

Lifestyles

Explaining Earhart's Disappearance

Book Authored by Local Residents

On of the most enduring mysteries of the last century is the disappearance of aviator Amelia Earhart over the South Pacific Ocean while on her 1937 bid to circumnavigate the world at the Equator.

For more than seven decades, questions have surrounded the circumstances of her disappearance, many believing a conspiracy lay behind the fact that America's most famous female pilot seemed to vanish without a trace.

Robert "Bob" Wheeler and Harold "Fred" Nicely have authored a book, *Amelia Earhart Betrayed*, which addresses the idea that a conspiracy was indeed behind her disappearance.

This is not the typical biography. Wheeler and Nicely are two pilots who ask pivotal questions and provide valuable pieces formerly missing from the puzzle — Were Amelia and navigator Fred Noonan on a secret mission to photograph Japanese installations? Were they kidnapped? By whom? Was Franklin Roosevelt part of the government cover up that may continue to this day?

The novel follows Earhart and Noonan on their journey from Hawaii to Suriname, to the Burma Road, and beyond.



Wheeler, who lives on Pullman Road, near Harrisville, is a retired military and civilian helicopter/airplane pilot. During 39 years in the military, he flew combat tours in Vietnam, Desert Storm and Afghanistan, and has done extensive research in locating missing crews in Vietnam.

Nicely, of Parkersburg, is also a retired military and civilian helicopter/airplane pilot, with 37 years of service. He completed an 18-month combat tour in Vietnam (1967-69), and has extensive research ability and knowledge of celestial navigation.

Amelia Earhart Betrayed is available in August. A portion of the profits will be donated to the Amelia Earhart Expedition.