



THE SPAD XII WITH THE RFC/RAF

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RFC AUTHORITIES showed an early interest in the SPAD S.XIII and were quick to obtain a sample machine, S.498 which became B3479. The type's superior performance, compared with that of the S.VII, led to existing SPAD orders being amended to include 60 of the new type. Those orders were with Kellner Frères, Billancourt, but it was not until the third week of November 1917 that deliveries could begin. B3479 had, by then, seen brief use by 19 Sqn but all further operational service of the type was with 23 Sqn, which received its first example on 6 December. That operational service only lasted for five months.

The type did not achieve any great combat success with the RFC/RAF and suffered from problems associated with its geared Hispano-Suiza engine. It was drafted into ground attack work against the German offensive of March 1918. A total of 59 examples was received, only 57 from the Kellner order. Perhaps the scheduled replacement of the type caused the cancellation of the outstanding three.

- B3479** SPAD built. Ex S.498. **2 AD** Candas ex Paris in trailer 1.6.1917 (200hp engine 7053). **19 Sqn** dd ex 2 AD 9.6.1917 (same engine) and victs 13.7.1917 (Capt F Sowrey sent an EA C-type OOC) and 21.7.1917 (Capt F Sowrey sent an Albatros D.III OOC near Ypres). **1 AD** wrecked ex 19 Sqn 23.8.1917 (same engine) and under reconstruction by 30.9.1917. **1 AIS** ex 1 ASD 25.12.1917. **23 Sqn** dd ex 1 AIS 25.1.1918 (200hp engine 115601), marked as a/c N, vict 9.3.1918 (Lt GWR Pidsley destroyed an EA C-type near Masnières, shared B6847 and B6856), wrecked on OP 23.3.1918 (2Lt GWR Pidsley OK, the machine crashed in a forced landing near Hombieux after carburettor problems – same engine), declared un-salvageable and deleted on unit that day (85hr 19min).
- B6731** Ex S.4324. **2 AD** dd ex Paris 5.12.1917 (Adjutant de Courcelles, 200hp engine 115547). **23 Sqn** dd ex 1 ASD 13.12.1917, vict 1.1.1918 (2Lt CJ Fowler shared the destruction of an EA C-type with 60 Sqn SE5as), then destroyed on Low Bombing 29.3.1918 (2Lt ER Varley OK, the machine was burnt and abandoned after forced landing following hits from ground fire near Warfusee) and deleted on unit that day (91hr 55min).
- B6732** Ex S.4321. **2 AD** dd ex Paris 6.12.1917 after forced-landing en-route (Adjutant de Courcelles, 200hp engine 115272). **1 AIS** dd ex 1 ASD 23.12.1917. **23 Sqn** ex 1 AIS 2.1.1918 with forced landing en-route (same engine), marked as a/c A, vict 19.2.1918 (Lt JD Hewett destroyed an EA C-type), then LIA on OP 26.2.1918 (2Lt DC Doyle POW, shot down near Laon by Hptmn A Ritt v Titschek, JG.III – same engine) and deleted on unit that day (39hr 46min).
- B6733** Ex S.4322. **2 AD** dd ex Paris by road 10.12.1917 (200hp engine 115278). **23 Sqn** dd ex 1 ASD 19.12.1917 (same engine) and wrecked on Engine Test 19.1.1918 (2Lt JB Allen IOAS, the engine failed and the machine ran into a canal during a forced landing – same engine). **1 ASD** ex 23 Sqn 22.1.1918 and deleted (9hr 14min).
- B6734** Ex S.4323. **2 AD** dd ex Paris by road 10.12.1917 (200hp engine 115203). **23 Sqn** dd ex 1 ASD 19.12.1917 (same engine), LIA on OP 28.12.1917 (Capt AE McKay KIA in combat with EA C-type near Gheluvelt – same engine) and deleted on unit 29.12.1917 (5hr).
- B6735** Ex S.4348. **1 AD** dd ex Paris by road 11.2.1918 (200hp engine 115338). **2 AIS** ex 1 ASD 19.2.1918 (same engine). **23 Sqn** dd ex 2 AIS 21.2.1918 (Lt Allen) and wrecked on OP 13.3.1918 (2Lt RD Kennedy OK, the machine was force-landed after engine failure – same engine). **2 ASD** ex 23 Sqn 15.3.1918 and deleted 22.4.1918 (24hr 6min).
- B6736** Ex S.4340. At Paris ready for RFC by 2.2.1918. **1 ASD** dd ex Paris 11.2.1918 (200hp engine 115879). **2 AIS** ex 1 ASD 21.2.1918 (same

engine). **23 Sqn** dd ex 2 ASD 26.3.1918 (same engine). **1 ASD** ex 23 Sqn 29.4.1918 (200hp engine 115373). **8 AAP** dd ex 1 ASD 8.5.1918 (recorded as '5736' by 2Lt CH Drew and as 'dud SPAD').

- B6737** Ex S.4342. At Paris ready for RFC by 2.2.1918. **1 ASD** dd ex Paris 11.2.1918 (200hp engine 115912). **2 ASD** ex 1 ASD 17.3.1918 (200hp engine 115746). **23 Sqn** dd ex 2 ASD 27.3.1918 (same engine), abandoned while Viewing Lines 16.4.1918 (Lt RA Way OK, the machine was force landed in front of the lines after hit by AA fire – same engine) and deleted on unit that day (26hr 30min).
- B6738** Ex S.4344. At Paris ready for RFC by 9.2.1918. **1 ASD** dd ex Paris 11.2.1918 (200hp engine 115867). **2 AIS** ex 1 ASD 21.2.1918 (same engine). **23 Sqn** dd ex 2 AIS 27.2.1918 (Lt McPhee, same engine), victs 12.3.1918 (Capt HFS Drewitt destroyed an Albatros D.V near Bellenglise), 15.3.1918 (Capt HFS Drewitt destroyed a DFW C-type near Brisse, shared B6861) and 16.3.1918 (Capt HFS Drewitt destroyed an EA C-type in flames near Pontruet) then wrecked on OP 17.3.1918 (Capt HFS Drewitt OK, the machine was force-landed after hit by AA fire – same engine). **2 ASD** ex 23 Sqn 20.3.1918 (same engine). **1 ASD** ex 2 ASD 4.4.1918 and deleted 7.4.1918 (not worth reconstruction, 26hr 9min).
- B6739** Ex S.4561. **1 ASD** dd ex Paris 27.3.1918 (200hp engine 116573). **2 ASD** ex 1 ASD 30.3.1918. **23 Sqn** dd ex 2 AIS 1.4.1918 (Lt Hiscock, same engine) and vict 22.4.1918 (Capt KM Mansbridge sent a Fokker Dr.I OOC). **1 ASD** ex 23 Sqn 29.4.1918 (same engine) and deleted 15.6.18 (not worth reconstruction, 41hr 17min).
- B6835** Ex S.4311. At Paris ready for RFC by 10.11.1917. **2 AD** dd ex Paris by road by 17.11.1917 (200hp engine 115280). **23 Sqn** dd ex 1 ASD 19.12.1917 (same engine), marked as a/c U, victs 11.3.1918 (2Lt ER Varley destroyed a DFW C-type), 16.3.1918 (2Lt ER Varley destroyed an EA C-type) and 18.3.1918 (2Lt ER Varley captured an Albatros D.V), then wrecked 30.3.1918 (2Lt HAF Goodison OK, the machine was hit by AA fire – 200hp engine 115568) and deleted on unit 5.4.1918 (19hr 51min).
- B6838** Ex S.4312. At Paris ready for RFC by 17.11.1917. **2 ASD** dd ex Paris by road 23.11.1917 (200hp engine 115281) and damaged on Test Flight 21.12.1917 (Flt Sgt Piercy OK, the machine overturned after hitting a snowdrift in a forced landing after take-off - same engine). **23 Sqn** dd ex 2 AIS 9.3.1918 (200hp engine 115788) and marked as a/c U. **1 ASD** ex 23 Sqn 1.5.1918 and deleted 6.5.1918 (not worth reconstruction, 53hr 19min).
- B6839** Ex S.4313. At Paris ready for RFC 17.11.1917. **2 AD** dd ex Paris by road by 24.11.1917 (200hp engine 115513). **23 Sqn** dd ex 1 ASD 27.12.1917 (same engine), vict 30.1.1918 (Lt JD Hewett sent an Albatros D.V OOC) and wrecked on OP 7.3.1918 (2Lt FJ Hopgood OK, the machine was force-landed near Rosières after engine failure 200hp engine 115535). **2 ASD** ex 23 Sqn 9.3.1918 and deleted 14.3.1918 (not worth reconstruction, 50hr 38min).
- B6840** Ex S.4314. At Paris ready for RFC 17.11.1917. **2 ASD** dd ex Paris by road by 24.11.1917 (200hp engine 115282). **1 AIS** ex 2 ASD 3.2.1918 (same engine). **23 Sqn** dd ex 1 AIS 3.2.1918 (same engine), marked as a/c M and wrecked on OP 8.3.1918 (2Lt NR Joyce OK, the machine was force-landed with a broken throttle control – same engine). **2 ASD** ex 23 Sqn 12.3.1918 and deleted 21.3.1918 (not worth reconstruction, 24hr 7min).
- B6841** Ex S.4315. At Paris ready for RFC 17.11.1917. **2 ASD** dd ex Paris by road by 24.11.1917 (200hp engine 115268). **2 AIS** ex 2 ASD 21.2.1918 (200hp engine 115800). **23 Sqn** dd ex 2 AIS 17.3.1918 (same engine) and wrecked on OP/Bombing 22.3.1918 (2Lt RD Kennedy OK – the machine was force-landed near Ham after engine failure – same engine). **2 ASD** ex 23 Sqn 23.3.1918 and lost in evacuation 1.4.1918.
- B6842** Ex S.4316. At Paris ready for RFC 17.11.1917. **2 ASD** dd ex Paris 24.11.1917 (Adjutant de Courcelles, 200hp engine 115535). **23 Sqn** dd ex 1 AD 6.12.1917 (same engine), victs 12.3.1918 (Capt LD Baker sent a