

**GRAHAM NABS 11th RED BARON FIGHT!
O'Connell, Sir Walter Killed in Action
Record Attendance Draws Four Aces to Battle**

21 April, 1918, over the front (4/29/00, Dory's house)-Players from across the Midwest gathered in Indianapolis on April 29th for Red Baron Fight XI, including Fits veterans from Ohio, St. Louis and Chicago. This year roster:

Red Baron Fight XI		
British Camel 150's		
Dory Oda	2Lt. Shane O'Connell	17/4
Scott Campbell	Lt. Brimcomb Wood	13/4
Kevin Richeson	Sir Walter Gaines	7/0
Stephen Dale Skinner	Lt. John Philis	3/0
Barton Stano	Lt. Rich Littleton	1/0
German Fokker Drl's		
Stephen Skinner	Vz. Bruno Ulrich	20/11
Graham Shepfer	Ltn. Rolf von Ekkus (red Tripe)	21/7
Scott Jones	Ltn. Ray Ultz	5/1
German Albatros DIII's and DVa's		
Brian Halberstadt	Ltn. Ludwig Wolff	8/3
George Cunningham	Ltn. Albert Grohe	1/0
Rick Lacy	Unt. Reinhold Dunzel	1/0
Matt Starr	Unknown	1/0

The pre-flight strategy for the Germans was to stay together and use their numerical advantage. Graham wisely warned that if they Drl's outclimbed their wingmen, they'd be at the mercy of the Camels.

The game opened in the usual melee with planes stacked deep and lead flying mercilessly. Ltn. Ray Ultz (Scott Jones, 5/1) was among the early casualties, jamming both guns of his Tripe and taking a light head wound from Camel ace Lt. Brimcomb Wood (Scott Campbell, 13/4), who fired early and often in the opening moments. Ultz continued in the fight but was unable to make his crippled plane a factor. The Albs of (Matt, 1/0), Unt. Dunzel (Rick, 1/0) and Ltn. Grohe (George 1/0) tied up two of the Camels and severely damaged the previously-unkillable Sir Walter (Kevin, 7/0), whose legacy was established early after getting shot down on his first three missions. Sir Walter was completely defensive and limping to the outskirts of the fight when he had the misfortune of being spotted by Vz. Bruno Ulrich (Stephen, 20/11). Ulrich dove onto Sir Walter's tail and cut loose an 8-hit burst, then tailed him and sent 5 more shells through the Camel's wings. The Britisher slipped into a spin and the right wing folded back Sir Walter had used the last of his nine lives.

The Baron himself, Ltn. Rolf von Ekkus (Graham, 21/7), attacked British flight leader Shane OConnell (Dory, 17/4) and nearly killed him with a single burst. Ekkus' fire hit O'Connell with a light wound in the right shoulder and a no effect wound in the left arm. Additionally, OConnell's Sopwith suffered a critical hit that sent it into a right bank and a few turns earlier, he'd jammed one of his guns. He wisely cut his engine and began gliding the wrong direction away from the fight before he got struck by a lightning bolt on a clear day.

By this time the sky was on fire all around him Sir Walter had just hit the ground; Lt. Rich Littleton (Bart, 1/1) continued to fire on Ltn. Ultz who shot a yellow flare for help. Ltn. Wolff (Brian, 8/3), fighting valiently against vastly superior aircraft, dove his Albatros to the rescue. Ultz would eventually be forced down by Littleton and credited as a kill, but Wolff had already flown far away from the fight and would not be able to score again. Ekkius closed in again, this time on Lt. John Philis - with help from Grohe and Dunzel, the Baron isolated Philis and fired the fatal burst. Philis' Camel plummeted earthward and crashed in No Man's Land. The only remaining Camel ace, Wood, continued to fire at anything that moved. Ulrich became separated from the fight and escaped with his kill; Littleton and Wolff tried to get back into the fray and Shane O'Connell turned his engine back on.

It was a crucial decision, but unavoidable. Twice wounded with another critical in his Camel's tail, O'Connell was falling fast over German lines. If he could just make it across the short distance of No Man's Land, a multitude of Australian ground batteries would come to his rescue and blast any German around him. He was halfway home when Ekkius made one last move.

The Hun ace dove onto the Camel's tail and opened up with another burst. O'Connell took 4 left wing hits, bringing the total to 11! Sure enough, it caused a critical hit number 6/4 add one more hit to damage taken. The wing folded, and the British flight leader crashed to his death.

The final tally was a lopsided win for Graham (von Ekkius), whose 149 points gave him the highest total of any official Indy Squadron event winner in the group's 12-year history. It also gave him the honor of winning the biggest Indy Squadron game in history, with 12 players present. The final tally showed just how lopsided the contest was:

Red Baron Fight XI Results			
Graham Shepfer	Fokker Drl	Survived	149
Stephen Skinner	Fokker Drl	Survived	85
Scott Campbell	Camel 150	Survived	73
Barton Stano	Camel 150	Survived	69
Matt Starr	Albatros DIII	Survived	49
Brian Halberstadt	Albatros DIII	Survived	49
Stephen Dale Skinner	Camel 150	KIA	48
Rick Lacy	Albatros DIII	Survived	41
George Cunningham	Albatros DVa	Survived	25
Scott Jones	Fokker Drl	FTL OK	22
Dory Oda	Camel 150	KIA	10
Kevin Richeson	Camel 150	KIA	8

SKYWRITING

Minutes from April 29th, 2000: 12 players present, approx \$25 collected. Squadron fund balance is now \$56.72. The only disbursement was \$10.45 to Stephen to reimburse the cost of the RBF XI cup. Financially, the squadron is in good health, especially since we no longer have the postage costs of mailing out hard copies. We should be in good shape by the time the Armistice Day Fits Tournament rolls around on November 4th; we anticipate at least a \$75 cost to run that event.

Please remember to write in the essentials when you fill out your post-game report for ISD. Like your name. And rank, plane you flew, pilots name, and his M/K record AFTER that's AFTER the mission you just flew. Saves the writer a lot of time trying to piece together the mission details.

The Allison Engine Squadron is flying on Friday, May 12th, starting early in the evening. Interested parties can contact Scott Campbell or Matt Starr at mjstarr@iquest.net

Watch for big BIG changes coming soon to the Indy Squadron Dispatch Online. Some major surprises, and a continued revamping of the sites new look. (I say this whole ISD Online effort is deserving of a Masters Invitation this year, making Brian only the second Indy player to ever receive the honor. Either that, or they'd better change the promoting the game prerequisite).

HIGHLIGHTS AND LOWLIGHTS OF APRIL 29 GAMING

Weissensteiner Scores 8th Kill

George Blasts Balloon

Polio Blows Up Brian Before Exploding

April 29, 00, Dory's house-7 total games were played between two tables on Saturday the 29th, including some breathtaking moments and fantastic escapes. George gets the Bravery Bordering On Stupidity Award for his relentless runs at a descending balloon. He eventually got it literally and figuratively. But hey, what about those rumors of you always read on the forum about George leaving the fight too soon? You couldn't tell by his play in Indy. He was in the thick of it every moment by all accounts, including his suicidal balloon run.

Dory's roster probably took the hardest hit of the day, losing the aforementioned Camel ace Shane O'Connell (17/4). Graham must have had the biggest scare of the day when he flew into a 4-hit head on burst from Stephen Dale's pilot in the Red Baron Fight. All of them went into the engine, and with this damage he managed to win the title by a runaway margin. Like wow.

Lt. Ralph Zolinsky (Scott Jones, 2/0, A/H fighters) got ripped out of a kill. An accomplished kill thief, Scott was on the other side of the coin this time as Stephen got credit for blowing Stephen Dale's Italian pilot, Polio Luigi, into next week with an exploded engine. Lt. Kurt Wiessensteiner (Stephen, 17/8, A/H fighters) is the 2nd ranked Austro-Hungarian pilot in the current annual Fits Society Ace and Experienced Pilot Roster, and this victory has him pressing hard for the top spot. Unt. Helmar Frankkyl (Stephen, 19/3, Alb DVs) notched his 19th mission but failed to score.

Rick Lacy turned out to be a great guy to play with and an experienced gamer, and we owe thanks to Barton for inviting him in on the fun. High hopes he'll be back. Brian and his infamous Skull had their typical luckless day, with the Skull scoring not a single hit and rarely even getting a chance to miss. Scott Campbell and Matt returned to the Indy gaming table and are now doing double duty with their own Allison Engine Squadron. Kevin was able to make it back for the first time in months, and his Camel pilot, Sir Walter, finally bit the dust. It was really just a matter of time, given his record of crashing Camels on his own. He'd already been shot down 3 times, but that's likely not a consolation for Kevin. But beware rumor has it that Sir Walter has a long-lost brother who is also a Camel pilot.