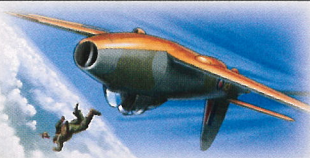


"Sqn Ldr Davie was flung through the canopy at 37,000ft after the ailerons jammed and the engine flamed-out"

Test-flying the Gloster E.28/39 research jet ► Page 26



Catalina ferried to Oz



'ONE HELL OF AN ADVENTURE'

THE CATALINA FLYING Memorial's (CFM) Consolidated PBV-6A VH-CAT arrived at Bankstown Airport in Sydney, Australia, on December 7 at the end of an epic three-week ferry flight from Seia, high in the Serra da Estrela mountains of Northern Portugal.

"It's been one hell of an adventure", said a relieved Philip Dulhunty, the 85-year-old flight organiser and president of the CFM. "The crew had to rush to get out of Portugal because of early snow in the mountains, which could have trapped the aircraft there until the spring. At Mumbai they had to dash to

the airport amid gunfire during the terrorist attack, and left without the proper paperwork. Several times it looked like they would run out of fuel and funds. And the falling dollar hasn't helped."

The former fire-bomber will be based at Rathmines, on Lake Macquarie, New South Wales, from where many RAAF Cats operated during the war. It will be painted as one of the RAAF "Black Cats", and be fitted with blisters and a nose turret. A museum to house VH-CAT will be built at Rathmines – but, after the expense of the ferry flight, funds are tight.

► For information on how to donate, visit www.catalinaflying.org.au

ABOVE Catalina VH-CAT makes a splash-and-dash on Lake Macquarie on December 7. Under the command of Jim Hazleton, the crew of six included Bernie Van Surksum and Chris Goezinne from the Lelystad, Holland-based PBV-5A, PH-PBY.

Chanute P-51H completed

RARE VARIANT

A VERY RARE North American P-51H Mustang was rolled out at the Octave Chanute Air Museum at Rantoul, Illinois, USA, on December 6, following a mammoth 26,000-man-hour restoration by volunteers.

The Mustang originally went on display at Rantoul way back in 1965; during February 2003, museum volunteer Norm Meyers initiated the restoration project. A crew chief, Curt Arseneau, was recruited, and managed to enlist help from friends in the warbird community, including Mike Vadeboncoeur of Midwest Aero Restorations at Danville, Illinois, re-builder of the 2008 Oshkosh Warbird Grand Champion, P-51D NL74190.

The P-51H has been painted as an 82nd Fighter Group machine, *Louisiana Heatwave*, flown by World War Two Mustang ace Lt Claude J. Crenshaw from Ladd Field, Alaska, during 1948.



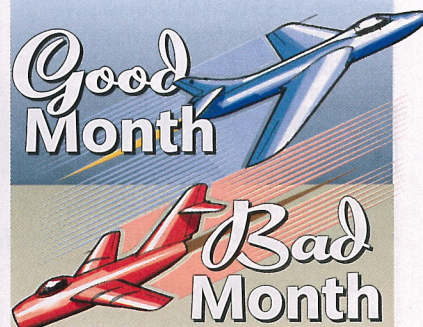
ABOVE The P-51H was a lightweight post-war version of the Mustang. The Chanute survivor is seen here on December 6.

North American P-51H survivors

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| P-51H 44-64265 | Chanute Aerospace Museum, Illinois, USA |
| P-51H 44-64314/N551H | Michael E. Coutches, Hayward, California, USA |
| P-51H 44-64375/N67149 | James R. Parks, Bend, Oregon, USA |
| P-51H 44-64376 | NMUSAF, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, USA |
| P-51H 44-64415/N49WB | World Jet Inc, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, USA (also reported sold during March 2008) |

▲ The Battle of Britain Memorial Flight (BBMF) at Coningsby. On November 14, 2008, the BBMF hangar was subject to an inspection by an energy analyst from the Energy Auditing Agency. Although it is now 66 years old, The hangar was awarded a C rating, which is considered exceptional, especially when the average rating for a four bed-roomed house is an E.

▲ The Newark Air Museum, which has been officially accredited by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA). The accreditation scheme sets nationally agreed standards for all museums in the UK. Chair of the MLA, Poet Laureate Andrew Motion, said, "Being awarded accreditation is an impressive achievement. It recognises the high standard and service that Newark Air Museum provides, and acknowledges the hard work of the staff and volunteers."



▼ *Aeroplane* Assistant Editor Tony Harmsworth. In November 2008's issue he stated that the light cruiser *HMAS Sydney* was damaged on October 21, 1944, in the first ever kamikaze attack. The ship attacked was in fact heavy cruiser *HMAS Australia*. Apologies.

▼ Cows – specifically this one, caught on video being clipped and rolled over by a wingtip of Rob Wotton's Tiger Moth during a forced landing near Dunkeswell. All parties emerged unscathed, and the video attracted many thousands of viewers on YouTube.

