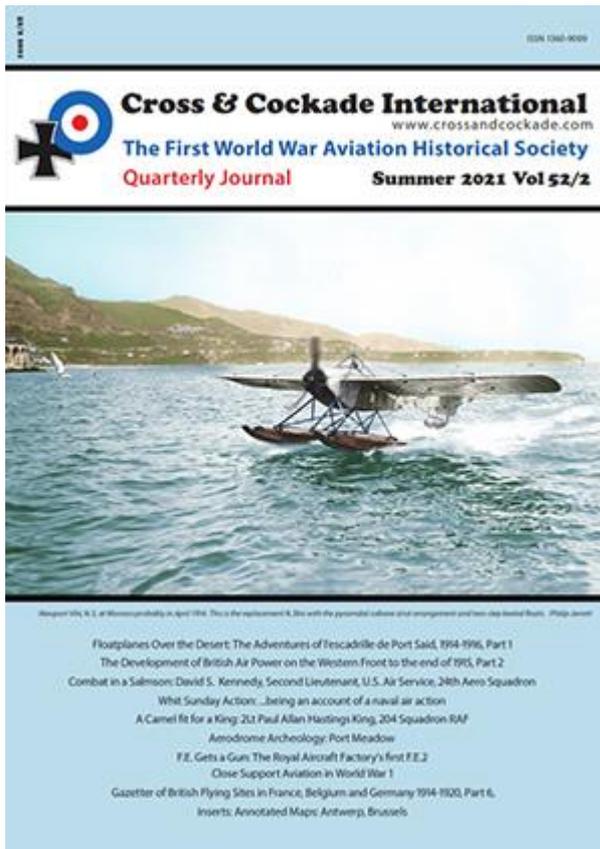


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Cross & Cockade International
The First World War Aviation Historical Society

Wind in the Wires 37



Welcome to the latest issue of **Wind in the Wires**. As I write, UK lockdown restrictions are set to ease and there have already been Drive-In Air Displays at Shuttleworth in recent weeks and our friends at aviation museums up and down the country are in the process of opening their doors to the public once again. Please give them your support!

It's been some nine years since this e-newsletter was first sent out to a hardy band of members on the Society's email list. We are still

growing the subscriber base, which now includes a majority of non-members, and it is gratifying to know that WitW is reaching a large group of aviation enthusiasts around the world. If you are not a Cross & Cockade member, or have yet to renew for 2021, please give Membership Secretary, Andy Kemp, a shout at membership.secretary@crossandcockade.com and he will be pleased to help. Otherwise take a look at our website.

We would love to have as many as possible of you on board, as we look to develop our offerings in the new 'roaring Twenties', many of which were discussed in our well attended online AGM in April. The **Leaman Lecture** given by Paul Hare: '**The BE2, The Right Aeroplane for its Time**' also sparked lively debate and you can pick up a copy of Paul's book **BE2a - A Definitive History** direct from the Society [here](#). Every operational BE2a in the world is described and there is a prodigious photographic reference, plans and related material. Paul's talk will shortly be available via a **CCI YouTube** channel - watch this space!

Don't forget to peruse the [web shop](#) for books (old and new), calendars and back issues.

Sikh and you shall find a statute



There was widespread coverage at the beginning of March 2021 following the announcement that the first Indian Royal Flying Corps 'fighter pilot' will be immortalised in a statue, which will remember the thousands of Sikhs who fought for Britain and its allies in the First

World War. **Hardit Singh Malik**, who became an Indian civil servant and diplomat, was known as the 'Flying Hobgoblin' because he wore a specially designed helmet that fitted over his turban.

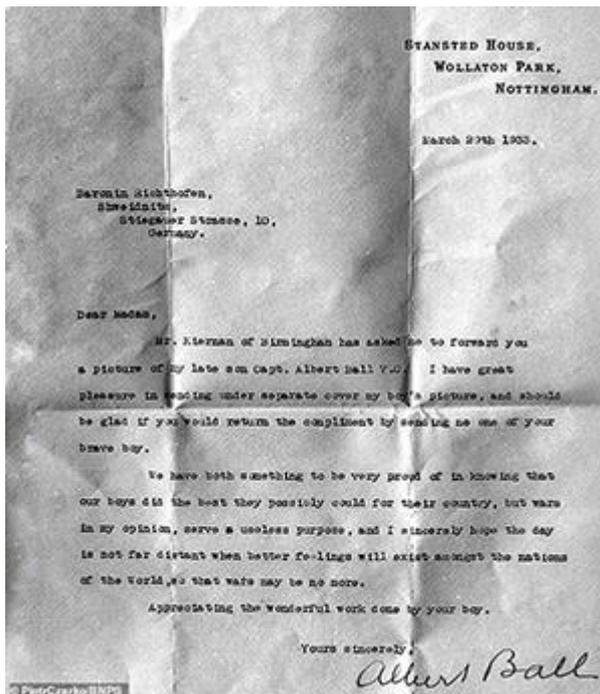
Community Hampshire and Dorset and the Southampton Council of Gurdwaras have approved the design for the monument, which will be created by West Midlands-based artist Luke Perry. The statue and plinth is set to be almost 17ft (5M) high with the likely installation near Southampton's

Sea City Museum by April 2023.

The *MailOnline* was quick off the mark with an article, which also gave some background on Malik's First World War flying career in France and Italy (see also previous issues of *Wind in the Wires*). Malik attended Eastbourne College and the local paper was quick to mention his prowess on the cricket field and the golf course. The Indian press also picked up the story and the *Hindustan Times*' comment: "Think of it as a thank-you note that's more than a century overdue" is an apt summation of this story.

See <https://bit.ly/3yyfwJ0> and <https://bit.ly/3ughREX>

Ball and von Richthofen



A letter, recently discovered by German historian Robin Schaefer, written by the father of **Captain Albert Ball VC** to the mother of Manfred and Lothar von Richthofen was the subject of articles covered in both *The Times* and *Daily Mail* on 23 April 2021.

Lothar is credited with shooting down the SE5 flown by Ball on 7 May 1917. In 1933, Sir Albert Ball wrote to Baroness Kunigunde von

Richthofen in a response to her request for a photograph of his son to be included in a museum she was creating in her home as a shrine for her own sons. Lothar had been killed in a plane crash in 1922, four years after his illustrious brother was shot down. The evocative letter, expresses Sir Albert's pride 'in knowing that our boys did the best they possibly could for their

country’.

The museum in Schweidnitz, Poland, was part of Prussia in the 1930s, and included medals, trophies and souvenirs. However, it was abandoned during the Second World War and the treasures lost and a leading theory is the property was looted by the Russians as they advanced from the east in 1945. However, new research suggests that the most important contents were rescued by the Germans and hidden in salt mines and, possibly, liberated by the Americans. Robin’s research is published in German military history magazine, Iron Cross.

<https://bit.ly/3wIHSnU> and <https://bit.ly/3hP1Nra> (behind pay wall)

Stroud and Kynoch Remembered



As briefly mentioned in *WitW25*, there are Grade II listed memorials to two Royal Flying Corps pilots at Dollymans Farm, Wickford, Essex. The memorials are 250 metres away from each other and both originally had propellers, though one is now missing.

A piece posted at *War History Online* on 4 March 2021 considered the story and legacy of the incident in some detail. On the

night of 7 March 1918, **Capt Henry Clifford Stroud**, 61 Squadron (flying SE5a B679) took off from Rochford. Meanwhile, **Capt Alexander Bruce Kynoch** (BE12 C3208) of 37 Squadron left Stow Maries. They had been tasked with intercepting a Gotha G.V bomber.

Their aircraft collided over Wickford at approximately midnight and landowner William Woodburn Wilson and his sister were first to arrive at the fatal crash site. It was Mr Wilson who decided to erect the memorials in around 1920, which may have originally incorporated crosses formed of the propellers of the crashed planes.

Interesting read at <https://bit.ly/2QJtZAC> and also <https://bit.ly/34bs6zV>

Roundhay Display: An RAF Showcase



Thank you to Rachel Taylor for bringing a 25 February 2021 article in the *Yorkshire Evening Post* to my attention. The Royal Air Force **Aircraft Exhibition** was held at **Roundhay Park**, Leeds, in the late spring of 1919 and boasted an outstanding collection of aircraft and artefacts. Its aim was to give the public an idea of the advances made in aerial warfare and technical aeronautical matters, as well as to supplement RAF charities.

The exhibition also offered the first ever chance for members of the public to make ascents in a military balloon and visitors could pay one shilling to manipulate the gear and fire the gun, as a pilot would have done on active service in aerial combat (pictured). The photos showcase what was on offer to visitors and are published courtesy of photographic archive *Leodis*

[www.leodis.net], which is run by Leeds Library & Information Service.

Worth a scroll through some interesting images at: <https://bit.ly/2T95qhi>

A Littlehaven for Seaplanes



A dramatic composite image of a **Felixstowe** flying boat on the seafront at Littlehaven in South Shields, created by local history enthusiast Mick Ray, was featured on the *Newcastle Chronicle* website on 16 March 2021.

The RNAS seaplane base at **South Shields** was established in the summer of 1916 and was used as a depot for the receipt and preparation of seaplanes. After landing in the harbour, seaplanes would taxi slowly to the ramp, where they would manoeuvre over a submerged wheeled trolley and be pushed or towed up to the maintenance hangars (out of shot to the left of the above image). Tantalisingly, the original ramp is still sometimes visible today.

Another Tyneside seaplane link was HMS Vindex, built in 1905 at Armstrong Whitworth in Newcastle as a passenger ferry. It was requisitioned, repurposed and renamed by the Royal Navy in 1915. It would operate as a seaplane carrier in the North Sea during the war, where she twice unsuccessfully attacked the German Zeppelin base at Tondern (see Ian Burns' two part masterwork in Volume 49 of the Journal) and conducted anti-Zeppelin patrols.

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

The Hull Story: Medals Reunited with School



A good news story from Lincolnshire caught my attention, where a primary school was able to raise enough money from a public appeal to secure a collection of a former pupil and his father's First World War medals.

The *Sleaford Standard* reported on 25 March 2021 that Alvey School raised £970 to buy the medals once owned by **Charles Penson** (circled) and his father William, after they were offered for sale by a collector. Charles, who served with the Royal Naval Air Service, died later in a tragic airship crash off the coast near Hull on 24 August 1921. Sixteen out of seventeen Americans and twenty eight out of thirty two Britons on board the 695ft long **R.38** died. Aircraftsman 1st Class Charles William Penson was a rigger on the ship. He joined the RNAS on 15 June 1916 and had served at East Fortune, Longside and Howden.

This year will be the centenary of the airship disaster on 24 August and Hull Minster is organising a remembrance service on the day of the disaster, and have invited Mrs Mason and some of her Year 6 pupils who helped launch the campaign to go along.

Read more at <https://bit.ly/3viav1F> and <https://bbc.in/3hP5Tj2>

Tennis venue serves up an 'ace' Statue



Roland Garros, the playboy who invented air combat and became the first fighter pilot was briefly mentioned back in *WitW 14 and 31*. The venue of the French Open major tennis tournament bears his

name at the request of Emile Lesueur, president of the Stade Français and Garros' former classmate at the HEC Business School.

On 14 April 2021, a press release announced that as part of the stadium complex's on-going refurbishment, a statue of the aviator was erected in the presence of the president of the French Tennis Federation and Caroline Brisset, the artist who created the imposing steel sculpture, which measures over 6 metres in height.

It is entitled '**The Cloud Kisser**', the nickname given to Garros on account of his daring exploits, which included him becoming the first man to fly across the Mediterranean. The statue will stand on the newly created Aviator Square at Gate 1, the new public entrance to the Stade Roland-Garros.

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

In Brief – A Czech aviator and a New Zealand correspondent



A reference to a Czech aviation pioneer caught my eye via *Radio Prague International* on 9 May 2021. **Jan Kašpar** took off from the Pardubice military training ground, where he had already conducted his first flight

experiments, on 13 May 1911. The historic flight from Pardubice to Prague,

at the time the longest flight ever undertaken in the Austro-Hungarian Empire, lasted 92 minutes and covered a distance of 121 km. Kašpar flew a French-made Blériot XI, which he later donated to the National Technical Museum in Prague.

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

An article about family war correspondence as part of Anzac day coverage included an interesting reference to a First World War aviator. **Henry Hugh Blackwell**, born in Kaiapoi in July 1896, trained to fly at Kohimarama in Auckland and joined the Royal Flying Corps, seeing active service over France and Belgium in 1918, flying mainly RE8s. The article includes an extract from '**Letters Home, A collection of letters written by Henry Hugh Blackwell 1916 – 1919**' where the tone shifts seamlessly from the serious to the mundane.

Worth a look at: <https://bit.ly/3hW8Kqm>

A Corking Tribute to Cobham



A cheery piece from the Republic of Ireland now, as reported on 7 April 2021 by Cork's *Echo Live* website. Kevin O'Brien, who is the co-founder of street art and guerrilla gardening group, *Mad About Cork*, has painted the

electrical boxes outside Healy's Post Office in **Ballincollig** after being inspired by photographs of **Sir Alan Cobham's Flying Circus**, which came to town in the 1930s.

A member of the Royal Flying Corps in the First World War, Cobham

became a pioneer of long-distance aviation. Knighted for his services to aviation in 1926, Cobham set many aviation records during his lifetime and amongst these was a 5,000 mile air tour of Europe, visiting 17 cities in three weeks. In 1932, he started the National Aviation Day displays, generally known as 'Cobham's Flying Circus', with displays all over Britain and Ireland running until 1935.

See <https://bit.ly/3vfzwhy> and for more information take a look at <https://bit.ly/3vidOJA>

Staying in Ireland, a piece in the *Irish Times* on 11 May 2021 on aviation pioneer **Lilian Bland** is also worth checking out. She was one of the first women in the British Isles, and maybe even in the world, to design, build, and fly an aircraft: the Bland Mayfly.

<https://bit.ly/3yli73h>

From the Bolsheviks to Brockley



Russian aviator and inventor **Sergei Alexandrovich Oulianine** (also known as Sergei Alekseevich Ulyanin) died in 1921 and is buried far from home in Brockley & Ladywell Cemetery in South East London. An article on

the website of the *South London Press* on 7 May 2021 tells his interesting tale.

Oulianine was born in 1871 and was based at the Imperial Air Force flying school in Gatchina, where he trained some outstanding airmen, including Igor Sikorsky and Pyotr Nesterov (see *WitW 31 and 34*). His skills also

resulted in the development of box-shaped kites for aerial photography and a sophisticated aerial camera.

It is possible that he was in London as part of a military aviation delegation when the Russian Empire collapsed in 1917 or he was an émigré following the Revolution. Oulianine died of unknown causes, aged 51, in Lewisham Hospital in October 1921. There is a likelihood that his headstone might be restored by the Russian Heritage in the UK Society, where he lies alongside his wife Ludmilla, who died aged 83, in 1970.

Read more at: <https://bit.ly/3yK5O6u>

Preston Watson Update

I received a note from CCI stalwart and author **Philip Jarrett** responding to a piece on Dundee aviation pioneer Preston Watson in *WitW36*. Phil explained that much of the information available locally should be treated with caution and recommends that readers with an interest in Watson should head over to the several online sites under <https://bit.ly/3hPwjS2> that provide much more detail on Watson's achievements.

Phil also mentions that Grant Newman's article in the July /August 2004 issue of *Air Enthusiast* (No112), pages 58-63 is worth seeking out.

Moose Jaw Memories and a Hospital Dig



A couple of interesting Canadian stories caught my eye recently. Firstly, on 24 February 2021, *Moose Jaw Today* marked Black History Month and its military links to the Saskatchewan city.

Jamaican born **Percival Swaby Nash** settled in Moose Jaw in around 1912 after studying architecture in England. After completing officer training in Winnipeg following the outbreak of the First World War, Nash was unable to go overseas with his regiment due to ill-health and was discharged. However, he was seconded to the Royal Flying Corps and had just completed training when the armistice was signed. Returning home, he died during routine surgery in June

1919 aged 28.

See <https://bit.ly/34fbfMF>

As reported in the *Whig Standard* on 16 April 2021, a forthcoming archaeological exploration of Gold Wing Ranch in **Deseronto**, Ontario should yield interesting results. The farm was previously the location of the hospital for a Royal Flying Corps aviation training facility, **Camp Rathbun**. It has been the Kimmitt family farm since 1933 and a team from Newfoundland's Memorial University are set to explore the site this summer.

Construction at the camp began in 1917, and the airfield was in use by May. Fire hydrants from the era are still visible and the ammunition bunker,

guardhouse and former hospital are still standing. Two of the aircraft hangars that sat on the property are now located at the nearby Napanee Fairgrounds.

See: <https://bit.ly/3bNfz9Y>

A Kimberley Diamond



The **South African Air Force Museum** has renewed ties with the **McGregor Museum** outside Kimberley reported the *Defence Web* news portal on 23 March 2021. The museum includes a

simple corrugated building, which few people realise is a reconstruction of an early 1900s aircraft hangar, where South Africa's first military pilots received their basic flying training. The museum also houses a life-size replica of the Compton-Paterson biplane used to train these pilots, including Anna Maria Bocciairelli, the continent's first female pilot.

Aviation pioneer, Cecil Compton Paterson was born near Liverpool in 1885 and established the Paterson Aviation Syndicate in 1913. He was given the contract to train ten pilots for the Union Defence Force's newly authorised Aviation Corps. Six men were eventually sent to England for advanced training with the Royal Flying Corps in April 1914.

A memorial adjacent to the reconstructed hangar holds the remains of Edward Cheeseman, a British instructor who was South Africa's first recorded flying casualty, and Kenny van der Spuy, the last of the original ten pilots. At the time of his death, aged 99 in 1991, van der Spuy was the world's oldest living pilot.

Interesting piece on a little known area at <https://bit.ly/3fdgbru>

Jenny from the Block (revisited)



I'd like to return briefly to one of my favourite *WitW* topics, namely the stamps bearing the image of an iconic First World War training aircraft, which were printed upside-down. Sotheby's New York is set for an important auction on 8 June 2021 entitled 'Three Treasures – Collected by Stuart Weitzman', which will offer the fabled 1933 Double Eagle Coin,

the sole-surviving example of the British Guiana One-Cent Magenta, and The Inverted Jenny Plate Block.

The first United States airmail issue and the most highly recognized and sought-after philatelic error, the 1918 24-Cent Inverted Jenny Plate Block (estimated at \$5/7 million) is the most famous and valuable item in United States stamp collecting. There was only one sheet of 100 Inverted Jennies ever sold, and only one plate block comprising positions 87-88 and 97-98.

See *WitW* issues 27 and 31 for further details for details on this philatelic phenomenon and this recent article: <https://bit.ly/3ylj8s7>

Staying Stateside – News in Brief

I enjoyed a tale of a fog-shrouded night in September 1918 recounted in the *Berkshire Eagle* on 12 March 2021. Residents of a small Massachusetts town were visited by a 150 foot long airship, which has flown from the naval aeronautical training school in Akron, Ohio, and had lost its way. Once residents established that the airship was not an invading Zeppelin, they

rendered assistance in bringing the 'gas bag' to earth. Many of the crowd took a hand in holding the blimp down until its buoyancy was overcome.

<https://bit.ly/3fh3RGE>

The **World War I Centennial Commission** officially raised the flag at the new National World War I Memorial in Washington, DC, reported *Air Force Magazine* on 16 April 2021. During the ceremony, two F-22s from the 94th Fighter Squadron performed a flyover. The Squadron dates back to the famed 'Hat-in-the-Ring' 94th Aero Squadron, which was designated as an independent unit under the French VIII Army and deployed to France in 1918.

<https://bit.ly/3ysG9Po>

Who's Baby?



A blog for the *Queensland Museum Network*, posted on 9 April 2021, celebrated the centenary of a flight made by the Australian aviator Herbert John Louis '**Bert**' **Hinckler** (see feature in *WitW* 34). Hinckler's non-stop flight from Sydney to Bundaberg,

Queensland, in his Avro Baby aircraft, G-EACQ was a new distance record in Australia.

Following his RNAS service during the First World War, Hinckler was working for AV Roe & Company as an engineer and test pilot at Hamble, near Southampton, and he used G-EACQ to set a number of flight distance records in Europe before shipping the aircraft to Australia. The blog includes

some background on the Avro Baby and a contemporary report of Hinckler's historic 1,287 km flight. Hinckler returned to England, but the Baby was left behind to have its own varied career and restoration in 1970.

See <https://bit.ly/3vtoQvX> and also click on the link to the February 2018 blog detailing more of Hinckler's exploits.

Help for Hooton



I see from the *Liverpool Echo* on 18 April 2021 that the **Hooton Hangars** have had some more welcome publicity. The former RAF base was originally a racecourse but became an aerodrome in 1917 and officially became Liverpool Airport in 1930

for three years.

The Hooton Park Trust was founded in 2000 to preserve the hangars for future generations, which were put on Historic England's 'at risk' list in 2003. In 2018, Buildings 17 and 18 were taken off the register. Building 16 was in a considerable state of disrepair but a £350,000 grant, plus additional funding, has enabled thirty-four new 80-foot span timber trusses to be constructed on-site and to get a new roof in place.

However, since the Covid-19 pandemic, funding has dried up and the Trust has been left to its own resources, which has slowed progress and Building 16 remains on the 'at risk' register for now. Let's hope that work can get underway for this important historic and community site soon.

More information and images at <https://bit.ly/3ffgTVh>

To find out more about volunteering, heritage days and vehicle storage visit the Hooton Trust website <https://bit.ly/3wzZFbb>

UK News in Brief



In South Wales, Palm Sunday is known as Flowering Sunday, with flowers being placed on the graves of relatives. The *South Wales Argus* article on 4 April 2021 confirmed that the practice is being kept alive by the local WFA branch with 30 year old Lieutenant George Grattan of the Royal Flying Corps being remembered.

On 4 March 1918, he was flying in formation with another aircraft on a training flight from the Central Flying School at Upavon. The wings of the two planes clipped, sending both plummeting to the ground. Both Grattan and Second Lieutenant William Edward Skinner were killed. Although entitled to a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone, Grattan is commemorated on a stone chosen by the family.

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

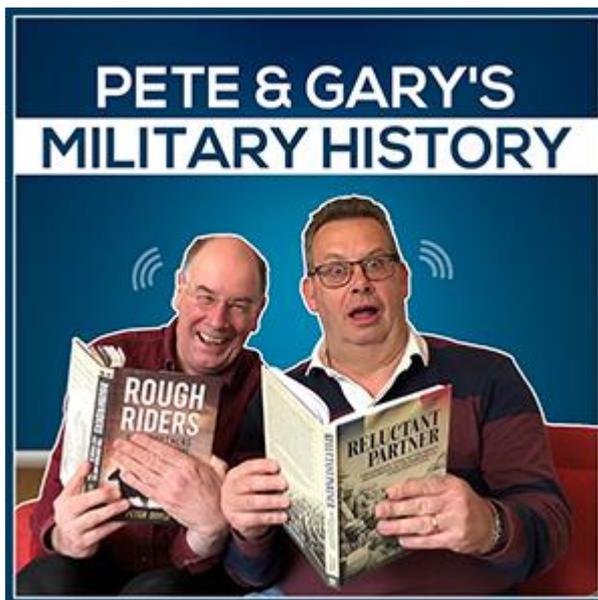
Luxury car dealer, HR Owen, had agreed terms for a new site at Hatfield Business Park just to the north of London. The Development Manager for the site was quoted as saying "It seems appropriate in many ways as the company founder, Captain Harold Rolfe Owen, was a former Royal Flying Corps airman and the brand's new home is a former airfield." Owen was badly injured in a crash in 1917 and spent a week in a coma. It was almost a year before he could walk again.

See <https://bit.ly/2Sn6DBc>

For Women's history month in March 2021, Barnet Local Studies looked at five pioneer airwomen flying in Hendon from 1890 to 1914 including Emily Devoy (the daredevil parachutist), Muriel Matters (the suffragette), Edith Cook (the first woman to fly solo in England), Lily Irvine (the first woman to fly solo in Alaska) and Cheridah Stocks (the air racer).

See their video here: <https://bit.ly/3ylmonl>

Take Hart from a Podcast



It's been a while since I mentioned the redoubtable **Peter Hart's** podcast, now rebranded as *Pete & Gary's Military History Podcast*, to reflect the contribution of his pal, Gary Bain. Recent podcasts have featured First World War aviation with Episode 62, **Somme Success**, drawing on Peter's 2001 book on the Royal Flying Corps in the 1916 battle. Episode

66, **Richthofen - The Red Baron**, was released to coincide with the 103rd anniversary of Der Rote Kampflieger's death.

There was a special bonus episode featuring the IWM's oral history recordings of Sir David Grahame Donald, an Royal Naval Air Service pilot with extensive service at home and abroad including the Battle of Jutland in the Aegean including efforts to sink Goeben in Dardanelles Straits (as featured in Vol 53/3 of the Journal). Episodes 64 and 68 focus on Albert Ball

VC with his Somme and Arras experiences put under the microscope.

Download these episodes for free from your favoured podcast provider.

Restoration of 'film star' SE5

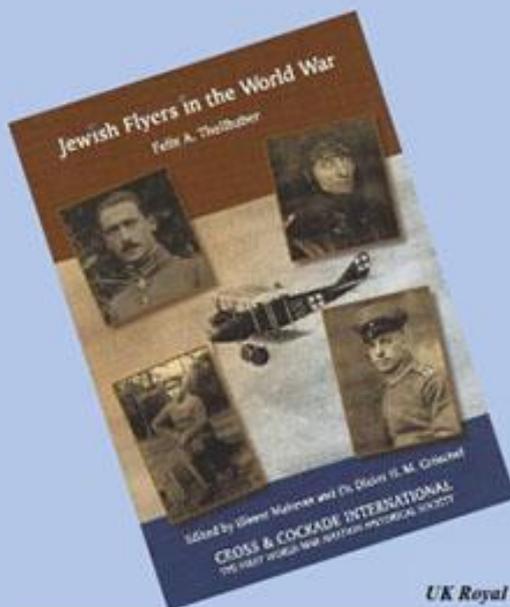


The May 2021 edition of *Aeroplane Magazine* reports on the progress of the restoration of a replica First World War aircraft that was built at the Slingsby Aviation Factory in 1967. The

aircraft is being restored to flying condition at Sywell Aerodrome in Northamptonshire by Matthew Boddington. His late father, Charles, flew the replica, which was sold to an American aircraft collection based in Texas in the early 1980s and returned to the UK in 2015.

The *Kirkbymoorside Town Blog* posted on 13 May 2021 explains that it is a replica SE5a built for flying sequences in the film **Darling Lili** directed by Blake Edwards and starring Julie Andrews and Rock Hudson. The aircraft was built from scratch by Slingsby in North Yorkshire and was called the Type 56. It went on to feature in the 1970 film **You Can't Win 'Em All** starring Tony Curtiss and Charles Bronson. It also made appearances in other films including **Zeppelin**, **Von Richthofen and Brown**, **Aces High** and **The Blue Max**.

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



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

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Who said Baby-killers?

It's up to me to see them Germun
keep off here.



Written by David Marks, edited by Andy Kemp



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