

Wind in the Wires 54

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Wind in the Wires

Quarterly World War I Aviation Newsletter





A very warm welcome to all subscribers of *Wind in the Wires* and I am delighted to present issue number 54 for your perusal. If you are passionate about First World War aviation, this e-newsletter delivers curated, professional content at no cost, and is well-suited to both casual readers and serious hobbyists. Our steady growth in the subscriber base speaks to its quality and reliability (I hope) and any comments are always gratefully received. All back issues are available in [PDF](#) on the Society's website, if you haven't been with us since 2012!

It's been a busy time at GWAS HQ with the fourth issue of our popular full-colour magazine, **Contact!** (Volume 2 Number 2) being released last month and, from the feedback gleaned so far, we're hitting the mark with wide-ranging content and illustrations.

As mentioned in the last issue, the lecture programme recommences in September and we have some great speakers lined up; **Lawrence's Air War in the Hejaz** (Roger Bragger), **African Air Gallantry Awards** (Anne Samson), **Autochrome Slideshow** (David Méchin) and **Historic Aviation Film Unit** video presentation (Allan Udy). The members' area of the website is where you can find recordings of all previous lectures. Also check the website for our vast library of second-hand books. Yet another reason to become a member is that you'll now get a 20% discount off all our back issues and pre-loved books.

Volume 56 Number 3 (Autumn 2025) of the venerable **Cross and Cockade International Journal** is now at the printers and will be available for dispatch shortly. If you are not already a member, please consider taking the plunge and join us for the current year or for 2026. Our Membership Secretary, Andy Kemp, would

be happy to discuss all of the options with you at membership@greatwaraviation.org or just click [here](#). As part of your membership of the Society, we can provide either print or digital offerings of the **Journal** and **Contact!** - or any combination of the two.

The Society's **2026 Calendar** is now printed in all of its Technicolor glory. This incredibly popular product, now in its 26th year, usually sells out fast, so get your order in today! It's priced at just £12 plus postage and includes a reproduction of a watercolour by the late Colin Ashford (1919-2020). As well as becoming an honorary member of the Society in recognition of his contribution to aviation art, Colin was a founder-member of the Guild of Aviation Artists and a fellow of the Central Institute of Art and Design.

Read more about Colin's remarkable life here <https://tinyurl.com/34hdeeha>


The Great War Aviation Society
The specialists in WW1 aviation
The Great War Aviation Society 2026 calendar
www.greatwaraviation.org



SEPTEMBER 2026						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		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	30			



Colin's work features also in the latest issue of **Contact!**, providing the cover illustration of RNAS Short 827 at Chukwani Bay, Zanzibar, and you will also find his watercolour of the destruction of the Königsberg inside. The Society understands from Colin's family that his work is still very much in demand from authors and organisations such as *The Historic Croydon Airport Trust*.

The Autumn 2025 issue of **Contact!** is in the works, and will be published in the next few weeks. The theme of **Contact! 02/3** is a broad and attractive one - the

Western Front. Readers can look forward to articles exploring **The Human Side of 56 Sqn, Women in the RFC, Maurice Baring's interviews with the pilots involved in the death of Voss, and The Rotary Revolution**, which examines the importance of the rotary engine to early aviation.

Those with long memories will recall that in 1995, 2012 and 2014 we hosted weekend conferences on our favourite subject. We're considering holding another - perhaps in October 2026 - around Bedford and including a trip to Old Warden. If you find the thought attractive, [hit this button](#).

2026 Membership

Members will receive their renewal form in **Journal 56/3** and **Contact! 02/3** and the web shop for [2026 Membership](#) is already live!

If you've been happily reading *Wind in the Wires* but haven't yet dipped your toes into Membership, why not give it a try? It needn't cost much - starting at just £27 per year - really good value.



For 2026 you have the same choice as in 2025, with the option of receiving either the **Journal** or **Contact!** in print or digital formats. Or, if you wish, you can choose to receive **BOTH** publications as part of your

membership - either in print, digital or a mix of the two.

However attractive **Contact!** might be, there's no need to change if you don't feel the urge. The **Journal** will continue as before, sailing serenely on into and (hopefully) well beyond Volume 57.

All combinations are available, so check which 2026 Membership option suits you best here: <https://tinyurl.com/yc6e85rs> - or ring Andy on +44 (0)7738 274383 to talk.

Aviation Artists Land at Shuttleworth



The **Guild of Aviation Artists** 52nd Aviation Paintings of the Year Exhibition was held at the Shuttleworth Collection, Old Warden aerodrome, Bedfordshire on 6 to 8 June 2025. As usual, the Society's '**Best World War One Aviation Painting in Show**' award was up for grabs and the winner was a watercolour of a Short 184 over warships, '**In Our**

Safe Haven', by **Barry Barnes**. The first runner-up was 'Tribute to 73,000 at Thiepval' by Martin Perman, featuring an SE5a over the iconic monument. The other runners-up prize was given for two pencil and graphite drawings by Rob Hames, 'Shuttleworth Sopwith' and 'Will This Camera Idea Take Off?'

The Society's knowledgeable judge, Marcus, explained that it was the clarity and uncluttered cleanliness of Barry's painting, combined with the 184 being shown in context, which had 'ticked all the boxes' for him.

Check out all of entries here <https://tinyurl.com/4vpuk7yy> and let us know if you agree with Marcus' decision. Also, the next issue of **Contact!** will feature an interview with the winner!

Speaking of art, a new exhibit titled '**Richtofen's 80 Victories Illustrated**' opened on 5 August 2025 at **Topeka's Combat Air Museum**. It showcases 80 oil paintings by New York illustrator Thomas La Padula, each depicting one of the Red Baron's aerial victories. The exhibit will run until May 2026.

See <https://tinyurl.com/m4w6ymjw>

Cornwall's Captain Courage

On 19 July 2025, the *Voice Newspaper's* website reported on a Probus club talk given on the subject of the **Cornwall Aviation Company** and its founder, St Austell's Captain **Percival Phillips**.

Phillips began his military career in 1914 with the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry as a mechanic. He quickly transferred into the Royal Flying Corps, first serving as an aircraft engineer, and later flying as a gunner before being selected as a pilot.



Phillips saw active service in Mesopotamia, where he engaged enemy Kurdish positions in a ravine under heavy fire. His bravery earned him the Distinguished Flying Cross for heroic action. After the war, he returned to St Austell in 1922 and co-founded a motor garage. In 1924, Phillips launched the Cornwall Aviation Company, offering sightseeing and joy ride flights in a fleet of eight Avro 504s. He later joined Sir Alan Cobham's famed Flying Circus. Tragically, Phillips died when his Avro crashed during bad weather while returning from a towing assignment in Cambridgeshire. He was killed instantly upon impact in wooded terrain.

Read more at: <https://tinyurl.com/46sj3mu5>

Gallantry Under the Gavel: DFCs Fetch Flying Prices



Another 'Mespot' DFC was one of many interesting lots at *Noonans'* 11 June 2025 sale with a hammer price of £5,000 being paid for an extremely rare 'Mesopotamia' DFC and GSM 'S Persia' pair. The awards were made to Captain **Allen Percy Adams**, 47 and 30 Squadrons, Royal Flying Corps and Royal Air Force.

Adams was a man of action and multiple air rescues and, after his BE2c was shot down on 31 October 1917 in Mesopotamia during a bombing raid, he was himself rescued by Lieutenant Frank Nuttall, 'clinging to one wing and the fuselage'. Adams' luck ran out when his Martinsyde Scout was shot down whilst carrying out a low-level attack on hostile tribesmen at Khun on 6 March 1919. Despite valiant attempts by another pilot of his flight to land and rescue him, the terrain was deemed too treacherous, and his body was eventually recovered five days later by friendly tribesmen. I would recommend a read of the full auction particulars at <https://tinyurl.com/u37t6jf5>

Interested in 'Mespot'? **Wings Over Mesopotamia, Air War in Iraq 1914-18** was the Society's fourth specialist publication and copies are still available in the web shop. Combine it with a copy of **Lawrence of Arabia & Middle East Air Power** for just £25 (a saving of £12.50) at <https://tinyurl.com/4xyfkn7u>

Also at the July *Noonan's* sale, the DFC medal group awarded to Group Captain George Rensburg '**Bill**' Hicks sold for £4,000. The SE5a 'ace' included a rare Siemens-Schuckert D.IV amongst his tally of eight victories for 74 Squadron RAF between July and September 1918.

See <https://tinyurl.com/52wwex7c> All picture credits in this issue to the auction house

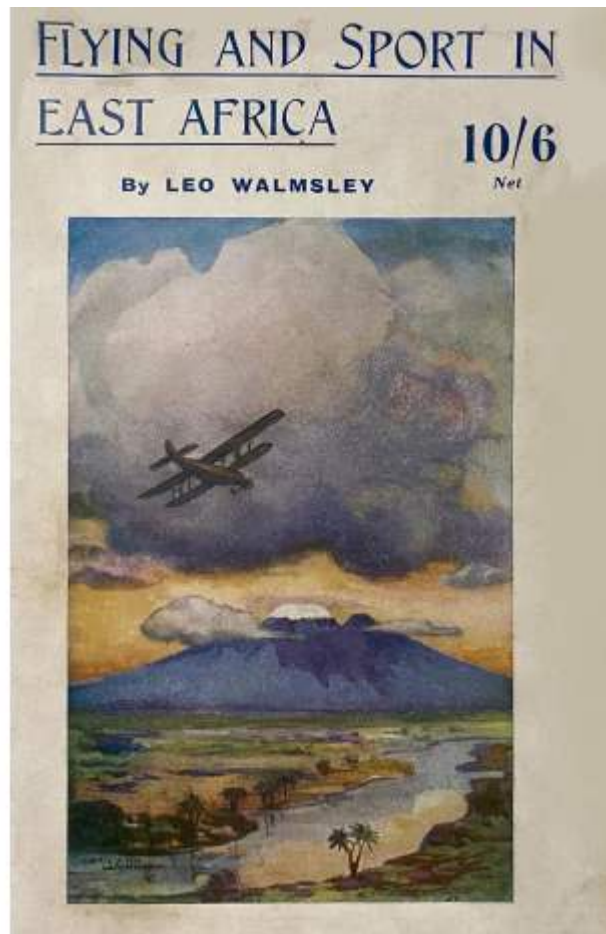
Keeping things Walmsley

The *Walmsley Society*, dedicated to the Robin Hood's Bay artist **J Ulric Walmsley** and his son, the local writer Leo, celebrated its 40th anniversary with a full weekend of events in the village, reported *The Scarborough News* on 14 May 2025. The weekend also saw the launch of a reprint of **Leo Walmsley's** book **Flying and Sport in East Africa**, more than 100 years from its original publication.

This book tells the story of the young Leo enlisting for the army, along with several other lads from the village, at the outbreak of the First World War, then finding himself in the unlikely setting of East Africa as an aerial photographer serving with 26 (South Africa) Squadron of the Royal Flying Corps. There are hair-raising stories of how Leo survived no fewer than 14 crash landings, which very nearly cost him his life. If you are interested in the Air War Over Africa, look no further than the latest issue of *Contact!*

See <https://tinyurl.com/54d9dz6e>

Scales fall from the Skies





An informative 2 August 2025 article in the *Telegraph and Argus* featured research carried out by the *Bradford WW1 Group* culminating in a battlefield cemetery visit. This caught my eye due to a 'celebrity' link with **Walter Alexander Scales** MC (West Yorkshire Regiment) being the uncle of actress **Prunella Scales**. On 6 January 1918, and now promoted to Captain, Scales died alongside Major Richard Nagle Ford and two Royal Flying Corps officers, Capt Robert Reeder and 2Lt Frederick Albert Egner, in a mid air

collision during an instructional flight run by 6 Squadron, training senior army officers in aviation cooperation.

Official records misleadingly listed them as 'Killed in Action,' likely due to the confidential nature of the programme. Trevor Henshaw's invaluable *The Sky Their Battlefield II* confirms the details and notes that Scales was the passenger in RE8 B6493, piloted by Reeder, in its collision with RE8 B5035. The four men were buried side by side in Doullens Communal Cemetery. Whether Scales' mother (or indeed the other casualties) ever learned the truth remains unknown, adding poignancy to this story.

See <https://tinyurl.com/mswtpueh>

News in Brief 1: Czech Tripehound, Italian Horsepower and a Virtual Camel

A replica Sopwith Triplane has become a highlight of the permanent exhibition at the **Metoděj Vlach Aviation Museum** in Mladá Boleslav, Czechia, reported the *FIA (Fédération Aéronautique Internationale)* website on 12 June 2025.



The award-winning project, which first began in 2020, recreates the N5493 'Blymp' favoured by Australian ace pilot, **Robert Alexander Little** (8 Naval Squadron). Boasting a seven-cylinder 145 hp Warner Scarab engine and refurbished original aviation instruments, the Triplane took its maiden flight on 18 September 2024.

See <https://tinyurl.com/3b4dshhp>

On 24 May 1915, Italy declared war on the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and the anniversary gave *Itamilradar.com* an opportunity to talk about the Corpo Aeronautico Militare, which evolved from a modest force into a significant component of the nation's military strategy. There are some nice images, including Francesco Baracca posing by his SPAD XIII with its prancing horse emblem. The latest **Contact!** also features an article on a replica Caproni Ca3R if you are interested in Italian aviation.

Avanti to <https://tinyurl.com/4vzsbfbx>

Captain Sim has officially released its Sopwith Camel F1 add-on for **Microsoft Flight Simulator** (MSFS 2020), as part of its WWI Collection. It is the second aircraft in the series following the SPAD XIII. Released on 31 July 2025, the add-on delivers a meticulously crafted 3D model with animated control surfaces, plus rain and icing effects. The period-authentic cockpit features functional mechanical gauges, custom views, and era-appropriate flight dynamics and the four liveries include D1851 (Shuttleworth's flying replica) and E7259 from 4 AFC.

Looks good: <https://tinyurl.com/5n6my8ej>

When Shephard Watched the Front by Flight



The important First World War pilot's DSO, MC, 'August 1914' Legion of Honour group of six awarded to Brigadier General **Gordon Strachey Shephard** was sold for a hammer price of £10,000 at *Noonan's* 14 May 2025

sale. Shephard's aerial exploits spanned espionage, arms smuggling and front-line aerial combat. Before the war, he conducted covert reconnaissance of German coastal areas and assisted his friend Erskine Childers in smuggling rifles and ammunition to the South Irish Volunteers in July 1914, an act of defiance that was overshadowed by the war's outbreak.

As a Flight Commander in the Royal Flying Corps, Shephard flew one of the first reconnaissance missions in France on 13 August 1914 and his critical report during the retreat from Mons, with Lt IM Bonham-Carter as his observer, helped avert disaster. Promoted rapidly, he commanded 6 Squadron, then the 12th (Corps) Wing during the Battle of the Somme, and later I Brigade during the 1917 Arras offensive. Tragically, Shephard became the highest-ranking British air officer killed during the war when his Nieuport B3610 crashed on 8 January 1918.

Full details of the sale and Shephard's story can be found here:

<https://tinyurl.com/3jjc93ta> and, if you want the full nine yards, check out Marvin Skelton's excellent, in-depth Journal article here: <https://tinyurl.com/49rtfftv>

Flying High, Falling Fast, Bidding Higher

The Spink Orders, Decorations and Medals e-Auction held on 22 May 2025 yielded some interesting results and three lots, in which each of the pilots died in accidents, caught my eye.

The medals and memorial plaque awarded to Lieutenant **Percy John Emerson Pierce**, who had three 'kills' to his



name but lost his life in a flying collision with Lieutenant **WG Lance** over Allonville aerodrome on 13 August 1918, was sold for £1,300. The 19 year-old 19 Squadron RAF pilot was flying a Sopwith Dolphin: <https://tinyurl.com/45cb7ff7>

The British War Medal awarded to Captain **Joseph Joel Hammond**, a New Zealander and probably the first aviator from that country, sold for £850. A holder of many Antipodean 'firsts', Hammond died in a flying accident on 22 September 1918 with his Bristol F2B fighter crashing close to the Indianapolis Speedway circuit. He was part of the British Air Mission to the United States at the time of the crash: <https://tinyurl.com/4jjupkry>

Second Lieutenant **Edward Gerald Mucklow**, originally enlisted into the Royal Fusiliers but after deserting went under the name of **Cyril Lawson Milburn** and re-joined into the Royal Flying Corps. His medals and memorial plaque sold for £550. He was killed in a flying accident on 22 April 1918 at the southern end of Stow Maries airfield, flying a BE12b (C3240) and is buried in the local churchyard: <https://tinyurl.com/yr67hjn2>

First Blitz Round up



A gothic revival home bombed in the Zeppelin raids of 1915 can be yours for \$4.5 million (£3.3m) explained the *US Robb Report* website on 16 June 2025.

Loquats, a grand gothic revival residence in Guildford, Surrey was struck in the only airship raid to hit the town. On the night of 13 October 1915, L13 dropped 12 bombs over the St Catherine's area, damaging the house along with several neighbouring properties. A swan and 17 chickens perished, but miraculously, there were no human casualties.

See: <https://tinyurl.com/3wv9yzke>

The June 2025 issue of *Who Do You Think You Are?* magazine (231) contained an article detailing the methods that First Blitz historian, Ian Castle, used to trace the

names of those unrecorded victims of German air raids on the Home Front during First World War. The information was never compiled by the authorities at the time, meaning that the lives of the 1,414 people who died are officially forgotten. Some 110 years later Ian has had to devise methods of his own to track them down and has been able to identify and list 91% of the victims of the 102 air raids during the conflict. Go to: <https://tinyurl.com/3yk87wyk> or you can track down a cheaper copy of the magazine on eBay to read this interesting story. You can also head to <https://tinyurl.com/nfkyszucr> where you can find details of the raids.

On 31 May 1915, a Zeppelin appeared over London for the first time. On the 110th anniversary of the raid, Ian's talk at **The London Archives** is now available on *YouTube*. With apologies for the sound quality in places, you can take a look at: <https://tinyurl.com/7hk7snss>

Spinning Around

On 27 June 2025, the *Radio New Zealand* website posted a piece featuring a craftsman from Manakau.

Jeff Fox has spent over 25 years handcrafting wooden propellers for vintage aircraft, including iconic models like Tiger Moths and Sopwith Camels.



Working from his workshop near Wellington, Fox dedicates up to 300 hours per propeller, using high-quality imported woods like sapele mahogany. His work has attracted aviation enthusiasts worldwide, including filmmaker and First World War aircraft collector Sir Peter Jackson.

A builder and joiner by trade, Fox's journey into aviation restoration began through classic car work, eventually expanding into aircraft. His workshop walls are adorned with historic photos and rare aircraft designs, reflecting his deep interest in aviation history. Though not a pilot himself, Fox is passionate about preserving the legacy of early aviators, such as New Zealand pioneer Will Scotland. At 66, with around 260 propellers made, Fox shows no sign of retiring.

See: <https://tinyurl.com/nhezjnp>

Gnome for the Garden?



I don't know about you, but I've always fancied a rotary engine for the back garden - although I'm not 100% sure the neighbours would agree!

Andrew Willox, who lives in Australia, is selling this absolutely gorgeous seven cylinder, 70hp Gnome Type A, built by Tony Wytenburg's company, **CAMS**, in

New Zealand.

Christmas is coming - so if you think you can afford the postage, email [Andrew](#).



2025 marks the 40th year of *Over the Front*, the Journal produced by our friends at the **League of WWI Aviation Historians** and will be another year of outstanding historical articles. The cost of basic (print-on-demand) membership is just \$75, to anywhere in the world. Sign up at overthefront.com. If you have any questions, please contact them direct at otf-membership@overthefront.com

Volumes of back issues are available in Kindle, softback and hardback formats. Search Amazon for “**Over the Front**” and select from 36 years of fascinating content, covering all aspects of the air war 1914 - 18.

US Round Up: Earhart, Rucker and Randy (not a law firm!)



I enjoyed the *New York Post* article on 12 July 2025 about the high-flying life of **Amelia Earhart**.

Whilst not strictly a First World War aviation piece (save for the usual reference to her befriending Royal Flying Corps pilots whilst nursing in Toronto), it highlights a new biography by Laurie

Gwen Shapiro. The book re-examines Earhart's life and complex partnership with George Putnam, the publisher who managed her public image.

See: <https://tinyurl.com/36ujryrv>

The US Army's Fort Novosel in Alabama was officially re-designated as Fort Rucker on 17 July 2025, honouring Capt **Edward W Rucker Jr**, a pioneering Army Air Service pilot in the First World War. Rucker began his service in the Missouri National Guard before training in Toronto and joining the 27th Aero Squadron ('Fightin' Eagles') in France in 1918. On 13 June 1918, near Lunéville, he and three fellow pilots engaged a larger enemy formation attacking American reconnaissance aircraft. Rucker is credited with engaging four enemy aircraft single-handed, helping drive off the attackers and securing vital photographs and intelligence.

More at: <https://tinyurl.com/3xet76vz>

Some interesting recent editions of *Randy's Warbird Profiles* are worth a look. These can be found on the *Vintage Aviation News* website and Randy Malmstrom's articles offer extensive walk-around photos and background on aircraft found at museums across the US. Recent offerings include a **Nieuport 28 C-1**, **SPAD XIII** and **Curtiss JN-4D**.

Search at: <https://tinyurl.com/2k58fyft>

Fact and Fiction – Some Recent Books and a Podcast

Spotted on the *History Today* website was a review posted in July 2025 of historian David Rooney's new book, **The Big Hop: The First Non-stop Flight Across the Atlantic and Into the Future**. It tells the story of **Alcock and Brown's** non-stop flight across the Atlantic in 1919. Rooney's description of the crossing reads like a Boy's Own story, which he has avoided from overwhelming the whole book by leaving the pair halfway across the Atlantic, just as the Vickers Vimy appears to be diving towards the waves, to double-back on each man's experience as a prisoner of war.

For more head

to: <https://tinyurl.com/5728et2b> and see *WitW* 30.



Another interesting release, if First World War fiction is your 'thing', was reviewed on the *Female First* website on 27 July 2025. **Yours Is The Earth** by Simon Munro Kerr is inspired by the life and diaries of a 99-year-old American and tells the story of three brothers. The youngest, Edward, joins the Royal Flying Corps, seeing action in France, and is then seconded to the Royal Naval Air Service and sent to East Africa to tackle the German cruiser, Königsberg (see the latest issue of **Contact!**).

More at: <https://tinyurl.com/4wpjx5e6>

The Old Front Line WW1 Podcast with Paul Reed announced on 16 July 2025 that it was starting a special series looking at the Air War in the First World War. It focuses on the experiences of the Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Air Force over the Western Front and includes an introductory episode that explores the background, development, and transformation of British air power. There are expert interviews

and a special listener Q&A episode.

See: <https://tinyurl.com/3ktza332>

News in Brief 2: Lights, Camera, Action!



The *University of Würzburg* and Germany's *Federal Aviation Office* have just launched a collaborative effort to enable pilots to report Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena (UFOs) for scientific investigation. So far, so weird, but the July 2025 article then references a 'sighting' on 31 January 1916, when Lieutenant Morgan of the Royal Flying Corps observed an object with illuminated windows at an altitude of around 1,500 metres over Rochford, Essex which abruptly shot upward and disappeared from view after being fired at. In *WitW 13*, I also reported on how the Red Baron shot down 'flying saucer' over the trenches and it is a YouTube staple if you care to look.

The truth is out there at: <https://tinyurl.com/4sxz6jav>

An important collection of photographic glass negatives by **AG Cooke**, taken at Hendon, circa 1913-1923, together with his Thornton Pickard 'Imperial' triple extension glass plate camera sold for £5,400 at *Dominic Winter Auctions* sale on 22 May 2025. The lot comprised approximately 800 half-plate glass plate negatives of aeroplanes and many of the most famous names in early aviation.

See: <https://tinyurl.com/yc8ctyjy>

On 6 July 2025, technology site *SlashGear.com* ran a story on Belgian aviator **Willy Coppens**, who became the First World War's most successful 'balloon buster,' destroying 37 German observation balloons in his Hanriot HD1 fighter. One of his most astonishing feats involved cutting a balloon's mooring cables so it lifted beneath him, allowing his aircraft to land on top before restarting the engine and flying off, the balloon then collapsing below. This event was also featured on the

Society's social media a few days beforehand, explaining that this was no intentional landing, just quick thinking, luck and gravity!

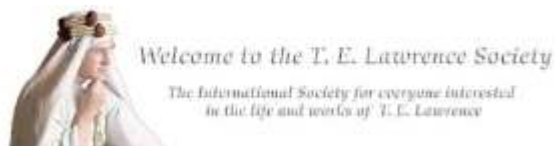
See: <https://tinyurl.com/3vep655f>

Sons of the Desert

It only seems like a few months ago that I was representing GWAS at the 2024

TE Lawrence Society Symposium at

the RAF Museum, Hendon. The call for papers for next year's Symposium, which will be held at the Leonardo Hotel, Wolverton, over the weekend of 18 - 20 September 2026, has just been released. Given that 2026 marks the 100th anniversary of the publication of the subscribers' edition of *Seven Pillars of Wisdom*, they would be pleased to hear from anyone who could speak on this subject. It also marks the 110th anniversary of the beginning of the Arab Revolt.



More at: <https://tinyurl.com/mtya7tz9> or I can put you in touch with their Chairman, Kevin Winter. As previously mentioned - **Lawrence of Arabia & Middle East Air Power** - is still available from the Society's web shop.

Stow Maries News



My regular 'shout out' to **Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome** now. On 28 July 2025, the *BBC* website reported that two different Spitfires and a rare First World War bomber are set to perform at a historic aerodrome over the course of a single week.

The **Stow Maries Air Show** on 23 August 2025 is where one of the Spitfires will be joined by the only airworthy DH9 in the world.

See: <https://tinyurl.com/32d6349h>

There was also a well-attended Royal Flying Corps Living History event on 15 June 2025 with living historians from **The Lufberys RFC Living History Group** presented as pilots and members of the Armed Forces, revealing to visitors young and old what life on a working aerodrome was really like. The site normally opens to the public every Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 10:00 to 16:00 and has a packed programme of events.

For more information and bookings visit <https://tinyurl.com/muun2kh5>

Wintringham's Way: From Wings to Revolution

To close, an interesting article posted by the *Eastern Daily Press* on 8 August 2025 caught my eye on a controversial figure, **Thomas Henry Wintringham**.

Educated at Gresham's School in Holt, Norfolk, he excelled academically and in sport, and won a history scholarship to Balliol College, Oxford. Before

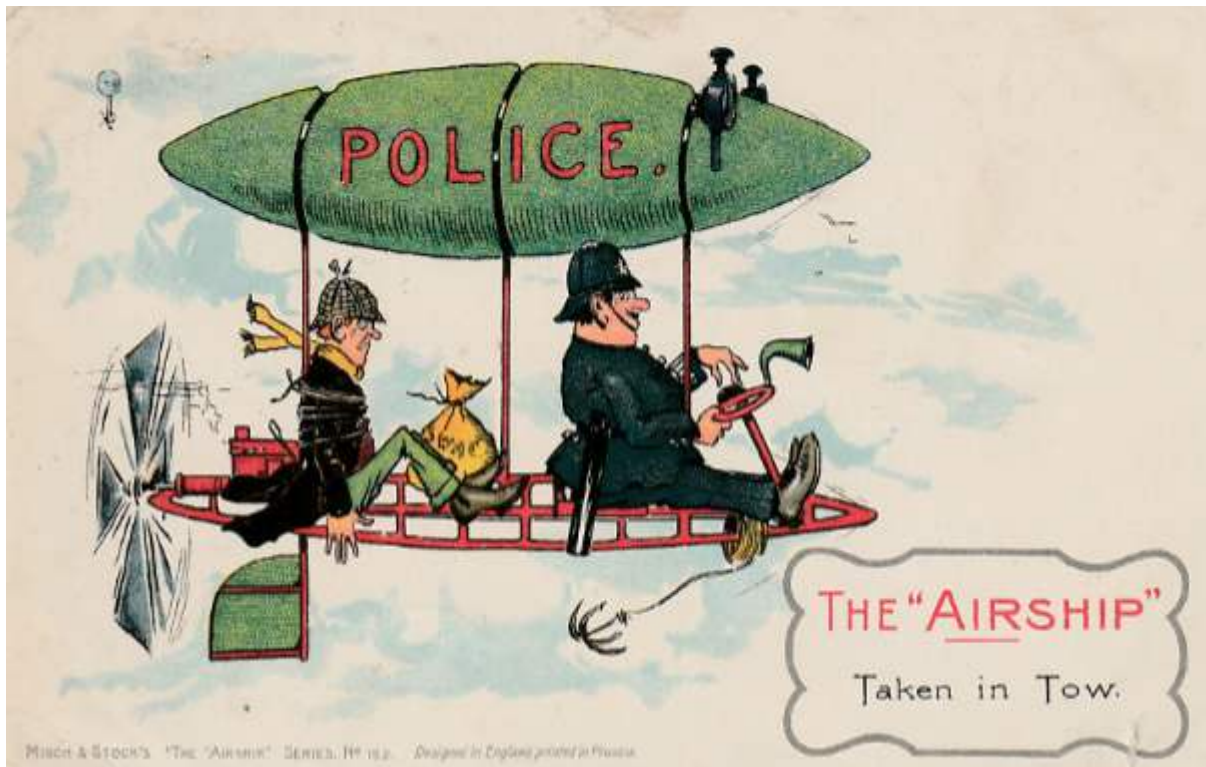
university, Wintringham enlisted in the

Royal Flying Corps on his 18th birthday, serving as a mechanic and despatch motorcyclist due to poor eyesight. His time in the ranks exposed him to social inequities, deepening his distrust of authoritarianism. A minor 'mutiny' charge, stemming from an unauthorised trip into town while recovering from illness, was reduced to absence without leave.

After the First World War, Wintringham completed his studies at Oxford and took an increasingly radical stance. In 1925, an article he wrote, which was seen as encouraging troops to defy orders during a looming General Strike, led to a charge of sedition to mutiny. Convicted, he served six months in prison and his release in April 1926 drew a crowd of 25,000 supporters. During the Spanish Civil War, he joined and eventually commanded the British Battalion of the International Brigades.



A fascinating article at: <https://tinyurl.com/3p6a6a55>



Written by David Marks, edited by Andy Kemp



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