

WWI Books



Hermann Göring - Fighter Ace by Peter Kilduff at £20.00

SUBTITLED 'The World War I career of Germany's most infamous airmen' and note here the *infamous*. Göring in post-war years certainly was, and Peter Kilduff's excellent biography of his WWI exploits may be received with mixed feelings in some quarters. Wisely the author avoids courting controversy by confining his narrative to Göring's early upbringing and *Luftstreitkräfte* service, and the result casts a great deal more light on the titular character than has been revealed hitherto.

The author's literary CV is well-known and rightly lauded, and this latest *Grub Street* volume only consolidates his reputation in the field. It is a well written, carefully-considered and detailed account, backed up with exhaustive end-notes and reference sources to ease the path of next-generation researchers. There are over 70 illustrations within the 224 pages, including mono side profiles from Greg VanWyngarden, Ronny Bar rear cover colour plates and a generous smattering of contemporary images. Some familiar, many not, and others, surprisingly and unexpectedly from Göring's own private collection - something of a publishing *coup*.

As the flyleaf notes, Göring's wartime service is usually glossed over in countless latter-day bio's, from 'Thickapedia' entries to the interminable *Discovery Channel* docs, but the author has redressed this imbalance in his customary thorough manner. It's an absorbing page-turner and sprinkled

throughout the narrative are early clues to Göring's growing personality disorders that would culminate in later years to the overblown, vainglorious grotesque most of us are familiar with. That's something I'd rather not know more about; what I do want to know more about is Göring the WWI fighter ace, and thanks to Peter Kilduff, my curiosity has been more than satisfied...

For more details contact the publishers at 4 Rainham Close, London, SW11 6SS. Website: www.grubstreet.co.uk

Ref rating:



Fulco Ruffo di Calabria by Paolo Varriale and Daniele Serafini at €25.00

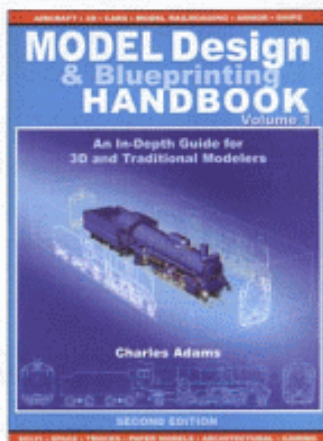
ANOTHER of those excellent, beautifully-designed and printed annual 'catalogues' from Italy's famous Museo Baracca in Lugo. The 2010 exhibition displays a new collection of rare photos devoted to Italian ace Ruffo di Calabria and this 116 page soft back takes us through the images one by one, supporting each with detailed captions and a learned, linking narrative by authors of high credential. The text is mostly Italian naturally, and each photo is reproduced singly per page to generous proportions, but at the rear of the book repeated as 'thumbnails' with English captions alongside; an anglicized *resumé* of Ruffo di Calabria's life can also be found here.

It's a wonderfully evocative collation of WWI images revealing some unique insights into early Italian military aviation. There are the usual 'candid camera' shots of the smiling ace and his compatriots, their downed Austro-Hungarian adversaries, and many great aeroplane portraits. Nieupoorts and Spads predominate of course and there are plenty of close-ups for modellers to savour.

This is a tremendous compendium and I cannot recommend it highly enough. More

details from Museo Francesco Baracca, via Baracca 65, 48022 Lugo (RA), Italy. Website: www.museobaracca.it

Ref rating:



Model Design and Blueprinting Handbook Vol.1 by Charles Adams at \$34.95

THIS is a revised and expanded edition of Charles widely-acclaimed technique-laden guide for budding scratchbuilders. We reviewed the first printing in *WS 23/3* and the favourable impressions we held three years' ago still stand. Nearly 30 pages have been added to the original, with many new illustrations and stacks of useful updates. Charles Adams' *Blueprinting Handbooks* are *de rigueur* for anyone considering the creation of models from the 'raw elements' of a three view via the processes discussed so eloquently, and elegantly, in this book's fascinating pages. Sound like a sales pitch? Possibly, but no excuses are offered - if you missed this gem first time around, do the decent thing now! More details from 15600 NE 8th St., Suite B1, PMB 422, Bellevue, WA 98008, USA. Website: www.ModelersNotebook.com

Ref rating:

WWI Journals



CCI Summer 2010

'LAST raid on Namur', Colin Ashford's evocative O/400 cover watercolour opens proceedings and heads up another pleasingly diverse issue. Colin Owers presents a stirring and well-illustrated account of the US Navy seaplane station at Vera Cruz, Mexico in 1914 - a little known history and all the more enthralling for it. Trevor Henshaw describes the exploits of No.58 Squadron's Handley Pages in 1919 with some really rare photos, then Stewart K Taylor presents the diary of FSL John Harvey Keens, a Canadian airman who saw service at Chingford, Eastbourne, and with No.3 Wing.

Mick Davis and Bill Morgan continue their impressively comprehensive flying site gazetteer, helpfully designed as a 'pull out' section, whilst Paul Hare describes the testing of BE2a 226 in some detail. The well-known 'Atlas of German and Foreign Seaplanes' is dusted off and re-invigorated by Paul Leaman and Colin Owers, the latter contributing photos and captions to complement the Sablatnig data sheets reproduced from the original *Seeflugzeuge* pages and the rear cover profiles. Finally, the usual departments and reviews round off another informative edition. More details from Roger Tisdale, 11 Francis Drive, Westward Ho!, Biddeford, Exeter, EX39 1XE. Website: www.crossandcockade.com

Ref rating:



OTF, Vol.25, No.1

HERE'S another great 96 pager from the productive team at *Over The Front* packed with their usual erudite mix of 'Great War' material. The content certainly enthralls. There's Ben Byrnes' account of Karl 'Dutch' Schoen's last flight, a 139th AS