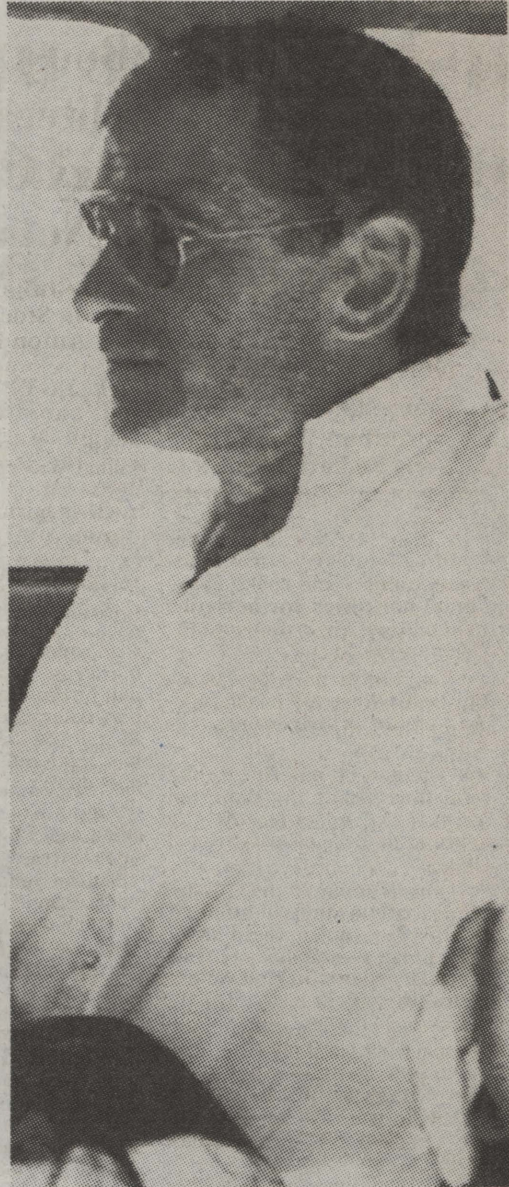
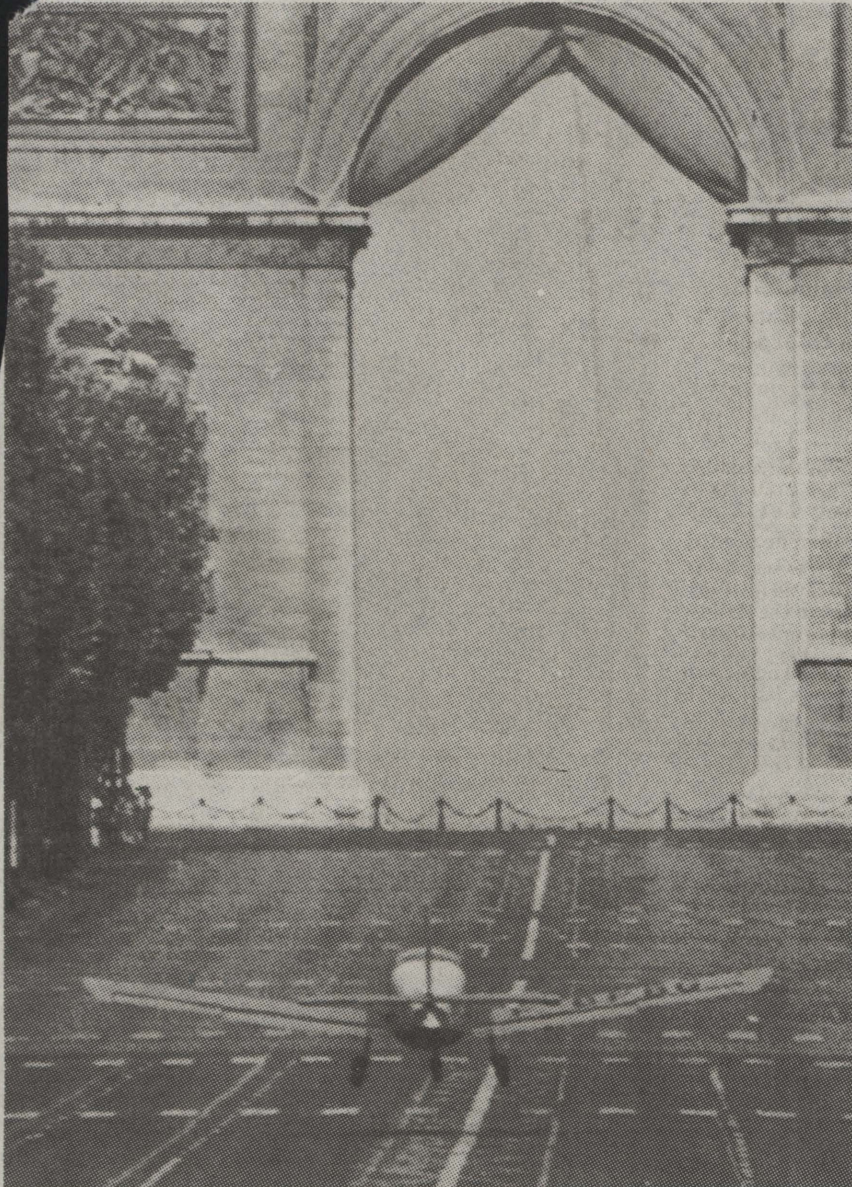


4 Oct 88 Telegraph

## FOREIGN NEWS

Pictures: Associated Press



The light aircraft of Albert Maltret, right, pictured in 1986 on the deserted Champs-Elysees in Paris

# 'Black Baron' suspect lands in trouble

THE "Black Baron", or a man the French police believe to be the phantom night-flyer of Paris, has been caught in broad daylight.

Police arrested Albert Maltret, 53, at the small aerodrome of Saint-Cyr-l'Ecole on the western outskirts of Paris, after he had flown his white single-engined French-made Rallye MS 880 Morane-Saulnier low along the length of the Champs Elysees.

Maltret, who has been in a similar scrape with the authorities before, had been kept under close watch by the air and frontier police for weeks.

They believed him to be the masked man who had appeared on a French television station on

By John Izbicki in Paris

Sept 6 boasting that he was the infamous "Black Baron".

The "Baron" had made the lives of Parisians into something of a nightmare when he buzzed houses and public buildings noisily almost every night, followed by police helicopters and watched from numerous vantage points through police telescopes and field glasses.

No one seemed capable of catching him and the nightly noise was often deafening.

It was on Aug 10, 1986, that Maltret landed his plane on the Champs-Elysees while the avenue was closed to traffic for the shooting of a film.

The daring pilot, who is notorious among his friends as a practical joker, wanted to draw attention to a "difference of opinion" he had had with Morocco.

He certainly managed to do that, but it cost him dear. That October he was suspended from flying for three years and fined hundreds of pounds.

He was given a presidential amnesty shortly after M Mitterrand was re-elected earlier this year, a traditional act for traffic offenders and comparatively petty crimes.

Police said that only last week he had been photographed in the "Black Baron's" garb of black

leather gear, goggles and the traditional Biggles-type white silk scarf.

Yesterday's arrest came after an unfortunate (for him) coincidence. The air and frontier police had paid routine visits to a number of small air fields in the Greater Paris area and had just driven into Saint-Cyr-l'Ecole in the Yvelines, as Maltret took off.

Minutes later his plane's registration number was spotted low over the Champs-Elysees by a policeman who immediately forwarded it to his headquarters. By the time he touched down back at the aerodrome, the police were there in force to greet him.

Flying over the French capital without authorisation is strictly forbidden.