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# AIRSHOW

CAF FRENCH WING - BULLETIN MENSUEL - MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 18 - N° 11 - November 2013

## EDITORIAL

**D**uring the night of 12/13 October, Bernard Delfino passed away after a long and courageous struggle against cancer. He was the French Wing's unit leader, but especially a true friend for most of us. We will miss him dearly.

**B**ernard was a simple man, in the best sense of the term. Friendly and straightforward, he was at ease with everyone. He was profoundly devoted to the French Wing, working hard for the unit he created and led for many years. He was also generous and helpful, offering help and support to the projects of many individuals and organizations in the world of warbirds and classic aircraft.

**O**nly when Bernard asked me to become his XO three years ago did I fully realize the amount of work he was doing, fuelled by seemingly unlimited devotion and energy.

**A**lthough none of us could begin to replace Bernard as Unit Leader, I was overjoyed to see several wing members come forward to take responsibilities and give the French Wing a future.

**Y**ou will soon find out the identities of these members. Some of them will be candidates for

the forthcoming elections, while others have accepted less visible but just as important assignment and responsibilities.

**I** wish to thank these members, in the name of all French Wing members, as well as personally. They knowingly accepted responsibilities and

workloads that are not always easy to conjugate with personal and professional occupations. In doing so, they have illustrated themselves and honoured Bernard in the best possible way.

Bertrand Brown



**BERNARD DELFINO  
PASSES AWAY**



## INTERVIEW OF LOUIS-JEAN GIOUX, WORLD WAR II VETERAN

The interview of Louis-Jean Gioux, a B-26 Marauder pilot with the Free French bomber group "Bretagne" in World War II, is now available on the French Wing's YouTube channel:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YrDfwfP0LAK>

This interview was made by Stéphane Duchemin and edited by Thomas Michel, who improved the sound and image quality.

The interview is only slightly longer than twenty minutes, but is quite interesting and instructive. Don't hesitate to share the link with friends and relatives!

More veteran interviews by Stéphane Duchemin will soon also be added to the channel. Recording our veterans' memories and recollections is an integral part of the French Wing's goals. We invite our members to do so, by interviewing veterans themselves or by letting us know of such veterans who are willing to be interviewed and share their experience with future generations. ■

## FRENCH WING GENERAL MEETING: SUNDAY NOVEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup> IN ERMENONVILLE

The French Wing's annual general meeting will take place on Sunday the 24th of November at the home of Roger Gouzon in Ermenonville.

Much will be at stake this year:

- Electing a new Unit Leader
- Electing a new Executive Officer
- Electing a new Finance Officer
- Examining the French Wing's moral, administrative and financial status
- Reorganizing the board and assigned workloads
- Discussing current and future projects
- Miscellaneous questions

Wing members who wish specific topics to be addressed are invited to contact Bertrand Brown by email.

During the meeting, we will make certain propositions to facilitate group work and communication within the French Wing. The preparatory meeting that was held on October 31st in Le Plessis-Belleville gave us the opportunity to assess the French Wing's current status and debate the necessary adjustments that will be needed to keep the association going.

As the general meeting will take place on a Sunday, instead of the usual Saturday, we decided it would be better to replace dinner by lunch. This will be more convenient for members who live far away and can't leave too late.

Lunch will begin at noon at Roger Gouzon's house. The general meeting will start at 3:00 PM and

will end with a farewell drink. All practical details are indicated on the following page.

Please let us know if you will be attending the general meeting by email (contact@bravobravoaviation.com) before Wednesday November 20th, and let us know whether you will be there for lunch as well. ■

## FRENCH WING OPEN STAFF POSITIONS

We will be electing three new staff members during the general meeting: President (Unit Leader), Vice-President (Executive Officer) and Treasurer (Finance Officer). Members who wish to apply for these positions must contact Bertrand Brown by Friday the 15th of November at the latest. Wing members will be notified of the candidacies shortly after.

Secret ballot elections will be held during the general meeting. Absent members will have the opportunity to vote by mail in the following days. The results of the elections will be published by mid-December. The newly-elected staff members will begin their duties on January 1st, 2014. ■

## 2013 GENERAL MEETING: PRACTICAL INFORMATION

The 2013 General Meeting will be held at Roger Gouzon's house in Ermenonville:

2 La Prairie Souville  
60950 Ermenonville  
France

The map presented here shows directions to be followed in Ermenonville when arriving from the hangar in Le Plessis-Belleville.

For those of you arriving from Paris, the simplest route will probably be to take the N2 (towards Soissons) and exit at Le Plessis-Belleville/Ermenonville/Senlis. From there, follow directions to Ermenonville (via N330) and follow the map when you arrive in town.

Roger has several available bedrooms, which he has kindly made available to wing members. If you want to "book" one of these bedrooms, contact him as soon as possible. First come, first served!

Here are his coordinates:

Email: [roger.gouzon@orange.fr](mailto:roger.gouzon@orange.fr)  
Tél: 03 44 60 11 47  
Port: 06 82 90 40 71

Those who wish to be present for lunch must email or phone Bertrand Brown by Wednesday the 20th of November at the latest. A 10€ contribution will be requested and can be given to the Finance Officer on the day of the meeting. ■



## NEW WING MEMBERS: BENJAMIN GILBERT (CONT'D) AND ROGER ROBERT



*Benjamin Gilbert and his son Antonin, during the CAF French Wing's 2013 fly-in. (Photo B. Gilbert)*

We had briefly presented **Benjamin Gilbert** in the October issue of Airshow. Benjamin joined the French Wing during the 2013 fly-in in late September. Born on 7 September 1981, he is married and father of three children. He works as a transit agent for Ceva in Tremblay-en-France. He is also a photographer, reporter for the Fana de l'Aviation magazine and regular contributor to our blog L'Echarpe Blanche. His favourite warbirds are the Spitfire and P-40!

These are Benjamin's coordinates:

Benjamin Gilbert  
17 rue Aveline  
60520 Thiers sur Thève  
France

Port: 06.21.16.64.61  
Fixe: 09.50.98.96.40  
Email: benj.gilb@gmail.com



We also have the pleasure of welcoming a new member, who joined the French Wing on October 31st: **Roger Robert**,

Born on September 6, 1947, Roger works in accounting and IT as an accountant, and later engineer and entrepreneur. He is now retired and fully enjoying his passion for aviation and warbirds.

He is the treasurer of the Association des Amis du Musée de l'Air (Friends of the French Air & Space Museum), where he works as webmaster and is also part of the editorial team of Pégase, the AAMA's magazine.

Roger has visited over 100 aviation museums (80 in the US, the rest of them in Europe) and has flown on an extraordinary variety of warbirds: P-40, P-51, B-17, B-25, T-6, Avenger, Dauntless, Catalina, Dakota, Junkers 52, PC-7, L-39, MiG-15, An-2, Fouga Magister, DH Vampire, Concorde, as well as several types of gliders, helicopters and hot air balloons!

Roger is also a freelance author and has produced several books compiling the milestones of aviation history, by country or by theme. He is also a great admirer of the United States, and has visited every state except Alaska!

He also has an interest in American history and museums and is working on several books on these topics.

His favourite warbird is the North American P-51 Mustang.

Here are Roger's coordinates:

Roger Robert  
36 rue Paul Rimet  
95560 Montsoult  
France

Port: 06.87.21.25.59  
Email: roger-robert@wanadoo.fr

Welcome to the French Wing! ■

### CAF FRENCH WING WEBSITE ATTACKED

A few days ago, the French Wing's website came under attack, with intruders trying to enter the system and take control. This is by no means uncommon but the latest attack was unprecedented in its scale and duration. The security measures of the website effectively prevented any intrusion and/or damage to the website, and have been reinforced following the attack.

We remind members that they must keep their website access codes strictly confidential, and should contact the webmaster (Bertrand Brown) in case of a problem. ■

# In memoriam Bernard Delfino

*Right: Bernard with his Nikon, always ready to "shoot" during Sandy Sansing's Légion d'Honneur award ceremony in 2007. (Photo C. Bastide).*

*Below: manning the French Wing stand at the annual airshow in La Ferté-Alais in 2009 with Jean-Yves Cercy, Christian Tournemine et Claude Gascon. (Photo C. Bastide)*



## Midland Memories

Irene Grinnell has created a video of photos and memories of Bernard. Watch it on Animoto:

[Click here to view the video](#)

*Right: BBQ party and dance during the 1998 Airsho in Midland. (Photo S. Duchemin).*





*Left: the French Supporter Squadron in Rennes in 1998. From left to right: Alain Jimenez, Christophe Bastide, Bernard Delfino, Stéphane Duchemin and Didier Cardinal. (Photo S. Duchemin).*

*Right: Bernard unloading (or loading?) the French Wing's tent from the roof of his Audi during the Mondial des Patrouilles at the Dijon airbase in 2000. (Photo C. Bastide).*





*Left: the French Supporter Squadron at the O-Club during Airsho 1998. (Photo S. Duchemin).*



*Right: Dinner at Mr. & Mrs. Gioux's. (Photo S. Duchemin).*

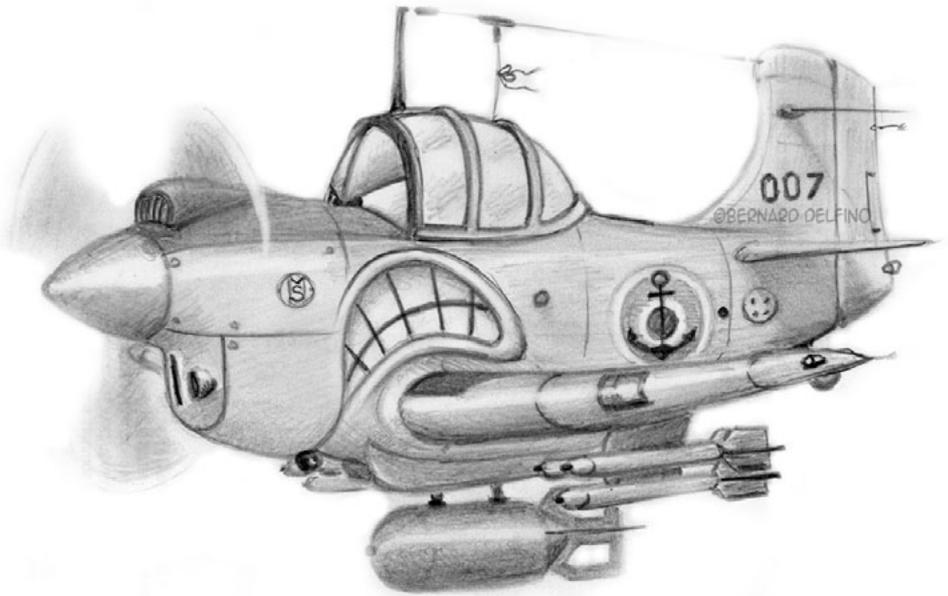


*Left: Mission 447 in Toulouse: Christian Tournemine, Bernard Delfino, Didier Cardinal and Christophe Bastide. (Photo C. Bastide).*



*Left: shortly after the Piper Cub arrived in Le Plessis-Belleville, having flown in from Persan-Beaumont. Bernard was the artist who drew the "Spirit of Lewis" nose art. (Photo C. Gascon).*

*Right: Bernard was also a talented artist. This is one of his cartoons, depicting a Morane-Saulnier MS.733. Thanks to Jean Barbaud for sharing this with us !*



*Left: Bernard, Roy Grinnell and Fumiko in Midland (Photo I. Grinnell).*

NEW PX ITEM

## LA FERTÉ-ALAIS 2012



CD Rom made of 110 photos taken during the 2012 La Ferté-Alais air show. Images 1600pixelsjpgs for your computer wall paper or private printing. (10€ incl. P&P, 8€ for our members)

## 2013 FRENCH WING SUBORDINATE OFFICERS

THE FRENCH WING IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

- Operations: Officer and deputy
  - Fly-in: 3 deputies
  - Recruiting: Officer and deputy
- Should you be interested by these jobs, please contact the French Wing!

The CAF French Wing is a non-profit Association ruled by the 1901 law, and registered under number 2473 of the Journal Officiel dated 10 July 1996.

**Unit Leader: Col Bernard DELFINO †**  
Interim Unit Leader: Bertrand Brown

**Executive Officer: Bertrand BROWN**  
Tél: 09 73 51 31 35 - Mobile: 06 16 97 55 06  
email: webmaster@gaetanmarie.com

**Finance Officer: Claude GASCON**  
Tél: 03 29 86 71 00 - Mobile: 06 77 69 01 75  
email: claudegascon@free.fr

**Adjutant Officer: Gaël DARQUET**  
Mobile: 06 19 56 77 79  
email: darquet.gael@yahoo.fr

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# WING'S PROJECTS

PATRON COMPANIES SUPPORTING THE FRENCH WING

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