



AIRSHO

CONFEDERATE AIR FORCE - FRENCH SUPPORTER SQUADRON



Volume 6 - N° 11

Bulletin Mensuel du CAF French Supporter Squadron

November 2001

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For sale...

Association à but non lucratif régie par la loi de 1901, et enregistrée sous le numéro 2473 au Journal Officiel du 10 Juillet 1996.

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Airsho 2001 is over. The show was great and it was very moving. The tragic events of September 11 were, of course, often mentioned, but in an intelligent way, without any hate, and with everyone's thoughts centred on the innocent victims of the terrifying attacks on New York and Washington. I wish to thank the leaders and the members of the CAF who managed to keep the usual feeling of this airshow, made of pure and sincere camaraderie.

The journey of several members of the FSS to Midland was highly appreciated by our friends, and considered as a proof of our support to the american people in such a difficult time.

As usual, our stay allowed us to meet long time friends, and to make many new ones. The big surprise was the presence of Isabelle Lesser and her husband Guss, and the presence of Butch Butikofer who, together with his son, did not hesitate to drive more than 1500 miles between Idaho and Midland!... Their reactions to the show offered by our Organization were very positive and enthusiastic.

We must now concentrate on our Squadron's General Assembly which, as you know, will take place on November 24, in the Hôtel Acadie, in Tremblay en France. The agenda is already full, and the afternoon will not be too long to discuss all the exciting items already part of that list. Please do not hesitate to add other subjects. All you need to do is to tell us about them, and give us the reasons for your request. All these subjects will be treated, and those that will not receive an instant answer will be followed up and commented in our Newsletter.

As for the immediate future, it is, too, very busy, and will require the help of all our members: The new name of the CAF and its practical consequences, the change for the Euro currency, next year's airshows, the modifications to our booth, etc... There will be enough work for all our members, and I thank them in advance for their enthusiastic participation.

Bernard

AIRSHO'2001 A FANTASTIC SUCCESS!



IN EVERYONE'S OPINION, THE 2001 VERSION OF THE CAF ANNUAL AIRSHO HAS BEEN THE BEST SINCE THE ARRIVAL OF OUR ORGANIZATION IN MIDLAND, IN 1991.

THE FRENCH SUPPORTER SQUADRON, WELL REPRESENTED DESPITE THE CIRCUMSTANCES, SINCERELY THANKS THE ORGANIZERS AND THE VOLUNTEERS WHO HELPED CELEBRATING THIS ANNIVERSARY WITH SO MUCH SUCCESS.

FSS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

24 NOVEMBER 2001 - HÔTEL ACADIE

TREMBLAY EN FRANCE - 14H00 SHARP

HÔTEL ACADIE 24 RUE MARCEL PAUL 93290 TREMBLAY EN FRANCE

TÉL: 01 48 60 42 18 - FAX: 01 48 61 93 21

AIRSHO

Report and photos by

Only a few days before Airsho'2001, problems seemed to combine so that the airshow was at stake. It even seemed, for a moment, that this big annual event could be cancelled.

The leaders of the CAF took the decision to maintain it, a wise decision since the results of our annual airshow soon demonstrated that never before, since the arrival of the CAF in 1991, had Midland airport seen such a crowd!

Good advertisement and a weather much more pleasant than last year, were at the origin of this success. The dramatic circumstances that everyone know about, multiplied the general feeling of patriotism, and this airshow suddenly became a unique occasion for everyone to express his or her support to the thousands of innocent victims in New York and Washington.

We must emphasize the fact that if this support was unanimous and permanent throughout the week-end, it was also very moving and clear of any blind wickedness. A fact that honors our friends of the CAF and the general public.

The members of the CAF came in greater numbers than usual, and the numerous public waited at the airport gates every day preceding the airshow, and, especially, as soon as they opened, early on Saturday morning. There were so many people that it became difficult, if not sometimes impossible, to take pictures of the aircraft parked on the tarmac, since they were surrounded by so many visitors.

There was a lot of aircraft too! A few rare ones were missing due to maintenance or restoration, but this absence was largely compensated by the presence of unusual airplanes.

The big star of this airshow was, unquestionably, the recently and perfectly restored P51C in the colors of the *Tuskegee Airmen*. Two Yak3 that we missed so much last year, illustrated the war on the Eastern front, together with the newly acquired Polikarpov I16 that we saw last year.



2001

Col. Bernard Delfino

Other interesting airplanes were invited and made this show an even better one, like the Lone Star Flying Museum colorful P47 Thunderbolt, and the Kermitt Weeks' B25 *Apache Princess*. Printing a complete list of the aircraft that attended Airsho would be boring and unproductive, and we prefer to print pictures of the most significant ones.

The CAF General Assembly was, too, a great success. Because of the risks of travelling and the unusual difficulties met by the members of all foreign Units, the latter were represented

in a more modest way than usual, but they were, nevertheless, very active.

The members of the FSS who managed to be in Midland for Airsho, had all the reasons to be happy to be there. They were warmly congratulated by the whole assembly. Our group was composed of members who came from France and from Belgium: Colonels Jacques Leroux, Alain Quesney, Claude Requi, Jean-Luc Van Campenhout and his friend Florence, Henri Bourrassier and his friend Jeannine, and Fumiko and Bernard Delfino. To

this group, were added most of the FSS members who reside in the USA: Colonels Connie and Sandy Sansing, Bob and Lil Ayars, Terran Tidwell, Paul Koskela, Ray Kinney, Fraye Stokes, George Lodge, Regis Urschler, Isabelle Lesser, and Merrill Butikofer. Due to the circumstances, this total of 19 members was a real exploit. We sincerely thank all of them for their support and their solidarity.

To everyone's relief, a deep blue sky prevailed throughout the week-end, and many went back home with some painful sun-burns as souvenirs (Which, one must admit, is a lot better than last year's frost bites!).

Thanks to colonel Jim Adams and his charming wife Terry, the members of the FSS enjoyed their traditional meal in a Midland restaurant: The Bamboo Garden. A chinese and japanese cooking buffet was there, full of numerous delicacies which were available at will. Everyone really appreciated the excellent quality of such an original cooking.





The CAF General Assembly, on Friday afternoon, was the occasion to vote for the renewal of four members of the General Staff, and also to choose one of the four new names suggested for our Organization. The result of this choice will not be announced until December 7, but the quality of the four proposed names is such that we can already be satisfied by the choice that will be made by our members.

CAF AWARDS

A great part of this General Assembly was made of the traditional CAF Awards for the past year, distribution. The total of 16 Awards granted to members and friends of the French Supporter Squadron was simply exceptional, and is as follows:

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

BERNARD DELFINO
JOHN ROEDER

SILVER MAGNOLIA BLOSSOM AWARD

FRED KURZ
PETER LANGRIDGE
JACQUES LEROUX
MICHEL PERRIN
DAVID PRICE
ALAIN QUESNEY
RONALD WESP

CAF LETTER OF COMMENDATION

FUMIKO DELFINO
PAUL KOSKELA
GEORGE LODGE
CLAUDE REQUI

BRASS JACKASS

RAY KINNEY

NON MEMBERS SERVICE AWARD

ANNE ROEDER
BUNTY BATEMAN

Our sincere congratulations to all these happy winners! Thanks to our friend Ray Kinney, it is the very first time that an FSS member receives the *Brass Jackass*, this

"not-so-sought-after" Award given to the author of the biggest "Ooops!" of the year. One must admit that landing a plane the way Ray did has a few advantages, like a shorter step to jump when one is climbing down from it, but it has also numerous disadvantages, especially for the engine and the propeller, and for parking the aircraft after the landing... Ray accepted this Award with philosophy and a great sense of humour. He can at least be sure that nobody will be mad at him because everyone is conscious that such an incident may happen, one day or another, to any of us.

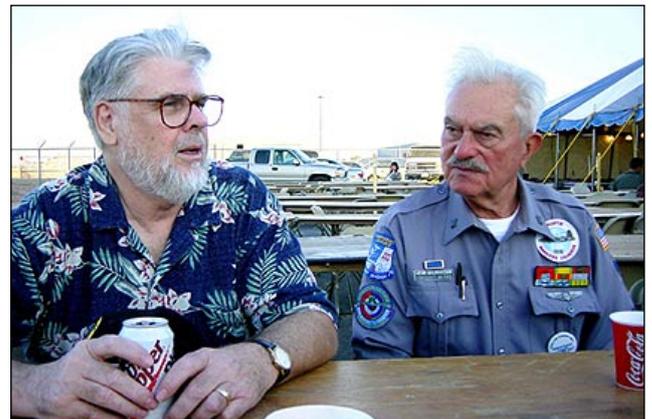
The air display started early on Saturday morning. It was perfect and well organized. The Thunderbirds which decided at the last minute to come to Midland, following the cancellation of a tour in a foreign country, brought a definite plus to the airshow, and the numerous Warbirds were the efficient actors of the Airpower Demonstration which re-enacts the main aerial battles of WWII.

The show carried on during the evening with a first class *Night Show* which included an air display, top class fireworks, and a country music live concert given by one of the best singers of the moment, Tracie Bird. The night was very short for those who fully enjoyed this day!



The Sunday was equal to the Saturday, and was concluded by the traditional *Survivors' Party*.

Having met our friend and artist Roy Grinnell and his wife Irene during the week-end, we had the great pleasure to see them accept our invitation to stay a while with us during that evening, rather than drive back home. It is during this *Survivors' Party* that Roy and Irene gave us two prints of one of Roy's paintings to put them up for sale so that the product of this sale could be added to our savings for our future



Artist Roy Grinnell and colonel Henri Bourrassier had plenty of time to discuss Henri's career as a B26 Marauder pilot.

L Bird. This sale will take place during our General Assembly on November 24. They also added a stack of post-cards which will also be sold for the same purpose by our P.X. (A big THANK YOU on behalf of all our members Roy and Irene!). But the kindness and the generosity of our two friends does not stop there... We will give you all the details of an offer they made to us, during our General Assembly. On its own, this offer will make your participation worthwhile!...

Another significant event that took place during our stay in Midland, was the decision of Rick and Louise Hudlow to become FSS members. Rick and Louise are Sponsors of a B26 Invader restoration project. They are long time personal friends of colonel Jacques Bonneau, and we had the pleasure to meet them in Paris a few months ago. We took them to the Musée de l'Air in Le Bourget, and our conversations were mainly based on aviation and on our Squadron's activities, which caught all their attention. This is how they decided, during Airsho'2001, to become members of the French Supporter Squadron.

FRENCH AVIATION PERMANENT DISPLAY IN THE AAHM



The most important event, for the FSS and its friends, was, without any doubts, the grand opening of the permanent display dedicated to french aviation in the AAHM. This simple and sympathetic ceremony took place on Thursday, at 14:00, in the presence of Bob Rice, CAF Executive Director, Tami O'Bannion, Director of the AAHM, Christopher Trobridge, Curator of the AAHM, Jeff Wood, Displays Technician, and all the FSS members and friends present on that day.

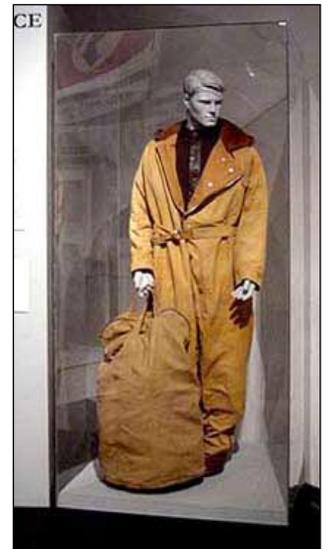


The pictures printed hereafter perfectly describe the beauty of this display organized by the personnel of the AAHM. The historical objects donated by the FSS last year, have been perfectly arranged and allow the AAHM to give a faithful and realistic image of France and its airmen. The panels are perfectly illustrated and easy to read. The two dummies, dressed with the leather and



the fabric flight suits, add a touch of realism that is invaluable for the public.

We wish to thank everyone who participated in this project since the very beginning, in particular mister Hervé Cherry without whom the display of authentic pieces of history would not have been possible. Completing such a project represents an outstanding performance which has to be added to the already long list of accomplishments of our Unit. But this project will really be complete when we will have translated and published the French Veterans Heritage Book that colonel Stéphane Duchemin is responsible for. The donation of this book to the Oral History Department of the AAHM will be the final touch to this huge operation.



The Mission 441 "Lest we forget" Operation perfectly combined itself with this grand opening. The B17 wing panel that colonel Ron Wesp sent back to the USA, with the help of colonels George Lodge and Jim Goad, is now displayed in the Bombardments Section of the AAHM. Merrill Butikofer (Pictured below with Fumiko Delfino and Jacques Leroux), and Isabelle Lesser, sister of Harold Gnesin, were very moved to find this part of the airplane, and to see its crew members honored in such a nice way.





Left, some of the participants to the grand opening of the French Aviation display in the AAHM. From left to right: Fumiko Delfino, Bob Ayars, Connie Sansing, Sandy Sansing, Merrill C. "Butch" Butikofer, Claude Requi, Alain Quesney, Jacques Leroux, and Jean-Luc Van Campenhout.

Below, center: Regis Urschler looking for some of the engine RPM that he lost during the long journey that took Gunfighter II to Midland...

Bottom: The future of the CAF is already there! A kid, at the controls of a baby plane dreams of what could well be his future: An F18 during an impressive trans-sonic fly-by, before the public of Airsho.

In conclusion, version 2001 of Airsho enjoyed a success that very few could hope for. Each day brought its load of good news and friendship, to such a point that we all had problems realizing fully how happy we were. Everyone saw the end of this event arrive too quickly, and did not understand how time could flow so fast!

THANK YOU!

We hope that every one of our readers can go to Midland next year for Airsho'2002, and we cannot close this report without thanking all of those who actively participated to this success:

- Thank you to Connie and Sandy Sansing for travelling all the way to Midland, from New Braunfels, to be present for the grand opening of the AAHM French Aviation display.
- Thank you to Tami O'Bannion, Christopher Trobridge, Jeff Wood, and all the members of the AAHM for organizing such a beautiful French Aviation display which honors the french airmen.
- Thank you to Roy and Irene Grinnell for their kindness, their generosity, and their friendship.



- Thank you to the members of the CAF Headquarters and the members of the General Staff for their warm welcome and their invaluable help during our stay.



- Thank you to the organizers of Airsho'2001 and to all the volunteers who worked so hard to give us such a great airshow.

- Thank you to our members who came all the way from Europe in very special and sometimes difficult circumstances.

- Thank you to the Ayars and Blankenship families for taking so much care of our group during the week-end.

- Thank you to the Scouts of Midland, who, under the direction of colonel Jim Adams, accomplished the difficult task of cleaning the airfield after the departure of the public.

- Thank you to all of those who gave a bit of happiness to the handicapped children during the "Special Airshow for Special People".

- Thank you to all the CAF members for their kindness, their warm welcome, and the hard work they produce all year long.





Airsho'01 Photo-Album

From top to bottom and left to right: P51C, T6, Lodestar, Yak 3, Wildcats, "Reflexions" on a P51, T6, et P51C.



WELCOME SEMAAN SOUEID

Semaan, or Simon, was born in Lebanon on May 2, 1951. He studied aeronautical engineering at the Professional School of Beirut, and obtained his american (FAA) A&P Mechanic's Licence. After working for various airlines, in Lebanon, then in France, he decided, in September 2000, to work for British Airways, in Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport. This is where he met our President and became convinced of the legitimacy of the CAF goals, to such a point that he became a member last September. Married and father of three children, Semaan is a Christian, fluently speaks and writes three languages, and is the proud holder of numerous technical qualifications which gave him the grade of *Licensed Aircraft Engineer*. Semaan enjoyed working on airplanes which are, today, considered as Classics, like the Proctor, T6, Vampire, DC3, DC6, Comet 4C, Caravelle, and others, more modern, like the Boeing 720, VC10, Boeing 747, Lockheed Tristar, and, more recently, the Boeing 747-400, 757, 767, et 777. Semaan likes all aircraft without any particular preference, but, above all, he loves his profession in which he excels, a fact of good omen for our future L Bird!



You will have the pleasure to meet our new friend during the FSS General Assembly on November 24. In the mean time, we welcome Semaan, and ask you to add his address to your phone-book:

Semaan Soueid
 2 Avenue de Savigny
 93600 Aulnay sous Bois
 FRANCE
 Tél: 0143 85 78 45
 Email: < sksoueid@infonie.fr >

GOOD BYE LÉON COIGNÉ

Christiane Hébert called us to announce the very sad news of the loss of her father, Léon Coigné aged 91.

A French Resistant from the very beginning, Léon was the one, with the help of all his family, who protected Sandy Sansing from the enemy, and hid him away from the germans until the allied front moved through this part of France.

Many of our members had the pleasure to meet Léon when a reunion of Sandy and Léon was organized in May 1997, in the town of Fère en Tardenois. This event was very warm and moving, and those who had the opportunity to talk to

Léon immediately felt an instant and sincere sympathy for him, and a profound respect for his patriotism.

All the members of the FSS and of the CAF send their deepest sympathy and sincere condolences to the members of Léon's family and to his friends.



"Proteege" and "Protector": Sandy Sansing and Léon Coigné during their reunion, 53 years after their adventures.

DONATIONS TO THE L BIRD PROJECT

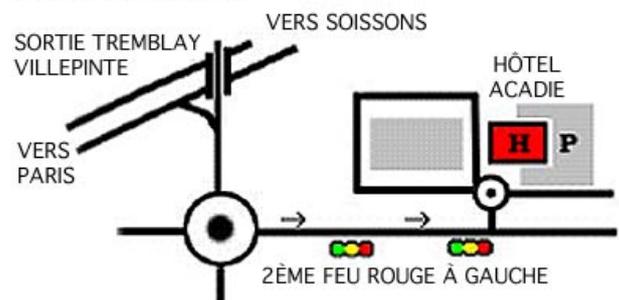
Sandy and Connie Sansing have just made another donation to the FSS L Bird project, soon followed by Jim Lux, Henri Bourrassier, Giovanni Comis, and Marcel Francisci. A big THANK YOU! to all of them. This project has made a giant step towards its accomplishment. This L Bird will be largely discussed during our General Assembly, like many other subjects.

ACCESS TO THE "HÔTEL ACADIE"

From Paris or from the province, use highway A3, then highway A104 (Near the Citroën factory) and come out at the "Tremblay-Villepinte" exit. At the first round-about, turn left. The hotel is at the second traffic light that you will meet.

24 RUE MARCEL PAUL 93290 TREMBLAY EN FRANCE
 TÉL: 01 48 60 42 18 - FAX: 01 48 61 93 21

AUTOROUTE A104



The FSS P.X.

The following articles are available against payment by cheque to the **French Supporter Squadron**.
(N.B.: **Postage is extra**).

- Official Squadron patch: 60,00 F.
- "Gioux" type Squadron patch: 40,00 F.
- Central Texas Wing patch: 40,00 F.
- FSS pin, *cloisonné*, 5 colors: 60,00 F.
- Pins P38 Lightning enamelled: 20,00 F.
- Painting "Lloyd's Dream" 50x76cm: 250,00 F.
- Painting "Lloyd's Dream" 50x76cm. framed: 350,00 F.
- 100 sheets of FSS paper with your own letter head: 30,00 F.
- Color Pictures (B17, B25, etc...) 30x45cm: 80,00 F.
- Color Pictures (B17, B25, etc...) 30x45cm framed: 130,00 F.
- T shirt Piper CUB, 170 grams, Hanes, XL: 100,00 F.
- T shirt cartoon P40, 170 grams, Hanes, XL: 100,00 F.
- T shirts: Other sizes available on order.
- Color aircraft profiles 15 x 20 cm. pre-framed: *North American P51D Mustang, Republic P47 Thunderbolt, Boeing B17 Flying Fortress, B24 Liberator, DC3 Dakota, Avro Lancaster, Fairey Swordfish, T6 Harvard, Handley-Page Halifax, PBV Catalina, Hawker Hurricane, BF 109 G2, and two modern jets, the Corsair 2 and the Starfighter: 25,00 F. each.*
- Warbird cards: 25,00 F. chaque.
- Video cassette of sequences filmed in Midland (55mm) VHS PAL: 100,00 F.
- Large format paintings by Col. Eric Besançon: F4U Corsair and Messerschmitt 262 night fighter: 200,00 Francs (Limited edition of the Me262 signed by the pilot available on request).

EXTRAORDINARY SALE

The French Supporter Squadron P.X. is selling ten brand new Armée de l'Air leather flight jackets, made of first class quality leather. These jackets are of the 96 (Or 48) size, "L" and "XL".

The P.X. is selling these jackets for half the normal price, that is to say: € 170.00 (Or 1115,00 Francs).

These jackets will be displayed during our General Assembly, but if you wish to reserve one today, please call the FSS on 01 48 69 04 57 (Telephone and Fax), or send an email to: < bdelfino26@aol.com >.

This offer being limited, we can only advise you to make up your mind as quickly as possible!

A TEMPTING OFFER

**1944 NORMANDY LANDING BEACHES
GRANDCAMP-MAISY (14)
FOR SALE: 3 ROOM FLAT, TOTALLY
REFURBISHED, IN A HIGH STANDARD AREA
360.000,00 FRANCS - OVERLOOKING THE SEA
PARC, POOL, TENNIS COURT
Tel: 33 (0) 2 31 51 87 71**

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Jean ROEDER ☼☼ (M. Perrin & J. Leroux)
Henri BOURRASSIER ☼ (Alphonse Thiry)

L BIRD SPONSORS - OCTOBER 2001

EXTERNAL SPONSORS

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LE PUBLIC SYSTEME CINEMA
LE FANA DE L'AVIATION
SCHOTT NYC

INTERNAL SPONSORS

(In chronological order)

Marcel FRANCISCI	17400,67	
Bernard DELFINO	11221,00	250000
Jacques PERAGALLO	3966,48	245000
Sandy & Connie SANSING	11600,00	240000
Cédric MALHAIRE	1090,00	235000
Claude REQUI	4985,00	230000
Michel CAHIEZ	2800,00	225000
Julien LEPELLETIER	1861,00	220000
Fumiko DELFINO	2045,00	215000
Jean-Jacques SAHUT	1000,00	210000
Lewis BATEMAN	4245,00	205000
Stéphane DUCHEMIN	896,00	200000
Serge CLODORE	350,00	195000
Daniel CLODORE	350,00	190000
Jean-Paul MERLIER	440,00	185000
Jean RCEDER	3450,00	180000
Roger VAUCAMP	1750,00	175000
Daniel & Lucie SAUVAGE	1335,00	170000
Patrick PIERRE-PIERRE	3875,00	165000
Marcel et Liliane RUPPERT	1210,00	160000
Christian FREZARD	500,00	155000
Jean-Christophe DEBUISSON	1300,00	150000
Michel BON	350,00	145000
Dons anonymes du PUBLIC	1865,00	140000
Paul BARLAND	1000,00	135000
Ron WESP	4000,00	130000
Christian & M-France FALENTIN	1000,00	125000
Christian TOURNEMINE	500,00	120000
Didier CARDINAL	1070,00	115000
Louis-Jean GIOUX	530,00	110000
Eric DUCREAU	350,00	105000
Eric JANSSONNE	1430,00	100000
Henri BOURRASSIER	550,00	95000
Jim LUX	2700,00	90000
Jean-Claude MINIGGIO	400,00	85000
Christophe BASTIDE	3850,00	80000
Yves DONJON	1750,00	75000
Guy ROBERT	1300,00	70000
Centex Wing	175,00	65000
Christiane HÉBERT	1000,00	60000
Yuri DELFINO	777,00	55000
Kim TOLFREE	1160,00	50000
Georges VAN HOVE	500,00	45000
Terran TIDWELL	780,00	40000
Yves HOUSSIN	1000,00	35000
Jean-Jacques VAUCHER	1200,00	30000
Bernard PIERACCI	500,00	25000
Eric BESANÇON	550,00	20000
Hervé CHERRY	500,00	15000
Bob & Lil AYARS	390,00	10000
Jacques BONNEU	110,00	5000
Bunty BATEMAN	1023,00	0
Giovanni COMIS	919,77	
Peter LANGRIDGE	150,00	
Jean-Claude PETIT	205,00	
Claude GASCON	1000,00	
Nicolas LIBIS	925,00	
Gilles AVENEL	1300,00	
Gilles BAILLOT	300,00	
Patrick GREMEZ	300,00	
Intérêts Bancaires Annuels	3028,06	
TOTAL	118 107,98	

