



The AMA History Project Presents: Biography of MONTY MARLHERBE



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Monty Marlherbe

I don't doubt that many people were as shocked as I was by the tragic death of Monty Marlherbe, father of South African Radio Control aviation, member of the Aero Club, and honorary life member of SAARF, in a flying accident on October 23, 1980.

It was my pleasure and privilege to have known Monty for many years, and to have been one of his many friends.

Others who knew him will recall the hours he spent instructing prospective Radio Control pilots in the "mysteries" of flying. The hours he devoted to talking flying, promoting flying, and recounting anecdotes from his long career as a World War II fighter pilot and, later, airline pilot, and as a man who flew just for the fun of it, are legendary. His knowledge of all facets of aviation was immense and was joyfully passed on.

Many will recall Monty's ability as a contestant in local and overseas RC competitions. A few will recall his outstanding management of Springbok RC teams at World Championships. Let us not forget, either, the financial and moral support and encouragement received by many from this remarkable man in support of their flying activities.

I recall his surprise and protestations of unworthiness when I was privileged to present him with the Paul Tissandier Diploma of the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale for outstanding service to aeromodeling some years ago. Outstanding service really sums up the whole thing. On behalf of the Aero Club, I extend out condolences to his wife, Vera, and his family, Kenneth, Michael and Paula.

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