



AIRSHOW

Volume 14 - N° 4 - April 2009

EDITORIAL

Unbelievable! We were almost accustomed with the darkness of the middle of the day when, suddenly, we thought that someone had turned on the lights, but this light was far too bright and we had to admit that what we were looking at was the sun, something that had not happened for several months!

Taking advantage of this light and warmth, our mechanics started working with no further delay, starting with the IFR instrument problem on the NC 856, and continuing with both annual checks which have to be completed by the end of April, in order to get their certificate renewed. You can all help with this work. Please contact us as soon as you can!

Abig Thank You to col Barbara Hair for the full report she has made of the CAF Winter Staff Conference in Midland, and for having represented the French Wing entirely at her own expense! What a beautiful example of generosity! Reading this report will make you learn a lot of things.

The Women's day at the Musée de l'Air has been a real success, and it allowed us to spend an excellent day with col Jacqueline Clerc, a really extraordinary woman! And talking about aviatrix, I have a few things up my sleeve for you in the months to come, but it's still a secret!...

Second and final part of the article about the best aviation movies article which was highly appreciated by our readers last month. With this complement, you now have enough information to get yourself a very high quality video library.

We only need some more money to ensure the smooth operation of the Piper Cub. See the article on page 3. And if you cannot take part in the annual checks or other tasks, please do become a Supporting Sponsor! That will only cost you 4 small euros each month. And if 10 of you adopt this program, the Spirit of Lewis will be saved. He heartily and sincerely thanks you in advance!

Bernard

CAF WINTER STAFF CONFERENCE

THIS IMPORTANT MEETING TOOK PLACE IN MIDLAND FROM THE 6TH TO THE 8TH OF MARCH - COLONEL BARBARA HAIR, THE FRENCH WING REPRESENTATIVE IN THE USA, HAS WRITTEN A COMPLETE REPORT (Pages 4 & 5).



Photo: B. Hair



“WOMEN OF THE AIR” AT LE BOURGET MUSEUM

THE FRENCH WING, LED BY COLONEL JACQUELINE CLERC, TOOK PART IN THIS PLEASANT AND MOVING EVENT TO CELEBRATE THE WORLD'S WOMEN'S DAY (Page 6).

AVIATION MOVIES

SECOND AND LAST PART OF THE ARTICLE ABOUT THE BEST AVIATION FILMS (Pages 8 to 11).

SUPPORT OUR PIPER CUB!

JUST A LITTLE EFFORT IS REQUIRED SO THAT THE “SPIRIT OF LEWIS” CAN SAFELY FLY THIS YEAR.

NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES FOR MARCEL LEDOUX AND CLAUDE GASCON

Make a note of these two new email addresses:

Marcel Ledoux
m.ledoux@defiplus.be

Claude Gascon
claudegascon@free.fr

INSURANCE OF CAF AIRPLANES

The CAF did not suffer any loss of airplane in 2008, which is better than the previous years, a result which is due to Bob Stenevik's good work, and which is a good thing for the continuation of our insurance in the future.

AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE AND MOVING

Cols Jean-Yves Cercy, Gaël Darquet, Roger Gouzon, and Fumiko and Bernard Delfino, have started the annual checks on the Piper Cub and the NC 856, a task which will keep us busy until the end of April, the limit date for the renewal of these two planes' Certificates.

The Piper Cub should not be a problem, unless we discover some unexpected technical snag. The NC 856 will require some special attention on various points like the tail wheel suspension and some others.

In addition, col Cédric Chanu will appreciate our help during the annual check of his MS 733 and some special operations like lifting the plane on jacks.

As we need to give col Roger Gouzon a hand during his moving, all the help that our members can give will be highly appreciated.

April will, therefore, be very busy, and rather than suggest some dates when your help would be most useful, we prefer to ask you to tell us the days when you will be available, and we will change our plans to suit your dates, even if you are available during weekends.

That way, you will be certain that you can "add your bricks to the wall".

A big thank you to you all for the help you can give to our Wing!

THE FRENCH WING HAS RECEIVED SEVERAL EXTRAORDINARY GIFTS FROM CHRISTIAN WANNYN

Many of you already know him, since the events we organized in the Air Museum in Le Bourget because he greatly helped us then. But you also know him when you read the article about "*La Jamais Contente*" recently published in our Newsletter, since he was the initiator and the artisan of the manufacturing of this exact replica. On the photo below, he is sitting at the controls of this amazing electric car, the very first one to exceed the speed of 100 km/hour.

Strong friendly ties were established between **Christian Wannyn** (Member of the Le Bourget Lion's Club and a Friend of the Musée de l'Air) and the French Wing which appreciated his kindness and generosity with a first gift that he did last year of a lot of abrasive sheets which were very useful to us in all tasks we had to complete since then.

Very recently, he called Bernard and asked him if we would be interested by an electrical power unit and other various industrial pieces of equipment, to which Bernard answered positively since it is always useful. What a surprize to discover that the power unit was a 1500 Watts electrical power and that it was practically new since it had only ran 12 hours since new! Some quick cleaning and the engine started at the first attempt! But that's not all... Christian also gave us a box of a dozen brand new air filters, several pressure gauges, a drum of 60 liters of hydraulic fluid (The very same fluid as the one that is used in aviation and various ground equipment), a fluid heater and its thermostat, and an electric fan.

The value of all these gifts is difficult to determine precisely but a quick estimate shows that it is well over a thousands euros (\$ 1,200.00)!... But much more important than the value of this amount of money, is the great and sincere friendship that Christian Wannyn has demonstrated to us since our first meeting. He is, today, one of these men of a very high moral value that the French Wing can be proud to count among their friends.

A big, a very big Thank You to Christian Wannyn for his invaluable help to the French Wing!



Photo: C. Wannyn



CALLING ALL SPONSORS YEAR 2009



The number of Sponsors of the Spirit of Lewis has increased a bit more this month, and we are now at only 475 euros of the amount we need to reach as soon as possible if we want our Piper Cub to be outside the clouds. We sincerely thank all our members and friends who appear in the list below! Thanks to them we are nearly there.

A dozen members who were Sponsors last year haven't yet reacted to our call. If they can financially support this program, they will be very welcome, and we also ask those who have never been a sponsor to become one.

FLYING SPONSORS

Hugh Alexander III
Gilles Avenel
Jean-Yves Cercy
George Chandler
Gaël Darquet
Bernard Delfino
Marcel Francisci
Claude Gascon
Roger Gouzon
Irene Grinnell
Roy Grinnell
Georges Marcelin
Patrick Pierre-Pierre
Sandy Sansing
Sky Runner

RESTORATION SPONSORS

Didier Cardinal
Bunty Bateman
Michel Fleury
Maurice Girard
John Roeder

SUPPORTING SPONSORS

Lilian Ayars
Henri Bourrassier
J-C. Debuisson
Fumiko Delfino
Claude De Marco
Louis-Jean Gioux
Barbara Hair
Aubrey Hair
Haruo Tanaka
Regis Urschler
Ron Wright

Being a Sponsor of the *Spirit of Lewis* it's not only flying for less, but it's also a means of showing your enthusiasm for our Wing and for the CAF, a way to help the common cause, and a way to reach the goals of the CAF which are also ours.

JUST ONE MORE SMALL EFFORT!

REMINDER ABOUT THE SPONSORING SYSTEM

Flying Sponsor
250€ (\$ 325.00)/Year + 25€/Hour

Restoration Sponsor
125€ (\$ 163.00)/Year + 40€/Hour

Supporting Sponsor
50€ (\$ 65.00)/Year + 55€/Hour

Non Sponsor
0€ (\$ 0.00)/Year + 80€/Hour

CAF AIRPLANES

- We just heard that the **Junkers 52** will soon be sold for the amount of \$400,000.00.

The Wing which looked after this plane had declared, some time ago, that it was unable to support this aircraft any longer and had given it back to the CAF. Other Units had a look at it and came to the same conclusion. It was, therefore, decided that this plane would be sold, and that the money produced would be used to help the restoration of other aircraft.



Photo: B. Delfino

It's a fact that the plane is slow, that its 3 engines are thirsty, and that it is big and requires a big size hangar.

In addition, the future restrictions concerning security on American airports did not help the idea of keeping this plane in the CAF fleet. Over all, a wise decision.

- **Texas Raiders**, the other CAF B-17, has had the engine run program completed with the last of its 4 engines, number 2 to be precise.

The purpose was to prove their good health, an operation which was successful since no deposits or metal chips were found after these tests.

Work is still going on so that the plane is ready for next July. Much work is still required, but the volunteers are confident!



LA FERTÉ-ALAIS 2009 - NEW ARRANGEMENTS

The air show in La Ferté-Alais, version 2009, will be organized by the association **Amicale Jean-Baptiste Salis**, and not by *Editions Lariviere* as it has been during the past few years. This brings a number of changes in the organization and the ticket prices whose details, so far, are as follows:

- Daily program for saturday 30 and sunday 31 May 2009:
 - Morning: Static display.
 - Afternoon: Air display from about 14:00 till 18:00.
 - (Note: No access to the site on friday which is reserved for professional and vendors).
- Daily ticket prices (Car park inclusive):
 - **At the gate:**
 - Air display (Afternoon): Adults 20€, 10 to 15 years kids: 10€
 - Air display + static display: Adults 25€, 10 to 15 years kids: 12€
 - **Advance sale in the following shops: CARREFOUR - FNAC - GÉANT - MAGASINS U - BON MARCHÉ:**
 - Air display + static display: Adults 22€, 10 to 15 years kids: 10€
- No reduced price will be given, as opposed to the arrangement we had with Editions Lariviere these past years. In other words, our members will need to purchase their own tickets and pay 22€ for one day or 44€ for the whole week-end, with advance sales.
- Only 2 free “vendor” badges will be given to the French Wing PX, but to make sure that we keep a total equity within our Association, those who will get these two passes will be asked to pay the French Wing the equivalent of a one day pass, i.e. 22€.
- The French Wing will organize its traditional meal in the PX tent on saturday evening. Therefore, we ask all members who want to be part of it to send a cheque of 15€ per guest, before April 15, 2009. Any member who will not have paid at this date but still wish to participate, will need to pay the amount of 20€ on the day of this dinner. Organizing such a meal requires a lot of time and work, and we thank you all in advance for your understanding.
- The access to the site on Friday will be very limited, and the mornings are only static. This will hopefully avoid the traditional traffic jams. In addition, the number of members required for the setting up of the PX tent is of 4 or 5 members. Therefore, the other members will be able to avoid the cost of a hotel night if they come early saturday morning. More information next month...



THANK YOU COLONEL JACQUELINE CLERC !



Photo: B. Delfino

Thanks to the excellent work produced by col **Jacqueline Clerc** (Left) we have obtained from association AJBS the gratuity for our booth, as well as the presence of one of our planes in the static display. Participating in the La Ferté-Alais air show with one plane is an extraordinary event that our members will highly appreciate. A big Thank You Jacqueline!

Since the **Rearwin Sportster** may not be ready for this date (!), the choice of the plane went to the **NC 856 Norvigie** because the association Amicale Jean-Baptiste Salis owns a splendid Piper Cub J-3, and our *Spirit of Lewis* already took part in this event on two occasions. Also, the AJBS does not have any Norvigie and, as far as we can remember, no airplane of this type has ever been displayed during this air show in the past years.

In view of this great event, our mechanics started work-

ing hard to get the annual check completed and to improve its livery in order to make it look like it did while it served the **ALAT** (*Aviation Légère de l'Armée de Terre, or Army's Light Aviation*) in Algeria. This plane is number 25. Here is a photo taken as it wore its warrior livery with three white stripes on the top of each wing, the propeller spinner painted yellow, and the ALAT logo on the vertical fins.



Photo: frenchwings.net

CAF WINTER STAFF CONFERENCE

Article: Barbara Hair

Approximately 130 hardy CAF Colonels registered for Winter Staff Conference in Midland this year. Bright and early Saturday morning we all convened for roll call with three loyal French Wing members, Cols **Kim Pardon, Ron Wright and your correspondent** answering for the French Wing.

Chief of Staff Col **Bill Coombes** made his introductory remarks which concerned the recent question addressed to Unit Leaders of the CAF as to whether our mission or our membership is more important. The returned and tallied questionnaires revealed that without the mission of the CAF there would be no membership. Therefore we must all rededicate ourselves to the mission which each of us swore to uphold when we became CAF members: to protect and preserve our historic warbirds as living, flying history and to celebrate and honor those men and women who put their lives on the line so that we might enjoy the freedoms for which they fought and died. In the words of our founder Lloyd Nolen *"Don't let the world forget..."*

Announcements and dates to remember include AIRSHO scheduled for October 10-11 2009 which is titled this year as *"A Step Back in Time"* featuring F-18 Hornet and Viper Teams with selected CAF Warbirds providing acrobatic routines this year. School children in the Midland area will come to see our special show on Friday for a living history lesson. The

AAHM will once again sponsor the "Save the Girls" luncheon on Friday to raise money for the continued restoration of nose-art.

The American Combat Airmen Hall of Fame Banquet returns this year to the Midland Center downtown while the General Assembly of all Colonels on Friday will honor Millenium CAF members, that is, those special members who helped found the CAF and whose long and faithful service sets the standard for all of us.

Saturday night features entertainment in the Commemorative Center styled after a WWII U.S.O. show and will feature free admission. A new AIRSHO Web Page goes live on the CAF Web site this week and members are advised to check there frequently for updates and items of interest.



Photo: B. Hair

Terri Brown, the lovely and hard-working wife of our President Steve Brown was introduced to tell us about the Commemorative Center. The interior and exterior is now completely fin-



Photo: CAF

Top right, Steve Brown and Charlie Plumb who told us his story on Saturday night.

Above: Ron Wright and Barbara Hair our official representative in the USA and correspondent for this conference.

Left: The Heart of America Wing won an Aircraft Acquisition Award and the new CAF Spirit Award. On this photo you will recognize cols Kim Pardon and Ron Wright, both members of the French Wing.



Photo: B. Hair

ished with very attractive landscaping installed. Ms. Brown explained that many patriotic events are now held in our Center and the CAF is earning money from these rentals. Already the debt for the Commemorative Center has been reduced by two-thirds and we are well on our way to having it paid off.

Other news included an update of B-29 Fifi whose restoration is going well with great progress on the re-engining with R-3350 engines of a different type than the originals. Nelson Ezell, world famous aircraft restorer, is working on other aspects of the B-29's restoration. A web site to check on her progress is CAFB24B29.org.

Recruiting was much on the mind of all participants as we honored the two winners of Mission Membership Jake Tryon and Charlie Wood who tied each other by signing up 24 members each last year. We all laughed when it was revealed that Charlie Wood had even signed up Steve Brown's mother as a new Col! The Recruiting Award for Individual Units was won by the Dixie Wing with 39 new recruits in 2008. A new award, the Charles Esterline Award, was given for Retention of Members to the Great Plains Wing.

Tami O'Banion spoke about the latest news from the American Airpower Heritage Museum which included an enlarged and improved Cadet Program, a new audio and video recording studio, a new education plan for public schools and local organizations to attend programs at the AAHM and a Conservation Laboratory to open in July 2009 for improved artifact care and preservation.

Our museum won a Texas state award for excellence this past year and has become a center for tourism for visitors to West Texas. A new web site for the Museum is coming this summer with the ability to conduct e-commerce and to podcast programs.



Photo: B. Hair

Our President Steve Brown discussed the state of the CAF as one of real progress this past year with greatly increased visibility as an organization accomplished through our members and aircraft attending large airshows in the USA including Sun-n-Fun in Florida and Oshkosh EAA AirVenture with their navy blue shirts of uniformity, our aircraft decked out in CAF logos and our CAF tent working to

build our name recognition. Presently, we have 4188 Colonels and 158 aircraft. We recruited 400 new colonels last year.

The CAF has dispensed \$277,500 in restoration grants to date. Headquarters is striving to increase efficiency every day, decrease our paid staff, increase our merchandise sales and increase our fund-raising efforts. This work is paying off as we work toward being the foremost warbird organization anywhere.

HQ is improving member-wide communication with more photos and stories on the Web site, a bigger and better Dispatch, "On the Fly" every 2 weeks online, a CEO Blog weekly on the web site, increased coverage in aviation magazines and an increased advertising campaign.

Some challenges face us: the demands of increased security to prevent terrorism at airports has caused the U.S. government to issue new regulations which put added pressures on the general aviation community and which may cause inconvenience for air show participants and visitors in the future. These are still a work in progress and the aviation community is communicating with the government to ameliorate the most burdensome of these new proposed rules. Retention of members is still a provoking problem and we are all encouraged to work with and mentor our new and old members so that they feel themselves to be a valuable part of the CAF.

Always a highlight of the WSC is the Honor Awards Dinner on Saturday night. It is thrilling and gratifying to see our friends from throughout the CAF selected for outstanding achievement and we all celebrate their success. Our special treat was the guest speaker Captain Charlie Plumb, a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy

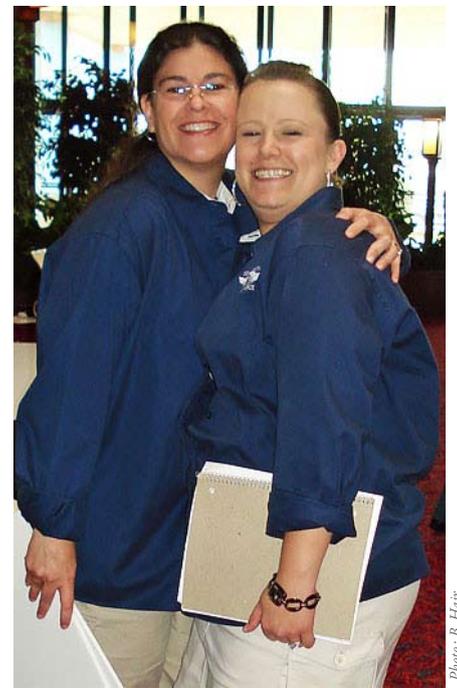


Photo: B. Hair

at Annapolis Maryland who was shot down over Viet Nam and imprisoned in a tiny cell, tortured and starved over the course of 6 years. The story of his life was told with modesty and dignity and with universal application and inspiration to every listener. His presentation was truly spell-binding.

Just as in the past several years, I remain most honored and privileged to represent the French Wing at the WSC and I am always very pleased to tell your story to many interested members who note my name tag and inquire about our Unit. It is my pleasure to relate your successes and accomplishments and the quality of service you bring to our organization. My best wishes and warmest regards to you all and I hope to see you in Midland this year.

Col Barbara Hair

Above: Alyson Trevino et Autumn Esparza enjoyed the WSC!

Left: Tami O'Banion Director of the Midland AAHM museum.

Below: Left, no it's not a watch but the inside of one of the B-29's engines with, right, a detail of the kind of damage which have forced us to re-engine this airplane...



Photos: B-29-Sydan



WOMEN OF THE AIR

Article and photos: Bernard Delfino

On March 7 and 8, to celebrate the world's women's day, the Air Museum organized a special event to honor women whose life is closely linked to aviation. Many flew in and about thirty private airplanes were lined up on Le Bourget airport tarmac. Then came a Mirage 2000, an Alpha Jet, and a Gazelle helicopter, whose crew were also young ladies.

The French Wing was there, led by col **Jacqueline Clerc** whose exploits are famous. She was accompanied by colonels **Fumiko** and **Bernard Delfino**, **Roger Gouzon**, and **Gaël Darquet** who came with his charming companion **Émilie** (Photo top right).



The morning was spent watching the arriving planes, and it was followed by a meal offered by the Air Museum. Then, starting at 14:30, some of these aviatrix were invited to talk about their passion and their profession. Many of the latter were explained: Professional pilot, Navigator, Fighter pilot, maintenance director, engineer, stewardess, or young ladies who are currently studying for a career in aviation.

The Le Bourget Air Museum Director, Gérard Feldzer, was happy since one could not have dreamed of a more charming company! The photo below perfectly summarizes this memorable day spent in the Air Museum which is becoming more and more popular.



General Valérye André, congratulated by General de Lattre on the photo above, was the oldest of all aviatrix who attended this event (Right). Born in 1922, she went up the scale and ended her career as Doctor General Inspector, rewarded by the Grand Croix de la Légion d'Honneur. It was in 1950, when she was a Captain and Doctor, that she became the first woman to get her helicopter pilot license. Based in Gialam, Vietnam, she flew 285 missions, of which 165 were medical evacuations. She then got her airplane pilot license and commanded the base of Ragahia in Algeria. A fantastic career which is an example, made of courage, hard work, and tenacity.



AVIATION MOVIES (PART 2)

Article : Bernard Delfino

The reactions to the first part of this article about aviation movies did not take long to arrive. They were all numerous, enthusiastic, and positive. Our member like aviation movies and I congratulate them for that!

Here is the second part of this article which ends the list of my "5 stars". You will not be disappointed by any of these

films. And if the number of requests is high enough, I may, in a future issue, give you my list of "4 stars" movies of which many miss the highest level because of some minor problem, as well as the list of movies that you want to avoid at all cost... Therefore, according to your personal tastes, you will be able to pick the ones that you think should be part of your personal collection.

One last information : Unless you don't speak the language at all, I recommend that you watch all these movies in their original version, without any sub-title. The voices, their intonations, the original expressions, will keep all their strength and authenticity. And if you speak a little English, it will be an excellent way of improving your knowledge.

THE DAWN PATROL (1930 and 1938) - (*La Patrouille de l'Aube*)

There are two films with the same name telling the exact same story, but the most interesting is that they are both excellent and efficient, a rare fact in the history of cinema! In fact, both films are more closely linked than one could imagine since the second one used the entirety of the aerial sequences of the first one. The only differences that one may notice in these two master-pieces are due to the personality of the actors and the way they play, equally well one may say, and the personality of the two directors.

- **1930**: This film by Howard Hawkes is his first talking movie, music by Leo Forbstein, actors: Richard Barthelmess, Douglas Fairbanks Jr, Neil Hamilton, William Janey, James Finlayson, etc...
- **1938**: Film by Emund Goulding, music by Max Steiner, actors: Errol Flynn, Basil Rathbone, Donald Crisp, David Niven, Melville Cooper, Barry Fitzgerald, Carl Esmond, Peter Willes, etc...

A Squadron Leader is forced to send his young recruits to combat and suffers from that because many do not come back. His successor then realizes that he has to take the very same decisions, precisely those that he criticized in the past. When he has to send his young brother for a very dangerous bombing mission, far behind enemy lines, he takes the place for the pilot and does not come back from the mission which is a great success... The main pilots for the film were Leo Nomis and Frank Tomick, who flew planes like the Speedwing Travelair, Thomas Morse Scout, Nieuport, and Orenco.



TEST PILOT (1938) - (*Pilote d'Essai*)

Film by Victor Fleming, music by Franz Waxman, actors: Clark Gable, Myrna Loy, Spencer Tracy, Lionel Barrymore, Samuel S. Hinds, Marjorie Main, Gloria Holden, etc...

A pilot working for the Drake company is forced to land near a farm because of an engine problem. He meets the farmer's daughter, falls for her, and marries her the following day! After a dramatic pylon race, he becomes a test pilot, but his wife cannot stand the permanent dangers he has to fly with...

An excellent portrait of an arrogant pilot who has a big heart, that Clark Gable plays extremely well. Spencer Tracy and Myrna Loy are also very good, which makes this movie exciting from beginning to end. Many interesting planes have been used like the Seversky P-35, Northrop, Boeing B-17, Douglas B-18, etc... The models used are a bit crude, but thanks to the top quality of this movie, that is not important.

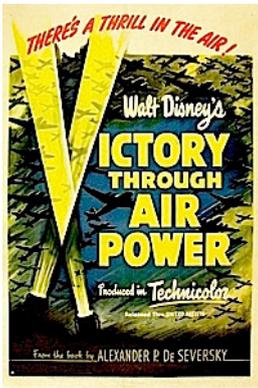
THE TARNISHED ANGELS (1957) - (*La Ronde de l'Aube*)

Filmed by Douglas Sirk, music by Frank Skinner, actors: Rock Hudson, Robert Stack, Dorothy Malone, Jack Carson, Robert Middleton, William Schallert, Troy Donahue, etc...

Made from William Faulkner's book "Pylon". William Faulkner that this movie is the best adaptation of his work as a writer to cinema. The film describes the dramatic life of pilots during the economic recession. The hero of the story, "who needs to fly like an alcoholic needs his drink", is ready to do anything to satisfy this need, and even sacrifice his wife's...

A dramatic and poetic movie about the difficult recession which hit the USA in the thirties. The filming in black and white, as the "circus" is in New Orleans, a place where should prevail celebration and amusement, add to the dramatic and ironic aspect of this story, and one can feel the greed of the public which is here to see the accident that they all hope rather than see airplanes flying around pylons! An excellent drama which can be very poetic.



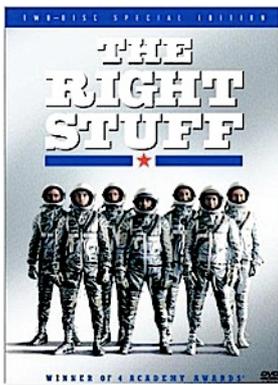
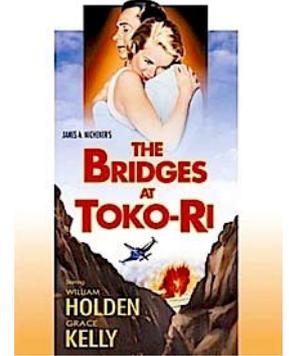


VICTORY THROUGH AIRPOWER (1943) - (*Victoire Dans les Airs*)

Directed by Walt Disney and H.C.V. Potter, music by Edward Plumb, Paul J. Smith, and Oliver Wallace, from the book written by Major Alexandre P. de Seversky published in 1942. This animation movie is the eighth one produced by the Disney studios. It brought to the screen the theories of Major Seversky which, themselves, are inspired by Billy Mitchell and stating that long range strategic bombardment is the only way to stop any enemy to make war by bombing its production plants and its lines of supply. Extremely well done, this 65 minutes movie was an extraordinary moral support for the US population. Walt Disney had been so impressed by this book that he decided to finance the film himself. It was not done as a propaganda movie, but it was made to influence the government. It was very efficient at that since he changed Franklin D. Roosevelt's point of view, and Winston Churchill decided to show it to all allied troops. It vanished after it was shown in 1943, and did not re-appear until it came out on DVD in 2004, in the Disney's *Wartime Collection*.

THE BRIDGES AT TOKO-RI (1954) - (*Les Ponts de Toko-Ri*)

Directed by Mark Robson, music by Lyn Murray, actors: William Holden, Grace Kelly, Mickey Rooney, Robert Strauss, Earl Holliman, Fredric March, Charles McGraw, Keiko Awaji, etc... The film is the story of the attacks on a target in North Korea by US Navy aircraft. The destruction of these bridges would be a major victory over the enemy, but the place is a very dangerous concentration of anti-aircraft guns... One of the best movies on this fatal conflict which shows the hard truth about the missions carried out by the Navy. It includes excellent sequences filmed aboard aircraft carrier USS Oriskany, with, mainly, Grumman Panther planes. Amateurs will appreciate a Sikorsky S-51 piloted by eccentric Mickey Rooney, and an entire squadron of Skyraider in their main mission, ground support. The sequences of the aircraft attacking the bridges have been filmed using model planes, are a real master-piece. They are so good that it's practically impossible to see that they are models sliding along a wire !

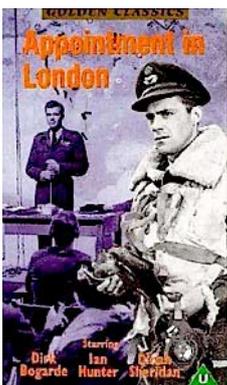
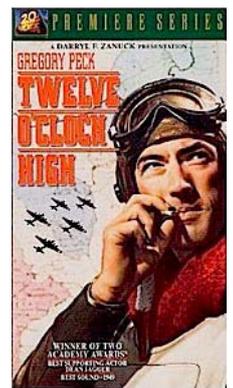


THE RIGHT STUFF (1983) - (*L'Étoffe des Héros*)

Directed by Philip Kaufman, music by Bill Conti, actors: Sam Shepard, Scott Glenn, Ed Harris, Dennis Quaid, Fred Ward, Barbara Hershey, Kim Stanley, Veronica Cartwright, Kathy Baker, etc... The film tells, in parallel, the stories of the conquest of space and the exploits of test pilots, including, of course, the one of Chuck Yeager who was the first man to go through the sound barrier. The beginning of the American space conquest is tragic and comic at the same time. It reveals the drama that as going on in the USA, after the Russians had launched the very first artificial satellite, Sputnik. The reaction did not take long though: America engaged a faster gear, learning quickly and correcting its own mistakes as the program went along. This hard work paid off when they sent Alan Shepard to space for a short flight, a first step followed by many others which allowed America to send, in 1969, the most fabulous trip of all times, that went from the earth to the moon. Over all, an extraordinary movie!

TWELVE O'CLOCK HIGH (1949) - (*Un homme de fer*)

Directed by Henry King, music by Alfred Newman, actors: Gregory Peck, Hugh Malone, Gary Merrill, Millard Mitchell, Dean Jagger, Paul Stewart, etc... A B-17 Unit Commander has lost his moral because of the heavy losses his men sustain during day raids over Germany. He is replaced by Major General Savage whose mission is to rebuild confidence. He adopts a strict discipline which eliminates the weakest ones. He starts from zero with training flights, then, when he feels his men are ready, starts carrying out raids that he leads himself. The method pays off: The losses are down, men respect him, but he falls in the same trap as his predecessor and, it's his turn to be the victim of a nervous breakdown... This film is one of the very best war movies ever filmed. Twelve airplanes were obtained for the filming, and one of them was belly-landed by Paul Mantz, exactly as Henry King wanted. All airplanes bear authentic markings and the combat sequences are genuine footage.



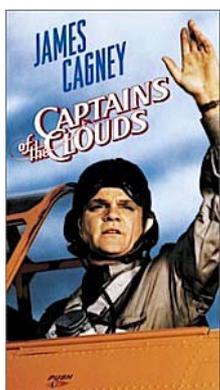
APPOINTMENT IN LONDON (1952) - (???)

Directed by Philip Leacock, music by John Wooldridge, actors: Dirk Bogarde, Ian Hunter, Dinah Sheridan, William Sylvester, Walter Fitzgerald, Bryan Forbes, etc... The commanding officer of a bomber squadron takes an active part in most of the night bombing missions flown by his unit. He is approaching the end of his third round, 90 missions, but taking so much care of his men, despite the discipline he has adopted, he is on the verge of a nervous breakdown. His superiors order him to stop flying, but following an accident that happened to a tail gunner of one of the planes, he jumps on-board, a wise decision since, during this raid on the V1 and V2 production plant in Peenemünde, the pathfinder and its replacement are shot down. He then takes command of the 600 bombers and leads this raid to success... This film is similar to 12 O'Clock High, and emphasizes the difficulty of commanding. It does it with such tact that it avoids all the traps that many directors fell into. If you like the Lancaster this one is for you !

A GATHERING OF EAGLES (1963) - (*Le téléphone rouge*)

Film by Delbert Mann, music by Jerry Goldsmith, actors: Rock Hudson, Rod Taylor, Mary Peach, Barry Sullivan, Kevin McCarthy, Henry Silva, etc...

The hero, Rock Hudson, inherits the commandment of a Strategic Air Command unit, in order to get it back to a standard efficiency level. His predecessor was removed because his unit was unable to pass a general inspection. He adopts a very strict discipline and becomes very unpopular, even among his friends. Even his wife cannot recognize him! Finally, he obtains the good results that he was looking for, and everyone understands the importance of his objectives... It was General Curtis LeMay who opened the SAC doors to the film producers, so that the public could realize that the US Air Force was totally different from what the movie *Dr. Strangelove (Docteur Folamour)*, a satirical movie which obtained a great success. *A Gathering of Eagles* is reminiscent of *Twelve O'Clock High*, concentrating on the difficulty of commanding, and the necessity of a very strict discipline. It was filmed in the middle of the cold war, when ballistic missiles had been positioned in Cuba.



CAPTAINS OF THE CLOUDS (1942) - (*Les Chevaliers du Ciel*)

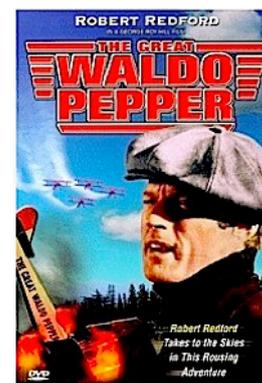
Directed by Michael Curtiz, music by Max Steiner, actors: James Cagney, Dennis Morgan, Brenda Marshall, Alan Hayle, George Tobias, Reginald Gardiner, Air Marshal W.A. Bishop, Reginald Denny, etc...

Following a call from Winston Churchill, a group of Canadian bush pilots join the RCAF. One of them is considered to old for combat and given the job of instructor, which doesn't suit his way of flying at all! He is finally laid off after an accident that nearly cost the life of his student. He then takes the identity of another pilot in order to be part of a ferry flight that will deliver bombers to England. During the flight, the planes are attacked by an Me109, and the hero rams his plane into the enemy fighter to save the rest of the squadron... Filmed in color, this movie is one of the best of its time. The planes were painted with bright colors and the numerous T-6 painted in bright yellow adds a great interest to the film. The variety of airplanes is a spotter's dream: Norduyn Norseman, Waco Cabin, NA Harvard, Lockheed Hudson, Stinson Reliant, etc...

THE GREAT WALDO PEPPER (1974) - (*La kermesse des aigles*)

Produced and directed by George Roy Hill, music by Henry Mancini, actors: Robert Redford, Bo Svenson, Bo Brundin, Susan Sarandon, Geoffrey Lewis, Edward Hermann, Philip Bruns, etc...

A fighter pilot is frustrated for being used as an instructor instead of being sent to combat during WWI; Obsessed by the personality of a German pilot, Ernst Kessler, he only thinks about one thing: Dog-fighting with him, an impossible dream which will nevertheless become a reality when, after several accidents during shows made of wing walking and aerobatics, he loses his pilot license. Under a false identity, he gets a job in Hollywood and finds himself face to face with Kessler who has also got a job there! The two men fight each other in an air duel where the planes become the weapons... Kessler is based on Ernst Udet. The film is very pleasant to watch with incredible aerial sequences which have largely pleased the public ever since its Première. The planes are some Standard H-1, Tiger Moth, Curtiss Jenny, and a Fokker DR-1 replica.



WINGS (1927) - (*Ailes*)

Directed by William Wellman (A former WWI pilot who served with the La Fayette Escadrille). The actors are Clara Bow, Charles Rogers, Gary Cooper, Richard Arlen, Jobyna Ralston, Arlette Marchal, El Brendel, Richard Tucker, etc... The film which lasts 2 hours and 20 minutes is silent, but a version with music by Carl Davis and the sound of engines was produced.

The story is about two friends who are both pilots in the Army Air Corps. One of the two heroes is shot down but he manages to escape by stealing an enemy airplane. His friend, believing he's an enemy shoots him down, realizing too late his mistake... The film is a master-piece of cinema. It is technically so good that many of its aerial sequences were used in numerous other aviation movies. Several scenes were patiently tinted by hand, namely the sky, the clouds, and the flames of the shot down planes! Wings was the very first movie to receive the Best Film Oscar.

AIR FORCE (1943) - (*Air Force*)

Directed by Howard Hawks, music by Franz Waxman, actors: John Ridgely, Gig Young, George Tobias, James Brown, Ray Montgomery, Harry Carey, Faye Emerson, James Brown, Arthur Kennedy, Charles Drake, etc...

A fictitious but very realistic story of one of the B-17 that arrived at Pearl Harbor in the middle of the attack of the base by the Japanese. After an epic re-supplying, the plane starts off again for the island of Wake and other bases in the Pacific. As they spot the Japanese fleet, they call American bombers based in Australia, with great results... Suggested by General Hap Arnold, this film had a positive result on the public which needed a moral booster. It is an excellent study of the various members of the crew and the community it represents in a plane like the Flying Fortress. The sequences with the B-17 are excellent and you also get some with some P-39 and P-40. The enemy planes are P-43 and T-6.





WINGS OF THE NAVY (1939) - (*Les Ailes de la Flotte*)

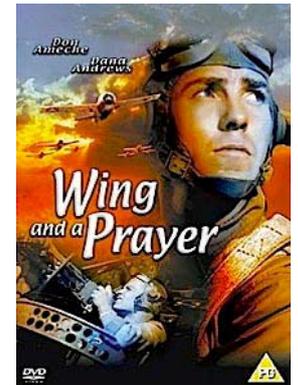
Directed by Lloyd Bacon, music by Leo Forbstein, actors: George Brent, Olivia De Havilland, John Payne, Frank McHugh, John Litel, Henry O'Neill, John Ridgely, etc...

The youngest son of a family decides to follow the steps of his father and brother and becomes a US Navy pilot. His brother is wounded when he flies with a student. He comes out handicapped and decides to turn to aircraft design and production. When the first prototype of his new fighter crashes following a dive test, his brother, then a certified Catalina pilot, decides to quit the Navy and becomes a test pilot. Despite his brother's protest, he carries on and proves the sound design of the fighter which is accepted by the Navy. He then gets back in the Navy and takes part in a massive Catalina raid to Honolulu... Excellent propaganda movie which does perfectly what it was made for. It is, today, an unbelievable documentary about the US Navy and the way it operated. More than 300 airplanes were used: Catalina, Stearman NS-1, N3N, O3U, SU3, Boeing F4B4, and Grumman F-3F.

WING AND A PRAYER (1943) - (*Porte-avions X*)

Directed by Henry Hathaway, music by Hugo W. Friedhofer, actors: Don Ameche, Dana Andrews, William Euthe, Richard Jaeckel, Charles Bickford, Sir Cedric Hardwicke, Henry Morgan, etc...

Soon after the attack on Pearl Harbor, a torpedo-bomber squadron is posted to an aircraft carrier whose orders are to avoid combat at all costs. The men do not understand but they obey the orders until that day, in 1942, when it is revealed that their mission was to make the Japanese believe that the American fleet was very weak and spread over the entire Pacific. Having successfully fulfilled this task, it's now time to get into action, and the squadron takes part in the Battle of Midway... The US Navy asked for all combat scenes used in the movie to be authentic, but the lack of aircraft carriers did not facilitate the movie team which boarded the Yorktown II to film the sequences. In parallel, in the studio was built a 400 feet long deck where the close-up scenes were filmed.



BAT 21 (1988) - (*BAT 21*)

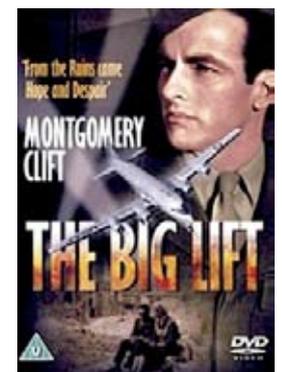
Directed by Peter Markle, music by Christopher Young, actors: Gene Hackman, Danny Glover, Jerry Reed, David Marshall Grant, Clayton Rohner, Erich Anderson, Joe Dorsey, Theodore Chan Woei-Shyong, etc...

During the Vietnam war, an expert in electronic warfare, Lt. Col. Iceal Hambleton, is carrying out a mission aboard an EB-66 Destroyer which is shot down by a missile. He ejects and, being the only one to escape, he tries to escape the enemy. He is helped by a Cessna O-2 pilot who guides him through the Vietnam forest, day after day... An exciting movie based on a true story. This rescue was the most complex of the whole Vietnam war. A total of 234 medals were given to men who took part in it! The close relationship that existed between the two men is interesting, and their efforts were successful, but it was hard. Some excellent aerial scenes and two actors at the top of their art: Gene Hackman and Danny Glover.

THE BIG LIFT (1950) - (*La Ville écartelée*)

Directed by George Seaton, music by Alfred Newman, actors: Montgomery Clift, Paul Douglas, Cornell Borchers, O.E. Hasse, Bruni Löbel, et des membres des forces américaines en poste à Berlin.

During a public relation ceremony on the airport of Tempelhof, an American soldier meets a young German lady who offers to him to visit Berlin. He accepts and falls for the young lady and finally propose to marry her. Some time later, he hears that she is not really in love with him, but simply looking for a way to go to the USA. On the other hand, a friend of the soldier, who was tortured during the war and doesn't like German people falls for a German lady and decides to marry her and stay in Berlin... A very good movie about this difficult period when German people learned to live in devastated Berlin. The air bridge is exceptionally well filmed and shows the difficulties experienced by the supply cargo planes, sometimes closely escorted by Russian fighters.



THE WINGS OF EAGLES (1957) - (*L'Aigle vole au soleil*)

Directed by John Ford, music by Jeff Alexander, actors: John Wayne, Maureen O'Hara, Dan Daily, Ward Bond, Ken Curtis, Edmund Lowe, Kenneth Tobey, James Todd, Sig Ruman Barry Kelley, etc...

One of the best US Navy pilots, Frank "Spig" Wead, is a member of the team that races in the Schneider cup competition. His wife, tired of moving every time he is posted somewhere, decides to stay in one place to raise their two daughters. During one of his leaves, he falls in the stair case and gets paralysed. He makes the best of his long days in hospital to write stories about aviation, so good and so successful that he is asked to write some more about the Navy... His career as a scenario writer is exceptional: *Ceiling zero*, *They were expandable*, *Air mail*, *China Clipper*, *Dive bomber*, *Hell Divers*, *Test pilot*, *Flying fleet*, to name a few, are all movies that he wrote!

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