

SPAD XIII vs. Fokker D VII

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Résumé ou extrait : Présentation de l'éditeur : "Having established its SPAD VII as the most effective French fighter of 1916, the Société Pour l'Aviation et ses Dérivés, at the urging of ace Georges Guynemer, strove to improve on the basic formula by enlarging its robust airframe to accommodate the 220 hp Hispano Suiza 8B engine and two machine guns. Teething troubles with the geared engine plagued early models, but by mid-1918 the SPAD XIII had taken its place as the principal fighter of both the Aviation Française and the US Army Air Service. Meanwhile, the ongoing German quest for a successor for their structurally flawed Albatros D V finally bore fruit with the Fokker D VII, a biplane incorporating the cantilever wing structure Anthony Fokker had introduced on his Dr I triplane with a more reliable 160 hp Mercedes engine, followed by the even better 180 hp BMW. Entering combat in May 1918, the Fokker D VII earned a reputation as the most formidable fighter of the war, but French and American airmen learned to use the SPAD XIII's strengths - greater speed, especially in a dive, and its outstanding durability - to advantage. The two aeroplanes were thus a near-even match in the epic

dogfights that raged over the last great campaigns on the Western Front. Discover the history of the pilots and planes who duelled in the skies above the trenches in the closing months of the war."

Sujet - Nom commun : Spad (avions de chasse)

Fokker (avions)

Guerre mondiale (1914-1918) -- Opérations aériennes

Pilotes militaires (aéronautique) -- 1900-1945

Guerre mondiale (1914-1918) -- Opérations militaires -- Front occidental