

WORLD WAR I IN CARTOONS

Mark Bryant

Grub Street, 4 Rainham Close, London SW11 6SS

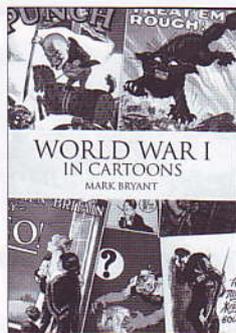
230x305mm, 160pp, Softback, Illustrated
ISBN 978-1-909808-09-6

This is a brilliant book. There's a tendency to think of a cartoon as something humorous, and many are, but Mark Bryant has compiled an extensive collection that also contains some that have a cruel and dark side to them. The illustrations, some in black & white, some in colour, range from newspaper cartoons to full posters.

They are arranged chronologically and start at the beginning of the 20th Century, when national ambitions meant that none of the future warring nations trusted any other, and illustrate European responses to the Boer War as well as the British view of the militarization of Germany under Wilhelm II.

The author is obviously very familiar with the history of the Great War and the bulk of the book takes the conflict, a year at a time, and provides cartoon and posters to reflect the perceived images of personalities and events. Yes there are examples of Bairnsfather and a Heath Robinson but some show the cynicism that developed as the war dragged on while others reflect the official derisive view of pacifists and strikers. The vast majority, however, were designed to encourage nationalistic fervour and examples from all combatant nations are presented, with those of the 1917 USA reflecting European examples from three years earlier. The book concludes with examples of cartoons that reflect the Treaty of Versailles and it is interesting to see that the contemporary view was that it would be, in Foch's words, not peace but a twenty year armistice.

If artwork is your thing, then this is definitely a book to have, particularly as many of the examples presented are quite thought-provoking.



LE ALI DI VENEZIA: Nascita e sviluppo dell'aviazione nel Novocento lagunare

Pietro Lando

Il Poligrafo, piazza Eremitana, via Cassan 34, 35121 Padova, Italy

182pp, 150x208mm, softback. ISBN 978-88-7115-842-6, €22.00.

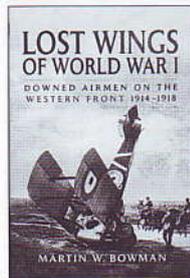
[The wings of Venice: birth and growth of aviation on the Lagoon in the 20th century]

This compact volume is written by a CCI member, one of the small group from Italy who attended the Bedford seminar. He describes his work as 'not a history of aviation, but a history of Venice as seen from the wings of an aircraft and not between the sails of a ship...'. It is No 18 in an ongoing series covering all aspects of the history of Venice in the 20th century.

Of the 104 photograph, almost 50 relate to 'our' period, including some from as early as 1906 showing the enterprising use of a camera-carrying balloon, towed by boat along the canals, to create a photo-map of the city. A photo-mosaic map published in 1911 is also reproduced.

Other notable images include the world's first test of an aerial torpedo, launched from a modified Farman floatplane, plus Capronis, a Macchi in flight over the city, and French machines based there.

It is hoped that the book will be available, with translated captions, via the Society website.



LOST WINGS OF WORLD WAR I: Downed Airmen on the Western Front 1914-1918

Martin W. Bowman

Pen & Sword Books Ltd, 47 Church Street, Barnsley, S70 2AS

236pp, 160x240mm, Hardback, Illustrated. ISBN 9781783831952, £25.00

The author has a long list of books to his credit, all, as far as I'm aware, on WWII subjects. This is, apparently, his first venture into the 1914-18 air war.

It contains a collection of personal reminiscences, from both better known and more obscure participants, the author's mini-biographies of some of the more famous names and his accounts of the captivity of some USAS pilots.

Personal recollections are always worth reading but, considering the title of the book, short accounts by two Army officers, concerning life after capture, as well as an author-penned chapter on Edith Cavell, seem out of place.

The author starts some of his biographies with extracts from articles that appeared in *Flying Review International* during the 1950s and his

narratives are very much along those lines, glorifying the air ace and using plenty of adjectives but not providing detailed information. There's a chapter on Bishop but the writer seems unaware of the controversy surrounding that character. Unfortunately, this apparent lack of subject knowledge shows further, as there are numerous factual errors, particularly when it comes to aeroplane names – HP 0/400, Albatros D.5, Martynside, Fokker Dr.I 103/17 and what was a Fokker Dr.VII?

The book is illustrated by a selection of, mainly, well-known photographs, their captions sometimes leaving a lot to be desired. This might be a good book for those with no previous knowledge of the subject; it's easy to read and might encourage them to delve deeper and find out the full story. As far as CCI members go, I would suggest that they have a browse in order to decide whether the value of the personal accounts outweighs the rest of the text.

AMERICA AT WAR: Concise Histories of U.S. Military Conflicts from Lexington to Afghanistan

Terence T. Finn

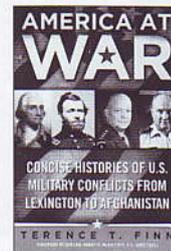
The Berkeley Publishing Group, published by Penguin Group (USA), 375 Hudson Street, New York, New York 10014, USA

382pp, 150x230mm, Softback, Map Illustrations
ISBN 978-0-425-26858-2, \$17.00

The author's previous book, *When Europe Went Mad*, provided a good overview of WWI, summing up all key events of that conflict in a mere 72 pages.

In this volume, he looks at each of the USA's wars, from the War of Independence to Afghanistan, and provides a similar treatment, covering causes, events and outcomes in a non-partisan way. Obviously, most of the 20th Century entanglements, as well as Iraq and Afghanistan, involved the USA working in alliance with other nations, but the author has stuck to his brief and considered the American involvement, with other nations mentioned where necessary. Useful, clear maps help to identify locations mentioned in the text.

What I like about the book is that each chapter ends with responses to a series of questions that are raised by the press and public. Those responses are fair and objective so that, for example, the lack of planning for post-war Iraq is not swept under the carpet. Any student of warfare will find something of interest in this volume and the c.£10 asking price is very reasonable.



PERIODICALS

OVER THE FRONT VOL 29 NUMBER 1, SPRING 2014: The quarterly magazine of the League of World War One Aviation Historians.

See advert on p212.

96pp 215 x 278 mm.

The front cover depicts the combat between a flight of Italian Macchi M5 fighter seaplanes led by *Tenente di Vascello* Oarrzio Pierozzi and Austro-Hungarian Hansa-Brandenburg W18 flying boats led by *Linienschiffsleutnant* Gottfried von Banfield over the Adriatic near Venice on 4 May 1918. The Italians were the victors with all but Banfield's aircraft being captured. The painting, the last completed by the artist Jan Serge Stone before his death in March of this year, sets the scene for the issue's leading article on the occasion.

The remaining articles cover wide ranging subjects; two separate studies of 'G series' twin engine machines – the Albatros G.II and G.III and the Rumpler G types (G.I to G.III both with photographs and scale drawings by Martin Digmayer); a *Short History of the Daimler-Mercedes D.III engine* a reprint of a WWII period report on the *Procurement of Aviation Material in Europe 1917-1918*; Part II of *A Visit to LVG Köslin*. The issue is completed by the usual departments, 'Mentioned in Despatches' provides an in-depth coverage and photographs of the First German Workshop on German Aviation History 1910-1920, held in Munich in March 2013, and a brief coverage of the recent restoration of the Old Rhinebeck aerodrome's Albatros D.Va replica in the markings used originally by Ltn Hans Böhning of Jasta 76b. Colour photographs of this appear on the outside rear cover. The inside front cover reproduces a painting by Karl Stellar of *Seefahrer* Friedrich Welker, *Linienschiffsleutnant* Gottfried Freiherr von Banfield and *Seefahrer* Josef Niedermeyer that hangs in the 1918/Vienna Heeresgeschichtliche Museum and a coloured side view of Banfield's Hansa-Brandenburg Type CC flying boat. Inside the rear cover are three further coloured side views of Hansa-Brandenburg flying boat fighters.

I would personally regard the Daimler-Mercedes D.III history as the high point of this issue.