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AIRSHOW

CAF FRENCH WING - BULLETIN MENSUEL - MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 18 - N° 12 - December 2013

EDITORIAL

Due to computer problems, the December 2013 issue of Airshow will be shorter than usual. For the most part, you will find recent news concerning the French Wing and Commemorative Air Force, as well as a brief presentation of what went on during the November 24 general meeting that was held at Roger Gouzon's house. I've also added a selection of profiles I made representing the C-47 Dakota in French colours.

You will have to wait for the January 2014 issue to be able to read a full-fledged article. Your patience will be well rewarded, though, as Eric Bellebon and Stéphane Duchemin have written a very interesting article about the training of aviation cadet Raymond Daniel in 1943. Raymond is none else than Eric's

grandfather, which makes the article even more interesting!

I would like to thank all of the members who were present during the November 24 general meeting, as well as those who voted since. Our discussions and exchanges will help us take over the leadership of the French Wing.

The results of the elections will be published as soon as the final counting has been done.

I also seized the chance to draw a special "PolAir" C-47 Dakota (another one!). Nicknamed "Spirit of Rudolf", this aircraft flies only once a year! :-)

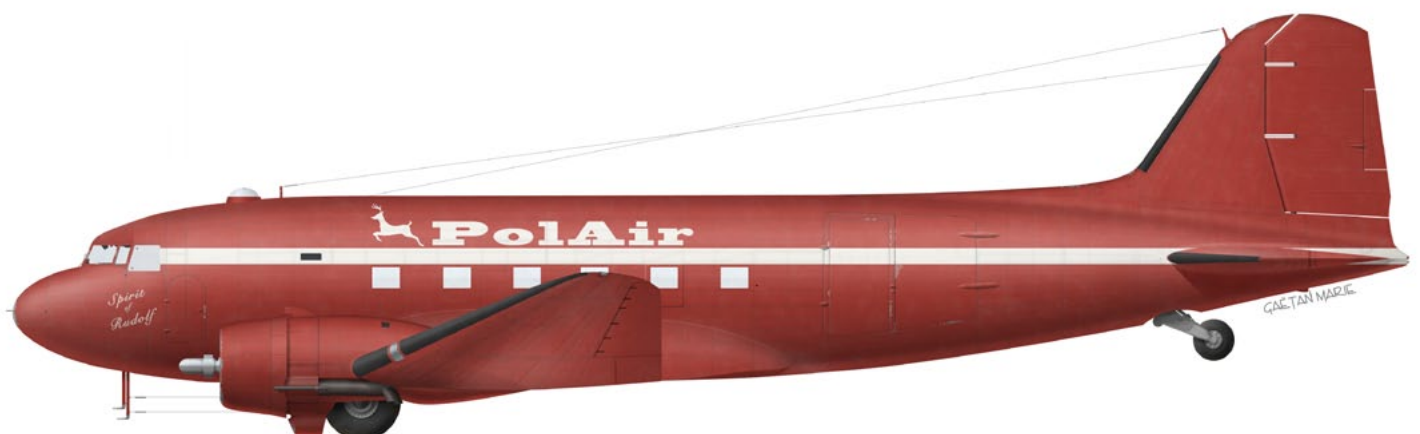
I wish all of the members of the French Wing a merry Christmas and happy new year. 2014 will be a year full of challenges for the French Wing but I am confident we will overcome them, as in unity lies strength!

Bertrand Brown

JEAN MILLIOT'S INTERVIEW IS NOW AVAILABLE ON THE FRENCH WING'S YOUTUBE CHANNEL (P.2)



ROY GRINNELL AND JEAN BARBAUD IN THE "FANA" (P.3)



Airshow - Public Edition

Airshow is the monthly newsletter of the CAF French Wing. This "public" edition is meant for people who are not members of the association. Content which is for members only may have been removed from this edition.

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COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS TO LEAVE HISTORIC BASE OF MIDLAND, TEXAS



The Tora! Tora! Tora! Squadron of the Commemorative Air Force during the 2008 meeting in Midland. (Photo Ebdon (CC BY 3.0))

Following a vote by members, the Headquarters of the Commemorative Air Force should leave their historic base in Midland in 2014 or 2015.

The CAF constitution and bylaws require an approval of three-quarters of the voting membership in order to make the change. A total of 75.10% of the voices approved of it.

The CAF Board of Directors, headed by Steven Brown, will now decide where to relocate the Headquarters, out of six possible locations, all in Texas:

- Alliance Airport, Fort Worth
- Collin County Airport, McKinney, (Dallas Metropolitan)
- Dallas Executive Airport,

Dallas

- Ellington Field Airport, Houston
- Lackland/Kelly Airport, San Antonio
- North Texas Regional Airport, Sherman/Dennison, Texas (Dallas Metropolitan)

The board of directors should soon narrow down this list and will communicate its definitive choice during the first or second quarter of 2014.

It is indicated on the CAF's website that the annual meeting will still be held in Midland and that the CAF Airpower Museum will not be relocated.

This comes as a blow to the city of Midland, whose economy is closely linked to the CAF's activity. ■



BATTLE OF FRANCE VETERAN JEAN MILLIOT INTERVIEWED BY STÉPHANE DUCHEMIN

Jean Milliot's interview is now available on the French Wing's YouTube channel:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YTVdu4oEZoM>

You can also view the video directly on the French Wing's website:

<http://www.caffrench-wing.fr/>

This interview was made by Stéphane Duchemin and edited by Thomas Michel, who improved the framing and worked on the sound. Unfortunately, the quality of the sound was so bad that it was quite difficult for him to improve it. Unfortunately, the result is a soundtrack which is not always easy to follow.

Jean Milliot was a secretary in the Groupe de Chasse II/10 (Fighter Group) when war broke out. He tells us about the fighting during the Battle of France, the sabotages, the 5th column and the retreat of the fighter group in the face of the German advance. ■

JEAN BARBAUD AND ROY GRINNELL: WORDS OF THE "BURMA BANSHEES"

Our friend and member Jean Barbaud is not only a very gifted cartoonist with a remarkable sense of humour, but also a writer and historian.

Included in the latest issue of the famous French magazine "Le Fana de l'Aviation" (No 529, December 2013) is Jean's article about the "Burma Banshees", American pilots of the 80th Fighter Group in Burma. They flew Curtiss P-40s adorned with large skulls on the nose and fought against the Japanese with great success.

The cover of the magazine

was painted by another of our members: Roy Grinnell, another remarkable artist.

For those of you who haven't subscribed to the "Fana" or haven't bought the latest issue, why not make yourself an early Christmas present and purchase it from your usual press outlet.

On his Facebook profile, Jean had dedicated his article to our late friend Bernard Delfino: *"Specially dedicated to Bernard of the French Wing CAF. Have a good flight up there among the clouds, amigo!"* ■



The cover of the December 2013 issue of the "Fana de l'Aviation" by Roy Grinnell and the two first pages of Jean Barbaud's article. (© Editions Larivière)

HISTOIRE

La chasse américaine face aux Japonais

Paroles de "Burma Banshees"

Entre la mi-1943 et la fin 1944, les pilotes du 80th Fighter Group, les "Burma Banshees", effectuent sur P-40 des missions d'appui au sol face aux troupes japonaises. Témoignages...

Par Jean Barbaud, avec le concours de Jim Bush

"Après avoir traversé la grande dépression des années 1930, on pouvait me voir comme garçon de ferme dans les champs poussiéreux de l'Ohio, à côté de Philipe. Mais l'un des rares pilotes survivants, j'ai bénéficié du CPTF (il y avait obtenu un brevet de pilote). Ma formation s'est effectuée aux commandes d'un Piper J-3 Cub" entend une légende de guerre, mais désormais de paix, sur les pistes vertes de Carper, dans le Wyoming. C'est ainsi que je me suis retrouvé tout jeune sur le terrain dès septembre 1942, cherchant un métier volant dans le ciel de la cité Est de Republic P-47 "Thunderbolt".

Affecté au 80th FS (Fighter Squadron) du 80th FG (Fighter Group) basé à Mitchel Field, dans l'Etat de New York, nous nous entraînaient à piloter et maintenir le "dog" japonais devant un "Thunderbolt" avant d'embarquer pour l'Europe en guerre. Plus de 500 de ce solide et efficace en vol, le P-47 avait un seul défaut : il se comportait comme une encante volante dès qu'on veut réduire les gaz.

Au printemps 1943, ma formation achevée, j'ai commencé mon "Thunderbolt" en train d'être basé à bord de cargo qui allaient livrer en Angleterre. J'avais été de la mission pour affronter la Luftwaffe, puisque le 80th FG allait participer à la "grande bataille" en Europe. Malheureusement, le haut commandement ne avait décidé autrement et le stade par avion mon cher "dog" avait long-temps - le Général Map Arnold nous a confié son mot pendant notre arrivée!

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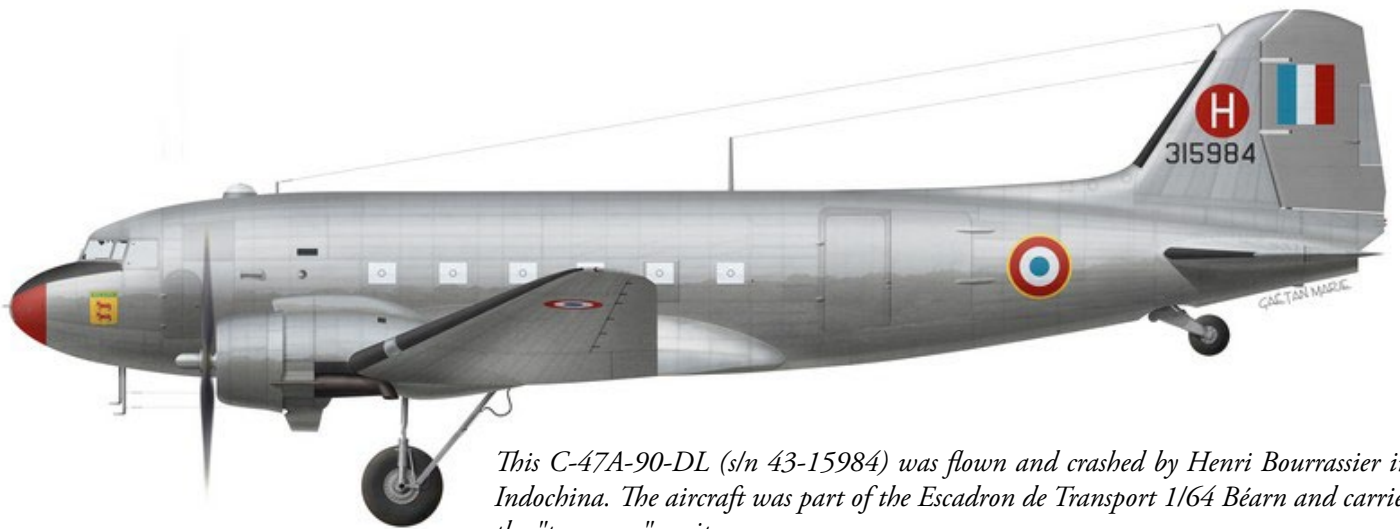
(1) CPTF - Civilian Pilot Training Program, un programme de formation de pilotes civils, qui en 1942 fit 143 par le gouvernement américain.

2013 GENERAL MEETING

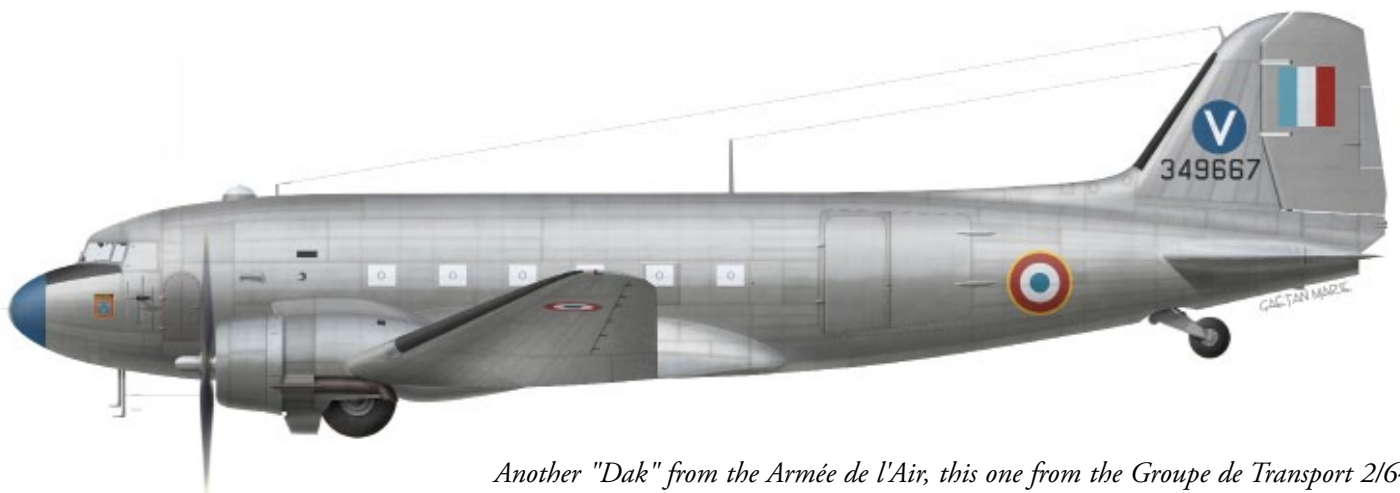
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French Dakotas

Illustrations: Bertrand Brown (aka Gaëtan Marie)



This C-47A-90-DL (s/n 43-15984) was flown and crashed by Henri Bourrassier in Indochina. The aircraft was part of the Escadron de Transport 1/64 Béarn and carries the "two cows" on its nose.



Another "Dak" from the Armée de l'Air, this one from the Groupe de Transport 2/64 Anjou. It is a C-47B-20-DK (s/n 43-9667), seen in Tan Son Nhut.



This profile is of a C-47-DL (s/n 41-18487), which flew with Escadrille 56S of the French navy. This was the first Dakota on which Bernard Delfino flew, and left him with a very positive impression of the type.



JOIN THE FRENCH WING!

Are you passionate about warbirds and historical aviation? Join the French Wing of the Commemorative Air Force!

The annual dues are only 50€ (approx. \$68), and newcomers will receive a free thirty-minute flight in the French Wing's Piper Cub!

You can contribute to the French Wing's activities according to your preferences, skills and availability and be part of a group of people sharing one passion.

To join the French Wing, contact us by email (see below).

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