

# A Fragment of Plane

AEROCHERCHE is an association whose aim is to develop and share aviation archeology.

But what is exactly aviation archeology?

It is a discipline that aims at **reviving history: finding the history of an aircraft and its crew.**

It is a discipline that combines human beings, the technic and History, with very strict rules.

This discipline that is an endless discovery, and the Internet has allowed him to take a new dimension;

The aviation archeology consist in:

- discovering the forgotten remains of aircraft: in a barn, in the ground, at private persons places,
- Analyze these parts, in particular identify the type of the aircraft,
- Try to find the date when the event took place and rebuild the story: what happened? Was did it happen during a training flight or a fight against the ennemy ?
- find the names of the crew members (pilot, mechanic, etc.. ), sometimes even their descendants: son, grand-son, cousins, and contact them;
- Finally, transmit the results of this search with reports and publications in various different media (magazines, museums, conferences, Internet, etc ...).

The aviation archeology triggers stunning and unique discoveries and human encounters,

It teaches us how analyze aircraft parts which have been often badly damaged and how make them “talk”,

It connects us with a worldwide network of enthusiasts (thanks to the power of the internet and its forums ..)

and finally, it allows us to tell forgotten stories and to revive 70 year old events.

The basic rules of this discipline are listed below: please read and follow them carefully.

## BASIC RULES OF AVIATION ARCHAEOLOGY

Monitoring the legal regulations governing aircraft archeology may seem a burden, but it is an obligation to ensure the activity legitimacy and avoid drift. It is particularly important

when you are searching in the ground, to ask an authorization to the Archaeology Department (of the French “Direction des Affaires Culturelles”); It is issued on a case by case basis, upon receipt of a justified and documented application. If permission is granted, a detailed report of archaeological operation must then be prepared and submitted.

## **Obtain permission from the landowner;**

Prior to any surface prospection, it is necessary, of course, to have the consent of the owner of the land concerned. A formal written document is necessary and you will be asked to show it if you need to prove ownership of the items (for display of the parts you found, for example);

## **The use of a metal detector**

If you want to use a metal detector in France, you must know that its use is legislated and follow very strict rules. In addition to the authorization of the owner, you need the approval of the regional “prefecture” for the use of electromagnetic sensing machines.

## **No marketing/selling of the artifacts;**

Our approach is entirely historical and non-profit based (it would even tend to cost money to those who practice it); Our aim is to show, to share, to and revive the story of forgotten aircraft and crew members, and in any case never sell any part. Some people make business by selling artifacts on websites or at events such as arms fairs. This kind of behaviour maintains an unhealthy trade that encourages looting, and we formally ban it;

## **Beware of explosives:**

The aircraft of Second World War were often armed (bombs, incendiary or explosive cartridges, etc ...). If you have any doubt about an object you found, do not touch it, and secure the area. You must immediately inform the nearest police station (“gendarmerie”)who will involve the dedicated service. Too much caution cannot be blamed.

## **Respect for human remains;**

If bones are found, the operation should be stopped immediately and the nearest police station must be informed. If not, you may face prosecution for violation of grave.

# **Presentation of the Association**

## **« Aerocherche »**

Our association is born from a passion and the will of its members to provide **a juridical and structured background** to its activity

The association (French « law of 1901 »), which is a **non-business association**, has the target to revive, to enhance and preserve any aviation heritage artefact.

It endeavors to share its collections among the public, it organizes conferences and **wants to share its passion of history of aircraft and aeronautics**.

The association has been granted by the French administration the right to produce receipt of donations, that allows the donator (private person or companies) to deduct from its French taxes such donation.

The association is supported by volunteer members, passionate and experts, each in his field, **The French Direction Régionale des Affaires Culturelles (DRAC) is member of honor of the association**.

We invite you to discover this website and share our **passion for the history of these aircraft, and their crew**, that often lost their lives while flying these airplanes.

AEROCHERCHE - 24 Allées Georges Brassens 31700 Blagnac