



THE MILLIONAIRES' UNIT
*America's Pioneer Pilots
of the Great War*

Season's Greetings, Families, Friends and Supporters!

The *Millionaires' Unit* filmmaking team is finishing up a remarkable year of production. Since January, we have moved from our seven-minute promotional film to an 86-minute, full-length rough-cut that traces the full story arc of the First Yale Unit and the birth of U.S. Naval Aviation. This year we have conducted a dozen interviews, researched and collected materials from a dozen archives, and filmed several WWI-era planes from the ground, water and air. To help celebrate the Centennial of Naval Aviation, we have shown previews of the film at several venues around the country, including the National Naval Aviation Museum, the Association of International Aeronautics and Astronautics, EAA's AirVenture at Oshkosh, the League of World War I Aviation Historians, and the Yale Veterans' Association on Veterans Day—the 95th anniversary of the Armistice.

In 2012 we intend to complete film production in the United States and Europe. Live action photography includes filming the infamous Sopwith Camel and a shoot with the only airworthy 1915 flying-boat in existence. We will be sifting through additional archival material that has recently come to light, including the diary of Yale Unit member Curtis S. Read and the previously unreleased oral history of the Yale Unit recorded by F. Trubee Davison in 1955. We will be casting actors to read the letters and diaries of Yale Unit members, engaging the talents of digital artists to create graphic elements, commissioning an original score, and completing the final edit.

Our success this year would not have been possible without the tireless support of our voluntary fundraising team led by Harry Davison and Mike Davison. In October, Mrs. Daniel P. (Katusha) Davison, in loving memory of her husband, Daniel P. Davison (son of Trubee Davison), offered a challenge grant of \$80,000 to the production team. In November, the Louise H. and David S. Ingalls Foundation contributed an additional \$25,000 to help film the Sopwith Camel in simulated air combat. In December, the production received a \$100,000 grant from the George L. Ohrstrom Foundation. Donations from the Florence Gould Foundation, the Overlook International Foundation, the Great Island Foundation, the Gilbert & Ildiko Butler Family Foundation, the League of World War I Aviation Historians, along with the generous contributions of individual donors, have totaled more than \$300,000 for the year. This fundraising success has put us within striking distance of completing the film in 2012.

With your help, we will complete a film that will serve as a lasting tribute to the young men and women of the Yale Unit story. We urge you to make a contribution today!

Contribute online at <http://www.millionairesunit.org/home.php> and click the *donate* button or send a check made out to **Humanus Documentary Films Foundation** to:

Humanus Documentary Films Foundation
11165 Barman Ave.
Culver City, CA 90230

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year to one and all!

Sincerely,

Ron King & Darroch Greer



Above: illustration from holiday greeting card sent by F. Trubee Davison in 1917

Humanus Documentary Films Foundation, a 501(c)(3) Educational Nonprofit company dedicated to producing documentary films about historically significant people and events. Donations are deductible to the extent allowed by law.