



Glynco's Legendary Hangars

This January marks the 76th anniversary of a significant World War II event in local history. On January 25, 1943, Naval Air Station Glynco, located north of Brunswick, was commissioned as one of five airship bases strategically located between Massachusetts and Florida. During the war, these facilities launched airship patrols to protect the thousands of Allied cargo ships that were stalked by German U-boats as they travelled along the East Coast.

When commissioned, the Glynco base was still under construction; however, the most imposing structures had been completed: two massive airship hangars, each measuring over 1,000 feet long and almost 300 feet wide. Due to demand for steel to manufacture war material, the han-

gars were constructed of wood. They were prefabricated in Tacoma, Washington, using Douglas fir timber from Oregon. After being assembled at the timber company, each piece of wood was carefully numbered before the structures were dismantled. The pieces were sent by rail to various fire-proofing plants around the country and then delivered to Brunswick for reassembly.

Concrete pillars 150 feet tall supported the doors at either end of the buildings. With an overall height of 182 feet, the hangars could be seen above the trees and served as memorable landmarks for residents and visitors alike, until they were demolished in 1971. The site of the former Naval Air Station is now the location of both the Brunswick Gold-

en Isles Airport and the headquarters of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center.

This month's images from the Society archives show one of the hangars and the cover of the March 1944 base newsletter, *The Bungee Bugle*. For more information about Naval Air Station Glynco, visit the new World War II Home Front Museum at the Historic Coast Guard Station on St. Simons Island. We thank Leslie Faulkenberry, author of the Glynn County Airport Commission's booklet *Project Glynco* (available online), for historical information used in this article.

Our monthly images on this page are from the vast archives of the Coastal Georgia Historical Society. The Society's mission includes the "administration, restoration and maintenance of historic facilities and resources ... preserved as a living part of the historical and cultural foundations of our coastal community." Society facilities include the St. Simons Lighthouse and Museum, the A.W. Jones Heritage Center, and the World War II Home Front Museum at the Historic Coast Guard Station. To learn more about the Society, its diverse programs, and the benefits of Society membership, please call 912.638.4666, or visit coastalgeorgiahistory.org.