

World's Largest Biplane to Appear at Mid America Air Museum

The Vimy Aircraft Project's replica Vickers Vimy biplane will be making an appearance at the **Mid America Air Museum in Liberal, KS** on **Friday, July 20, 2001**, hosted by the Mid America Air Museum Foundation and the City of Liberal. The Vimy will fly into the airport at the museum early Friday afternoon and remain on display until 9 PM. Admission to the museum will be free on Friday. The Mid America Air Museum Foundation will host a "Meet and Greet" reception for the Vimy crew and Foundation members from 5 PM to 7 PM. During the Vimy's visit, Project pilots and volunteers will be on hand to answer questions, sign autographs, and sell tee-shirts and hats to help support the Project. The Vimy will depart early the next morning for Topeka, KS.

Local area sponsors for the Vimy visit include the **Mid America Air Museum Foundation**, the **City of Liberal**, **Liberal Convention and Tourism Bureau**, and **Lyddon Aero Center**.

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:

- **First nonstop crossing of the Atlantic Ocean** (1919)
- **First flight from England to Australia** (1919)
- **First flight from England to South Africa** (1920)

In 1994, Peter McMillan and Lang Kidby re-enacted the England to Australia flight. Their trip was featured as the cover story of the May 1995 issue of *National Geographic* magazine and was detailed in *The Greatest Flight* book and National Geographic video. In 1999, Mark Rebholz and John LaNoue re-enacted the London to Cape Town 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. You can learn more about the plane and the Project on its Web site, **www.vimy.org**.

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.

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**.

For More Information Contact:

Maria Langer, Acting Media Coordinator and Webmaster, Vimy Aircraft Project
Office: 520/684-1233 • Cell: 520/231-0196 • E-Mail: webmaster@vimy.org

IMPORTANT NOTE:

The dates provided here are subject to change. The Vimy could arrive a day earlier or a day later. Or it may not arrive at all. Unforeseen circumstances, including weather, engine problems, or other events could have a dramatic impact on the Vimy's travel plans. For up-to-date schedule information, call the Vimy Aircraft Project office at 866-THE-VIMY.



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

Important Notice to Pilots & Members of the Press

The Vimy will be flying from
Novato, CA to Oshkosh, WI
between July 12 and July 23.

The Vimy will not fly in formation with any aircraft,
including news helicopters, unless a formation flying
briefing is held on the ground before the flight.

There are no exceptions to this rule.

To arrange for a preflight briefing,
contact Maria Langer, Media Coordinator,
at webmaster@vimy.org or 520-231-0196.