

## CURTISS P-40B RECOVERED

A rare Curtiss P-40B has been recovered from the jungle on a Koolau Mountain Range plateau on the island of Oahu, Hawaii by James E. Egan of Warbird Salvors, Inc. of Arlington, VA. Among the aircraft destroyed by the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 were 73 P-40Bs and Cs and Egan feels this is one of those.

In the confusion on that infamous day several U.S. aircraft were fired on by their own ground forces and that could have been the fate of this fighter because the machine gun fire that brought it down entered the fuselage and wing from below and behind, exiting through the top sections. A round of ammo is still imbedded in the oil cooler. Interestingly, the official records indicate this plane was lost in a training accident.

Egan didn't happen to just stumble onto this airplane. He spent years researching through military records and interviewing witnesses to the surprise attack. He located the P-40 from a helicopter and later returned via helicopter with a crew to retrieve the downed fighter.

Pieces of the plane were pretty well scattered at the site. Live machine gun ammo was discovered under the fighter's port wing. The Allison engine was surprisingly intact, including the short exhaust stacks. A patch of red paint from the pre-1942 red circle in the star insignia is visible on one wing. No sign of the pilot was found, indicating he may have bailed out.

When Egan completes his research and cataloging of parts, he plans to display this P-40B which had an actual role in combat and was one of the first American air casualties of that historic struggle.

## EAA SCHOLARSHIP SUCCESS

Chad Ahrens (EAA 237223) recipient of the inaugural EAA/Spartan Powerplant Technician Scholarship award has completed the Powerplant Program



Photo courtesy of Jim Egan

### The recovery crew lifts a stabilizer/elevator assembly for the P-40B.

at SPARTAN SCHOOL OF AERONAUTICS in Tulsa, Oklahoma. After maintaining a 95 percent average throughout the program, he scored 96 percent on his licensing exam . . . a strong endorsement both for the student and the school. He will continue his SPARTAN education by completing the Airframe Program.

A SPARTAN Education is not limited

to the mechanical. Broad based curriculum offerings will bring Chad to complete an Associate Degree in Aeronautics in May. Congratulations, Chad, for what you have and will accomplish in the field of aviation.

Our thanks to Marvin Miller, President of EAA Chapter 770 for providing this information and supporting Chad in these endeavors. ●

# —CALENDAR OF EVENTS—

**MARCH 16-22** — LAKELAND, FLORIDA — 12th Annual EAA Sun 'n Fun Spring Celebration of flight. Contact: Ann McKee, Sun 'n Fun Headquarters, 813/644-2431.

**APRIL 5-6** — WASHINGTON, DC — 6th Annual Tour of National Air and Space Museum and Paul E. Garber facility. Dinner with speaker of note. Contact Margaret Scesa, 9611-51st Place, College Park, MD 20740, phone 301/345-3164.

**MAY 25** — BRECKENRIDGE, TEXAS — 9th Annual Air show. Classics, homebuilts, warbirds. Members of the West Texas Wing, Confederate Air Force. Contact Breck Airways, 817/559-9129.

**AUGUST 1-8** — OSHKOSH, WISCONSIN — 34th Annual EAA Convention and Sport Aviation Exhibition, Wittman Field. Contact John Burton, EAA Headquarters, Oshkosh, WI 54903-3086, 414/426-4800.

**AUGUST 15-17** — MADERA, CALIFORNIA — 15th Annual Gathering of Warbirds International Air Show. Madera Municipal Airport. Celebrating 75th anniversary of the Navy Air Force. Contact: Air Force Association, P.O. Box 5138, Fresno, CA 93755 or call 209/255-5812.

**SEPTEMBER 20-21** — TOPEKA, KANSAS — 10th Annual Air Show, Superbatics '86 sponsored by the Combat Air Museum at Forbes Field. Contact: Combat Air Museum, P. O. Box 19142, Topeka, KS 66619.