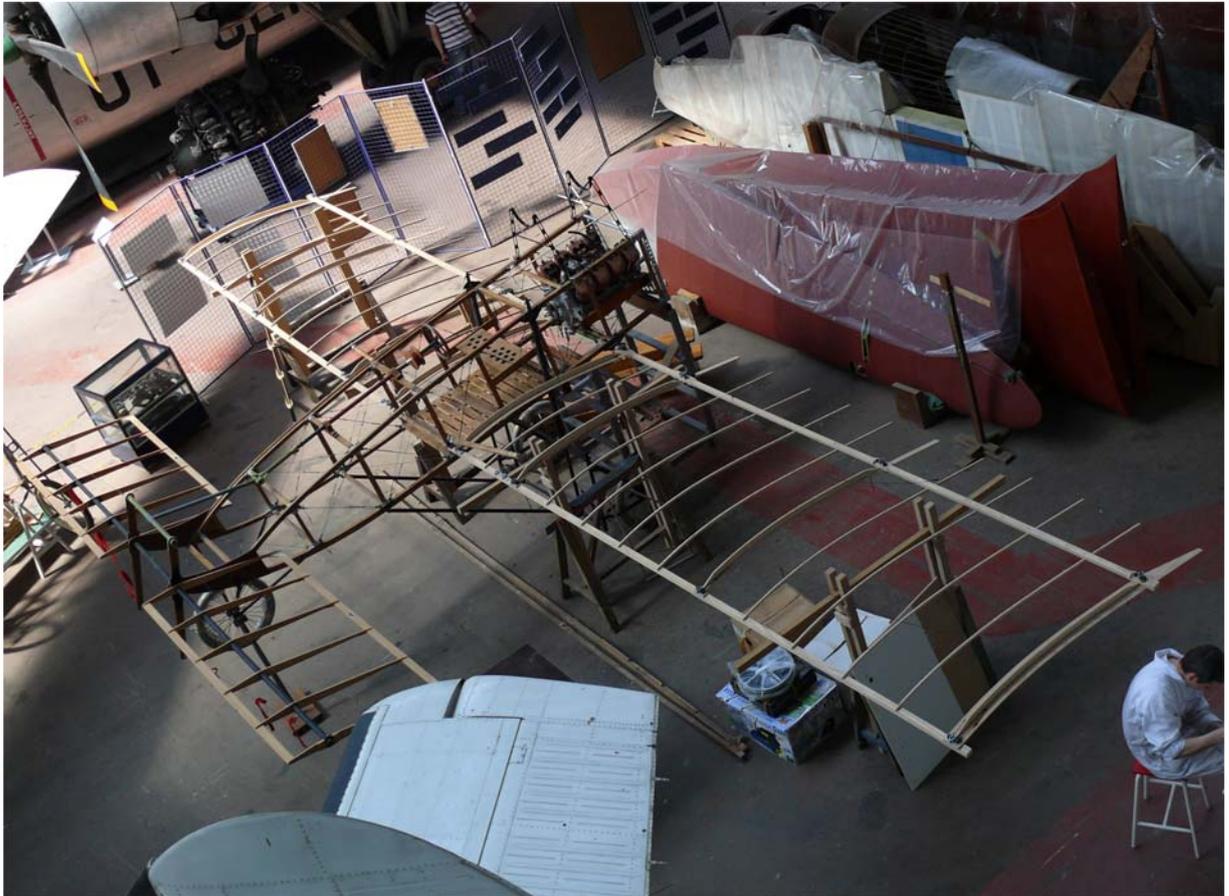




Air-minded

*the newsletter of the Brussels Air Museum
Foundation*

Brussels, June 2008



de Caters is back .

Hereafter you will discover our progresses on our projects. The Voisin de Caters is currently our major affair.

Early this year, the Museum decided to celebrate the 100th birthday of the first flight by a Belgian pilot by organizing a great exhibition for the occasion. There is now years the wreck of the Dabert aircraft acquired a long time ago in France is under rebuilding to represent the Voisin de Caters. The target was and is to use the Dabert as the base of a replica of the Voisin flow by Pierre de Caters, the Voisin de Caters

This project is in the expert hands of Pierre Cryns and his team from the Brussels Air Museum Restoration Society. The Bamf already contributed in paying the fabrication of the parts of the lower wings by Poncelet.

The decision of the Museum has given a strong boost to the whole affair and federated some organisations and teams for a common target. The Bamf is not the only actor but we will focus here on our actions.



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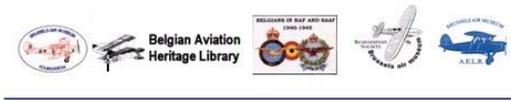


Radiator : The first trouble was with the radiator. The search for a suitable one resulted in a world wide quest. Finally the solution was in Belgium. Thanks to the Hexcel composites company, we can find the honeycomb structure needed to manufacture a fake radiator for the de Caters. The parts are now in the hands of Pascal to build this radiator

Future display : The Museum start the works needed to display the de Caters well in advance. With such a fragile aircraft, a study to present the machine in the best conditions is important. We were consulted and we can make proposals based on technical and safety aspects. We also take in account the display of the machine during the Air saloon on 1910. Last but not least, our proposal takes in account the view the public will have of the aircraft. The next steps are now on their way with the specialized staff of the Museum. We are proud to have been a small part of this future. We are also asked to save the illustrations currently displayed where the de Caters will be installed before the refurbishment started.



Drawings archiving : Another issue with the Voisin is the lack of references. Pierre mostly work using measures taken on the Voisin Farman displayed in Le Bourget. Theses information are compared with existing pictures of the Voisin de Caters and Pierre produces drawings. It seems critical to archive theses sources and the drawings for future use and the documentation of the project. Each pictures or drawings is scanned and stored on CD-Rom. This approach already permitted to help the Museum to provide a CD-Rom about the Voisin to the Air Musuem in Chile. Nicolas is also in contact with a German team evaluating the possibility to build a replica in this country.



Media : The public can already follows progresses on the de Caters on the bamrs site but also on the bamf pictures gallery. Some of our close partners are already involved preparing materials to present the aircraft.

Other actions : Theses involved all the actors in terms of actions, coordination, advices and regular meetings about restoration including the de caters and other projects. For example, during the preparations works on the future display area, the rear booms of the Dabertt were (re) discovered. Theses parts will ease the manufacture of the de Caters booms financed by the AELR.

The Voisin de caters is described in detail in our publication "The Voisin de caters project". Full details at http://www.bamf.be/?Our_publications





The B-25 goes to thalasso

The B-25 is currently with our sponsor New ICC in Lokeren. During the last months the airframe was prepared to be lowered in an anti corrosion bath provided by our sponsor. The back fuselage was stripped from all parts who can be damaged during the process. The aircraft was installed on supports, fabricated specifically for the task, to ease the transport and to preserve the airframe during the future restoration operations.

One of our directors took the heavy task to hunt and find the manufacturer drawings of the Mitchell. In a very short time, the documents were located and copies will be ordered. These documents will be necessary for repairing the aircraft.

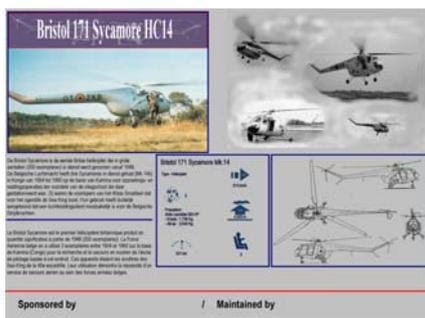
We are still looking for volunteers to work on the airframe. The Bamf is currently completing the process to provide insurances to the volunteers who will restore the aircraft. Provision for 12 persons is budgeted. If you want to join, please contact us.

We will come back on the anti corrosion process at New ICC in a next issue.

Our B-25 was portrayed in a painting by Claude Lesoil. The scene is based on the picture discovered by Eric and showing a B-25 coded NO-V above Brussels in August 1945. Claude rendered the NO-V emerging from a layer of clouds above the Museum. His painting will be reproduced and made available to the supporters of the project in the very near future. Claude is already working on a painting of the de caters commissioned by the the bamf.



Bits and nuts



Aircraft panels : Presenting the aircrafts and explaining to the public the performances and the history of the aircraft is not new at the Museum. Since the origin, panels are displayed in front of the machines. Since a few years, a new generation of display is slowly replacing the old ones. The formula needed time to be perfected and the current version is maybe not the ultimate one. However, we added our small touch in helping with the layout of the panels for the Sycamore and the Auster. This work is, by definition, the result of the cooperation between some peoples to write concise and public minded texts, to check for inaccuracies, to find illustrations ... before the final printing and installation of the panel. This obscure activity is needed to permit our visitors to appreciate the treasures of the hall and a good stimulus for team working.

www.bamf.be : The bamf has a now a totally renewed website at www.bamf.be There, you can find all the latest information about our activities as well by text or by pictures. You can also make a gift using Paypal. The last update is relating to comics strips and aviation. Do not hesitate to visit us.

Pictures collection : The Bamf acquired from Philippe Levecq several hundred transparencies depicting aircraft at airshows. This collection will be prepared and stored for preservation and publication using the techniques we already used to preserve archives.



In Focus : Belgians in RAF and SAAF 1940-1945: Since more than one year, a dynamic group of enthusiasts are working on the Belgians serving between 1940 and 1945 in the Royal Air Force and the South African Air Force. In a very short period of time, the group has already amassed a great amount of documents, pictures and testimonies. Cooperation with the bamf was logical since some members of the bamf are interested with this odyssey and our B-25 is a memorial

to these aircrews. The "Belgian RAF" is an independent group open to anyone. Thanks to the Museum, they share an office near the library in the hall. This is the busy place on Thursday and Saturday for sharing information. We are happy to help them by sharing our web space. You can visit them at <http://www.bamfbamrs.be/RAF/index.htm>



A New Sponsor : We are extremely proud to announce, Sabca has joined our sponsors. The company with more than 80 years experience in aerospace is a strong partner of the aeronautical industry. The company already helped the Museum on numerous occasions. For example, they helped for the restoration of the Poncelet Vivette or for the scanning of Renard drawings. We are sure our common efforts will permit to show the long and rich expertise in aviation of our country.

The last word is for sure to thank you for your support and interest. What you have read here before is only a glimpse of the actions you permitted us to achieve. Without your past, current and future support, it can not be possible.

Pictures : Eric Dessouroux, Yves Duwelz, Nicolas Godfumon, Vincent Jacobs

Texts : Yves Duwelz Special thanks to Claude Lesoil & Paul Van Caesbroeck (picture of the painting of Claude)



Gives her a new life !

To process the whole airframe of our B-25 against corrosion and ensure her definitive preservation our project need 10.000 Euro. The process will include the removal of all paintings, corrosion and the application of a protective primer. The job will be performed by a company who already performed the same "new life" process to the Florennes Spitfire 14.

This task will spare more than 4000 hours of works. After this operation, the airframe will be protected with state of the art methods for the future.

Help us to give our B-25 a second life !

Bank Account ING 310-1844762-05 mention "B- 25 Project" IBAN: BE96310184476205 BIC: BBRUBEBB
Any gift with the BAMF higher than 30 Euro gives right to a fiscal reduction and will be used exclusively to increase, restore or preserve the aeronautical heritage in Belgium



A B-25 BACK IN BELGIUM

Keep in touch, follow our projects on www.bamf.be and www.bamfbamrs.be



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