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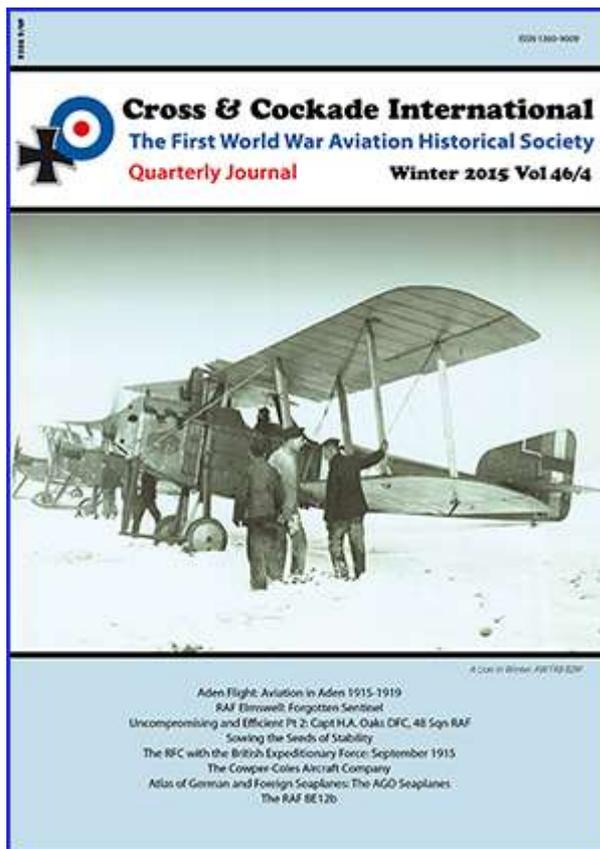
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**Cross & Cockade International**  
The First World War Aviation Historical Society

## Wind in the Wires

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



If you know someone who would appreciate what over 1,000 other subscribers now enjoy, please let them know by sending them this link: <http://bit.ly/1tWo5WJ> - from where they can sign up for their own copy.

The fourth and final issue of **Volume 46** will be leaving the printers at around the end of November, so should be landing on mats by early December - well in time for Christmas, when we'll hopefully all have time to put our feet up and enjoy a thoroughly good read.

There are, of course, a fine selection of interesting articles on offer - plus (for those who haven't yet done so) a membership renewal form for **2016**,

encouraging you to renew your subscription in good time.

Don't wait for the journal, though - **renew for 2016** here, now, using this link:

<http://bit.ly/1NKYpbL>

... and maybe add one of Roger's excellent calendars to your order, too!

<http://bit.ly/1O5Wwnc>

In this issue I'm particularly looking forward to reading Ian Burns' work on the little-known campaign in Aden - plus there are articles on RAF Elmswell, "Sowing the Seeds of Stability" by Paul Hare - and others. Also there are the regular items, with Paul Leaman's "German Seaplane Atlas" moving on to Ago, and LogBook turning the spotlight on the RAF BE12b. The superb, long-running "Gazetteer of UK Flying Sites" has now ended - but we have the last accompanying map, of Ireland; with the "spare" side being used to provide you with a very useful map showing RAF Areas and Groups.

If you're into social networking, please feel free join us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#) - and don't forget our increasingly active [Forum](#)! The latter is planned to receive a long-overdue overhaul in the next month, which will finally see a single logon system for both it and shop.



### Von Richthofen's Death - New Eye Witness Account

There is, of course, one WW1 pilot whose name is guaranteed to generate press coverage.

On 21 October 2015, an impressive collection of materials relating to **The Red Baron** was put up for auction at *Bonhams*



### A-wop-bom-a-loo-mop-a-lomp-bom-bom!

On 4 November 2015, the *Edmonton Journal* ran an updated article on that fateful day of 21 April 1918 and the role of local flying ace Lt Wilfrid "**Wop**" May in the death of Manfred von Richthofen.

After joining 209 Squadron RAF, this was

in New York as part of its “Conflicts of the 20th Century” sale. As reported elsewhere in this issue of *Wind in the Wires*, there were many other WW1 aviation lots of interest, but the German flying ace made the headlines. In the event, the three von Richthofen lots failed to sell.

Amongst the widely reported lots was a typed eye-witness account from Lieutenant Donald L Fraser (Brigade Intelligence Officer, 11th Australian Infantry Brigade), in which he observed that Sgt Cedric Popkin of an Australian anti-aircraft machine-gun company probably fired the shot that killed Richthofen. The account describes how von Richthofen's plane was “wobbly and irregular” immediately after the machine gun operated by Popkin opened up on him.

As well as this interesting document, photographs of the crashed Fokker were also up for sale, together with fabric sections and even a wood splinter from von Richthofen's coffin. The two lots had estimates of between US\$4,500 and US\$7,000.

A large section of aircraft skin featuring a black Balkan cross taken from a previous aircraft flown by von Richthofen was also up for sale. The 34 in by 22 in framed section of fabric was valued at up to a

May's first aerial combat in the company of old school friend Captain Arthur Roy Brown. Readers will be familiar with the story of the Red Baron's pursuit of the novice pilot, low over the village of Vaux, and Brown's intervention to save his friend. However, the article is enjoyable for photographs of May's medals and the splendid video clip of his son, Denny, proudly describing what his father told him about that day.

<http://bit.ly/1Nektwr>

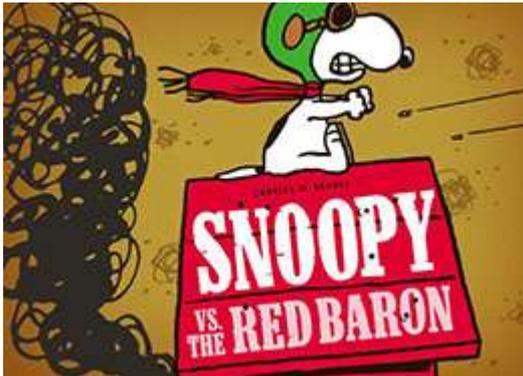


### **More Fokker Fabric!**

This rather lovely looking oak-framed montage in the form of a cross (64cm wide x 80cm high) was sold at Oxford auctioneers, *Mallams*, on 4 November 2015 for £600. This unusual piece related to 1AM G Burrell RFC/RAF and includes

whopping US\$120,000! In fact, this was the same piece that I mentioned in the very first issue of *Wind in the Wires*.

<http://dailym.ai/1NejBrE>



**In the nick of time, a hero  
arose / A funny-looking dog  
with a big black nose**

To continue, albeit a little more frivolously with the von Richthofen theme, *Fantagraphics Books* collection of Charles M Schultz's "**Snoopy vs The Red Baron**" newspaper strips has just been released. Including both dailies and Sundays, it follows the valiant and indefatigable Snoopy as, time after time in his doghouse / Sopwith Camel, he braves the wrath of his unseen aerial foe. **Snoopy and Charlie Brown: The Peanuts Movie** is released in the UK on 21 December 2015.

Everybody sing ..... Ten, twenty, thirty,  
forty, fifty or more / the bloody Red Baron

his photograph surrounded by red fabric taken from Manfred von Richthofen's Fokker.



## **From an Oil Baron to the Red Baron**

Finally, another Canadian story with a mention of the ubiquitous von Richthofen caught my eye in the *Calgary Sun* (posted on 24 October 2015). Born in 1891 in Colorado, Frederick Libby would go on to become one of the top US flying aces. The young cowboy had emigrated to Calgary and soon lost his money investing into a fake oil company scam.

With his dreams of becoming an oil baron dashed, he joined the Canadian army and was soon on active service in France. By

was rollin' up the score / Eighty men died  
tryin' to end that spree / of the bloody Red  
Baron of Germany .....

See the book preview here:

<http://avc.lu/1NFzly9> and the film trailer

here: <http://bit.ly/1OSZJdZ>



## Local Artist's Memorial to Bristol Fighter Pilot

On 23 September 2015, the *Frome Standard* showcased a striking portrait by local artist **Helen Chester** entitled "**Nicolson & Mai**". Part of a series of portraits featuring the relatives of families from Westbury and surrounding towns, "*The Everyday Tommy*" exhibition was on display courtesy of the Westbury Remembers the Great War Project.

Lieutenant Nicholson is actually Lt Nicholson Stuart Boulton, who joined the RFC on 26 July 1917 and served in 20 Squadron, flying Bristol F2Bs. Credited with victories over six Fokker D.VIIs in

spring 1916, he had seen enough of the trenches and volunteered to become an observer in the Royal Flying Corps. Libby joined 23 Squadron and shot down an enemy aircraft on his first operation in July 1916. By November that year, with his score at ten enemy aircraft and the award of the Military Cross, he was sent back to the UK for pilot training.

Following further service and, the article claims, surviving a fight with the Red Baron, Libby was transferred to the US Air Service in September 1917. Sent back to America, he fell ill with a spinal disease and was discharged.

<http://bit.ly/1NFzGRp>

See also his comprehensive Wikipedia entry: <http://bit.ly/1I7RLk2>



September 1918 (3 shot down, 3 out of control), Boulton and gunner 2Lt CH Chase were themselves shot down on 29 September by Lt Josef Mai of Jasta 5. They were Mai's 30th and final victory.

<http://bit.ly/1I7Sjq1>



### “Bloody April” Medal Group

At the *Dominic Winter* auction sale on 13 November 2015, a group of medals belonging to Wing Commander **James Lawson** fetched a hammer price of £1,350. Lawson initially served with the Royal Fusiliers on the Western Front before joining the Royal Flying Corps.

On 5 April 1917, Lawson's FE was badly shot up by a single-seater Albatros Scout and, two days later, he was shot down by Lieutenant Walter von Bülow-Bothkamp of Jasta 18. The 20 Squadron pilot was flying over Ploegsteert when his aircraft

### An Act of Kindness

On Remembrance Day, the *Leicester Mercury* reported a moving story of how a former enemy helped bring closure to the parents of a young pilot killed during the First World War.

On 3 July 1918, **John Thomas McKay**, aged 19, of 23 Squadron RAF, failed to return from a flight and was reported as missing in action. In October 1938, John's parents received a letter written in German from **Ludwig Hartman**, a German infantry officer, in which he described the circumstances of McKay's death - flung from his aircraft after it hit the ground.

Hartman had been the first person to reach McKay, and sent home to Germany some photographs from the dead pilot's pocket for safe-keeping. However, Hartman was severely wounded before he could contact McKay's next-of-kin.

Twenty years later, following the death of his mother, Hartman found the photographs among her possessions and finally fulfilled his promise by writing a letter to John's parents, describing what happened to their son.

<http://bit.ly/1QQguFS>

was intercepted and forced to land. Lawson was unhurt, but his observer, 2Lt HN Hampson, was badly wounded and later died. Lawson was also wounded in a subsequent bombing raid over Lille. His post war service ended on his retirement in 1946, retaining the rank of Wing Commander.

<http://bit.ly/1MpuRhr>



## Biggles and the Grade II Listed Property

The mansion where the adventures of Biggles were written by author **Captain WE Johns** has gone on sale for £3.75 million, reported the *Mail Online* on 19 October 2015.

**Park House**, which overlooks the Royal Paddocks of Bushy Park, is in walking distance of Hampton Court Palace. The six bedroom property is spread over four floors with stunning gardens within high brick walls. Johns moved to Park House in 1953 and lived there until he died in



## C.11A Airship Disaster – Bravery and Awards

More auction news, from the *Dee Atkinson & Harrison* militaria auction held on 23 October 2015. A collection of medals, presentation gold watches, certificates etc were sold for £3,600, which had been awarded to Special Constable Frederick Higham and his fifteen year old Boy Scout son, Arthur, for life saving after the Coastal Class Airship, C.11A, burst into flames and crashed into the River Humber near Brough on 21 July 1917.

Airship C.11 was built at Kingsnorth, Isle of Grain, Kent, beginning its trials in June 1916. Based at RNAS Howden, the airship had already been rebuilt as C.11A after being damaged in a crash close to the Scarborough racecourse three months before the incident in the Humber, where four of the crew drowned. After this incident, the wreckage of C.11A was again recovered and repaired, before being finally struck off charge in March 1918.

1968. Perhaps my esteemed Editor fancies a cheeky bid to make this property his London pied-a-terre? [Ed: What? I should say so!]

In other Biggles news, I liked author Simon Mawer's recent quote in the Guardian: "I think I read [all the Bond books] from being a 13-year-old" he says. "As a follow-on from Biggles. This was Biggles with sex."

<http://dailym.ai/1SlxqMV>

<http://bit.ly/1RTAohU>



## The Sea Shall Not Have Them

Posted on the *History Extra* website on 6 October 2015 was an article exploring the most notable events in the history of Royal Navy Search and Rescue, and included the exploits of Flight Lieutenant Richard Bell-Davies VC RNAS. Awarded the Victoria Cross for being the first pilot to rescue a fellow pilot under fire on 19 November 1915, this is a great story and

Arthur and his father, a former Hull FC rugby player, were awarded Royal Humane Society medals for rescuing two crew members. They were also presented with inscribed 18-carat gold pocket watches and certificates by the South Hunsley Constabulary. Frederick was also made an OBE and Arthur was awarded the Boy Scouts Silver Cross for Gallantry, with a certificate signed by Baden Powell, a Silver Fox award and a gold fob for his new pocket watch.

<http://bit.ly/1S6ZoC1>



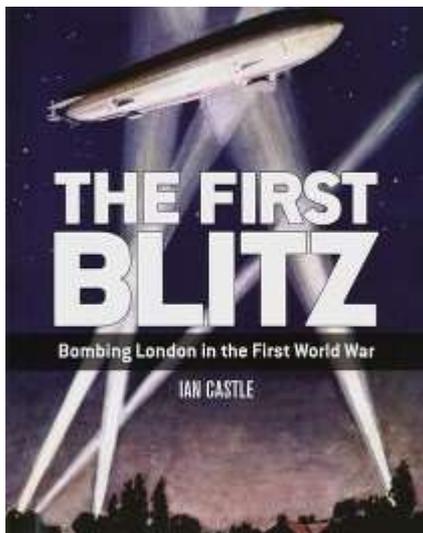
## Montrose Exhibition

October 2015 heralded the opening of an exhibition at the **Montrose Air Station Heritage Centre**, celebrating the role of the station in WW1 and the five squadrons it formed and housed. 2 Squadron left Montrose in August 1914, of course. Subsequent "residents" were 25 Squadron in September 1915, 43 Squadron in April 1916 and 83 and 107 Squadrons in January and November

worth a read.

Taking part in a bombing raid on a Bulgarian railway junction, the 3 Squadron RNAS pilot was flying a Nieuport 10 and spotted that his fellow airman, Flight Sub Lieutenant Gilbert Formby Smylie RN, had been brought down by ground fire. Bulgarian troops were moving in to capture Smylie, so Bell-Davies landed and picked him up. It must have been a tight squeeze, with Smylie being crammed into the fuselage between the engine and the cockpit for the return flight to Imbros. No wonder Smylie got the DSC! Bell-Davies' VC is on display at the Fleet Air Arm Museum.

<http://bit.ly/1OjuGHs>



## National Newspaper Coverage for Zeppelin Book

1917 respectively.

To mark the opening of the display on 1 October 2015, a 2 Squadron Typhoon flew over Montrose and Dr Neil Geddes “wowed visitors” during his flying display in a replica SE5. The exhibition sits in the Lt Ross Robertson building, which is named after a pilot who learned to fly at Montrose and was killed in action on his fourth mission in May 1917. Pictured is Scotland’s top RAF officer, Air Vice-Marshal Ross Paterson, inspecting a Sopwith Camel.

<http://bit.ly/1lx5nnp>

<http://bit.ly/111M5xi>



## Zeppelin Raid Round Up

Let’s go around the country with the best of the recent “First Blitz” items:

### *Woodbridge, Suffolk*

A wonderful blog was posted by the *University Campus Suffolk (UCS) History*

*Osprey Publishing* has been beating the drum for a new book by **Ian Castle**, which tells the story of Germany's strategic air offensive against London. The volume is a reworking of Ian's two acclaimed *Osprey* books on the Zeppelin menace and subsequent Gotha and Giant bomber blitz. It was released to coincide with the October 1915 raids and got some serious coverage.

In addition to giving interviews on BBC local radio, the *Sun* ran a centre-page spread on the book on 22 October 2015 entitled "Dread Zeppelin". Whilst not featuring the usual "Zeppelins" beloved of the old-style Page 3, it was great to see the story of the First Blitz being brought to such a wide audience. Four days later, the *Times* also reviewed the book.

Your writer contributed some images for the book and has the honour of being mentioned in the acknowledgements. It is an excellent book (I'm not on commission!) and highly recommended, particularly for the detailed maps showing where the bomb actually fell.



team on 23 September 2015 in commemoration of the centenary of the Zeppelin raid on Woodbridge, which took place on the night of 12 August 1915. A striking series of "blended" photographs was produced for a local exhibition, which combine images from the aftermath of the raid with the sites as they are today. The blog has a handy summary of the Zeppelin menace and detailed account of the raid on Woodbridge, which includes an eye-witness account by 14 year old Ruby Hayward, ending with the words "Shall I ever forget that terrible night!!?".

<http://bit.ly/1SICrFk>

### ***Loughborough, Leicestershire***

Launched by the *Loughborough Carillon Tower and War Memorial Museum* in October 2015, an appeal aims to raise around £6,000 to pay for a bronze plaque to commemorate the ten people who were killed and 12 injured in this raid on 31 January 1916.

See <http://bit.ly/1MXqmrj> for more details and artwork of the plaque, and <http://bit.ly/1MEy8XY>

### ***Goole, Yorkshire***

Back in August 2015, on the centenary of a Zeppelin raid that claimed the lives of 16 people, including six children, a

## Airfix Kits

I was really pleased to read that Airfix is developing a new 1/72nd scale model BE2c for 2016, which will be supplied with decal options to complete one of two aircraft. They will be 2693, the aircraft that Lt William Leefe Robinson used when destroying German airship SL11 and 8407, based at RNAS East Fortune. This December 1916 aircraft was fitted with ten Le Prieur rockets and the computer modelled version is shown above.

Also on the books is an accompanying Fokker E.II Eindekker, 69/15, as flown by Lt Baron Kurt von Crailsheim, Feldflieger Abteilung 53, at Monthois Airfield, France in late 1915.

<http://bit.ly/1MWs7cR>



## Bonhams, New York Sale

Putting the three von Richthofen lots aside, I would recommend a flip through the auction catalogue for the *Bonhams*

restored memorial to the victims was unveiled. The rededicated memorial at Goole Cemetery, which was first put in place in 1922, has been awarded Grade II listed status by Historic England.

<http://bbc.in/1MpBbFC>

## *Croydon and Guildford, Surrey*

In the raid of 13/14 October 1915, five airships killed 71 people in south-east England, including 11 in Croydon, where Naval Zeppelin L14, commanded by Alois Böcker, caused significant damage. L13, commanded by Heinrich Mathy, also took part in the raid and dropped a number of bombs around Guildford, as he searched for the Hampton Waterworks. On the centenary of these raids, both the *Croydon Advertiser* and the *Guildford Dragon* carried excellent articles by local historians. Full of local detail and colourful eye-witness accounts, they are worth a read.

<http://bit.ly/1OTaWv0>

<http://bit.ly/1SICVLR>

<http://bit.ly/1SICYHt>

## *Hertford, Hertfordshire* (of course!)

One of the other raiders that night was Naval Zeppelin L16, commanded by Werner Peterson, who bombed Hertford.

"Conflicts of the 20th Century" sale as there were some lovely items up for grabs.

Among my favourites was this 93rd Aero Squadron "Screaming Indian" nose art panel, dated 1918.

Measuring 39 x 23.5in (99 x 60cm), this grey camouflage section of fabric taken from a Spad biplane by a squadron mechanic, sold for US\$ 31,250 (£20,527) including premium.

Weighing in with a sale price of US\$ 43,750 (£28,737), including premium, was a similar-sized rare insignia from the first "US owned" aircraft flown by Americans during WW1. Sporting an image of the American flag, the Dorland AR1 was flown by the 1st Aero Squadron. Another canvas fragment, this time from a 1918 Fokker D.VII (F), with "DK.D VII F" in black paint sold for US\$ 7,500 (£4,926) including premium.

<http://bit.ly/1NFDVfZ>

The nine people killed in the raid are, unusually, recorded on the town's war memorial. The article in *Hertfordshire Life* is, again, well put together and also promotes the **Hertford Museum's** "From Bull Plain to the Battlefields" exhibition, which runs until 30 January 2016. The accompanying book, which includes a full account of the Zeppelin raid and other attacks on the county, was put together with the assistance of CCI's very own Barry Gray.

<http://bit.ly/1MXqRSm>



## Branch Meetings

### York

The next gathering is at 12:00 on **Saturday 21st November 2015**. This will be the last meeting this year; watch the web site for 2016 meeting dates as they're announced. As ever, all comers are welcome! Full details [here](#).

There's no formal presentations or



## Help! Please?

Your committee thoroughly enjoy our occasional trips to Telford, Old Warden, Stow Maries and other irresistible venues, to "man" the society stand. We would however like to share the joy, and are asking for volunteers who would be prepared to join us for a weekend, a day or even a couple of hours to help us promote the society, encourage non-believers to see the the error of their ways - and sell books, calendars etc.

The society will cover expenses - we don't expect volunteers to be out of pocket as well as donating their valuable time. If you'd like to join the team, or just dip your toe in the water once to see if it suits - please email [Andy](#).

speakers; just excellent beer and a group of like-minded folk sharing WW1 aviation photos and knowledge. Sadly the pub is still not doing food - so bring your own sandwiches!

## Essex

Our longest running branch is regularly hosted by founder member John Barfoot in his basement - **The Dugout**. 15:00 on the last Friday of each month is the date for your diary; let [John](#) know if you're planning to attend, so he can warn the caterers!



## London

Our London based members are doing their best to keep attendances at their meetings to a minimum, by not announcing the date or venue in advance. So far I believe they've held two (or three?) highly successful, if selective, gatherings in various London pubs.

On the basis that our members in the

## French Resource

I would point readers in the direction of the *Gallica* Website, which is the digital library of the Bibliothèque National de France. Millions of documents have been put online and it is worth the time and effort of putting the “Rechercher” box through its paces to locate the aviation content.

Personally, the results of just searching for “Zeppelin” kept me happy for hours!

Go to [www.gallica.fr](http://www.gallica.fr) and enjoy!

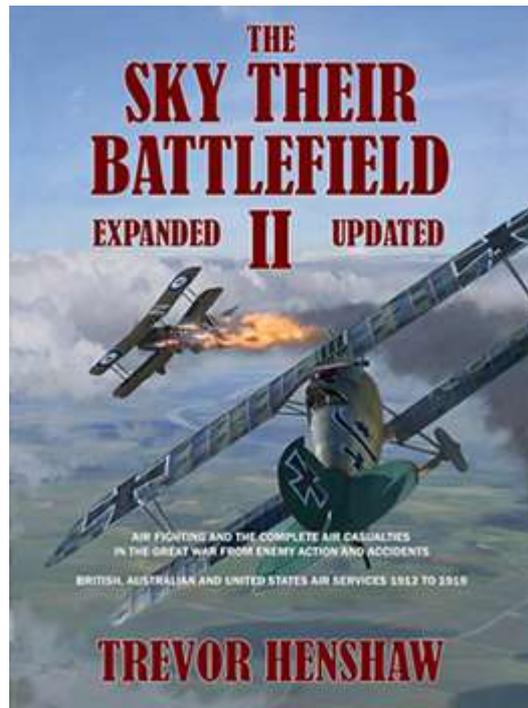
## News in Brief

In *Wind in the Wires 8*, I reported on the efforts to fund repairs to **Hooton Park**'s historic WW1 hangar. I was pleased to read in the *Chester Chronicle* on 12 October 2015 that, thanks to a £500,000 grant from WREN (FCC Heritage Fund), work can start on the 98-year-old hangar, known as “Building 18”.

<http://bit.ly/1js9Us2>

Finally, I saw this piece on a Dutch regional newspaper website, previewing a theatrical presentation of the life and

South East are clearly missing out on something here, I suggest you pester [David Marks](#) by email, for access to this exclusive get-together.



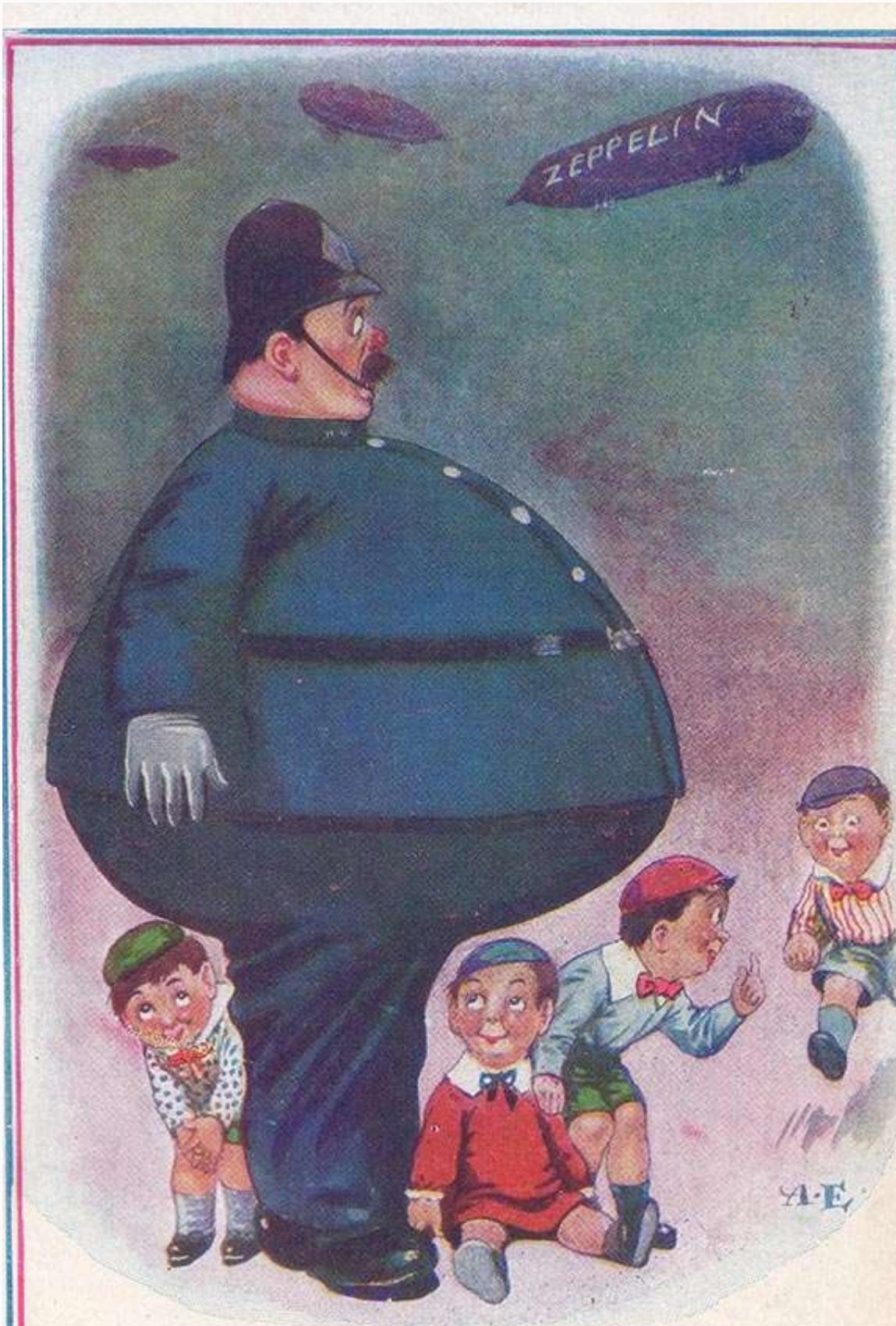
## Special Christmas Discount

It's nearly Christmas! As a special treat, Trevor Henshaw is letting us sell his superb book at a £5 discount until the turn of the year.

For a short time you can buy the [softback](#) and [hardback](#) editions at this generously reduced price. If you've been wondering what to ask for from your loved ones - this is your chance!

times of Dutch aviation pioneer, Anthony Fokker. There is a YouTube trailer of the show, which combines film, photographs and music and is worth a peek:

<http://bit.ly/1kloWLy>



"HERE'S THE ZEPPELINS, BILLY— COME UNDER COVER!"

Written by David Marks, edited by Andy Kemp  
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