

Gone But Not Forgotten

While Americans honor December 7 as Pearl Harbor Day, we often forget Japanese forces also attacked other areas the same day (or December 8, depending on the time zone), including the Philippines, Hong Kong, Malaysia, and Thailand. In the Philippines 10 A-27s, the attack version of the AT-6 trainer also called NA-69, among scores of other aircraft were destroyed. This horizontal stabilizer is from one of the 10 North American A-27s.

The country then called Siam (now Thailand) ordered the 10 planes, the only ones made, from North American Aviation Inc. in 1939. The completed planes, however, never made it to Siam. Instead they were diverted to the U.S. Army Air Corps' 17th Pursuit Squadron at Nichols Field in the Philippines and assigned serial numbers 41-18890 to 41-18899.

Damaged, but still wearing its original camouflage paint, the recovered stabilizer was donated to EAA in 1977 by Bud Collins.

For more information, try these sources:
December 8, 1941: MacArthur's Pearl Harbor, William H. Bartsch, 2003

www.CSD.UWO.ca/~pettypi/elevon/baughner_us/a27-01.html

www.NationalMuseum.af.mil/factsheets/factsheet.asp?id=3156

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