



CAF WASP SQUADRON NEWSLETTER
Volume 2 Number 2
March 15, 2017

The WASP Story

The WASP of World War II forever changed the role women played/play in the military and aviation, by becoming the first women to fly American military aircraft.

The 1,074 WASP made direct, major contributions to the war effort by flying fighter and bomber aircraft from factories to bases, conducting searchlight missions, towing targets for live ammunition practice, and test-piloting new and repaired aircraft. WASP also served as instructors for those men that would go on to become combat pilots. All of which resulted in freeing men for combat, a role that would only come to women decades later.

Though every one of the 1,830 WASP trainees held a private or commercial pilot license, they were required to have 210 flight hours for basic training, instruments, cross country, advanced and multi-engine training. In addition, they were required to take 30 weeks of training in math, physics, navigation and more, for a total of 393 hours of ground school, while simultaneously learning and living the military way of life.

Despite the doubts of many, including military leaders, they flew every type of military aircraft, over 77 models. They logged over 60 million miles.

WASP were not a military unit, as such they received no military benefits. When it was announced in 1976 that the Air Force was going to have women flying military aircraft “for the first time,” the WASP mobilized to gain recognition for their service. WASP received military status in 1977 and Congressional Gold Medals in 2009.

They “Rose Above” expectations.

What’s New

DFW Wing has WASP Stearman

It has been there all along. It has provenance. This PT-17, serial number 41-470, was at Avenger Field as a trainer from November 1943 to August 1944. Thanks to Elaine Webb for verification.



Today it sits proudly at the CAF DFW Wing in Lancaster, TX. Thanks to WASP member Elaine Webb, the Wing Curator and WASP Historian, for verifying the provenance which is displayed here.

<i>PT-17, s/n 41-870</i>	
Manufactured by Stearman Aircraft, Wichita KS and received by the USAAC on 4 Nov 1940	
Nov 1940	To 62 nd Flying Training Detachment (Mississippi Institute of Aeronautics, AAF Flying Training Command), Jackson Field MS
Apr 1941	Wrecked. Midair collision with PT-17, s/n 41-865, repaired.
Jan 1942	Returned to service.
Nov 1943	To 318 th Flying Training Detachment (Women Auxiliary Service Pilot School, Air Training Command), Avenger AAF TX
Aug 1944	To 2533 rd AAF Base Unit (Pilot School [Primary & Basic], ATC), Goodfellow AAF TX
Jun 1945	Declared excess and to Mustang Field, El Reno OK
Jul 1945	Disposed as surplus



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RISE ABOVE WASP Guiding Principles

Aim High

The women who would become the WASP were women that had already demonstrated their interest in and love of flying by becoming pilots when it wasn't an accepted path for women. These women would now pursue their interest to a new level: flying military airplanes. It was hard work, the challenges were innumerable, but it was a rare opportunity.

Believe in Yourself

Even though the world around them did not believe that "flying was for girls," they knew that they wanted to try. They believed in their ability. Self confidence allowed them to apply ...over 55% of those accepted succeeded by graduating

Use Your Brain

All of the women who would become WASP had flown and become pilots prior to applying to the WASP program. To become a pilot they not only learned the skill of the actual piloting, but studied navigation and principles of flight, took flying lessons, and practiced. They used their brains to achieve their ability to fly.

Never Quit

The WASP would find that even after being accepted to train – they would still have much to learn. It was more than flying; it was about learning a new culture (military), becoming an instrument pilot, and living in Spartan conditions. Perseverance was the key to achieving their goal.

Be Ready to Go

When America was attacked at Pearl Harbor, male pilots were needed for combat. To fill the non combat tasks women were now invited to apply to become WASP. However, the program only accepted women who already had flight training – only those women who had begun preparing themselves as pilots would have the opportunity to go one step further and become military pilots.

Expect to Win

Because of the challenges they all shared, the WASP became a tight knit group that supported one another – working together they were able to perform tasks beyond the expectations of so many. They expected to fly the B29, they expected to ferry planes, tow targets, test new and repaired planes, and train male combat pilot. And they did. Years later when the WASP campaigned for recognition of their contributions, they once again worked together; they expected to win. And they did.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Ellie Dana WASP, B29/B24
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Dayna Salter WASP, Gulf Coast, Houston
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H. Keith Barrett
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UPCOMING EVENTS

2017 Summer Sun 'N Fun, Lakeland, FL
April 4-9

2017 WASP Homecoming, Sweetwater, TX
May 25, 2017
Register [here](#).

Airshow Breckenridge, TX
May 28

EAA AirVenture, Oshkosh, WI
July 24-30

Wings Over Dallas,
October 6-8

2018 Wing Staff Conference, Dallas, TX
March 1-4

Questions or Suggestions?

Contact Col Ellie Dana

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INQUIRING MINDS WANT TO KNOW

About using the **Fifinella** logo...

AT THE MOMENT: The logo is authorized, by Disney, for use by the WASP Museum in Sweetwater, TX. Our request for permission is in the hands of Disney Legal. As we all know, the timeline for a legal review is unpredictable. Until they respond, *she should not be used on any of CAF / CAF WASP equipment or materials.*

During WWII, the WASP asked for permission to use her as the official mascot and the Disney Company generously agreed. She was designed by Walt Disney for a proposed film from Roahl Dahl's book, The Gremlins.



Official Fifinella 'went to war' and was worn in the form of patches. Some were leather, some were cloth...worn on WASP flight jackets.

Our VIRTUAL WASP PX

Commemorative Air Force
Col Ellie Dana
214-244-0876



RiseAboveWASP.org
ellie.dana@att.net

[Order WASP Business Cards here.](#)

Fleece jacket: [CAF PX](#)

Book: WASP by Doris Tanner Brinker

A superb tribute to a selfless band of women who helped shape the outcome of the WWII. Tanner provides readers a peak at the honor, courage, patriotism, and conviction that defined the group's members. 38 pages

[BUY IT HERE](#)

COMING NEXT ISSUE

The WASP squadron as storytellers

Update on:

Member survey

Website enhancement

Wings over Dallas

SQUADRON Leadership

Squadron Leader: Debbie King
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Executive Officer: Ellie Dana
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Finance Officer: Beth Jenkins
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Adjutant Officer: Lisa Foster
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Squadron Historian: Elaine Webb
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Public Information Officer: Kim Pardon
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WE ARE A VIRTUAL SQUADRON

- **Communications are CRITICAL, we will need**
 - Electronic Meetings
 - Forums
 - Newsletters*
 - Social Media
- **And Maybe**
 - Annual “gathering”
- **We cannot survive and grow without a Website**
 - Simple and with easy navigation
 - Up to date daily
 - References to resources that will make us more knowledgeable visible (with valid links)
 - Help Desk when things go “wrong”
- **Which means our Webmaster must**
 - Update content, or designate those that can
 - Web site maintenance
 - Web site update for technology
 - Maintain Help “desk” function
 - “publish” newsletters
 - Coordinate with Headquarters for technology and social media to make the most efficient use of all talent/capabilities
 - “publish” Tour schedule for Squadron
- **New Members need information**
 - Welcome aboard
 - Thank you, maybe a packet
 - Wasp Org chart
 - Squadron Structure
 - Resources – videos, articles, books
- Where do you fit – needs, wants, skills
- **Existing CAF Squadron Members can help**
 - Contribute expertise
 - Share established docs / procedures
 - Bring Rise Above Wasp to their community
 - Fundraiser
 - Spokesperson: “certified”
 - Trainer: be part of the educational experience
 - Plane Management
 - Staff function/officer
 - Mentor to our students
- **Historian**
 - Liaison to Museums
 - Maintain links to books, videos, articles
 - Coordinate with CAF curator
 - Establish an “adopt a Wasp” program
- **Education Officer**
 - Coordinate with VP of Education (Bill Shepard)
 - Material update
 - Results reporting
 - Establish Mentor program
- **Operations Officer - Aircraft**
 - Acquisition of aircraft
 - Aircraft operating budget
 - Ongoing business plan



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OFFICER REPORTS

Squadron Leader: The Wing Staff Conference saw the WASP squadron presentation, as you received earlier this month. We have agreement that our direction can be supported by CAF and other squadrons.

Yesterday you received the survey, the results of which will help us focus our efforts. Thank you to the 34 of you who have already responded. In this Newsletter you will find information regarding ordering business cards, fleece jackets, and the great WASP book by Doris Tanner Brinker. Most importantly, you'll find the WASP story that will make it easy for you to tell others about this inspiring event in the nation's history. Please welcome Ellie Dana as the squadron Executive Officer, she is there to help us execute the vision that has become part of the evolution of the CAF.

XO Report: March has been a productive month for the WASP Squadron. We are moving forward on many fronts. I hope you have taken time to complete the survey so we can learn more about you and how you want to be involved. As some of you know, I do all of the marketing for the CAF AirPower History Tour. The tour season is starting and I find myself overloaded. I am stepping down as XO, but leaving you in very capable hands. Our newly appointed XO, Ellie Dana, is a new member with great ideas and the talent to execute them. I know she will do a great job. – Kim Pardon

It's an exciting time for the WASP Squadron and each of us members. We are still in our first year but as of this week we have many things in progress: the Virtual CAF WASP Museum, new member welcome process/packet, website expansion, standard business cards, start of a

virtual PX, the start of a virtual fleet, short WASP story that we all can tell and the start of a business plan to own and operate a WASP T-6.

Further, CAF Headquarters is busy with fund raising and the movie production. These are two large projects that make a difference in honoring the WASP of the past and inspiring the future generations to RiseAbove expectations.

As Kim mentioned, the survey is coming your way. From this we will likely add to our planned tasks. Earlier Kim forwarded the Wings Staff Conference WASP presentation which is our rough plan for the immediate future. That, with your input, will enable a more formal plan by next month's newsletter.

Personally, it is a privilege to be a part of this undertaking. – Ellie Dana

Finance Officer: We continue to grow the new Squadron. We now have 114 members, which is a great showing for a startup squadron. This generates funds for us, and lends strength to our ability to reach others as we go about fund raising for the T-6 and the movie. Many thanks for the part you each play in recruiting others by telling the inspiring story of the WASP. We are now engaged in formulating the Business Plan that will go to the Board for the acquisition of the T-6. Our goal is to have this ready for the mid-April CAF Board meeting.

Adjutant: So much has been happening, and my job has been made easier by the communication that you have already received from others. Documentation of the Officers meeting held during the Wings Staff Conference have been filed per the CAF procedures.