

The Lafayette Escadrille: The American Heroes Who Flew for France

The Lafayette Escadrille was a group of American pilots who volunteered to fight for France in World War I. They were some of the most skilled and courageous pilots in the war, and they played a major role in the Allied victory. This article tells the story of the Lafayette Escadrille, from its formation to its disbandment. It is a story of bravery, sacrifice, and friendship.



First to Fly: The Story of the Lafayette Escadrille, the American Heroes Who Flew for France in World War I

by Charles Bracelen Flood

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 3940 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 249 pages
Lending : Enabled



Formation

The Lafayette Escadrille was formed in April 1916, by a group of American expatriates who were living in Paris. The group was led by William Thaw, a wealthy playboy and adventurer. Thaw had been trying to get the United States to enter the war on the side of the Allies, but he had been

unsuccessful. He decided to form the Lafayette Escadrille as a way to show the Americans that they could make a difference in the war.

The Lafayette Escadrille was initially made up of 12 pilots. The pilots were all volunteers, and they came from all walks of life. There were lawyers, doctors, engineers, and even a few actors. The pilots were all highly skilled, and they quickly became some of the most respected pilots in the French Air Service.

Combat

The Lafayette Escadrille first saw combat in May 1916. The pilots flew Nieuport 17 fighters, and they quickly proved to be a formidable force. The pilots were aggressive and skilled, and they quickly began to rack up victories. By the end of the war, the Lafayette Escadrille had shot down 194 German aircraft.

The Lafayette Escadrille was not without its losses. In total, 62 pilots were killed in action. The pilots were all volunteers, and they knew that they were putting their lives on the line. However, they were determined to fight for what they believed in, and they never gave up.

Legacy

The Lafayette Escadrille was disbanded in 1918, after the end of the war. The pilots returned to the United States as heroes. They had fought bravely for France, and they had helped to secure the Allied victory. The Lafayette Escadrille is still remembered today as one of the most heroic units in American history.

The Lafayette Escadrille is a reminder of the close ties between the United States and France. The pilots of the Lafayette Escadrille fought for France, but they also fought for the ideals of democracy and freedom. The Lafayette Escadrille is a symbol of the friendship between the two countries, and it is a reminder of the sacrifices that have been made to protect those ideals.

The Lafayette Escadrille was a group of American pilots who volunteered to fight for France in World War I. They were some of the most skilled and courageous pilots in the war, and they played a major role in the Allied victory. The Lafayette Escadrille is a story of bravery, sacrifice, and friendship. It is a story that should never be forgotten.



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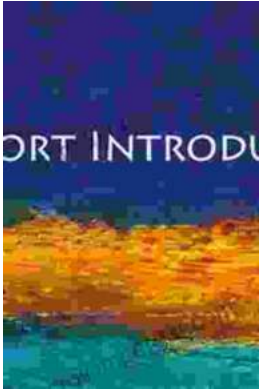
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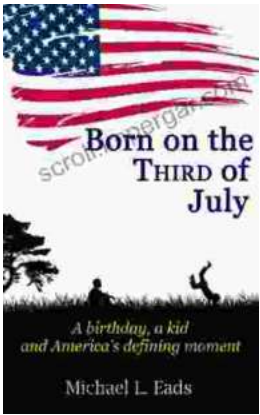
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