

WARPLANES LOST AND FOUND IN WWII RI AREA



Capt. Eric Troels Wiberg, Esq.
United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps Falcon

WRECKCHASING 101



A Guide To Finding
Aircraft Crash Sites



Overview:

- Did you realize that in New England there are so many aircraft wrecks, both military and civilian, that on average there is one every 35 miles of land? That is because historians like Jim Ignasher of New England Aviation History.com and Larry Webster in Rhode Island have identified close to 2,000 air accidents, from losing a wheel to total destruction or missing in the oceans.
- In Rhode Island there are at least 500 military accidents, starting in World War II, and some 150 civilian wrecks from 1906 to recent times. Minimum.
- In Massachusetts there are at least 375 military and 301 civilian airplane mishaps, with over 150 occurring on Cape Cod or surrounding seas and islands. Last year Eric spent many months finding a dozen and documenting nearly 200 other WWII aircraft in Bahamas. Now he shares his focus on women pilots, Cold War warriors, and lone fighter pilots who ditched in the cold Atlantic, or into ponds and marshes and road near us.

Why (and why not) find historic aircraft?

A conundrum: a bit crazy to do this, and a bit crazy not to....

The aircraft are an amalgam of tragedy, honor, mystery, 'just metal,' engineering, sleuthing. Finding them provides personal satisfaction, an opportunity to meet folks with local knowledge and hear their stories on instantly-common interests, and a wonderful way to get outside and engage with nature, urban and all other environments, places, wildlife.

On the negative side are bear traps, all bodies of water and mud, trespassing dangers (shotguns, fences, gates, barbed wire), cold, dark, storms, wrong information, loss of batteries, signal, threat of being chased off land or water, many days searching alone with never finding anything, vulnerability, boredom and did I mention *bear traps*?

Thanks to Jim Ignasher, New England Aviation History

Eric Wiberg, Mon 8 May 2023 7.30 pm, data from Aviation Archaeology.com, Jim Nash New England Aviation History, Mike Stowe, Doug Campbell & many others.

Type	# S/N	Sqdn	Group	Home Base	Code	Code	Dam	Pilot	Eric	Age	State	Date	Been	Rank	Town, Location	Photo
P-47B	41-5991	63FS	56FG	Bridgeport Muni Airport, CT		KSSPC R	5	Craghill, Richard Marvin	Yes Far	23	CT	421012	Y/G en	1	New Canaan, CT, crashed into the front of a large private home at 310 Valley Road owners John & Ruth Thayer Weeks	
F6F-5 Hellcat	58829	Test	Bethpage	Bethpage Grumman Testing central LI NY			5	Elizabeth Hooker	Yes Far	27	CT	440609	Y/S pec	1	Norwalk CT Andrews Field behind Bond Grill Walter Ave and Post Road, NARA report TD440609CT	
P-47D	42-8241	360FS	356FG	Groton Field, CT		KCRLo	5	McElroy, Harry J Jr	Yes Close	21	CT	430513		1	North Stonington, CT "near" a large area, "exploding violently into flames on impact" "disintegrated when it reached point of compressibility in the dive". short time later two trainers were practicing dog fighting and crashed into each other, landing in	
B-25B	40-2284	41BS	13BG	Westover Field, Chicopee Falls, MA		BOoG	5	Wertz, Oscar Leland	Yes Close .5 H, Waltham		MA	420529		1	Lakeview, Waltham, MA. Wertz b.1918 Kansas, died in Papual New Guinea on 23 July 1943. "Crashed, crew bailed out"	
JM-1	75194	Spuncast?		NAS Squantum, MA	KCR	EF A	US N	Ragsdale, W. E.	Yes Close .5 h NW		MA	450710	Y/S pec	1	Lincoln, MA, at 9 Old Sudbury Rd, am in contact w/ home owners, historical societies, Arrowhead farm owner	
A-20C	41-19637			Harrisburg, PA		KBOOG	5	Cooke, Maj Charles Harvey	Yes Close	26	MA	430204	Y/S pec	1	Marion, MA (near)	

Who Were The Missing?



ENNEDY Daniel 2 Concord crash golf course



KRAGER Nashewana 1943 collision



McELROY, Harry K KIA in N Stonington
CT School 1938



Mclaughlin Robert E Haverhill in World War II 762 p_64 (003)



Troverse, Robert S.
Kenton, Ohio
Findlay College



Where and How to Look for Them? Notes:



Young Asplund's Aircraft into a Nearby Pond

The reason I write with this esoteric historical information is that Davisville Middle School abuts Sawmill Pond and on 22 April 1944 a Navy fighter plane piloted by Oswald Eugene Asplundh landed in the same Sawmill Pond following a training accident and fatal collision. The plane is said to have “crashed and burned to the waterline in Sawmill Pond.” This per my esteemed colleague historian of NewEnglandAviationHistory.com Jim Nash of RI. By way of background, I am an educator, historian, graduate of Roger Williams and URI, now based in Boston.

The reason I write is to ask whether you or any colleagues or students know of any sightings of a plane or plane parts in Sawmill Pond over the years and whether there is any institutional history or memory of same at Davisville Middle School? I was in Providence College archives last week and received the below amplifying information.

The founder of MAR / Marine Aviation Research my niche is finding historic planes on a very small budget – no SCUBA, no boat, no plane, no metal detector. Using just a mask and boots I found a jet in Johns Pond Mashpee MA as you can see at https://www.capenews.net/mashpee/news/chunk-of-1940s-fighter-jet-may-have-been-found-in-johns-pond/article_a27d576d-c36b-578c-a970-b0378edc5cf6.html.

It would seem this plane meets the criteria and thankfully the remains of Ens. Asplundh have been removed and buried long ago. Often just metal frames and parts remain. Do you know of any floating rafts or the depths of the pond or whether anyone uses it or how someone like me (public) might access it? I've been going after a plane in the ocean off Jamestown RI and this is not far from there,

Where planes are “really” often found – in archives first. It requires leg work in libraries as well as in the field/s and determination – I looked for 45 planes in New England and aside from little traces didn’t find my first parts for a year.

2400 Smith on flesh watch

0400 Williams on desk watch

Saturday April 22

0800 Roll ball fill present and
accounted for. Twisted clear
truck #1 & 2 out for test run
Radio in Truck #2 tested OK
18 Gall Gas in Truck #3
12 " " " " " " Truck #1
1 Qt Oil Truck #1

0800 Bonawandt on disk.

0900 Crush Phone Text. O.K.

0915 Truck #2 out to runway #5

1200 Truck #2 secured and new crew
took over and out to runway 5
again

1655 Truck #2 secured

1700 Hawkins on desk.

1653 Received call from House to go to
crash at Davisville. Truck #3
responded by order St. Hendrix also
Ambulance from crash Sta. responded
also. Ambulance from Garage dis-
patched to crash Sta. to standby.
1755 Truck #3 secured from crash
order St. Hendrix.

Crash Truck #3. secured from crash
victim St. Vender.

Saturday April 22, 1944

1653 Lt Hendrix, ordered truck. Two trucks
to crash. 39 King Philip's Dr.
tail of plane chopped on front
door of house. May 42706- F6F-3
Owner Misses.

Green House of one in Pond
South of House. Hawkins & East-
Greenwich Fireman grappled in
off of water about 30 yds from
Shore. No results. Secured
Hook to Shore. Part of Plane
in Water was burning
when Truck arrived. Crash
Crew Hawkins, Moose, Newton
Chambers, Dauphine & Fox.
Lt. Hendrix secured Fog Truck.
Fog Truck secured from scene.

1653 Fog Truck secured from scene.

Mid-Air Collision. Parts of
other plane - Number unknown
South of Kingston Inn. on
Lawn and in thickly woods.
Lt Harrington ordered truck
from Kingston Inn. to stand by
near Pond

1830 Lt. Carmichael sent word with
duty Officer to dispatch canoe
to scene. Crane responded
to scene with the following
Men. Powell, Jaricny & -
Bonawandt.
2045 Crane scoured

2045 *Plane secured*

2000 Brother on clerk

2400 Demers on desk

AL, MONDAY, APRIL 24, 1944

2 VICTIMS OF CRASH IDENTIFIED BY NAVY

Ensigns From Nebraska and Illinois Killed in Quonset Accident

Two naval aviators killed in a collision while in flight over Quonset Manor Saturday afternoon were identified yesterday by headquarters of the First Naval District as Ens. Oswald Eugene Asplundh, Jr., 21, of Glenview, Ill., and Ens. Joseph Clyde Rust, 22, of Alliance, Neb.

Ensign Asplundh's body was removed yesterday from the wreckage of his plane, which crashed into Sawmill Pond, close to the Navy housing unit at the Manor, and sank in the mud.

Ensign Rust's body was removed from the charred wreckage of his plane a short time after it had crashed in a clump of trees near the



British Royal Navy Aviators' Graves in Newport Farewell St. near U-boat Germans

- Their “base” was a fictional office, not a ship
- They crashed and died, from Britain in RI w/ no ship, in Tiverton, Quonset – all over. I visited a graveyard with the Vicar on a tractor

An RAF plane went up on its nose and the USN rescue watched as the pilot without any help pulled its tail down to earth and taxied to hangar

Some of the pilot's planes wrecked in Mackerel Cove, the propellers are near shore.

On D-Day a PV-1 Ventura with the inventor of the forensic fingerprint crashed off Jamestown killing pilot Sullivan and all 8 on board on a secret to Europe via Nantucket. Took off from Quonset. Records at Providence College

LAST NAME	FIRST MIDDLE	RANK	DATE DIED	HMS SHIP	CAUSE	NOTES	RN	BURIED
Berry	Edward William Sewers	Temp. Sub. Lt. (Air)	8-May-43	HMS Saker II stone frigate for Fleet Air Arm	Air crash, killed, in Fleet Air Arm (FAA), lend-lease in US	BERRY, Edward W S, Ty/Sub Lieutenant (A), RNVR, FAA, 738 Sqn, Saker, 8 May 1943, air crash, killed. "Saker 1, 2, 3" were stone frigates in DC, NY, NS, & Maine : "In 1943 it was recorded at Lewiston, Maine, where until 1945 it used the facilities at Naval Auxiliary Air Facility Lewiston for operations"	RNVR, FAA, 738 Sqn., Saker	Npt RI
Chatfield	Raymond	Stoker	24-Mar-44	HMS Riou	Died on War Service (DOWS)	CHATFIELD, Raymond M, Stoker 2c, D/KX 163348, Riou, 24 March 1944, DOWS	RN	Npt RI
Clarke	Raymond	Temp. Midshipman (Air)	30-Mar-43	HMS Saker II stone frigate for Fleet Air Arm	Air crash, killed, in Fleet Air Arm (FAA), lend-lease in US	CLARKE, Raymond, Ty/Midshipman (A), RNVR, FAA, 738 Sqn, Saker, 30 March 1943, air crash, killed	RNVR, FAA, 738 Sqn., Saker	Npt RI
Boddington	Kenneth Lester	Temp. Sub. Lt. (Air)	24-Jul-43	HMS Saker II stone frigate for Fleet Air Arm	Air crash, killed, in Fleet Air Arm (FAA), lend-lease in US	BODDINGTON, Kenneth L, Ty/Sub Lieutenant (A), RNVR, FAA, 1833 Sqn, Saker, 24 July 1943, air crash, killed	RNVR, FAA, 1833 Sqn., Saker	Npt RI
Dillon	Donald Frederick	Temp. Sub. Lt. (Air)	30-Mar-43	HMS Abury, sub-to-Saker II, stone frigate for Fleet Air Arm	Air crash, killed, in Fleet Air Arm (FAA), lend-lease in US	DILLON, Donald F, Ty/Sub Lieutenant (A), RNZNVR, FAA, 738 Sqn, Asbury, 30 March 1943, air crash, killed. Saker It had a satellite unit - known originally as HMS Asbury - which acted as shore based transit accommodation of the Royal Navy located just outside New York City.[2] It was used by crews picking up ships allocated to the Royal Navy under the provisions of Lend-Lease and by crews sent to collect ships that had been undergoing long term repair, refitting or construction at	RNZNVR, FAA, 738 Sqn., Saker	Npt RI



Raymond Montague Clarence “Monty” Chatfield V

BIRTH	1925 Uckfield, Wealden District, East Sussex, England
DEATH	24 Mar 1944 (aged 18–19) Newport, Newport County, Rhode Island, USA
BURIAL	<u>Island Cemetery</u> Newport, Newport County, Rhode Island, USA 📍 Show Map
PLOT	Annex, along the back fence-Navy Sec. Plots 172-177. Grave 18.
MEMORIAL ID	15027504 - View Source

Young Cassidy ordered to fly to land in storm,
heard over Providence, never found – can anyone
help? For decades he has been searched for.....

Find a Grave® MEMORIALS CEMETERIES FAMOUS CONTRIBUTE

MONUMENT



LTJG Arthur J Cassidy V

BIRTH	5 Jul 1919 New York, New York County, New York, USA
DEATH	30 Mar 1943 (aged 23) At Sea
MONUMENT i	East Coast Memorial Manhattan, New York County, New York, USA
PLOT	Tablets of the missing
MEMORIAL ID	56760101 · View Source

The Case of Cassidy over North Providence

Transcript-Telegram
01 Apr 1943, Thu · Page 6

property on Dartmouth Ter.

NAVY PLANE MISSING

BOSTON. (U.P.)—A Navy plane on a routine flight has been missing more than 40 hours and may be down in the North Attleboro-Norwood sector, First Naval District Headquarters disclosed today. Navy officials expressed belief the plane may have encountered difficulties in the snow squalls which were in progress when the craft was last heard from at 4 p. m. Tuesday. They appealed to the public for any available information concerning the fate of the missing plane.

Telegram > 01 Apr 1943, Thu > Page: 6



Sun-Journal
01 Apr 1943, Thu · Page 6

Navy Plane Missing Since Tuesday

BOSTON-AP-A Navy plane on routine flight has been missing since Tuesday afternoon, first Naval district headquarters announced today, at the same time issuing an appeal for any information that might lead to the finding of the craft.

The announcement indicated that the plane might be down in the North Attleboro-Norwood sector of Eastern Massachusetts.

Belief that "the plane may have encountered difficulties in the snow storm of that date" was expressed by Naval officers, who said that the whereabouts of the ship had not been determined since about 4 P. M. on March 30.

The type of plane and the identity, or number, of personnel aboard were not revealed.

"Anyone possessing information about such a plane should communicate with district public relations office, 150 Causeway Street, Boston," the announcement said. The telephone is Capitol 6620.

Cut Canadians To Two Pounds

USS Ranger an Aircraft Carrier was at Quonset

LOCATION	PURPOSE OF FLIGHT	FLYING OR LANDING CONDITIONS
Vicinity North Attleboro, Mass.	Cross Country, ship to shore.	Snow, low ceiling and low visibility.
ANALYSIS On March 30th, the RANGER launched a flight of twenty-five F4F-4's, four SBD's and one TBF to proceed to Quonset which was thirty-eight miles distant on a bearing of 68°. Before the flight took off, the pilots were to be shown two blackboards, one reading as follows: "Land at Squantum and obtain Quonset weather" and the other giving the bearing and distance to Squantum. Through some error the blackboard directing the flight to land at Squantum was not shown and as a result, the leader of the flight, Lt. Wordell, proceeded on a direct course to Quonset. The flight encountered bad weather, became separated, and landed with the following results: 20 F4F-4's landed safely at various airports in the vicinity. 3 F4F-4's landed with no injuries to pilot and major damage to one aircraft. 1 F4F-4 crashed after pilot bailed out. Pilot received serious injuries. 1 F4F-4 missing. Last seen in vicinity of North Attleboro, Mass. Pilot was Lt. Cassidy. 3 SBD's and the one TBF landed safely. 1 SBD forced down due to engine failure, believed to be complete carburetor icing. The reporting officer is of the opinion that the launching of the flight was fully justified in view of the military exigencies involved, the weather forecast received from the NAS, Quonset regarding the Squantum weather. Lack of weather information and unsatisfactory radio communications were undoubtedly contributory causes.		

U. S. NAVY
BUREAU OF AERONAUTICS AIRCRAFT TROUBLE ANALYSIS

Sqdn. outside U. S.
during qtr. all or part

following recommendations were submitted:

- (a) That the combined duties of Aerological and Communication Officers be divested from the same officer as soon as practicable, resulting in a separate Aerological Officer and a separate Communication Officer each skilled in his particular branch of the service.
- (b) That the internal organization of Air Plot aboard the RANGER be revamped to the end that it will be impossible for pilots to fail to receive last minute instructions.
- (c) That accelerated training be continued to the end that carrier and attached group may be brought to the highest state of operating perfection possible, ready to carry out war missions under conditions much more severe than experienced to date.

FINDING A 1949 JET IN JOHNS POND MASHPEE MA FALL 2023



PLANE

Continued from the First Page

times before he realized something was wrong. He ran to the edge of the **pond**, he said, just in time to see the tail assembly of the fighter plane go down.

Rushing back he dragged the dory which had been put up for the Winter to the **pond** and rowed furiously to where Lt Knoy was floundering in the water, his Mae West life preserver only half inflated.

Flyer's Pals Rush to Scene

In the meantime, two of Lt Knoy's flight companions, Capt Royal E. Koons and Lt Guy W. Otto, from the same formation had landed their planes and arrived in jeeps. The two officers started to swim to the



SAVES PLANE PILOT—Henry F. Godleski, Arlington.

o swam to the aid of Knoy v



Johns Pond Mashpee Otis AFB, Fall 2023

Mashpee, MA – March 20, 1949

John's Pond, Mashpee

On March 20, 1949, 2nd Lt. William C. Knoy was on a routine training flight over Cape Cod. As he was returning to Otis AFB his aircraft suffered a power loss. With only seconds to react, he aimed his jet towards John's Pond in Mashpee, and crash landed in the water. The crash was witnessed by Lt. Col. Joseph C. Smith who had been flying in the area.

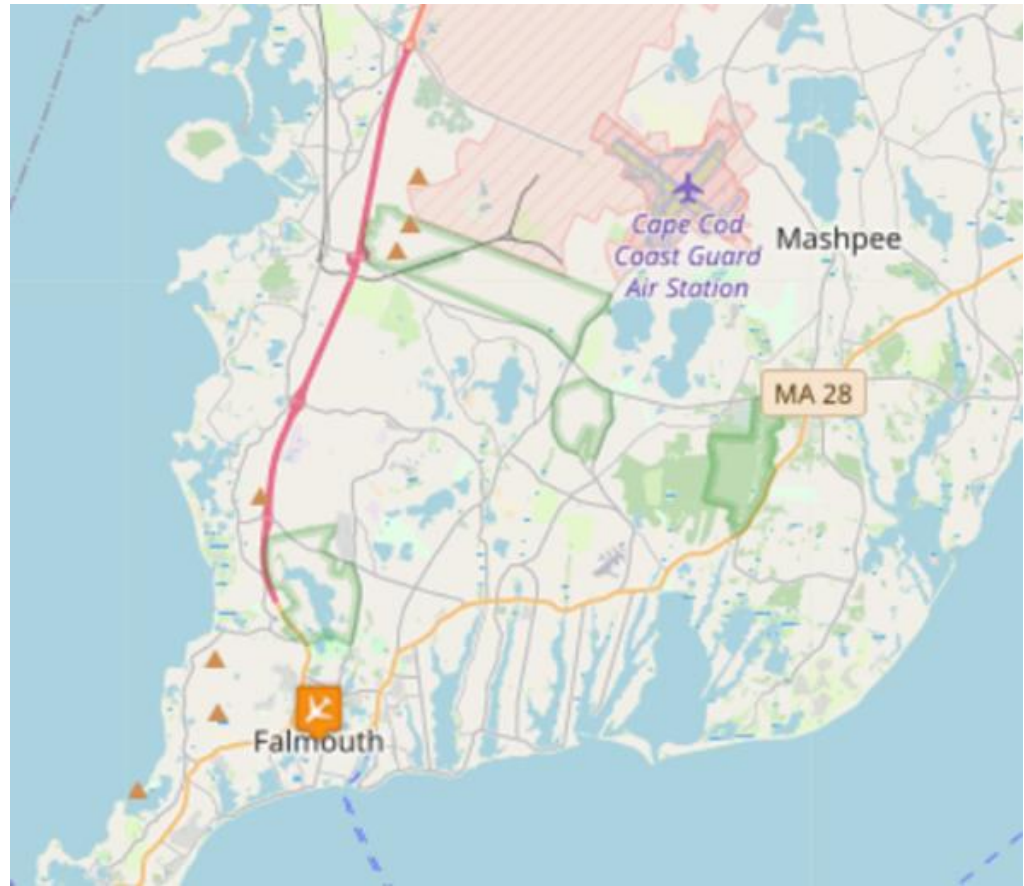
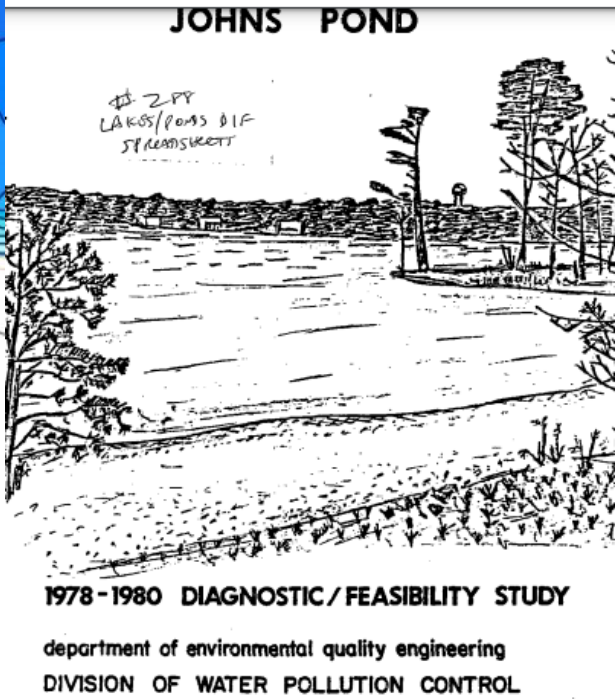
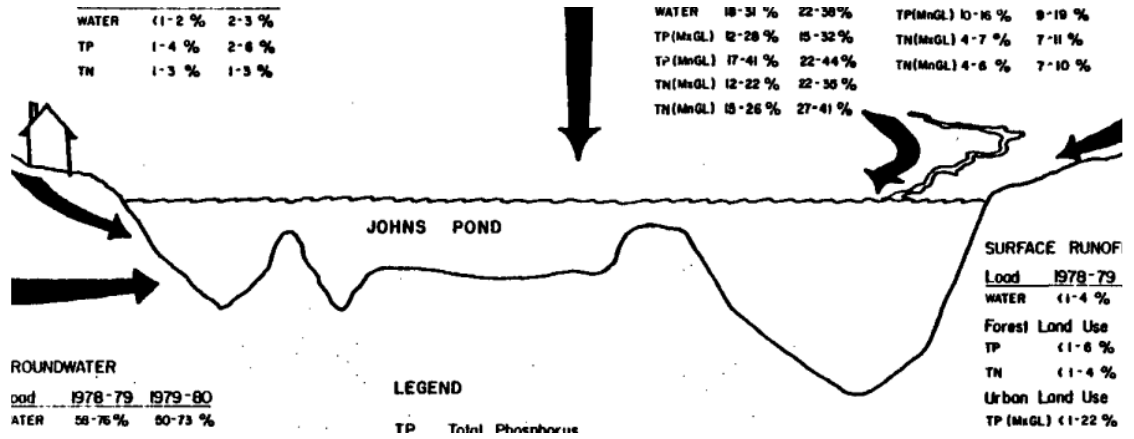
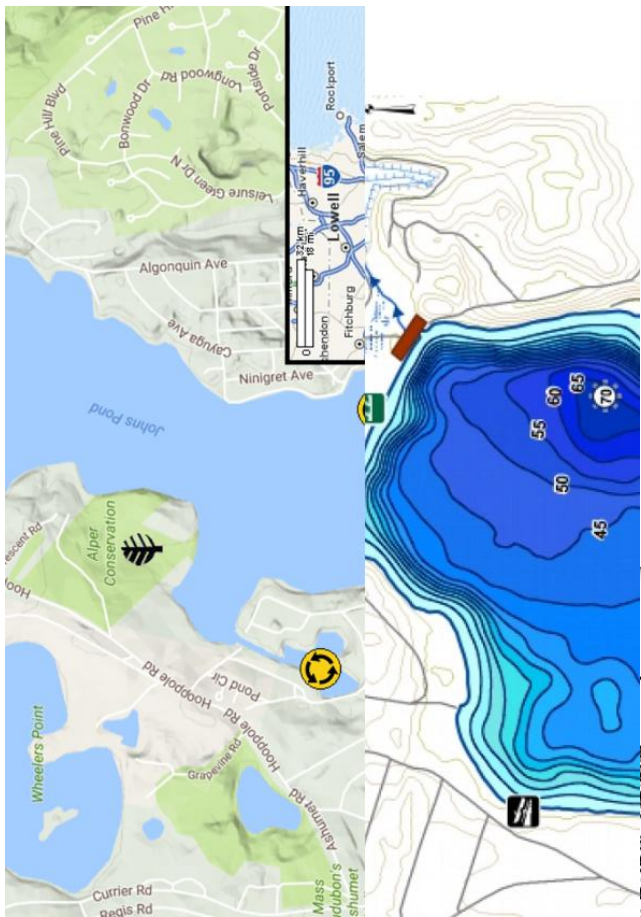
Knoy was rescued by Henry F. Godleski a local resident using a rowboat.

The newspaper story published five days later stated the aircraft had not yet been recovered.

The aircraft was an F-84C (Ser# 47-1453) assigned to the 59FS, 33 FG.



Republic F-84C – U.S. Air Force Photo





Town News **Obituaries** **Sports** **Entertainment** **Police & Fire**



PREV



Eric [redacted] a Boston-based historian, holds up a chunk of metal he pulled from the waters of Johns Pond in Mashpee last Friday. Mr. Wiberg believes the piece is a remnant of a fighter jet that crashed in the pond in 1949.

DIANE VERSCHURE

A New England Air Express passenger craft which crashed in the Bahamas, October, 1948.



Marion MA Tragic Bomber Wreck, Tabor, Towers



Bomber Photo of
Regosa, Crew in
article Feb 5
1943 Sippican ...



Bomber Sought
Pilot Leaps to
Safety article Feb
5 1943 Sippican...



MARION 1



MARION MA 18



MARION MA 19



MARION MA 1



MARION MA 5



MARION MA 6



MARION MA 7



MARION MA 8



MARION MA 9



MARION MA 10



MARION MA 13



MARION MA 14



MARION MA 16



MARION MA 21



MARION MA 22



MARION MA 24

Mashpee – Falmouth, MA – October 9, 1951

October 9, 2015

Mashpee-Falmouth Area

Massachusetts – October 9, 1951



F-94 Starfire
U.S. Air Force Photo

On October 9, 1951, a U. S. Air Force F-94 Starfire jet was coming in for a landing at Otis Air Force Base in Falmouth, Massachusetts, when a wingtip fuel tank, reported to be, “probably empty”, unexpectedly fell away and came down in a wooded area somewhere to the west of a traffic rotary on Route 28 in the nearby town of Mashpee, Massachusetts. The pilot estimated that the tank might have landed far enough to the west of the traffic rotary that it came down in Falmouth.

A search for the missing tank was instituted, but as of October 12th it hadn't been found. The tank was described as being about five feet long, cigar-shaped, and made of aluminum. Citizens with any information as to its whereabouts were asked to notify Falmouth police or Otis base.

#	WHEN	WHERE	DETAILS
1	5/9/64	North Parsonfield Maine, York Cty	skull, bones, shallow grave, dirt road, prob. Not an aviator
2	5/22/75	Burlington, MA, by Merrimack River	skeletal in army fatigues, sweater, garison belt, Levi Jeans, not likely a flier, metal necklace w/ Thespian logo, sneakers
3	3/10/77	Atlantic Ocean, Point Judith RI 30 miles off	body w bullet in left hip
4	12/23/80	Narragansett, Whale Rock to Narragansett Pier, RI	same body parts found 8/18/77 same area
5	9/16/81	Scarborough ME, beach near Rosebrier Motel	partial skeletal of right radius (hand?) near hotel Cumberland Cty Maine, on beach at Scarborough ME
6	7/11/82	Brewster, MA, Cape Cod central	bones parts, believed male adult died 1978-1980
7	2/5/83	Pine Point Beach, Scarborough, Cumberland Cty, Maine	skeletal lower jaw tangled in beach debris at Pine Point Beach, Scarborough ME
8	11/21/83	Potter's Cove, Jamestown RI	single specimen found fishermens net
9	8/30/84	Taunton, MA, SW of Boston	partial skeletal parts found construction area



BCA Tower Marion MA Marconi Aerial



BCA Tower Marion MA Marconi Tower

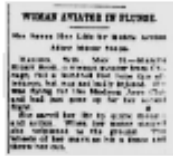


BCA Tower Marion MA Marconi

Women Aviators in New England

First **Woman** To Fly An Airplane In New England - 1912 | New ...

New England Aviation History | from author and historian Jim Ignasher > first-woman-to-fly-an-airplane-in-ne...



Jan 26, 2016 ... The event occurred at the 3rd Boston Aero Meet scheduled to be held at Harvard Field in Squantum, Massachusetts, from June 29, to July 6, 1912.

Ruth Bancroft Law First **Woman** To Fly In Rhode Island | New ...

newenglandaviationhistory.com > tag > ruth-bancroft-law-first-woman-...



Mar 10, 2017 ... Providence, R. I., Sept. 2 – Lincoln Beachey was the principal performer this afternoon at an aviation meet held at Narragansett Park over the ...

Andover Massachusetts Plane Crash | New England Aviation History

newenglandaviationhistory.com > andover-massachusetts-plane-crash



Feb 16, 2018 ... On the evening of August 5, 1951, an amphibious airplane with four persons aboard, (two men, two **women**) ... **women** were still inside and unconscious ...

Andover, MA. – August 5, 1951 | New England Aviation History

New England Aviation History | from author and historian Jim Ignasher > andover-ma-august-5-1951

Oct 11, 2023 ... Andover, Massachusetts - August 5, 1951 On the evening of August 5, 1951, an amphibious airplane with four persons aboard, (two men, ...

Norwalk, Connecticut – June 9, 1944

Updated July 1, 2017

On June 9, 1944, Elizabeth Hooker, (27) a test pilot for Grumman Aircraft in Bethpage, Long Island, was flying a fighter plane at 8,000 feet over Long Island Sound when the aircraft caught fire. She directed the plane towards shore and bailed out when it had dropped to 1,500 feet. She had tried to make the plane settle in the water, but instead it continued on and crashed in a swamp near a house in Norwalk. Miss Hooker came down about a mile from the crash site unharmed except for singed eyebrows.

Grumman sent a seaplane to bring her back to Long Island.

The type of aircraft wasn't mentioned.

Source: *The New York Times*, "Girl Flier Bails Out" June 10, 1944

Update:

The aircraft was a F6F-5 Hellcat, (Bu. No. 58829). Miss Hooker took off for the test flight at 2:08 p.m., and at 2:39 p.m. radioed Grumman Tower that her plane was on fire, and at 2:41 p.m. that she was bailing out. The plane crashed in a swampy area near Walter Avenue and Post Road. The aircraft burned so completely that a cause for the accident could not be determined.

[Mrs. Edith I. Sawyer of Vermont | New England Aviation History](#)

[newenglandaviationhistory.com](#) › tag › mrs-edith-i-sawyer-of-vermont



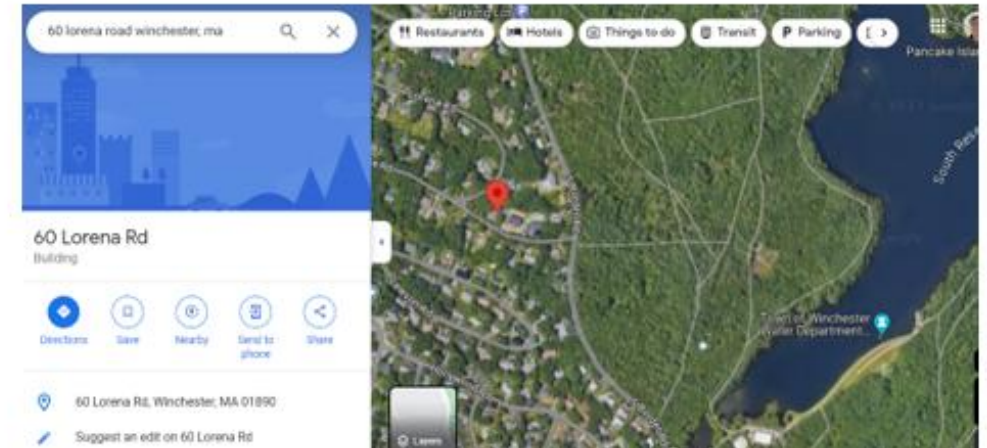
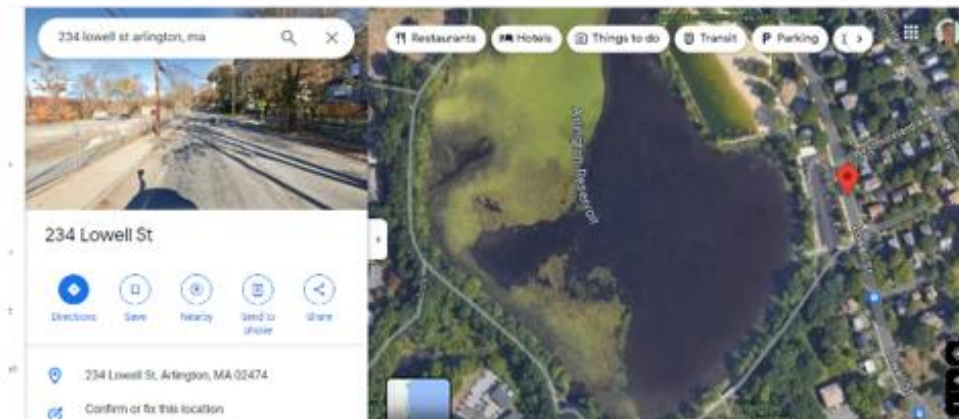
Jan 25, 2017 ... Sawyer, a reporter on the Evening News in this city, has the distinction of being the first **woman** in Vermont to make a balloon ascension.



Bucolic barn in Cummington, the author found remnants from a crashed fighter plane.



Process, Template: News, Intel, Maps, Photos



THANK YOU!!

Thanks to **Jim Ignasher (Sea Cadet), Douglas E. Campbell (USN-Ret.)** Joe Yukna, Caitlin, Geoff, and Diane Fitzgerald, G. de Ramel, Capt. Paul Aranha, Larry Webster, Wickes & Claire Helmboldt, many volunteers without whom we find very little.

In memory of those whose aircraft are lost along with them, and not yet found. We will keep trying.

Leads welcome at eric@ericwiberg.com