

MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORICAL MUSEUM WWII GLIDER PROJECT

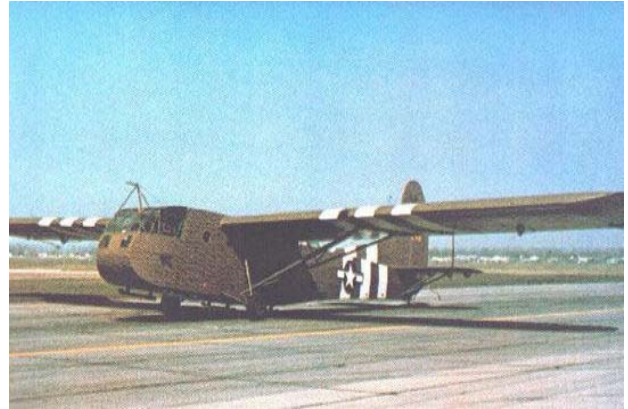
THE GLIDER PROJECT –

Restoration of a WW II CG-4A Glider as produced at Ford Motor Company in Kingsford is underway. Volunteers from the chapters of EAA in the Wausau WI area are restoring our donated Glider fuselage. During 1942-1945, the Kingsford plant of Ford Motor Company built 4,190 model CG-4A gliders for use in combat operations during World War II. Kingsford built more CG-4A gliders than any other place in the USA at much less cost than other manufacturers. In Iron Mountain, volunteers built an insulated temporary workshop in half of the “Dry” building at the Cornish Pump Museum to restore the remaining sections of the Glider. The Glider and other memorialbelia will be housed in a new addition at the Cornish Pump Mining Museum. The glider could be on display as soon as 2010.

The Cornish Pump Mining Museum is located at 300 Kent Street in Iron Mountain. 906-774-1086.

The Menominee Range Historical Museum is located at 300 East Ludington Street in Iron Mountain. 906-774-4276

For more information on this project, check out www.menomineemuseum.com.



WW II CG-4A Glider as produced at Ford Motor Company in Kingsford MI.



The original donated fuselage before restoration work began.



The tail section being reproduced at the Dry Building at the Cornish Pump Museum

GLIDER INFORMATION

A glider is a winged aircraft with no motor and no propellers. It must be towed by larger powered aircraft, then released in flight and piloted to the target landing zone. During 1942-1945, Kingsford plant of Ford Motor Company built 4,190 model CG-4A gliders for use in combat operations during World War II. Kingsford built more CG-4A gliders than any other place in the USA at much less cost than other manufacturers.

These gliders were used for transporting. Primary reasons for using gliders was because it was a silent aircraft and could deliver either troops or equipment behind enemy lines undetected at night. Unlike powered aircraft, a glider could land where there was no airstrip. Once landed and disembarked, troops began specific assignments such as seize enemy installations, disrupt enemy communications, reconnaissance work, or relief and support of friendly troops. Gliders were used by Canada and Great Britain as well as USA. American glider troops were a part of the 101st Airborne and the 82nd Airborne of the U.S. Army.

The CG-4A glider is a high-wing cabin aircraft having a steel-tube fuselage covered with fabric. Its wings were made of wood with plywood and fabric covering. The glider had fixed-type landing gear and nose skids, and hydraulic brakes. A pilot and co-pilot operated the towline, trim tabs, spoiler, rudder, toe brake, lights, deceleration parachute, and communication system. Instruments on the glider were airspeed indicator, rate-of-climb indicator, bank & turn indicator, altimeter, and compass. The entire nose of the CG-4A could raise up, allowing for loading and unloading. There were also doors on both sides of the fuselage.

Dimensions of CG-4A: Wingspan, 83'4" -
- Length, 48'4" -- Height, 12'7"

The CG-4A designed weight was 7500 lbs. Maximum designed speed on tow or in free flight was 150 mph. With the designed load, room that was required for normal 3-pt landing was 600 to 800 feet. Normal glide speed was approximately 75-85 mph. with normal rate of decent approximately 400 feet per minute.

The CG-4A could carry:
13 soldiers plus the pilot and co-pilot, making a total of 15 personnel. Instead of troops, a glider could transport military supplies or equipment such as a 1/4-ton jeep, or a 37mm AT gun, or a 75 mm. howitzer, or a photographic lab, or a weather station, or radar equipment, or a field kitchen, or a repair shop, or radio equipment, or six litters for evacuation of wounded.

Allied Glider Operations during WW II
British mission to Norway, Nov. 1942;
many casualties, failed mission
Invasion of Sicily, July 1943
China Burma India operations, February
1944 Invasion of Normandy, June, 1944
Invasion of Southern France, August 1944
Holland Operation, September 1944
Bastogne, December 1944
Rhine River, March 1945
Luzon Philippines, June 1945

Primary builders of the CG-4A were in
Troy, OH; Greenville, MI; Astoria, NY;
Kansas City, MO; St. Paul, MN; and
Kingsford, MI.

This information was compiled from various books
and online sources by the
Menominee Range Historical Foundation Board of
Governors.