

FLOATPLANES OVER THE DESERT



THE ADVENTURES OF L'ESCADRILLE DE PORT-SAÏD, 1914-1916, PART 3 BY IAN BURNS

Nieuport XH, N.20, was operated from Montcalm in the Red Sea during May 1915. It is seen here at Argostoli in 1916.

:L'ARDHAN

L'escadrille de Port-Saïd was in many ways a unique unit, an early example of Franco-British co-operation. Elements of the French and Royal Navies and the British Army came together to perform its duties. As a consequence, records exist

in both countries, in both languages. Although I have been able to access some French records, my major source has been the British records. This has been reflected in the text and especially in the following Appendices.

Appendix 1A : Pilots

Main source : L'ARDHAN and TNA files.

Name	Rank	Brevet de l'Aéro-Club de France	Joined l'escadrille	Comments (Awards mentioned are for service with l'escadrille de Port-Saïd only.)
Bourgeois, Raymond P	QM	n/k	Oct 1915	First operation from Port Saïd 20 Oct 1915.
Cintré, Alfred L M	LV	1658 10 July 1914	Nov 1914	Initially an observer until qualified on Nieuport, Jan 1915. <i>Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur</i> and <i>CdG</i> , Jul 1915. British DSC, Sept 1915. Also served at Antivari (in command) and Brindisi.
Collard, Pierre	Mot	n/k	Feb 1916	Was operational with l'escadrille de Brindisi. At Port Saïd he only flew local patrols, later served at Argostoli.
Delage, Paul A Gustave	LV	219 29 Aug 1910	Nov 1914	Returned to Nieuport as Technical Director in Feb 1915.
Destrem, Marcel V Antoine	LV	1425 13 Aug 1913	Nov 1914	<i>Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur</i> , Nov 1915. <i>CdG</i> , August 1915. Also served at Antivari and Argostoli. Recommended for British DSC, June 1916 – lost in bureaucracy.
Gramont, Charles Albert	SM	n/k	June 1915	Completed his pilot training at Port Saïd. Flew his first operation 29 Mar 1916.
Grall, Hervé	QM	1666 10 July 1914	Nov 1914	Promoted SM, 9 May 1915. <i>Médaille militaire</i> , Feb 1915. <i>CdG</i> , two citations. British DSM, Apr 1915. Also served at Argostoli.
Jeanblanc, Emile Alfred	SM	n/k	Feb 1916	From l'escadrille de Brindisi. First operation from Port Saïd 8 Mar 1916. Also served at Argostoli.
Le Gall, Jean-Marie	QM	1665 10 July 1914	Dec 1914	KIA, 28 Jan 1915.
L'Escaille, Henri P de	LV	791 9 March 1912	Nov 1914	<i>Officier de la Légion d'honneur</i> , July 1915. <i>CdG</i> , Nov 1915. British DSC, August 1915.
Levasseur, Julien Pierre Aimable	Mot	743 19 Feb 1912	Nov 1914	Repatriated to France for medical reasons in March 1915. <i>CdG</i> , Nov 1915. Also served at Antivari.
Roussillon, Henri Joseph	QM	n/k	Feb 1916	From l'escadrille de Brindisi. First operation from Port Saïd 7 Mar 1916. Promoted SM, August 1916. Also served at Argostoli. Recommended for British DSM, June 1916 – lost in bureaucracy.
Saizieu, Louis Marie J Barthélémy de	LV	1747 19 Nov 1914	Nov 1914	Initially an observer until qualified on Nieuport, Jan 1915. PoW, 22 Dec 1915. <i>Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur</i> , Apr 1915. <i>CdG</i> , Feb 1916. British DSC, December 1915.
Trouillet, Georges Marius Etienne	QM	1649 10 July 1914	Dec 1914	Promoted SM, 20 May 1915. PoW, 10 Oct 1915. <i>CdG</i> , Aug and Nov 1915. British DSM, Dec 1915.

Ranks :

LV = *Lieutenant de vaisseau*

SM = *Second maître*

QM = *Quartier-maître*

Mot = *Matelot*

(Flight Commander, RNAS)

(Petty Officer Mechanic, RNAS)

(Leading Mechanic, RNAS)

(Air Mechanic, RNAS)