

Please help us to provide you with a good service, by resubscribing to the society in a timely manner each year

Is this email not displaying correctly?  
[View it in your browser.](#)



## Cross & Cockade International

The First World War Aviation Historical Society

# Wind in the Wires

Welcome to the third quarterly newsletter from **Cross & Cockade International** - bringing you all that's new and interesting in the world of WW1 aviation.



This rather tasty painting by Roger Middlebrook accompanies a fascinating piece by Stewart Taylor on SE5 aces Caxton & McCall.

In this issue we're publishing the second article based on material presented at our York Seminar, back in June. This one, by Phil Jarrett, lays out some newly discovered information on the brain behind the two-seat Sopwith Camel, which was designed to help stem the horrendous flow of training casualties due to that machine's idiosyncratic handling characteristics.

We also have the latest article in the series on German seaplanes, Mick Davis' series on flying sites in the UK and Ireland - and part four of Mick & Trevor Henshaw's series on the Bristol Scout.

Keep an eye on the web site for details on our second seminar of this millennia - targeted for June 2014. If you weren't at the first seminar, don't miss out again!

Oh - and please help keep the team at CCI happy, by subscribing for 2013 in 2012!



## **GENTLEMEN OF THE SKIES: extraordinary letter sold at auction**

On 27 September, Shropshire auctioneers Mullock's sold a remarkable group of documents and photographs relating to a famous WW1 aviation incident. The hammer price for the lot was £4,600 - well over the £1,000 estimate.

The incident involved the legendary German fighter ace Oswald Boelcke, who claimed his seventh victory when he shot down a BE2c (1734) from 2 Squadron RFC, flown by Lt WE Somervill and Lt GC Formilli on 5 January 1916. Boelcke recorded the event by taking photographs of the plane, both in the air and also when it had crash-landed after the attack.

Boelcke wrote about the incident, describing how he shot down the plane and, after landing himself, finding that the British plane had been surrounded by a crowd of



## **STOW MARIES WINS THE ENGLISH HERITAGE ANGEL AWARD FUND**

There was some excellent news in October from our friends at the Stow Maries Aerodrome, as the team behind the site won the People's Choice award in the English Heritage Angel Awards for restoring the site. Curator Roger Smith explained that, whilst there was no prize as such associated with the result, it gave the aerodrome recognition as a nationally important restoration project amongst those who have a say in the allocation of project funds.

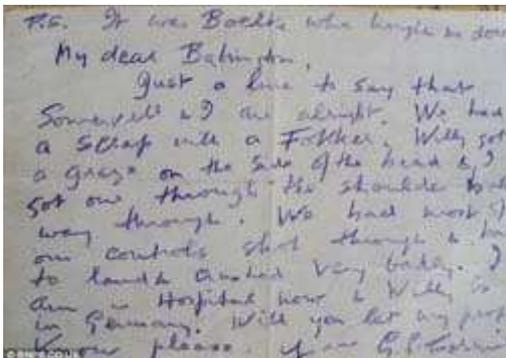
It's been a busy time at Stow Maries, as they recently hosted the BBC, who were filming for a documentary on the project, which was shown on the "Inside Out" programme two weeks ago.

Follow the links to the BBC and Daily Telegraph websites for more information on the Award and the project. The photograph shows a relaxed looking Russell Savory.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/0/20031142>

German soldiers. He said "I went straight up to the Englishmen, shook hands with them and told them I was delighted to have brought them down alive".

The auction lot included photographs showing the BE2c both in flight and crashed on the ground, and a letter written by Lt Formilli, announcing that he had survived.



Rt. Lt. Boelcke who brought us down  
My dear Balmington,  
Just a line to say that  
Somerville & I are alright. We had  
a scrap with a Fokker. Willy got  
a graz on the side of the head & I  
got one through the shoulder but  
went through. We had work to  
do on controls that through to be  
to land & landed very badly. I  
am in Hospital now & Willy is  
in Germany. Will you let my people  
know please. If you G. Boelcke

The letter was dropped by a German pilot (possibly Boelcke himself) behind the British lines at great risk to his own life, while under sustained attack from both ground artillery forces and from aircraft in the air.

Boelcke was one of the most famous of the German aces, with 40 victories. He died in 1916, aged 25, after crashing while trying to avoid a collision with a German plane during combat.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/angel-awards/9636553/Angel-Awards-A-visit-to-winner-Stow-Maries-Aerodrome-in-Essex.html>



## HAINAULT FARM UNDER THREAT

By way of contrast to Stow Maries' success, word reaches WitW via the CCI Forum that the surviving buildings of the former RFC Home Defence aerodrome at Hainault Farm are under threat. Developers have applied to the local council for permission to demolish these historic structures. Can CCI members assist in a campaign to save this historic site, or at least ensure that an archeological study can be made?

Check out the forum and follow the links:

[http://www.crossandcockade.com/forum/forum\\_posts.asp?TID=865&title=threat-to-original-hainault-farm-rfc-buildings](http://www.crossandcockade.com/forum/forum_posts.asp?TID=865&title=threat-to-original-hainault-farm-rfc-buildings)



## 2 SQN DIARY AND THE ENGLISH LEONARDO'S NOTEBOOKS ON THE BBC

On 7 October, the BBC's ever popular Antiques Roadshow was broadcast from RAF Marham in Norfolk. Viewers were given the opportunity to see 2 Squadron's first diary, dating from 1912, which included a photograph of 2nd Lieutenant William Rhodes-Moorhouse, who became the first winner of a Victoria Cross in the air.

No doubt CCI members are well acquainted with the circumstances surrounding the award of Rhodes-Moorhouse's VC, following his April 1915 mission, and the programme was able to bring his tale of heroism to a wider audience. Presenter Fiona Bruce described his feat as



## PRESENTATION AIRCRAFT FROM MALAYA

There was an interesting article published on Tamil.net on 22 October, about the donation of a fighter plane by Jaffna Tamils living in the colonial colony of Malaya on 22 December 1915.

The article explains how the Malayan Jaffna Tamil community elected a committee to start collecting funds to pay for the cost of a British fighter aircraft. When the committee informed the British Government of their intentions, the Government replied that they were aware of the community's limited resources and tactfully suggested that they may wish to consider the cheaper alternative of funding the cost of an observation aircraft. The Committee indignantly replied that they would somehow or other raise the cost of a fighter aircraft, so as to maximise the damage that could be inflicted on the Germans!

Within a few months, the cost of an FE2b (£2,250) was collected and remitted to London with the request that the plane be named "Jaffna". The article speculates that "Jaffna"

“amazing”. See also:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006mj2y/features/squadron-diary>



On 11 November, the Roadshow broadcast was from the old aeronautical research centre at Farnborough, Hampshire, which includes a giant wind tunnel. The programme was notable for aviation enthusiasts as the notebooks of 18th century visionary Sir George Cayley were shown. Among Sir George's drawings was one from 1804, which the Wright brothers acknowledged as helping them to design the first aeroplane to take flight, 100 years later. Sir George designed the first gilder to be flown successfully and identified the four forces of flight - still used today (weight, lift, drag and

might have been the 25 Squadron aircraft that shot down Max Immelmann. The author of the article might have actually missed a bigger story, as a quick look at our very own FE2b/d Monograph discloses serial numbers for four presentation aircraft called Malaya No.11 “The Jaffna”, including A5446, which was believed to be Manfred von Richthofen's 14th victory.



## CANADIAN TOWN HONOURS ROY BROWN

Talk of “The Baron” takes us to the town of Carleton Place in Eastern Ontario, Canada, which has paid tribute to local hero Roy Brown with a mural on the side of a local downtown building (220 Bridge Street). The mural, painted by Ottawa artist Shaun McInnis, shows the WW1 ace taking on the Red Baron in a mid-air dogfight, and was completed at the end of September. Members of the Roy Brown Society decided that a painting by Stephen Quick, taken from a book by

thrust). The five notebooks, which are held by the National Aerospace Library, also at Farnborough, were valued by the Roadshow's expert at £25,000.

See

<http://media.aerosociety.com/news/2012/05/17/cayleys-notebooks-examined-by-antiques-roadshow-expert/5647/>



## **CROSS & COCKADE AWARD AT THE GUILD OF AVIATION ARTISTS EXHIBITION**

The annual Guild of Aviation Artists "Aviation Paintings of the Year" Exhibition was held at the Mall Galleries in London in July. As

Lieutenant-Colonel David L Bashow called Knights of the Air, depicting Canadian fighter pilots during the First World War, would be perfect for the mural.

The dedication ceremony took place on 13 November and was attended by members of the Brown family and also a member of the Von Richthofen family. The ceremony is available to view on YouTube at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lnXqQJTbrAE>

## **NEW AVIATION JOURNAL PUBLISHED**

The Aviation Historian, billed as "the modern journal of classic aeroplanes and the history of flying" has just been launched, with the first 132 page issue now available from the publisher's website. The UK print subscription is £44 per annum.

The journal, which covers civil and military aviation history, has been set up by Nick Stroud and Mick Oakey, who amassed 39 years' experience on the monthly aviation magazine Aeroplane before its sale to new owners in 2010. The "TAH" editorial board includes CCI's very own Philip Jarrett.

See more at [www.theaviationhistorian.com](http://www.theaviationhistorian.com)

readers may be aware, **Cross & Cockade International** presents an award for the best World War One aviation painting in the show.

This year's CCI prize winner was Anthony Cowland for "Fall Out", an oil painting of a FE2b. The Society's Colin Huston presented the £100 prize, together with a year's subscription to the quarterly journal. More information, together with details of CCI's four "commended" runners up, can be found on the Guild's website ([www.gava.org.uk](http://www.gava.org.uk)).



## COMMEMORATION OF SEPTEMBER 1912 AIR CRASH

10 September 2012 marked the centenary of an air crash in the Oxfordshire village of Wolvercote, which claimed the lives of Lieutenant Claude Albemarle Bettington RA and RFC, aged 30, and Second

## THE ROYAL AIR FORCE MUSEUM PODCAST SERIES

Finally, just a line to recommend the RAF Museum's ever expanding podcast series, which is available via iTunes or at <http://www.rafmuseum.org.uk/research/media-vault/podcasts.aspx>

The latest offering is a quite wonderful archive interview with Hubert Allen, who started his aviation career at the Hendon Aerodrome before flying with the RNAS in World War 1.



## SOCIETY MEETINGS

As well as meeting on-line, on FaceBook and the Forum, we also offer the opportunity to meet like-minded folk face to face. We recognise that's not for everyone - but some of us are old enough to remember the days when a chat over a pint comparing "real" aircraft photos (as opposed to on the iPad) was the norm.

We hold regular meetings in **London** and

Lieutenant Edward Hotchkiss, 28.

These early aviators died when their Bristol Coanda Military monoplane No 263 crashed close to the toll bridge in Godstow Road, Wolvercote. A special centenary ceremony was organised by the Local History Society, which was also attended by representatives from RAF Brize Norton.

Lt Bettington died after he was flung from the aircraft and Lt Hotchkiss, Chief Test Pilot for the Bristol Aircraft Company, died in the wreckage. Thousands turned out to watch the funeral cortege and the pair received full military honours, with their coffins being borne on Royal Artillery gun carriages.

Read a report of the Public Safety and Accidents Investigation Committee on the Flightglobal archive at <http://www.flightglobal.com/pdfarchive/view/1912/1912%20-%200914.html>



**York.** Great locations - equally inconvenient for everyone.

**York:** we meet at noon four times a year in The Ackhorne, a real ale pub on St Martin's Lane, just off Micklegate. 2013 dates (for the diary or the iPhone, it's all the same) are Feb 16th, May 11th, Aug 17th and Nov 2nd.

**London:** dates are still being arranged. Check the web site or the journal for details; Jeff's still working on them. London does proper talks - and we meet on an old "Q Ship" - HMS Saxifrage - now going under the alias of HMS President and tied up on the Embankment, opposite the Oxo Building.

Oh - and don't forget the AGM. Saturday 20th April 2013 at the RAF Museum, Hendon.

## **WIND IN THE WIRES**

If you've received this from a friend, and would like your own copy next time, just [sign up](#).

## **SOCIETY SEMINARS**

Back in the mid 1990s we held three very successful weekend seminars, which were well attended and much enjoyed. It had been a while, so we thought it was time to do it again.

The result was another excellent weekend, in York, back in June 2012. We all enjoyed it so much that we're looking to do it again. The likely venue is Farnborough (or thereabouts) and it'll probably be in early June 2014. It's too early to announce prices or speakers, but if you're interested in knowing more, let us know - and when we know, we'll let you know! Just email [seminar@crossandcockade.com](mailto:seminar@crossandcockade.com)



Written by David Marks, edited by Andy Kemp  
[forward to a friend](#)

Copyright © 2012 Cross & Cockade International, All rights reserved.

You're receiving this email because you gave us your address on your membership application form

**Our mailing address is:**

Cross & Cockade International

Hamilton House, Church St

Wadenhoe

Peterborough, Northamptonshire PE8 5ST

United Kingdom

[Add us to your address book](#)



[unsubscribe from this list](#) | [update subscription preferences](#)