

**Indy Squadron Dispatch**

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**Scott Jones Ends 12-Year Championship Draught  
Alice Fades to Fourth as Bart, Rick Split Kill**

11 November, 1918, over the front (November 4, 2000, Holiday Inn, Greenwood)-- It ain't over til its over, and when this year's Armistice Day Fits Tournament ended both Stephen and Alice were wondering how their shot at the title evaporated so quickly. This year's 9-player tourney matched 5 Germans against 4 Allies:

2000 Armistice Day Fits Tournament	
Allies	
Scott Jones	Sopwith Dolphin
George Cunningham	Sopwith Snipe
Barton Stano	Morane Saulnier A-I
Alice Skinner	Sopwith Camel 150
Germans	
Dory Oda	Fokker Drl
Rick Lacy	Fokker DVII 185
Stephen Skinner	Pfalz DVIII
Stephen Dale Skinner	Fokker Drl
Scott Campbell	Fokker DVIII

The game started in a 12 square tourney box and Stephen (Sr.) drew first blood. His Pfalz DVIII (dead last in the pre-game airplane selection pool!) took a pot shot at George's Snipe and was awarded three pilot chances. Double 3' popped up... twice!!... and George's plane spun down out of the fight on the third turn. Stephen's prospects for an unprecedented fifth championship were looking very, very good. At least they were before Alice's Camel crept in for a tail shot on the Stephen's Pfalz. Vickers guns rattled and doubles came up again. Stephen's pilot took a gut shot, passed out and crashed to his death in No Man's Land. So much for the first five-time champion. Alice continued to pepper Dory's Triplane and rack up points, positioning herself as the favorite for the Victory Medal as the game passed the halfway point. Dory took an incredible beating and was only one good burst from going down, but Alice was unable to deliver the coup de grace. Scott Campbell (Fokker DVIII) was battered and forced to escape... Stephen Dale's Drl was shot up by Barton and left with a dead engine after a fuel line hit. Helpless, Stephen Dale glided to a landing in his own lines, vaulting Bart into the race for the title and leaving Dory's Tripe and Rick's DVII as the only Germans against himself, Alice, and Scott Jones, all with virtually untouched airplanes.

At this point the dice turned against Alice for the last time. Unable to secure a firing position on Dory's crippled plane or get initiative when she needed it, she could only stand by and watch as Scott J. and Barton sandwiched the hapless Drl from top and bottom and blew it out of the sky for the fourth kill of a bloody game. Scott racked up an impressive score, most of which resulted from non-stop shooting from the outset. His gamble on the Dolphin turned out to be a brilliant decision... he got an extra wing gun and used it to cool his Vickers guns and stay in the action while others were forced to clear jams. Alice faded to fourth after a hard mid-game charge that nearly sent Dory down. At one point in the game, Alice was one good burst from securing her first Indy Squadron title, but her dice deserted her at the moment of truth.

This year's Armistice Day Fits Tournament featured a first time winner, an excellent roster of 9 players from 3 states and the biggest victory margin in recent years. What it lacked, however, was two of the squadron's most experience veterans... Brian Halberstadt and reigning Red Baron Fight champion Graham Shepfer, who missed the event for the first time in years due to other committments (Booooo! Hiss!). But for new Indy Squadron Champion Scott Jones the victory was just as sweet... especially since he waited 12 years for it.

<b>2000 Armistice Day Final Results</b>			
Scott Jones	Sopwith Dolphin	OK	115
Barton Stano	Morane Saulnier A-I	OK	95
Rick Lacy	Fokker DVII 185	OK	87
Alice Skinner	Sopwith Camel 150	OK	83
Scott Campbell	Fokker DVIII	ESC	65
Stephen Skinner	Pfalz DVIII	KIA	50
Stephen Dale Skinner	Fokker Drl	FTL	47
Dory Oda	Fokker Drl	KIA	40
George Cunningham	Sopwith Snipe	KIA	12

### **DH 2 Flight Wiped Out by Alb Aces Ballard Dies in Heroic Effort to Save Wingman**

At first the Albatros flight thought they were FE's, but upon closer inspection, the British flight approaching their balloon turned out to be DH 2's. At low altitude... over enemy lines... with heavy ground fire from machine guns and AA.

Lt. Robert Smith (Bart, 2/0) gamely dove into the fray and found himself being tailed by the best ace in the sky, Ltn. Heilman Weinberg (Scott J., 15/2). With both wings nearly shredded, the other German ace, Ltn. Gunther Meijer (George, 12/2??) joined Weinberg to double the attack. After absorbing an incredible 7 critical hits, Smith's DH 2 fell out of control and crashed inside German lines.

Meanwhile, Capt. Bob Bring's had managed to tag Ltn Reinhold Dunzel's Albatros (Rick, 2/0) with a few quick hits before being overwhelmed by superior German firepower. After a severe critical hit limited his maneuverability and dive, Bring was smart enough to get out while the gettin' was good. Turns out he was the only Britisher to survive.

(Dory's) DH 2 was the only Allied plane able to slip through the German fighter screen and make a run at the balloon. The first firing run scored only two hits, and the second run was unable to bring the balloon down as well. It did, however, subject the DH to ground fire from every conceivable angle. (Dory) turned for British lines in desperation... seeing his wingman's plight, Lt. Stanley Ballard (Scott Campbell, 2/0) aborted his own escape attempt and dove into the melee again.

Outnumbered 4 to 2, not only was he unable to save (Dory), he was also unable to save himself. (Dory's) DH 2 sheered off its right wing after a 17-hit salvo from both aces... Ballard was able to tail Ltn. Matteo Scheffler's Albatros (Stephen, 2/0) long enough to delay the inevitable, but a burst from Dentzel's Spandaus forced him to land behind German lines. Ballard made good on his landing attempt, and then made a successful escape back across No Man's Land! (Dory's) kill was awarded to Meijer, while the cut for Smith went to Weinberg to compete the German victory... and the balloon never went down!

**Armistice Day 2000 Photo Album - Photos by Brian Halberstadt**