

**Re: C-47's towing Waco CG-4A's over nazi occupied France**

FL Mail/Inbox



**Billy Walker** <captbilly964.2@gmail.com>  
To: Norm Spilleth <nspilleth@yahoo.com>  
Cc: Dave Verret <twocajuns@mac.com>

Jun 6 at 8:12 PM

I agree with Dave just the act of towing three Waco CG-3 or CG-4 gliders is worthy of recognition. But, here's one that still has me shaking my head!

During WWII, Fred Hart learned to fly at Plains Airways, Laramie Base (attached to the University of Wyoming). Fred would become a C-47 pilot towing the Waco gliders.

Standing Orders was to cut the gliders loose anytime an engine failed on the C-47. With Fred, his left engine failed on takeoff. **Fred just could not cut the gliders loose** knowing their fate. So, he did the impossible, he nursed the ol' Gooney Bird around and landed with all three gliders in tow.



Immediately, he was facing a Courts Martial for disobeying an SO! Fortunately, higher authority thought any penalty for exhibiting extraordinary airmanship deserved recognition. Fred was awarded the DFC.

I got to know Fred as he was a captain with Frontier Airlines and I was a freshly minted co-pilot. Fred lived in Phoenix and we'd see him some when he came to visit my father. Now, sadly, both Pop and Fred are gone, but their legacy will long be remembered.



Captain Fred Hart RIP

6/7/24, 7:06 AM

Re: C-47's towing Waco CG-4A's over nazi occupied France - Yahoo Mail

Blue Skies & Tailwinds....



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On Jun 6, 2024, at 4:53 PM, Dave Verret <[twocajuns@mac.com](mailto:twocajuns@mac.com)> wrote:

On Jun 6, 2024, at 3:26 PM, Billy Walker <[captbilly964.2@gmail.com](mailto:captbilly964.2@gmail.com)> wrote:

One of the three CPTP schools my Dad had during WWII was based at Ft Morgan CO where they had L-2s & L-4s used as pre-glider trainers. Many were lost during Operation Overlord!

Thanks Cap!