



Manx Model Flyers

Flypaper – November 2016.

Hi folks,

After missing a couple of fine days which were suitable for flying, I am off Island until next Tuesday. I will be at the International Model Boat Show at Warwick which is held over the Remembrance weekend. They do have a special service during the Warship Society display. However, I thought I would like to include an article that is relevant to us as model flyers, especially in connection with the previous Rothmans Display team of Stampes, of which I had a model until I got the aileron controls the wrong way round!

Jean Stampe was a Belgian ex-World War 2 flyer and test pilot. He had known Geoffrey de Havilland since the war and became the Belgian agent for the Moth bi-plane. The SV3 and 4 were quickly designed and built. Jean's brother Leon was killed during a test flight. The SV4 was modified slightly and won a competition for training aircraft. The Belgium Government ordered 30 and the war looming, the French ordered 600! Three days later, after the Germans invaded the Low Countries, Jean Stampe, airborne in an SV4b, spotted a column of French troops toiling south out of Holland ahead of Hitler's Panzers. Circling overhead at 150 metres, he suddenly spotted three ME 109's streaking in on a strafing run, raking the French troops. As they turned to make another attack, Jean sneaked up from below and suddenly appeared in their midst. It was a desperate attempt to distract their attention and so allow the troops to scramble for cover. Confident in the maneuverability of his little bi-plane, he harried and buzzed in the path of the 109's, too elusive to catch, yet annoying and impudent enough to lead the Germans into a fruitless chase.

Not only did he succeed in his aim of distracting the attackers, he led them such a merry dance that before they realised it they had wasted their last litres of fuel and had to break off. The cheering French troops below him were safe to continue their weary retreat.

A little snippet that I thought would appeal

Brian King, Chairman