

World's Largest Biplane to Appear in Mesa, AZ

July 12, 2001 — **REVISED** — For Immediate Release

On **July 16**, the Vimy Aircraft Project's replica Vickers Vimy biplane will be making an appearance at the **Confederate Air Force Museum at Falcon Field in Mesa, AZ**. After making fly-bys at several Phoenix area airports, the Vimy will arrive early in the afternoon of July 16. It will be on display for the remainder of the day and will depart early on July 17 for El Paso, TX.

While on display, Vimy pilot and Maricopa County resident Mark Rebholz will answer questions about his upcoming re-enactment of the first nonstop Transatlantic flight. Other Vimy Aircraft Project pilots and volunteers will be selling t-shirts and hats and accepting donations to help support the Project.

The Vimy, which is the world's largest airworthy biplane, is on its way from Novato, CA, to the EAA's Airventure air show in Oshkosh, WI, where it will be one of the main attractions.

About the Vimy Aircraft Project

The Vimy Aircraft Project is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to inspiring the pioneers of tomorrow by providing a vivid reminder that only the brave and imaginative bring about progress—not the critics and skeptics! The Project is spreading this message by re-enacting the three "first" flights made by Vickers Vimy biplanes near the beginning of the 20th century:

- The **first nonstop crossing of the Atlantic Ocean** in 1919.
- The **first flight from England to Australia** in 1919.
- The **first flight from England to South Africa**, in 1920.



Photo of the Vimy in flight over San Francisco Bay by Peter McBride.

In 1994, Peter McMillan and Lang Kidby re-enacted the England to Australia flight. Their trip was the cover story of the May 1995 *National Geographic* and was detailed in *The Greatest Flight* book and National Geographic video.

In 1999, Mark Rebholz and John LaNoue re-enacted the England to South Africa flight. The trip received extensive coverage in the May 2000 *National Geographic*, as well as the aviation press.

Plans are currently underway for a re-enactment of the Transatlantic flight, which is tentatively scheduled for June, 2002.

The Vimy Aircraft Project is made possible through the generous donations of individuals and organizations worldwide. The Vimy's current sponsor list includes David R. Holbrooke, David E. McDowell, Campbell Aero Classics, and *Aeroplane* magazine. Individuals and organizations wishing to become sponsors should contact the project management at 415/332-6744.

You can learn more about the plane and the Project on its Web site, www.vimy.org.

About Airventure

The Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Airventure air show in Oshkosh, WI, is the world's largest air show. Held annually in July, it attracts thousands of pilots and aviation enthusiasts from around the world. You can learn more about Airventure on its Web site, www.airventure.org.

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