

SOARING IN FRANCE

by WALT H. PRATT

Not very much can be said of soaring in France at this date. The International Duration Record stands with the performance of Jacques LeBeau and Claude Fronteau (56h 11'); the attacking team of Carrz-Robin having been unable to beat it during the month of February which was allocated to them by the French Air Ministry for this purpose.

The month of March is reserved for the feminine team of Choynet-Lerat who hope to be able to better the World Record for multiseat glider, held since the 11th of January 1954 by Jacqueline Mathe and Marinette Garbarino with 38h 41'. Choynet-Lerat have already behind them their first try, but without success, having to land after 12 hours. But they still have 14 days before them to try again and, if their luck and the meteorological conditions hold good, they will no doubt succeed.

Our Centre, which is at Persan-Beaumont, about 45 km. from Paris has started its season on the 28th of February. This early date was chosen to permit the quick release of the already trained pilots in order to be well on the way with the training of the new pupils when summer begins. Here in France, all the pilots who have already flown solo must, every year at the beginning of the season, pass several trial flights with the Chief-Instructor, except when they can furnish proof of having flown all during the winter without interruption.

Our Inter-Club Centre is composed of about fourteen different clubs with a membership of about 20 to 25 each. The planes as well as the other material are furnished by the French Air Ministry, this being also the case in other Centres and Clubs. Unfortunately, the equipment in our possession is not very plentiful and we can scarcely hope for more at the moment.

The goal for this year is to make as many distance-flights as possible as well as training in instrument flying, the latter for the more advanced pilots. Cross-country flights cost rather a lot of money so it was decided that this year, all those who have been picked for these flights must pay in advance a deposit into the Club-treasury to pay for the costs of the return journey, in case of their non-accomplishment of their tasks. This deposit

ACE PILOT RESCUED

AP and UP Press releases dated Bishop, California, tell of heroic and spectacular rescue of Robert F. Symons and lady passenger after the crash of the light plane flown by Symons, in Vermillion Basin of the high Sierras near Bishop, California.

This area is well known to many soaring pilots who have soared the famous 'Bishop Wave' which is active in these parts, especially during the winter months. Symons is well known in the soaring world for his feats in high altitude flying in motorless aircraft. Also he is generally considered a world authority on lee wave soaring and is the daddy and discoverer more or less of the 'Bishop Wave.'

The reports say that Mr. Symons and a photographer, Miss Joy Weger, took off to make an aerial survey of the snow clad elevations in the High Sierras, including 14,496 foot Mt. Whitney. The photographs were to be used jointly by two utility companies and the L. A. Department of Water, in evaluating spring runoffs of melting snow.

Successful rescue operations were carried out the day following the take-off after search planes located the disabled aircraft. Miss Weger and Symons had stamped out "OK" in the snow. Both Mr. Symons and the lady photographer were uninjured.

will be reimbursed, should they fulfill their tasks, the French Air Ministry bearing the costs of a successfully accomplished 50; 300 and 500 km. leg. Another goal which our Club has set itself, is the accomplishment of as many triangular circuits as possible, to be done for the purpose of teaching aerial navigation.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS 1954.

The French Gliding Team which will represent us at Camphill (England) from July 20th to August 4th will be as follows:

Team Leader --- Max Gasnier

Pilots --- Pierre

Rousselet --- Single seat sailplane

Gasnier-Trubert --- Multi-seat sailplane.

Reserves --- Lambert

Weiss

At the end of March we will make known which gliders will be used in the World Championship.

Intensive training of the French Team will take place during June.

JAPANESE DISTANCE RECORD

Mr. Katsu Koori, president of the Japanese Gliding Federation, reports a new distance record set in his country this year.

On January 5th at 10:45 Kan Kondo of Tokyo started from Haneda Airport, and was towed in his Tohi-S.A. single seater sailplane to a height of 3575 meters over the mouth of the Fuji River, where he released at 12:45. Fifty minutes later he landed at Fujisawa Airfield, 82 kilometers from his release point, to better the previous record of 72 kilometers set by Isamu Oda in August, 1940.

Kan Kondo is a leading soaring pilot in his country. He is 32 years old, started gliding 13 years ago, and has a total of 82 hours in sailplanes. He is one of the pilots who fly for the Mainichi newspapers.

This record was sponsored by the Japanese Gliding Federation, Gliding Society of Japan, Japanese Young Men's Flying Federation, and the Mainichi Newspapers.

NEW BOOKS OF INTEREST

The Papers of Wilbur and Orville Wright including the Chanute-Wright letters, as edited by Mr. Marvin W. McFarland, Aeronautics Division of the Library of Congress, and under sponsorship of Oberlin College, have been published by the McGraw-Hill Company (\$25.00).

This work is in two volumes of some 670 pages each. In these two volumes is the fascinating correspondence (1900-1910) between Wilbur Wright and Octave Chanute, the early leader in the aeronautics field who freely lent his genius and aid to the brothers; excerpts from 33 Wright diaries and notebooks (1900-1919) and from Wright family correspondence; wind tunnel tables, propeller notebooks, and many other selected articles, lectures, and writings by the brothers. Mr. McFarland has supplied five appendices that serve to summarize the technical information, and there are 128 pages of halftones, a complete index, and extensive bibliography, and numerous charts and diagrams.

No other books can, of course, be like these. Nothing in man's entire effort in the scientific world has approached or is likely to approach this romantic story of the Wright brothers and their mastery of flight.