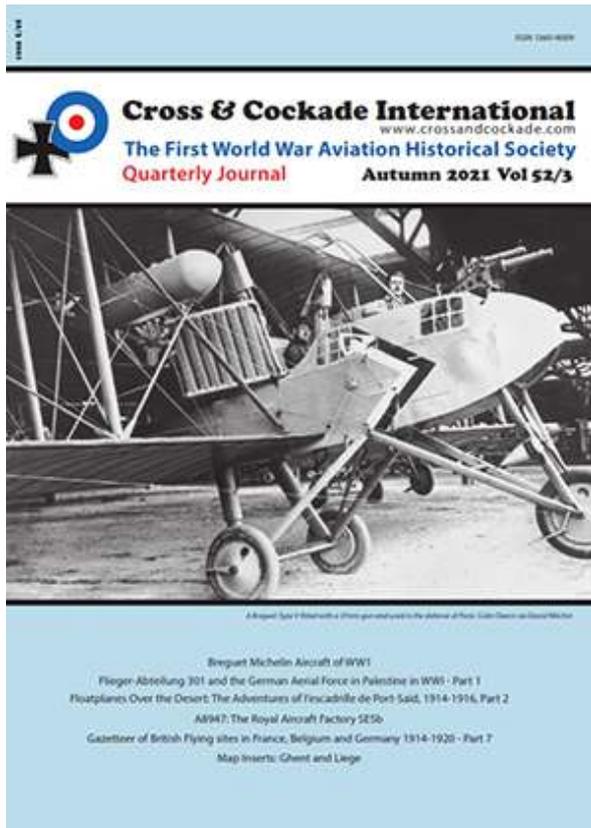


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Wind in the Wires 38



Welcome to the latest issue of *Wind in the Wires*, where you will find an eclectic range of news stories, book and podcast reviews relating, broadly, to First World War aviation. There is also some important Society news for current members and those thinking of joining us.

Let's Get Digital

At CCI we are, of course, committed to the continued printing and dispatch of our high quality journal every quarter. However, given escalating postal costs and the joys of modern technology, we are going to offer members the option of receiving a digital journal as a high-quality PDF either as a stand-alone

subscription, or as an add on to your print subscription from 2022. The digital subscription is £20 worldwide, presenting subscribers with a significant discount from printed, plus the ability to save shelf space and have a fully text-searchable journal. Subscription rates for 2022, including postage will be:

Destination	Print	Digital	Combined
UK	£32	£20	£42
EU	£42	£20	£52
US	£50 (\$70)	£20 (\$30)	£60 (\$85)
RoW	£50	£20	£60

Choose the option that works best for you - and subscribe for 2022 now!

<https://bit.ly/3ARYFkF>

Access will be easy, on publication you will receive an email letting you know that your PDF journal is available to download from your web shop account. For active subscribers, it will remain available for the whole of the next calendar year. Also, whispers from the Committee room are that we are going to be rolling out a wider offering of media goodies for members and WitW subscribers. Based on the Society's sound and film archives, this is going to generate plenty of interest. More news to follow in our next issue.

Please Mister Postman, look and see

The Society, with suitable backing from The Marvelettes (or the Carpenters), need someone to get acquainted with their local Post Office and pick up the mantle of our Sales Manager. Sadly, Marcus Williams has stood down from the role after many years of sterling service and, if you have the time to process and despatch orders from our webshop and the space to store the stock, please get in touch with the Chairman [at chairman@crossandcockade.com]. It's not a time-consuming role, but vital in keeping the Society's wheels (or propellers) turning.

A Question of Bequests

In other Society business, we have recently formalised our policy for the handling of bequests from members and others who wish to leave their First World War aviation collections to the Society. We appreciate that it's a serious issue, which the Society has had experience of dealing with more frequency of late than we would have liked. Our emphasis is on ensuring that original documents, photographs and research materials are preserved, but everything will be considered and dealt with. See the notice in the forthcoming Journal or feel free to speak to the Chairman or any Committee Member.

2022 CCI Calendar



Once more Roger Tisdale has done a fantastic job, pulling together a dozen quite superb images for our 2022 Calendar. A wonderful addition to your office decor! Our thanks go to the artists, who have allowed us to use their work without charge.

The price is held at the same level it's been for the past many years - £10 plus

JANUARY 2022						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31					1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

postage. Get your copy here:

<https://bit.ly/37Tp7hi>

As in previous years, profits go towards the upkeep of the British Air Services Memorial at St Omer in Northern France.

GAVA Ranks



If you have missed your annual fix of aviation paintings at the Mall Galleries, courtesy of the Guild of Aviation Artists (GAVA), you will be delighted by the announcement that they have taken their exhibition online for 2021. As is customary, the Society has sought to encourage the inclusion of original First World War art through the awarding of prizes.

Committee member, and author of the magnificent *The Sky Their Battlefield II*, Trevor Henshaw, judged that Stephen Hopper was our winner for **Gunbus and Gas, Loos 1915** (pictured). Stephen wins a £150 cash prize, plus a free subscription to the society for 2021. Highly commended were Ken Farmer for **Thames Raid - Christmas 1914** and Darren Howlett for **Up at Dawn**, both receiving £50 and a 2021 subscription. Presenting the prizes, Trevor was interested to hear the stories behind their choices of subjects.

See <https://bit.ly/37UvO2A> for details and, of course, you can order Trevor's book here <https://bit.ly/3yWZZIT>

Home on the Grange



Another nice painting was showcased in the *Portsmouth News* on 22 June 2021. Local artist Neil Marshall's artwork shows Fort Brockhurst in Gosport in 1917 with a pair of Sopwith Camels banking overhead on their approach to land at Fort Grange airfield.

The RFC base is famous for the development of the 'Gosport Tube' which was still in use worldwide until the 1950s. The tube allowed the instructor in the rear of the cockpit to communicate with the trainee pilot without being 'drowned out' by the noise of the engine. The first RFC aircraft to use the airfield arrived on 6 July 1914, remaining for a few weeks until the Royal Naval Air Service arrived in October 1914. The RFC returned on 6 January 1915 and the airfield remained under their control until 1 April 1918, at

which time the newly formed Royal Air Force took over and the site became RAF Gosport. In August 1945, the base was transferred to the Navy, becoming HMS Siskin until its closure in May 1956.

<https://bit.ly/3y1c8oq>

The Poddy Red Baron



I've mentioned the *Futility Closet* podcast in previous issues of WitW (numbers 18 and 33 to be precise). It is a collection of entertaining curiosities in history, literature, language, art, philosophy and mathematics and, at the end of June 2021, podcast episode 348 included a segment entitled '**Who Killed the Red Baron?**'

The podcast describes von Richthofen's last moments and the enduring controversy as to who ended his career. Whilst there are no new revelations here, the podcast is a good summary of the story and worth investing a quarter of an hour. See the link below, which includes a comprehensive list of sources consulted for the podcast.

<https://bit.ly/3z2x7bO>

Also, there were a number of obituaries for Hermann von Richthofen, Germany's ambassador to Britain during German unification who died on 17 July 2021 aged 87. He was the great nephew of Manfred von Richthofen and his famous family name made him a media favourite.

<https://bit.ly/3gbDDpp>

A Grave Problem



Reported on the *MyLondon* website on 15 July 2021, was news that neighbours in Brentford are furious that the bones of buried war heroes, they say should be left to rest, are being dug up to make way for a housing development. The beautiful listed building of St Lawrence's Church is currently having its derelict churchyard dug up, including the grave of Lieutenant Merrick Orville Prismall, RFC.

In 1914, Prismall served through the German South West African Campaign and later, with a commission to the Royal Field Artillery, was wounded on the Somme. In February 1916, he joined the Royal Flying Corps, and served for six months as an observer. On 20 December 1917, he was killed in an aeroplane accident near Grantham when his aircraft, an AW FK3 A1488,

nose-dived into the ground. The cause was never identified and no one was ever held to blame. Prismall, who had married his sweetheart just 10 weeks earlier, also has a memorial at Isleworth.

<https://bit.ly/3xS1UXj>

Faster, Higher, Stronger – WW1 Olympians



This issue of *WitW* was mostly compiled during the Tokyo Olympics and, with thanks to Danish Military Historian Nicolai Eberholst, here are just a few notable First World War aviation Olympians.

Nikolai M Melnitsky (pictured) won silver for Russia in men's 30M team rapid fire pistol at the 1912 games. He served as a pilot with the aviation detachment guarding Stavka in Mogilev. He joined the Whites in the Civil War but went into exile in 1920.

George Hodgson won two-times gold for Canada in the 400M & 1500M freestyle swimming events at the 1912 Games. He served in the Royal Naval Air Service and flew anti-submarine patrols in the Felixstowe F2A and Felixstowe Porte Baby flying boats.

Prince Friedrich Karl of Prussia won bronze for Germany in the equestrian team jumping event at the 1912 Games. He served in the German Air Force and was mortally wounded by Australian troops after crash landing in no-mans-land in 1917.

Victor Boin won silver at the 1908 Games and bronze at the 1912 Games as part of the Belgian water polo team, and silver in fencing at the 1920 Games. He served in the Belgian Air Force and became personal pilot for Queen Elisabeth of Belgium.

Giovanni Mangiante won gold for Italy in the team gymnastics event at the 1912 Games. He served in the Italian Air Force. As a personal friend of Gabrielle D'Annunzio, he took part in several of the flamboyant and eccentric poet's many air stunts (see Vol. 52/1 of the Journal).

See more on Twitter [@PikeGrey1418](https://twitter.com/PikeGrey1418) and under the hashtag [#WW1Olympians](https://twitter.com/WW1Olympians) and <https://bit.ly/3k67Xmi>

Leader of the Puck



Talking of Olympians, Frank Fredrickson was a Hall of Fame ice hockey player, being the first man to win the Stanley Cup, Olympic Gold (1920) and the Allan Cup and mentioned back in *WitW*27. As the *Regina Leader-Post* reported on 12 June 2021, Fredrickson's First World War exploits have recently come to light. Through artefacts and records secured by a military



collector and provided to the Hall of Fame in Toronto, Fredrickson's Royal Flying Corps service has been revealed. He served in Ismailia, Egypt, and his transport was torpedoed in the Mediterranean en route to England. He would later safely travel to Great Britain

and joined the flying school at Gosport as a test pilot and instructor, serving in this role until the end of the conflict. On his way back to Canada, he stopped in Iceland and, on 3 September 1919, he became the first pilot of Icelandic descent to take off from Icelandic soil.

Read the story at: <https://bit.ly/3APxc2V>

Staying Stateside Snippets from across the Pond



Although novelist William Faulkner enlisted in the RAF toward the end of the First World War and trained in Canada, he did not have the chance to pilot aeroplanes, despite his later claims. An excerpt from a letter written in April 1943 to his nephew Jimmy, who was in training to be a fighter pilot, is worth a read at: <https://bit.ly/2Xse24Q>

Recently posted on the *WFA* website was a review of the 1921 facsimile edition of Quentin Roosevelt's; **A Sketch with Letters** (and poetry), which celebrates the life of the son of former US President, Theodore. Quentin became a pilot in the 95th Aero Squadron, part of the 1st Pursuit Group, and was shot down and killed in a dogfight over the Marne on 14 July 1918.

<https://bit.ly/2VYR0ls>

As I mentioned in the last issue, a block of four of "Inverted Jenny," postage stamps, famously misprinted with an aeroplane upside down, was up for auction in New York in June 2021. The 1918 block sold for \$4.9 million, a record for a United States stamp at auction and \$2 million more than its last reported sale price.

Far From Bland



In the last issue of *WitW*, I briefly mentioned aviation pioneer Lilian Bland, who was the subject of an article in the *Irish Times*. By coincidence, she has just received a fulsome tribute in the *Guardian* on 11 August 2021. Bland is being featured in a new National

Museums NI exhibition at the Ulster Transport Museum in Cultra, Belfast on Northern Ireland innovators who made a global impact.

'**The Flying Feminist**', as Bland is described by the correspondent, gave readers an opportunity to find out about the forgotten pioneering Anglo-Irish aviator,

photographer, journalist, jockey and motor enthusiast. Bland's enthusiasm for flight was inspired by Blériot's achievements, and in 1909 she set to work designing and building her own aeroplane, the Mayfly, which achieved a quarter-mile hop in August 1910.

<https://bit.ly/3me8dSP>

Coincidentally, four paintings that Bland made in her home in Cornwall were auctioned in July 2021 in Penzance. The paintings are amateur and, ordinarily, might not even have reached auction, but after buyers learned about Bland the lots sold for £350-£550.

See <https://bit.ly/3AVwK3t>

Fleain' Geordie Remembered



There was a nice little piece on an aviation pioneer who was active at the turn of the 20th century, posted on 13 July 2021 by Aberdeen's *The Press and Journal*. George Louis Outram Davidson, who became known across the north-east as Fleain' Geordie, devised

proposals for the construction of an air-car monoplane, which would carry passengers from one city to another and possibly even across the Atlantic. A syndicate, established in 1897, raised in the region of £20,000 for construction of the air-car and to purchase the patent but the project lapsed. Davidson revived the project in 1906.

Fleain' Geordie later designed a direct-lift air-car based on a model glider he flew at Inchmarlo (Edinburgh). The machine had a wing span of 100 feet, seated 20 passengers in an enclosed cabin and was powered by two Stanley steam engines. The upward thrust came from two rotary lifters, which were called "gyropters".

See <https://bit.ly/3mh3tMn>

Hawker Talker and RFC Japes



Squadron Leader John Crampton, a Hawker Siddeley Aviation executive (and a decorated pilot who conducted spy flights into the Soviet Union in the early 1950s) gave a lecture to the *Royal Aeronautical Society's Historical Group* on 19 January 1971. The recording has been digitized and made available from

May 2021. In his impeccable clipped tones, Crampton takes his audience through the aircraft and designers that made up the fascinating history of aircraft manufacturing at Kingston-upon-Thames. Enjoyable listening at

<https://bit.ly/37SXs0c>

The *Oh! What a Lovely Podcast* team (see *WitW* 36) have produced another

excellent episode for August 2021 with their guest Dr Emma Hanna. The subject is the popular music of the First World War and they discuss, amongst other things, the rock and roll lifestyles of the Royal Flying Corps. See <http://ohwhatalovelypodcast.co.uk/> for the details.

Hornchurch and Beyond - UK News in Brief



The *Hornchurch Aerodrome Historical Trust* (HAHT) has been gifted Suttons House to use as its RAF heritage centre, reported the *Romford Recorder* on 12 August 2021. A gift from Bellway Thames Gateway, HAHT currently uses the site to help preserve the rich history of both the Royal Flying Corps' Sutton's Farm and Royal Air Force Hornchurch Sector Station.

See <https://bit.ly/3k41GaL>. Further details can be found by visiting www.rafhornchurch.com or Hornchurch Aerodrome Historical Trust on Facebook.

The *Hunts Post* on 28 June 2021 had a short piece considering the early aviation industry on Portholme Meadow, Huntingdon. In 1911, the Radley Monoplane was tested unsuccessfully on the Meadow, but the rebuilt version later flew at Brooklands. The meadow was never fully converted into a permanent practicing ground and the three original sheds, built by Thackray & Co, were converted into a large wooden triple hangar.

See: <https://bit.ly/3k15MR7>

The Shuttleworth Events Team has been awarded the prestigious Conrod Trophy by the Historic Aircraft Association President, Sir Gerald Howarth, in recognition of their innovative Drive-In Air Shows that kept vintage aviation alive through the pandemic. More at <https://bit.ly/3y04jiK>

Sprucey Bonus



Like me, I am sure that Society members have enjoyed PhD candidate David Spruce's dissertation on the development of **British Air Power on the Western Front to the end of 1915** (featured in Volumes 52/1 and 52/2 of the Journal). If you would like to hear more from David, an RAF Museum Masters Prize Winner, he discusses the changing nature of recruitment and training methods used by the Royal Flying Corps and the RAF in a recent *Western Front Association* podcast. <https://bit.ly/3z1hGk7> You can follow David @Sprucey_1969 on Twitter.

Another recent WFA podcast featured author and pilot Mark Hillier. He talks about his latest book on the equipment and clothes of the RFC in the First World War. The book, **Royal Flying Corps Kitbag: Aircrew Uniforms and Equipment from the War Over the Western Front in WWI** is published by Pen and Sword.

<https://bit.ly/3xUvLyj>

R38 Crash Newsflash



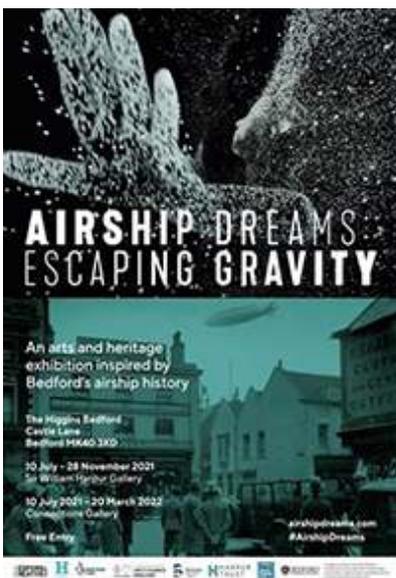
Historic England has commissioned a new project to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Hull airship crash. On 24 August 1921, airship R.38 /ZR-2, which was on trials with the US Navy, exploded mid-flight and crashed into the River Humber in front of thousands of onlookers, killing 44 of its 49-strong crew. The project, which is led by heritage consultancy Fjodr, will create a virtual collection of materials relating to this striking incident in Hull's history. See <https://bit.ly/37Z8MYI> and read more at:

<https://bit.ly/3srLQKK>

Wendy Pritchard, granddaughter of Major JEM Pritchard who was killed in the accident, will be presenting a Webinar for the Royal Aeronautical Society on 1 September 2021. The talk will briefly outline the airship life and character of Major Pritchard and some of his colleagues and focus in detail on the R.38 disaster and its aftermath. Booking details (free to attend to members and non-members alike) here:

<https://bit.ly/37UOnDQ>

Don't Call It a Blimp! Zeppelin and Airship News



Following on from the R38 item, it's time to share my lighter than air obsession with details of some recent news and events.

Firstly, I would recommend a trip to see **Airship Dreams: Escaping Gravity**. Bedford Creative Arts, The Higgins Bedford, the Airship Heritage Trust and artist Mike Stubbs, have joined forces to launch this two-fold exhibition which celebrates Bedford's airship heritage. It brings together innovative digital contemporary art and community sourced displays, presenting the pioneering vision of airship development over the decades.

More at: <https://bit.ly/3svkSSO>

The always excellent *Aviation Trails Blog* ran an interesting article celebrating the anniversary of HMA R.34's World Record Flight, being the first crossing of the Atlantic Ocean east to west by a powered aircraft. The Scottish built behemoth took off from East Fortune on 2 July 1919. <https://bit.ly/3CZEZgv>

Finally, I spotted a couple of good blog posts on the *National Museum of the Royal Navy* website. There is a good summary of the raid on the Tondern Zeppelin base, executed by six Sopwith Camels from the deck of HMS Furious, and a piece on the development of the Royal Navy's first Coastal class airship.

<https://bit.ly/3me9F7J>

<https://bit.ly/3xUQSAQ>

Liver Birds



There was an interesting blog on the vanishing archaeology of early aviation on the Liverpool Bay coast on the *CITiZAN* website (the *Coastal and Intertidal Zone Archaeological Network*) on 1 July 2021. It looks at some famous flights and why little trace of them can be found on the ground today.

The earliest aerodrome on Liverpool Bay was built at Freshfield sands, with Cecil Compton Paterson making the maiden flight from the beach on the 14th May 1910. In 1911, Henry Greg Melly established his flight school on Waterloo sands and the following year two aviators would gain their wings flying over Liverpool. The most successful of the three beach aerodromes was built at Southport by the town's corporation in 1910, which was pressed into military service in 1914.

The Royal Naval Air Service demolished the hangar originally constructed by Southport Corporation and built two large hangars. The site would officially become known as 11 Aircraft Acceptance Park and aircraft constructed at the nearby Vulcan Motor and Engineering Co works were flown from here across the country.

<https://bit.ly/2W3Dqxy>

A Hand(le)y Page about RAF Bircham



A second visit to *Aviation Trails* now, as the 7 August 2021 blog featured the first instalment detailing the history of RAF Bircham Newton in Norfolk. Bircham's first operational use was as a Fighter Gunnery School in May 1918, with 3 School of Aerial Fighting & Gunnery (later known as 3 Fighting School) as its

initial resident. Operating a large range of aircraft, their stay was short lived, moving to nearby RAF Sedgeford.

However, possibly Bircham's most significant early aircraft was the Handley Page V/1500 (Super-Handley) bomber, arriving with three RAF Squadrons, 166, 167 and 274, the earliest being 166, formed on 13 June 1918. Whilst initially receiving FE2bs, this squadron was created with the sole purpose of bombing Berlin and Bircham was chosen as the most suitable and most easterly aerodrome available at that time. The blog is fairly detailed in considering the development of the squadron and the post-war activities of its commander Major Cecil H Darley and his brother Flt Lt Charles Curtis Darley. Part two of the blog focussing on the 1920s dropped on 14 August. Read more at: <https://bit.ly/2UqSG6L>

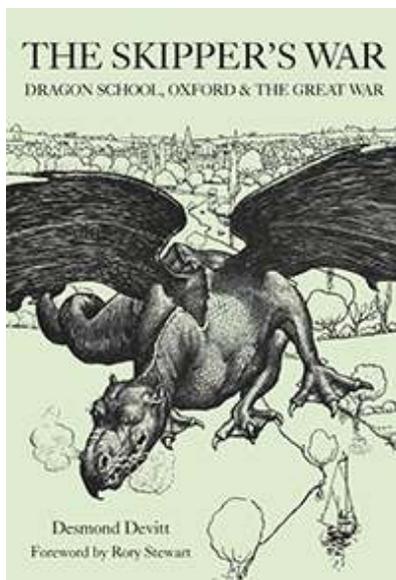
News in Brief from around Europe

The 121st anniversary of the birth of aviation icon **Antoine de Saint-Exupéry** on 29 June 2021 was celebrated on the Simple Flying website. Saint-Exupéry was born in Lyon and began flying during his time in the armed forces. He took flying lessons while stationed near Strasbourg with the army and transferred to the air services in 1922. The writer, aristocrat, journalist and pioneering aviator is known for his lyrical aviation writings, including *Wind, Sand and Stars* and *Night Flight*.
<https://bit.ly/3CXU95R>

Thank you to our President, Peter Dye, for sending *WitW* a link to the recent PhD by Philipp Vogler on **German Military Aerial Reconnaissance up to 1945**. Vogler's work has been published on the basis of open-access (that means it is a free download). Although the text is in German (all 600+ pages), there are plenty of illustrations to enjoy.

<https://bit.ly/37T0pOk>

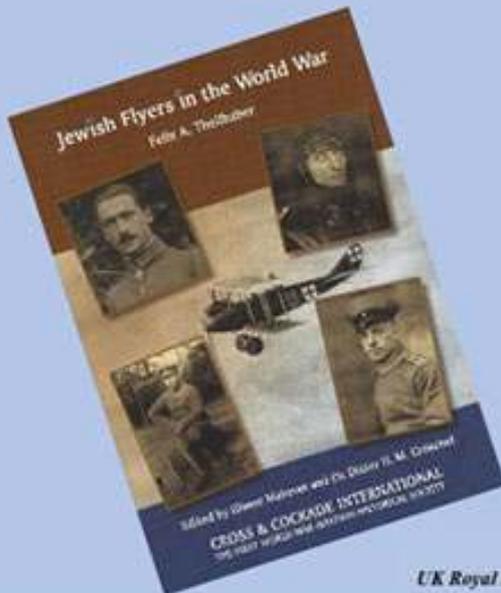
The Skipper's War



One of my favourite websites during the course of the 1914-1918 Centenary was **The Skipper's War**, telling the story of the Oxford Preparatory School and its Old Boys in the First World War. War in the Air alumni included William Leefe Robinson VC (hence my interest!), Jack Slessor, Nevile (Shute) Norway and Dolphin 'ace' Donald Hardman. Lovingly curated by Desmond Devitt, taking the mantle of the eponymous headmaster 'Skipper' Lynam, he has written a book chronicling the First World War stories of the School and its pupils on all fighting fronts.

In total, 28 Old Dragons served with the RFC, RNAS and RAF and there is an excellent chapter on these

airmen, to which I contributed in a small way. The book is a private publication and, thanks to a couple of generous sponsors, can be offered at £25 (+ £3.50 p&p to UK addresses). It will not be more widely available until next year, but you buy the book direct from the Skipper himself at <https://skipperswar.com/book/>



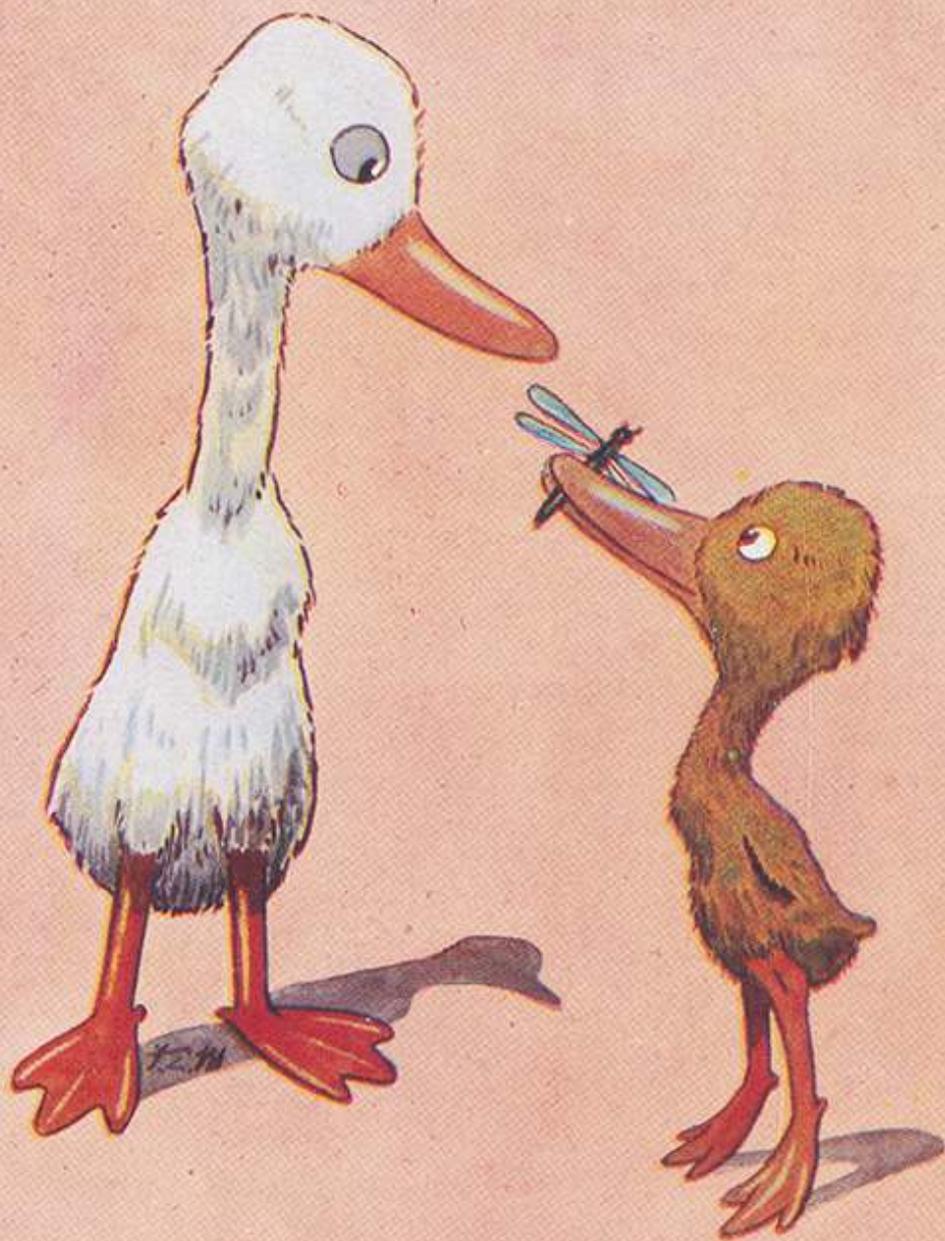
A largely forgotten work since the destruction of German Jewry that culminated in the Holocaust, the Jewish Flyers book is republished in revised and annotated form. This new English edition has been adapted from a translation by Adam M. Wait (1988) and has drawn on dedicated research spanning more than 10 years, to provide readers and researchers alike with a work of vastly expanded scope and detail on German-Jewish flyers in WWI.

A comprehensive and updated List appended to the new book names well over 200 known German Jewish flyers of WWI and furnishes details of their military service, lives and fates.

£25 + post and packing

UK Royal Mail - £4.50, EU - £7.85, ROW - £12.30, USA - £15.30

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Look Ma, I've caught a German
Aeroplane.

Written by David Marks, edited by Andy Kemp



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