

# Força Aérea Portuguesa or Portuguese Air Force – Part 1



The history of the Portuguese military aviation is deeply connected with the foundation of the Air Club of Portugal (AeCP) on 11 December 1909 by 30 aviation enthusiasts, the majority of them being Army officers. The AeCP became one of the major boosters of the development of aviation in Portugal, including its military use. The first flying unit was created in 1911 and named Companhia de Aerosteiros (Aerostation Company), which was part of the Army Telegraphic Service and were operating Air Balloons. In 1912, the first aircraft were received by the Portuguese Government, a Deperdussin B was offered by the Portuguese born Colonel Albino Costa of the Brazilian Army, a Maurice Farman MF4 was offered by the O Comércio do Porto newspaper and an Avro 500 was offered by the Portuguese Republican Party. On 14 May 1914 the Escola Militar de Aeronáutica, EMA (Military Aeronautics School) was created. On 17 July 1916, Lieutenant Santos Leite performed the first Portuguese military airplane flight in the Deperdussin B that had been offered in 1912. During World War I, Portuguese airmen volunteered to fly in French aviation units and Captain Óscar Monteiro Torres became the first Portuguese pilot that was killed in an air combat when his SPAD S.VII was shot down, after himself having shot down two German planes!



On 29 June 1918, the Serviço Aeronáutico Militar (Military Aeronautical Service) was organised which included the Composite Aviation Depot Flight (EMAD), the Aeronautical Material Park (PMA) and the Military School of Aviation. The EMAD was responsible to train pilots and observers and to prepare the creation of future air units and was initially installed at Alverca and transferred to Tancos, where an airfield was built to serve as its base. The PMA was installed at Alverca air base and was the