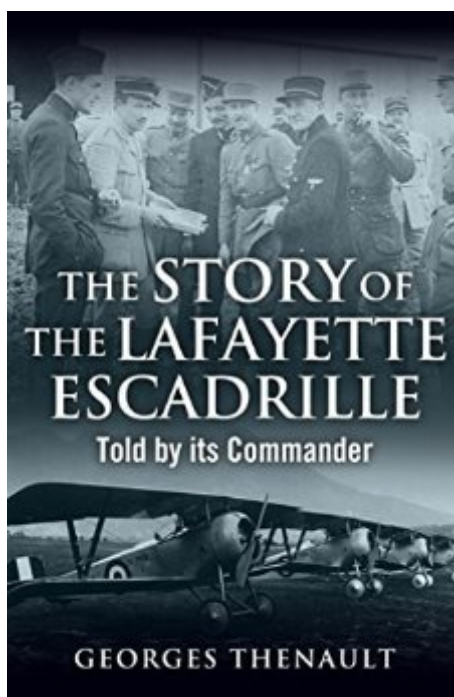


The book was found

The Story Of The Lafayette Escadrille: Told By Its Commander



Synopsis

In April 1916, the creation of the American escadrille was decided. During the next twenty-one months this aviation squadron was to be seen over every important battlefield, with its men fighting and dying for France. George Thenault's fascinating history of the Lafayette Escadrille covers from its very inception to the end of the war. Many Americans living in France at the outbreak of war in 1914 wanted to fight for the country that they saw as the founder of Liberty, and some of those men were pilots. But with the French army only having 80 planes the Americans were initially rejected from joining the air force and instead had to sign up with the Foreign Legion. It was only after months of persuasion that some of these intrepid Americans were given control of France's planes and later, under Thenault's command, they developed their own squadron. They were immediately thrown into the thick of the fighting above the pockmarked land of the Western Front. Thenault provides vivid descriptions of his brave pilots which included Norman Prince, the Rockwell brothers and the ace Raoul Lufbery. Some of these pilots were rather eccentric, for example William Thaw who when in Paris bought two lions, named Whiskey and Soda, which became the escadrille's mascots. Flying their Nieuports, they were fighting at the very beginning of military aviation and were instrumental in pioneering new battle techniques. Their life expectancy was not long and many who had joined at the inception of the escadrille did not make it through until the end of the war. Thenault's extremely personal account covers all aspects of this squadron in World War One, from their activities on the ground to their dogfights in the air. It is a truly remarkable read. Eventually with the United States joining the war the Lafayette Escadrille was disbanded and a number of its members were inducted into the U.S. Air Service as members of 103 Aero Squadron. George Thenault's *The Story of the Lafayette Escadrille* was published in 1921. His book gained widespread American public recognition. In May 1922, he accepted an assignment that began an eleven year diplomatic service in the Embassy of France in Washington, D.C.. Promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in 1933 following successful completion of duties as Military Attache for Aeronautics at the French Embassy in Washington DC, he returned to France and continued his military services with the French Air Army. He died in 1948.

Book Information

File Size: 1283 KB

Print Length: 156 pages

Publisher: Brigadier Publishing (August 7, 2016)

Publication Date: August 7, 2016

Language: English

ASIN: B01K0HDFEK

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #18,370 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #3 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical > Military & Wars > Branches > Air Force #8 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Military > World War I #10 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Military > Aviation

Customer Reviews

I'd actually love to have this in the French it was so very obviously originally written in - it is more a short poetical memoir than a "history" in any real sense of the word; I can often sense a rather lovely French original behind the often poor English translation (of which more below). Georges Thenault has none of the war-weary cynicism that became fashionable in the twenties and thirties, for him the war - and the sacrifice of liberty, health, sanity, and life itself in the defence of a beloved homeland is a pure and beautiful thing. While we are reading him we too can believe, even those of us older and wiser in the ways of the world. There is really very little serious historical information - and almost no technical information whatsoever. but then this is not what the book is about. For Therault, the squadron is his boys, and this story is intensely one of the young American volunteers, seen through rose coloured eyes by someone more inclined to love than to judge. The Lafayette Escadrille was not an outstandingly successful unit in terms of aerial victories, in fact it was mainly employed in close escort of the French bombers, involving little opportunity for easy "kills" and, from the beginning, distressingly high casualties. Few punches are pulled, for all Therault's indulgent excuses - the Americans of the Escadrille come across as irresponsible and untruthful, and in other ways very badly disciplined: as well as brave but all too often overconfident and foolhardy. For Thenault all this is excusable, even noble, but not every reader will necessarily feel so indulgent. With a few notable exceptions, who survived long enough to become the aces of the squadron, they were also very poor fliers.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The Story of the Lafayette Escadrille: Told by its Commander The Commander: Fawzi al-Qawuqji

and the Fight for Arab Independence 1914-1948 The Life and Times of General John Graves
Simcoe, Commander of the "Queen's Rangers" During the Revolutionary War (1890) Alien
Romance: Hunter: Space Commander's Fated Mate (Space Beasts Book 3) Interceptor (Strike
Commander Book 2) Starfighter (Strike Commander Book 1) No Day Shall Erase You: The Story of
9/11 as Told at the September 11 Museum Truth Be Told: A journey from the dark side of OCD Let
the Truth Be Told Everything I Never Told You: A Novel by Celeste Ng | Debrief Tales from the
Atlanta Braves Dugout: A Collection of the Greatest Braves Stories Ever Told (Tales from the Team)
Tales from the Chicago Blackhawks Locker Room: A Collection of the Greatest Blackhawks Stories
Ever Told Diary of a Minecraft Steve (Book 2): The Amazing Minecraft World Told by a Hero
Minecraft Steve (Minecraft Books) Codependent - Now What?: Its Not You - Its Your Programming
Witness to the Revolution: Radicals, Resisters, Vets, Hippies, and the Year America Lost Its Mind
and Found Its Soul The Great Beanie Baby Bubble: The Amazing Story of How America Lost Its
Mind Over a Plush Toy--and the Eccentric Genius Behind It Oak Island and its Lost Treasure: The
Untold Story of the British Military's Role in the Island Flood Tunnel One of Us: The Story of a
Massacre in Norway -- and Its Aftermath The Ottoman Empire: The Untold Story to Its Rise and Fall
Ful Circle for Mick: a story of the Vietnam War and its aftermath

[Dmca](#)