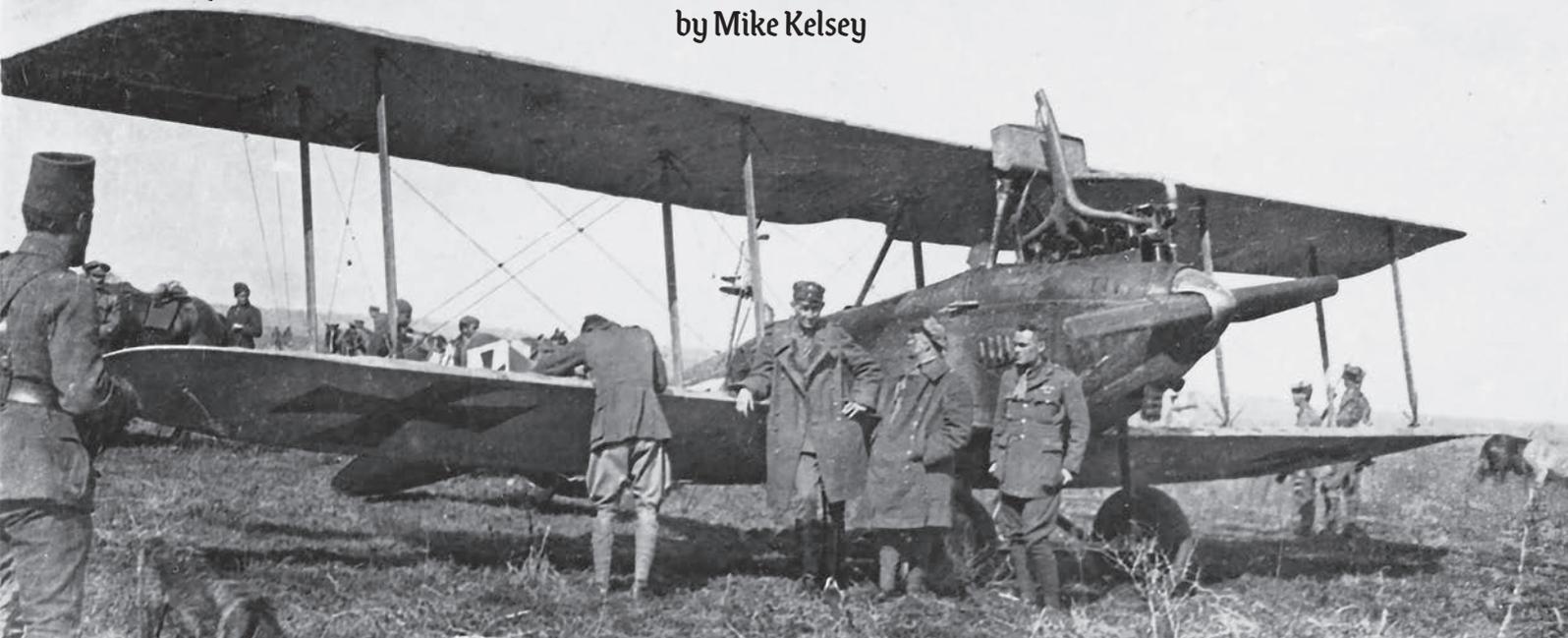


German Aircraft

Captured in the British Sector of the Macedonian Front

by Mike Kelsey

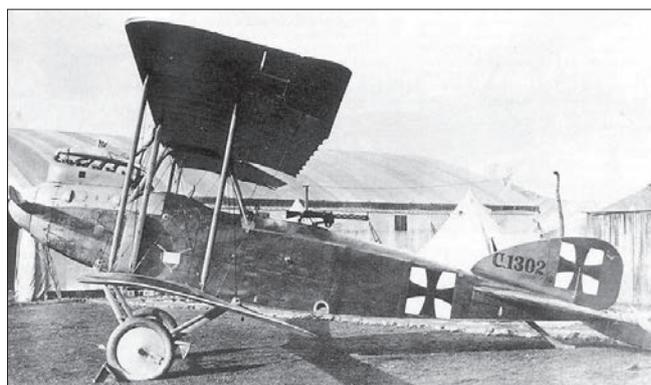


Capt G.E. Gibbs, left, and Lt A.G. Goulding, right, of 17 Squadron RFC with DFW C.V and prisoners taken on 20 March 1918.

This article is intended to complement Paul Leaman's series on captured German aircraft which appeared in CCI Volume 48. Where possible, the information given for each aircraft follows the same format as used in that series.

A History of the 16th Wing RFC/RAF, completed in 1919, lists nine captured enemy aircraft – three Albatros two-seaters, three DFW two-seaters, two Albatros D.III's and one Friedrichshafener [sic]. Dates for all of these are given in the Wing victory list, with the exception of one of the Albatros D.III's which is specified as having been brought down by AA fire. This aircraft appears to have been one shot down on 1 May 1917, which is actually described in contemporary reports as a Halberstadt. Otherwise, all the losses tie in with the wartime records and no other captures have been traced. All of the captured aircraft were from German units and no Bulgarian-operated machines fell into British hands. The incident which most nearly resulted in a capture occurred on the night of 23/24 May 1918 when an aircraft of the Bulgarian 1st Aeroplane Otdelenie came down in no-man's land on the Struma River front, near Lake Tahino. This machine was actually an Armstrong Whitworth FK3 that the Bulgarians had earlier captured from the British, and the history of this aircraft will be covered in a separate article at a later date.

The first Albatros D.III captured on 4 January 1917.



*Above: Albatross C.VII 1302/16 after capture on 14 January 1917.
Below: 1302/16 during its flight to Salonika Aircraft Park.*

