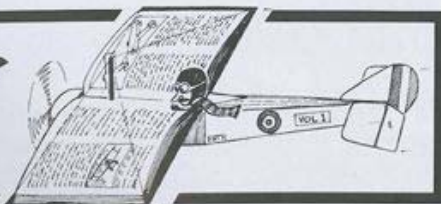


# Bookshelf

Compiled by George Miller



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## JAGDSTAFFEL 2 'BOELCKE' Von Richthofen's Mentor. Aviation Elite Units 26

Greg Van Wyngarden  
128pp, 185x250mm, softback.  
ISBN 978-1-84603-203-5. £14.99.

This is another of a series of very high quality. I don't think any of them contain much new information, but they are all compact, extensive, well illustrated, written by prolific authors, and together make up an important reference source, plus being readable. This volume matches all the above criteria. Many of the photographs (some of which have not reproduced well), reflect the author's interest in the colours and markings of German aircraft. Basically this was a good Jagd until Boelcke's death, then would have been very ordinary without Voss' presence, (and he was got rid of), until Bohme took it over in August 1917. He returned it to something like its former glory, and, although he too died at the end of November, its prowess continued under a number of different leaders culminating in one of the best, Karl Bolle, until the end of the War.



## IL FOLLE VOLO: Uomini e aerie della Prima Guerra Mondiale

Edited by Stefano Bulgarelli, Roberta Russo, Paolo Varriale  
Fotomuseo Giuseppe Panini, Via Giardini 160, Modena, Italy.  
142pp, 210x215mm, softback. £10

The title is from Dante's 'Inferno' and translates badly and roughly as 'The Divine Flyers-Men and Planes of World War I' and please do not be put off if your knowledge

of Italian is even less than mine. The limited amount of text is fairly easy to decipher and the photographs are wonderful. They are from the collections of the Museo Baracca, (of course), and the Foto-museo Giuseppe Panini both of which I would like to visit. Both sides of the conflict are represented, and there are also many interesting close ups of cockpits and fuselage art, and not so many of crashes as usual! There are also some rare air-to-air pictures which are beautiful. The RNAS and RFC are here, with a particularly nice picture of an RNAS Caproni Ca.4 bearing a picture of 'Old Bill' on its nose. There are seaplanes and balloons, bombers and scouts, body armour and cameras, allied and enemy. This is a stylish publication as only the Italians can do style, and I loved it. Sadly, I have not been able to find an ISBN, but try [www.fotomuseo.it](http://www.fotomuseo.it) to order.

## THE DAILY TELEGRAPH AIRMEN'S OBITUARIES Book Two

Edited by Jay Iliff  
Grub Street, 4 Rainham Close, London SW11 6SS.  
416pp, 138x210mm, hardback.  
ISBN 978-1904943-839. £18.00.

I have enjoyed this series of books, (Book One is still available) and this one is no exception. None of the obituaries featured appeared before 2001, and there is only one World War I Veteran - Leading Aircraftman William Roberts - amongst them, but a splendid diversity of eccentric, brave and inspiring men and women are immortalized. To name only a few: Neville Duke, Ray Hanna, Pierre Clostermann, 'Cats Eyes' Cunningham, Dame Felicity



Peake, all heroes. As an aside, I wonder why the Air Force, as opposed to the other parts of the Military, is so keen on nicknames?

*The deluge is well under way to take advantage of the imminent ninetieth anniversary of the Red Baron's death, and the release of a 'major motion picture' about him. This time we have:*

## UNDER THE GUNS OF THE RED BARON

Norman Franks, Hal Giblin and Nigel McCreery

Grub Street, as above  
224pp, 210x250mm, softback.  
ISBN 1-904943-97-7. £12.99.

This is subtitled 'The Complete Record of Von Richthofen's Victories and Victims Fully Illustrated' and was first published in hardback in 1995, and has not been updated since as far as I could see. It was reviewed in 27/1 by Paul Leaman who found it interesting, although it has some errors. The book is, of course, not about the man himself, but details his 80 victories chronologically. It is, as the subtitle suggests, well illustrated. There are also ten pieces of artwork as well as maps. And, if you have not already got it, at the price, it is a bargain.



## AN AIRMAN'S WIFE: A True Story of Lovers Separated by War

Aimée McHardy  
Grub Street, as above.  
320pp, 129x198mm, softback.  
ISBN 1-904943-942. £8.99.

This appeared in hardback in 1995, and was reviewed in 32/2. It is a moving love story about two very liberated people, one of whom was a pilot in 40 Squadron. It is based on his letters to her and her diary. There is a lot of interesting background about living, fighting and dying on the Western Front. It comes with a new Introduction and helpful annotations. I enjoyed it greatly.



## OTHER BOOKS RECEIVED

### TO THE LIMIT OF ENDURANCE: A Battalion of Marines in the Great War

Peter F. Owen  
Texas A&M University Press, 4354 TAMU, College Station, Texas.  
264pp, hardback, 160x235mm.  
ISBN 13-978-68544-599-8. \$32.50.

This book, written by a serving US Marine Officer, is unusual in that it focuses on what went on at a unit, rather than division, level. It reinforces my opinion that the regular US Marine was a superbly disciplined and fit fighter, often well led at the basic level, but let down very severely by the obstinacy and stupidity of the higher ranks of command in the AEF. Nevertheless, we get a fascinating well told story made from first hand accounts and military records of actions from 1917 until the Armistice. Good maps, photographs and an index add to a superb work. There is one mention of a Zeppelin, not a tethered balloon, used to direct artillery fire, and the author is researching the French Escadrilles which supported the ground troops written about in this book.



