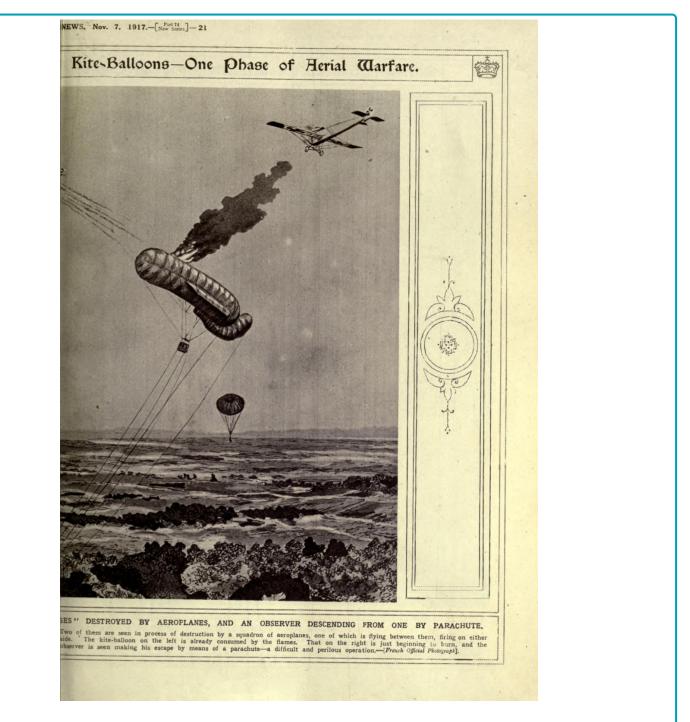


- 0. LAFAYETTE FLYING CORPS Story Preface
- 1. CAN PEOPLE FLY?
- 2. HOW POWERED FLIGHT WORKS
- 3. THE FIRST FLIGHTS
- 4. AMERICANS FLY FOR FRANCE
- 5. THE LAFAYETTE ESCADRILLE

#### 6. LAFAYETTE FLYING CORPS

- 7. LUFBERY, THE ACE
- 8. PICTURES OF WWI AVIATORS



use kites. If an accident happened, the kite observer used a parachute to descend from his aerial perch. *The Illustrated War News*, 7 November 1917 issue. PD

As more Americans heard about the *Lafayette Escadrille*, more would-be aviators joined the group. Ultimately, the squadron included thirty-eight pilots:

- Twenty-eight had volunteered for French service before joining the squadron.
- Seven of those twenty-eight had served in the French Air Service.
- Twenty-three were from Eastern states, nine were from New York and two were from the West.
- Ranging in age from twenty to forty, their average age was twenty-six.
- Eleven were sons of millionaires.
- Thirty had college degrees or had previously enrolled in college;
- Nine were Harvard graduates, and
- Nine had flown airplanes before they joined the war.

Beyond "The Valiant 38," a name sometimes used for the Lafayette Escadrille, additional Americans flew for other French squadrons. Collectively, the 231 American volunteers were known as "The Lafayette Flying Corps."

<u>Eugene Bullard</u> (from Columbus, Georgia) was the <u>first African-American combat pilot</u>. A decorated member of the <u>Lafayette Flying Corps</u> (but never a member of the <u>Lafayette Escadrille</u>), he could do for France what American-military discrimination would not permit him to do for the United States.

Returning to Luxeuil (their original duty station) from the front (near Verdun), some of the *Lafayette Escadrille* pilots spent time in Paris. While there, they thought it might be interesting to have a squadron mascot, so they spent 500 francs on a lion cub which they named "<u>Whiskey</u>."

Thinking that Whiskey needed a companion, the men later bought another lion cub, naming her "<u>Soda</u>." Whiskey and Soda stayed with the pilots until the animals grew too big.

It fell to Raoul Lufbery, Whiskey's favorite human companion, to deliver <u>the mascot</u> to a Paris zoo. It was just one of many difficult jobs "Luf" did for the squadron.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/LAFAYETTE-FLYING-CORPS-Fly-Boys

#### See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/LAFAYETTE-FLYING-CORPS-Fly-Boys

# Media Stream



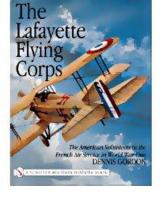
<u>The Valiant 38</u> Image online, courtesy <u>Memorial Flight</u> website. View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/The-Valiant-38</u>



Eugene Bullard Image of Eugene Jacques Bullard, online courtesy U.S. Air Force. View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Eugene-Bullard



<u>First African-American Pilot - Eugene Bullard</u> Photo of Eugene Bullard, online courtesy U.S. Air Force. View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/First-African-American-Pilot-Eugene-Bullard</u>



Lafayette Flying Corps - by Dennis Gordon Image online, courtesy <u>amazon.com</u> website. View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Lafayette-Flying-Corps-by-Dennis-Gordon</u>



Whiskey's Last Day with the Squadron

Image online, courtesy New England Air Museum <u>website</u>. View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Whiskey-s-Last-Day-with-the-Squadron</u>



## William Dugan and Squadron Mascot - Soda

Image online, courtesy the New England Air Museum website. View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/William-Dugan-and-Squadron-Mascot-Soda

### William Thaw and Squadron Mascot - Whiskey Image online, courtesy the New England Air Museum website.

View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/William-Thaw-and-Squadron-Mascot-Whiskey