
BELGIAN HELIDAYS – EUROPE'S BIGGEST HELICOPTERSHOW

During these winterdays perhaps it is good to have a view back to the summerdays of last year and to think already on the coming spring and summer of 2006. Mostly in June (in 2005 that was on 4-5 th of June) the Belgian Helidays at Liege/Luik airport in the military part known as Bierset attract about 30.000 of aviation enthusiasts, mainly from Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands. This event already starts for many spectators on the Friday preceding on the weekend when most helicopters (over a hundred !) arrive. In the early days Bierset hosted the Mirage V but now it has become an important military helicopter base as well as a fast developing regional airfield for civil use. In 2004 the by then present unit ' Group of Light Aviation ' came under the control of 'new operational commands' , presently known as COMOPSLAND, COMOPSAIR & COMOPSNV which implicates that Army, Navy and Airforce report to a single command structure at Brussels. Now Bierset operational hosts mainly the types A109BA (Hirondo) and the SA318C (Alouette II)

The Belgian holiday's are indeed an international spectacle ! Several helicopters from different European countries, mainly military but also civilian examples were here on show. An impressive static line in front of an attractive helicopter display show forming the ingredients. The public can inform itself with several information desks, buy aviation related products like books, calendars, photograph's, slides, batches, sweaters and caps. All kinds of stands are to be found, but also a lot of military information is to be found in stands, and the pilots and crews are honoured if they can tell you something about their specific plane, helicopter or unit where they fly.

Formation flying, simulated rescue operations or aerobatic figures are demonstrated by a mix of participants, all day through. Naval SAR helicopters, maritime patrol helicopters, Chinook troop transporters, anti-tank helicopters, light observation helicopters, you can find them all. Last year a trooper was hoisted from out of a Chinook on a driving truck at speed !

Regular participants of neighbouring countries like France, Germany, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands and off course Belgium itself are to be surprised by not so regular participants of further distanced countries. Bierset with his annual helicopterday's is being a special large scale helicoptershow and a treat to aviation minded and especially helicopter minded public. If you have the opportunity please visit, it's very worth while.

Bierset is a view a to kill for your eyes only !

Dutch Aviation Support

Wim Das en Kees Otten