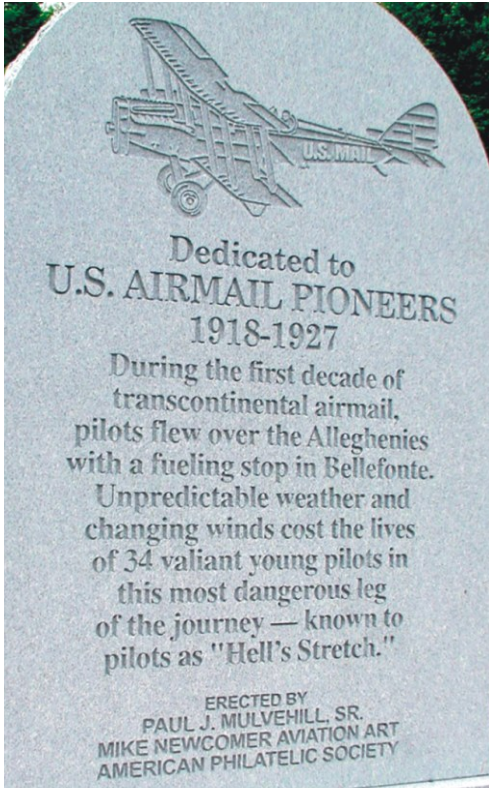


Airmail Monument Finally Complete!



This May the dedication was finally held for the new Airmail Monument at the headquarters of the American Philatelic Society. The monument honors the country's early airmail pioneers and the role Bellefonte played in airmail history. This aviation artist isn't afraid to say he was awestruck and thrilled to hang out with guest speaker former NASA astronaut Henry W. Hartsfield, Jr.



NASA photo

A Tiger's Tale...



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"Flying Tigers Over Burma"

As in WWI, numerous Americans took advantage of the opportunity to fly and fight without waiting upon their country to enter the war. In Burma, Claire L. Chennault, a retired Air Corps major who had served as special advisor to the Chinese Air Force since 1937, formed the American Volunteer Group (A.V.G.) nicknamed the Flying Tigers. The unit consisted of approximately 100 pilots and 200 groundcrew personnel (most of whom had been released from the U.S. Army, Navy, and Marines to volunteer for the A.V.G.) and was equipped with obsolescent P-40B airplanes. It began training at Rangoon in Sep. 1941.

Months of combat followed and the A.V.G., greatly outnumbered in the air and operating under adverse conditions (such as no replacement pilots and practically no spare parts for repairing aircraft), scored a very impressive record against the enemy, 286 Japanese planes shot down at a cost of 12 A.V.G. pilots killed or missing in action. In May 1942, pilots of the 23rd Fighter Group, selected to replace the Flying Tigers, began to arrive in China and the A.V.G. was dissolved on Jul. 4, 1942 when the 23rd Group was officially activated.

-U.S. Air Force Museum



It's a Wonderful Life

Susquehanna Life that is. I recently had the privilege of having an article on the Airmail Project published in the regional magazine *Susquehanna Life*. It was a great piece written by a friend of mine, Evan Dresser. You can read the entire article on his website at www.evandresser.com. Also please visit the website of the magazine at www.susquehannalife.com.

"After about 30 minutes I puked all over my airplane. I said to myself, 'Man, you made a big mistake.'"

— Charles 'Chuck' Yeager, regards his first flight.