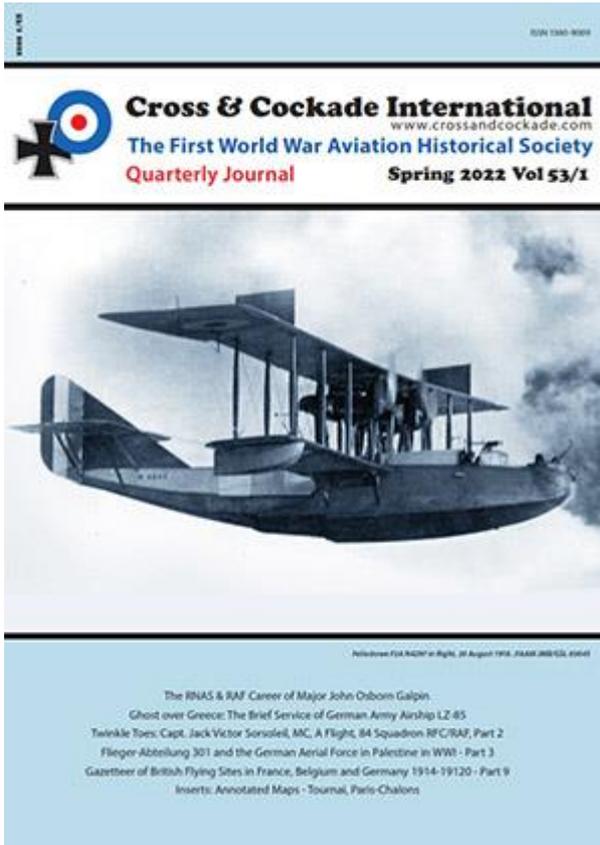


Wind in the Wires 40



This issue of **Wind in the Wires** marks its 40th Edition.

It's been a pleasure welcoming an ever growing readership to an eclectic mix of First World War aviation related stories each quarter. This milestone made me think about what the Society's journal was offering members 40 years ago in those far away days of 1982, which doesn't seem that long ago for some of us.

Volume 13, I was pleased to see

from a browse of the website, had a

wide range of topics from the exploits of RFC aces like Arthur Rhys Davids and Philip Fullard to articles on the development of aero engines and aircraft carriers. There was also a healthy range of overseas content to include French, German and even Swedish subjects - Thulin Aircraft anyone?

If you are intrigued, you can buy back issues on PDF here:

<https://bit.ly/3pqsm9h>

Society Business

This year's **Annual General Meeting** will be a virtual affair once again, to be held on **Saturday 30 April 2022 at 14.00 BST** via Zoom.

Your committee has recently undertaken a review of the society's marketing strategy with the aim of growing membership, reaching new audiences, refreshing the website, developing a more active presence on social media, offering new products and expanding educational activities. It is emphasised that the journal, monograph production and Wind In The Wires will continue to be produced in their current formats. It is planned to brief members at this year's AGM on the review's conclusions and recommendations - so it's very much hoped that as many members as possible will be able to join this important discussion.

The AGM will be followed by the **Leaman Lecture** given by **Trevor Henshaw**, who needs no introduction to anyone with a copy of **The Sky Their Battlefield II** in their reference library. His subject is the **DeHavilland DH2** and heralds the release of the Society's forthcoming monograph on the iconic single-seat pusher.

Non-members are very welcome to attend the lecture.

Please contact Andy Kemp at: membership.secretary@crossandcockade.com to register for the AGM and/or to see Trevor in action.

Cross & Cockade International
 The First World War Aviation Historical Society
 Web Site www.crossandcockade.com



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		

Also, we are putting out a further urgent appeal for someone to join us as Sales Manager. The job spec was set out in the last Journal and all you really need is a handy post office, a modicum of storage space and (on average) an hour or two per hour week. If you feel you might be able to help by joining the team, please contact Graham Mottram at:

sales.manager@crossandcockade.com.

All are encouraged to buy our stunning **2022 Calender** whilst stocks last! Get twelve superb paintings by world renowned artists with the proceeds going towards ongoing maintenance of the **British Air Services Memorial** at St-Omer. Details at <https://bit.ly/37Tp7hi>

Ham, Booze and a Royal Lady



On 7 February 2022, the kenyans.co.ke website, based in Nairobi, had an interesting article on the origins of the historic Outspan Hotel in Nyeri County. The hotel was founded by Eric George Sherbrooke Walker, a Royal Flying Corps pilot with a fascinating story of his own.

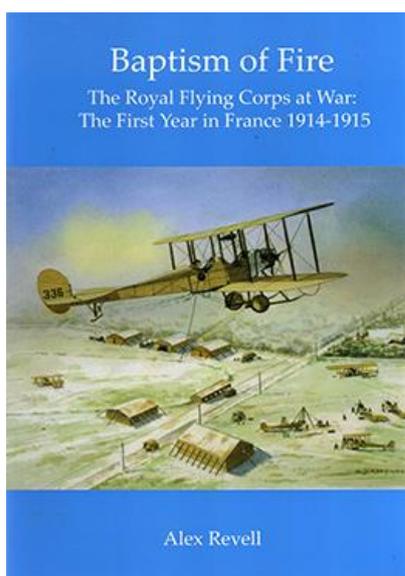
Walker was commissioned in the infantry in August 1914. He transferred to the Royal Flying Corps but in 1915, on his 28th birthday, his BE2c (s/n 1694) came down behind enemy lines with his observer Captain JC Leech. The 16 Squadron pair became prisoners of war and Walker is said to have made 36 attempts to escape, on one occasion aided by wire cutters provided by Baden-Powell hidden inside a piece of ham! Walker had been closely associated with the Scouting movement before the war.

He then joined the British Military Mission in south Russia fighting the Bolsheviks. In 1926, Walker set up a business smuggling booze into Prohibition America and was forced to exile in Canada after shooting a State Trooper who attempted to take his cargo. Walker and his wife moved to Kenya, owning the Outspan Hotel and also Treetops, where Princess Elizabeth was staying when she ascended to the throne in 1952.

<https://bit.ly/3C5C9GX>

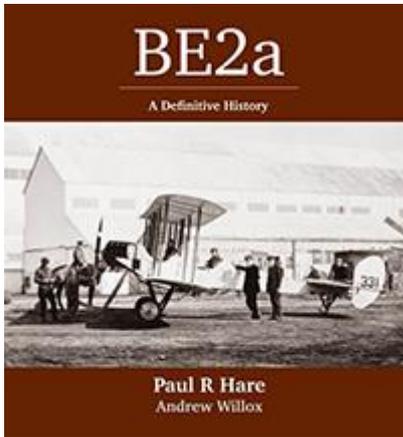
<https://bit.ly/3MfenNk>

Revell in a Great Book at a Bargain Price



The Society is pleased to announce that you can now find **Baptism of Fire - The Royal Flying Corps at War: The First Year in France 1914-1915** for just £14.95 plus p&p from our web shop. Originally available at £23.95, this excellent book by Alex Revell, an internationally acknowledged researcher into the history of the RFC, RAF and RNAS, details the vitally important role played by the RFC in the first year of the war. It is also the personal story of the courage of young airmen whose underpowered machines lacked the ability

to climb to a height sufficient to protect them from both anti-aircraft and small arms fire. A perfect Christmas gift for fans of the First World War, or treat yourself to a copy: <https://bit.ly/3CSFCrf>



While you are browsing our bookstore, don't forget to pick up a copy of the authoritative **BE2a - A Definitive History** by Paul Hare and Andrew Willox. We have also reduced the price of this book by £10.00, so it's just £17.00 plus p&p to have details of every operational BE2a in the world at your fingertips: <https://bit.ly/3HC5hb0>

Red Baron Round Up



Knowing that readers can't get enough Red Baron in their lives, here are two blog pieces from *The Aviation Geek Club* posted on 6 November and 15 December 2021. The first considers the pros and cons of von Richthofen's 'favourite' aircraft, the Fokker Dr.1, which offered exceptional manoeuvrability

but failed to match the speeds of Allied fighters in level flight and dive. The merits of the Oberursel UR.II rotary engine are also discussed, as are the problems with the Dr.1's wing structure, which were the cause of numerous accidents.

The second is a rousing tale of von Richthofen's first aerial victory on 17 September 1916. Flying an Albatros D.II, the pilot found an enemy FE2b at the tail of a formation that had been intercepted by Boelcke's Jasta 2. The blog

analyses MvR's combat report, which saw the deaths of pilot 2Lt Lionel Bertram Frank Morris and his observer, Capt Tom Rees. Jill Bush's excellent book '**Lionel Morris and the Red Baron**' was published by Pen and Sword Books in June 2019 – see the review in Vol 50/4 of the Journal:

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

<https://bit.ly/3hyrU4w>

And just to top you up on Der rote Kampfflieger, here's a jaunty offering entitled '**Here Are Some Things You Probably Don't Know About The Red Baron**' as posted by US site *SOFREP* on 13 February 2022. Can you resist the lure of facts like 'He was Buried At Least Four Times And Had Five Funerals'?

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

Gillet – The Best a Man(fred) Can Get?



The *Daily Mail* used a tenuous **Red Baron** link on 5 December 2021 to promote a piece on the sale of medals belonging to US-born Captain Frederick Warrington Gillet at a Spink & Son auction, which realised £7,200 including fees. The article claims that Gillet's success rate was greater than that of von Richthofen as he accumulated 20 victories, which included three kite balloons, in just three months.

Gillet (1895-1969) was the highest scoring pilot flying the Sopwith

Dolphin with 79 Squadron RAF and the second highest scoring American, only surpassed by Eddie Rickenbacker. The article includes his combat report,

which resulted in the award of his DFC, as he destroyed an enemy aircraft and a kite balloon in one action. Gillet added a bar to his medal for attacking three Fokkers during a low line patrol on 4 November 1918, near Besseghem.

Read more at <https://bit.ly/3Mgg9Hf> and for the full auction details see <https://bit.ly/3IEbZNJ>

Copies of the Society's monograph '**Sopwith Dolphin in RFC, RNAS, RAF and Polish Service**' are still available from the website:

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

Dogged Determination



The *Untold Lives* blog of the *British Library* on 22 February 2022 recounts an amazing tale from the War Diaries of the British Mesopotamia Expeditionary Force. On 7 July 1917, two German two-seater planes set out southwards from Tikrit. The four aviators were tasked with flying over British positions near Baghdad to gather information. Disaster struck on their

return journey, with one aircraft being forced to land, which could not be repaired.

The surviving aircraft was loaded with the four aviators, their belongings, and a small Persian dog which accompanied 'all important reconnaissance'. The exhausted men drove their plane across the sands rather than attempting to fly. Roughly fifteen miles from Samarra, this plane's engine also failed and the

Germans burnt it and continued on foot across the desert.

Two of the men collapsed and had to be abandoned but the surviving pair reached British lines at dawn on 10 July. Patrols to search for the two men left behind found no sign of them. However, the dog survived the desert trek, and found itself switching its wartime allegiance to the British.

Woof the story up at: <https://bit.ly/3tqgcya>

The Odessa File



Continuing my occasional dip into the world of Russian aviators, I spotted this article in the *Odessa Journal* on 25 November 2021, which commemorates the 111th anniversary of the opening ceremony of the Sevastopol Aviation Officer School.

The school was created by the special order of Nicholas II, who was present during the ceremonial presentation of diplomas to its first graduates in October 1911, and its patron was the chief of Russian aviation, Grand Duke Alexander Mikhailovich. The school continued even after the revolution, although it changed its name to the Kachin Military Pilot School.

The article includes brief notes on some of the key aviators who attended the School, including Mikhail Efimov, who joined the Bolsheviks and became a member of the Seaplane Committee in Crimea, and the first 'deliberate spinner' Konstantin Artseulo.

See: <https://bit.ly/3MkCv1c>

Airship and Zeppelin News



A service took place to mark 100 years since a memorial was unveiled for those killed in a Zeppelin raid.

The memorial in Goole Cemetery commemorates the 16 people who died when about 60 bombs were dropped on the town on 9 August

1915. On 12 February 1922, people from Goole gathered to see the memorial unveiled. Before the service, relatives of Alice and Florence Harrison, who died aged six and four when a bomb was dropped on their house, laid flowers at the memorial. Please see the *Twitter* feed of the **Goole First World War Research Group** @Goole_WW1 for more photographs: <https://bbc.in/35HSNiy>

The pupils of **Shortstown Primary School** in Cardington have worked with a local artist to create a unique sculpture to reflect their town's historical association with airships using their own words and phrases. The shape of the airship R101 has been used to form the piece: <https://bit.ly/3HEzZ1Y>

Alan Malcher's blog on 20 December 2021 explored the exploits of noted Zeppelin commander **Heinrich Mathy** and his death at the hands of RFC pilot Wulstan Tempest on 1 October 1916. A few errors crept into the piece, which were swiftly corrected by 'First Blitz' historian, Ian Castle. Ian's latest book – **Zeppelin Inferno - The Forgotten Blitz 1916** is due out on 30 April 2022. It is the next instalment of the series that began with **Zeppelin Onslaught - The Forgotten Blitz 1914-1915**:

<https://bit.ly/3K7TX70>

<https://bit.ly/35KujGE>

A short 16 December 2021 blog from *JSTOR Daily* caught my eye entitled '**Whatever happened to Airships**'. Helium emerged as an alternative to

hydrogen in 1917, when natural gas fields in Texas were found to hold significant quantities of the gas. In the post war period, Congress banned the export of helium so that rivals could not take advantage of this asset.

<https://bit.ly/3pyZNq7>

Moudros Was the Case



Staying with Zeppelins, I missed this excellent article from 23 August 2021 in *Neos Kosmos*, a Hellenic publication based in Australia. It is by Bernard de Broglio, a member of **The Australian Society of WW1 Aero Historians** and recounts the little

known Zeppelin raid on the Aegean island of Lemnos on 20 March 1917. The target was the Allied naval base at Moudros, but the raid by Zeppelin LZ 101, commanded by Oberleutnant Fritz Koreuber, was unsuccessful despite dropping 1,400Kg of bombs.

Once over Moudros the searchlights of the assembled warships allowed their guns to put the Zeppelin under sustained fire for six to seven minutes. The airship suffered only a few rents to its gas cells and made its escape. A British seaplane was scrambled in pursuit but lost its prey in the dark.

In Romanou village on Lemnos, at the cafe, the memory of the Zeppelin is kept alive in a folk tale. An unfortunate miller and his donkey were killed by one of the bombs. The miller's wife, on hearing the news, became distraught. It was not for her husband that she grieved but the donkey, which was much more useful!

See <https://bit.ly/3C952li> and the full story of the raid can be found in the **ASWW1 Journal**. See <https://www.ww1aero.org.au>

Pioneering Pilot Remembered



Following a brief mention way back in *WitW 20*, I have been looking for the opportunity to bring readers a little more about Bessie Coleman, the first African American woman to be awarded an international pilot's licence. Fortunately, the *Smithsonian Magazine's* detailed article on 21 January 2022 gives me a chance to

put this right.

Bessie's is a remarkable story, from the humblest beginnings as one of 13 children of Texan sharecroppers to an inspirational aviator and civil-rights pioneer. She was taught to fly by the Caudron brothers in post war France and, after earning her international licence, trained in Germany with former First World War flying aces. On her return to the US, Coleman barnstormed the country, making appearances at aviation days and local fairs. Tragically, on 30 April 1926 in Jacksonville, Florida, she was killed in a flying accident.

Bessie's great-niece, Gigi, introduced a recent panel discussion, hosted by the National Air and Space Museum, along with Philip Hart, author of **Up in the Air: The Story of Bessie Coleman**, Ellen Stofan, the Smithsonian's undersecretary of science and research, Carole Hopson, pilot and author and Secretary Lonnie G Bunch III. The article includes a link to the discussion on YouTube.

Get educated at: <https://bit.ly/3C4LnmG>

In Brief 1 – Airmen



An interesting lot at the recent *Dix Noonan Webb* medal sale caught my attention. Achieving a hammer price of £1,000 was a post-War British Empire Medal and rare Zoological Society of London Bronze Medal pair awarded to Edward Bradstock

Tanner. He served with the 9th

Battalion, London Regiment from 23 January 1911, transferring to the Royal Naval Air Service on 9 March 1916, where he served as a Rigger on airships. In civilian life Tanner was employed by the Zoological Society of London, as a Bird Keeper, in due course rising to become Overseer of Birds.

<https://bit.ly/3C4unwY>

In the final visit of the series of **Secrets of the Imperial War Museum** on *Channel 5*, there was a short segment on the IWM's acquisition of the identity bracelet of the first black pilot to join the Royal Flying Corps, Sgt William Robinson Clarke. The bracelet will be a key exhibit in helping to tell the contribution of all peoples who fought in the First World War. See also *WitW 8, 31 and 35* for more on Clarke's career and bracelet.

My5 - Secrets of the Imperial War Museum - Season 1 - Episode 6

[\(https://www.channel5.com/\)](https://www.channel5.com/)

Another story missed from last year and brought to my attention by Marcus Williams was from *KentOnline* on 13 May 2021. It features pilot **Gunther Plüschow**, the only German prisoner-of-war to successfully escape capture in the UK and return home during either of the two world wars. Plüschow has been a naval pilot at the German outpost of TsingTao, China, at the outbreak of the war and by a circuitous route he found himself as a POW at Donnington Hall, Leicestershire. After escaping, he made his way to Gravesend and, after a series of adventures, to Germany on 13 July 1915.

<https://bit.ly/3C6BJjq>

HistoryNet.com featured the life story of outspoken Australian **Sid Cotton** who helped to develop photoreconnaissance techniques early in World War II. The 18 February 2022 article also mentions Cotton's invention of the flight suit in 1917, which he named the Sidcot.

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

Pilot Poser for Vintage Perry



There was an enjoyable article in the *Maldon Standard* 6 February 2022 by local historian Stephen Nunn, which considers whether a classic car, a 1914 Perry 11.9hp two-seater tourer, had belonged to a Royal Flying Corps pilot. Intriguingly, the car had worn canvas headlamp covers (now lost) bearing the RFC monogram, although they could have easily been added later. As the car was not formally registered until 1920, no early ownership can be traced. However, Stephen was able to find a 1989 reference to the same model car as having been driven during the First World War by “a Royal Flying Corps pilot’s batman”.

Some people have optimistically suggested that the pilot who owned the Perry was none other than **Claude Alward Ridley** DSO MC, one time Commanding Officer of 37 Squadron RFC (see *WitW 19 and 21*), but there is nothing to verify this. On the invitation of **Stow Maries**, the owner of the Perry drove it to the aerodrome and parked outside the ready room – the car looked very much at home!

Interesting read at: <https://bit.ly/3HBPbwl>

Eddie Steady Go



I was entertained by a story on AVWeb posted on 7 January 2022 about a mysterious photograph hanging above the old Victrola at the home of Joe Berge, the writer's grandfather. It bore the inscription "To Joe—from Your Friend, Captain

Eddie". It transpired that Joe had known leading US ace **Eddie Rickenbacker**.

The writer, Paul Berge, goes on to wax lyrically about the 1918 SPAD XIII and considers Rickenbacker's venture into the post First World War car industry. This is where Joe, an automotive engineer specialising in instrumentation, spent enough hours with Eddie to obtain the signed portrait when his contract expired. After Joe's death in 1960, Paul was unable to secure the portrait from his uncle and laments the loss of a picture that links his family to America's Ace of Aces.

<https://bit.ly/3MhbwU4>

Staying with Rickenbacker, *The Columbus Dispatch* has reproduced its front page from 17 February 1919, where he returned to a hero's welcome to his hometown.

<https://bit.ly/35p0YBF>

Finally, the US Department of Defense website recently featured Rickenbacker as part of its Sports Heroes Who Served series, which highlights the accomplishments of athletes who served in the US military. Rickenbacker's career as an accomplished racing car driver is reviewed.

<https://bit.ly/35NqhgM>

Curse you Red Baron!



Sorry, one more tenuous von Richthofen link for you in this issue.

The Brewery Arts Center in Carson City Nevada hosted its grand opening for the **Snoopy and the Red Baron Exhibition** on the weekend of 19 February 2022. The

gallery features 77 framed Peanuts comics by Charles Schulz, all depicting Snoopy, the famous Flying Ace, and his imaginary dogfights against the Red Baron.

Schulz first depicted Snoopy as the World War I flying ace in 1965. The Red Baron is based on a real German fighter pilot, Manfred von Richthofen, the ace-of-aces who was shot down in 1918. One scene from the comic series became famous – in several strips, Snoopy shouts “Curse you Red Baron!” while waving his fist in the air. Snoopy and the Red Baron will be on display until 15 May.

<https://bit.ly/3C8CaKb>

<https://bit.ly/3toVS05>

Kink’s Speed Record Tragedy



If you missed the write up in *WitW27*, the *Southern Daily Echo* of 15 December 2021 retold the story of a famous crashed seaplane, recovered in March 1928. The Supermarine S.5 was a reserve aircraft for a

successful tilt at the **Schneider Trophy** in 1927 and was making an attempt on the world speed record.

The pilot was South African born Flight Lieutenant Samuel “Kink” Kinkead, with

a stellar war record flying the Sopwith Camel for 201 Squadron RAF (33 victories in total during the conflict). Later he served in Russia downing ten Red Russian aircraft, earning the Distinguished Service Order.

Finally, at 5.25pm on the first lap of his record attempt, he approached Calshot and the measured three-kilometre course. Possibly only 20 metres above Southampton Water, his small plane tragically nosedived. Sam Kinkead was buried with full military honours at All Saints Church in Fawley four days later. The cause of the accident has never been established.

Interesting story at <https://bit.ly/3tnWdjN>

In Brief 2 - Aircraft



Our friends at **Stow Maries** recently announced on its *Twitter* feed @StowAero that yet another iconic aircraft made its home at the historic aerodrome. Check out this video to see all about the wonderful Avro 504K that is now in pride of place in Hangar 1.

<https://bit.ly/3K7oiTh>

On 24 December 2021, the *Sheffield Star* had a nice 1919 picture showing aircraft at **2 (Northern) Aircraft Repair Depot** at RFC Greenhill. The depot was part of Coal Aston Aerodrome, although it was neither at Coal Aston nor an aerodrome, as planes were only briefly operational from there. The site is now part of St James Retail Park.

<https://bit.ly/3pwFd9Y>

From 1920 to 1959, Croydon was Britain's main airport handling more passengers, mail and cargo than any other. The airport started life as

Beddington Aerodrome in 1915 and evolved into an important training centre for the Royal Flying Corps and later the Royal Air Force. See the *My London* article on 4 February 2022 for a glimpse into the golden age of flight.

<https://bit.ly/3pv4lbH>

London Colney Aerodrome

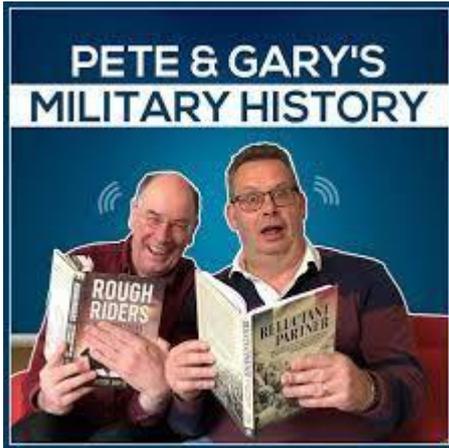


Engagement - The newsletter of the South-East region of the Battlefields Trust dropped into my inbox on 11 February 2022. It included a report on **London Colney Aerodrome**, an RFC airfield on the south side of the M25 in Hertfordshire where little, other than the field itself, remains today. Although nearer to Shenley

than London Colney, the 212 acre aerodrome was named to avoid any confusion with the airfield at Kenley. Used initially as an emergency night landing ground, the site consisted of a grass surface, a number of flight sheds and huts.

Operational squadrons of the RFC were based there from June 1916 until May 1917 when it became a training base until its closure in December 1919. In June 1916, 56 Squadron was posted to London Colney and some of them were billeted in the village and others in Shenley. See <https://bit.ly/349MBRc> for details of the charity dedicated to the protection, promotion and interpretation of Britain's battlefields.

Sounds Good: Podcasts and Radio Recommendations



If you haven't checked in with *Pete & Gary's Military History* podcast recently, you will have missed out on some lively First World War aviation content. Hugh Trenchard featured in Episode 91 and in their 100th episode, the guys celebrated with the launch of a new series on the air war over Arras in 1917, as detailed in Peter's book 'Bloody April'. The story continues in Episodes 104 and 109. Episodes 103 and

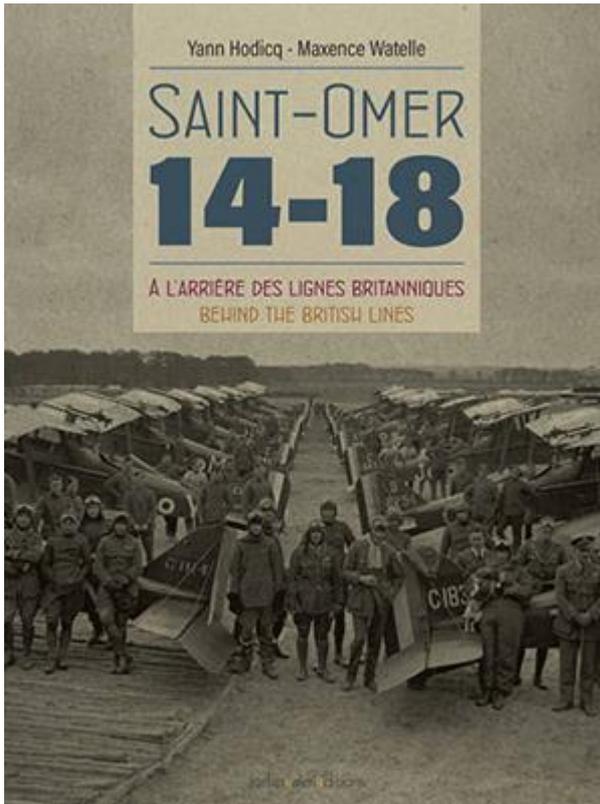
106 feature Zeppelin Raids on Britain and Gothas and Zeppelins over Britain 1917-18 respectively.

See <https://apple.co/3tqC6l5> or your usual podcast provider

Episode 44 of *The Airing Cupboard Podcasts* - extraordinary stories of ordinary people – dropped in February 2022. Set in Belgium during the First World War, this is a story about the courage of a young woman, a Royal Flying Corps pilot and the strange power of a sneeze. An enjoyable and poignant listen at <https://bit.ly/3lDa3VU>

Word of Mouth, Michael Rosen's BBC Radio 4 show had an informative episode in January 2022: Words from World War I. Michael was joined by Lynda Mugglestone, Professor of the History of English at the University of Oxford, to talk about the new language that emerged from British experience in the First World War to include 'Zeppelinophobia' amongst other linguistic treats. Available here: <https://bbc.in/3treTiq>

Saint-Omer book



Thank you to Peter Dye for letting me know about a lavishly illustrated history detailing St-Omer's role in the First World War by the *Agence d'Urbanise et de Developpement Pays de Saint-Omer*, detailing the town's role in the First World War. At over 300 pages, this large format soft-back book offers nearly 200 images (many in colour) as well as a text in French and English.

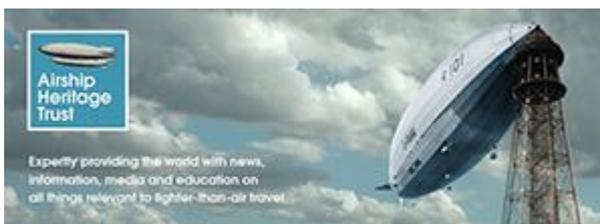
The publication follows a highly successful exhibition in 2018, celebrating the RAF's Centenary,

Cross & Cockade's involvement in the exhibition and the creation of the **British Air Services Memorial**. The authors address many other aspects including welfare, transportation and medical matters, as well as the German air raids on the town.

This book gives attention to the wide range of those less glamorous efforts needed to sustain the British Expeditionary Force during its four years fighting in France and Belgium. Available directly from the publisher here:

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

Airship Heritage Trust – Online Resources



Finally, a thank you to Dr Giles Camplin for informing *WitW* that our friends at the *AHT* are now putting PDFs of its journal, **Dirigible**, into a freely available online library at

<https://bit.ly/3pv5JAD>

Save for the last few issues, you can delve into the output of this excellent publication from 1989 to date. The AHT has helpfully added a Microsoft Excel file, which will enable you to quickly search and find a published paper, article or photograph. A more detailed index is in the works so that historical researchers and authors can find issues which hold potentially useful information. The website is also worth a browse if you have a lighter than air fixation (like me) and their shop has some rather smart clothes and exclusive merchandise too.

Written by David Marks, edited by Andy Kemp

I've just landed
at CREWE





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