only World War I U.S. Naval ace, receiving his 5th air victory on September 24, 1918 in a Sopwith Camel over Nieuport, France. After the war David Ingalls went on to earn a law degree at Harvard. During his elected term as an Ohio legislator he co-sponsored the Ohio Aviation Code and then was appointed Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Aeronautics in 1929 by President Hoover. His aviation-dedicated career continued with an appointment as a lieutenant commander in the Naval Reserves and Vice-President and General Manager of Pan American Air Ferries. After the attack on Pearl Harbor Ingalls reported for active duty and in 1943 became chief of staff for the Forward Area Air Center Command based on Guadalcanal directing vital supplies to

the Allies in the Pacific and then Commander of the Pearl Harbor Naval Air Station retiring at the war's end with the rank of rear Admiral. In 1954 Ingalls became President and Publisher of the *Cincinnati Times-Star* newspaper and Vice Chairman of the Taft Broadcasting Company.





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Tri-State Warbird Museum Education Program



Rick Raabe and students in the Museum classroom full of World War II aviation education materials



Tri-State Warbird Museum Volunteer Coordinator Phil Rountree explaining the aircraft and their important roles

The Tri-State Warbird Museum is very proud to offer an Education Program to the 7th through 12th grade students of the Cincinnati tri-state area. Rick Raabe is a retired area high school teacher and heads up this wonderful program. In addition to the aircraft and the education materials the students are so lucky to get to hear World War II aviation veterans tell their stories.