

# Indy Squadron Dispatch

## SKYWRITING

**THIS IS THE BIG ONE...** The 10<sup>th</sup> Indy Squadron Armistice Day FitS Tournament is scheduled for 10 am, Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, 1997, at the Indianapolis War Memorial. The winner is declared the Indy Squadron champion and receives the Victory Medal. See the *Latest Dirt* for more details.

**AND SPEAKING OF CHAMPIONSHIPS...** the price of the War Memorial goes up to \$50 per day next year. We were lucky and only got charged the old rate of \$35 per day for this year since we actually signed our contract in 1996.

**MINUTES FOR GAMING ON MAY 18, 1997...** Four players in attendance: Scott Jones, Scott Campbell, Dory Oda, Stephen Skinner. A total of \$8 was received; disbursements were still unavailable at the time of this issue's printing.

**A NEW GAMING BOARD** will be ready for the Armistice Day FitS Tournament, courtesy of Scott Campbell. He has already started a colorful, detailed board, and should finish it in time for the squadron's premier event. *ISD*

## STRAUSS PLUGS CHRISTIANSON, LOGS 17<sup>th</sup> MISSION

18 April, 1917, over the lines (10/18/97)- Veteran Albatros jockey Reinhardt Strauss (Dory 13/3) saw his fourth confirmed kill slip out of his grasp in a fight with two SE 5's. In company with fellow Alb ace Vz. Heiner Scheele (Stephen 16/7), the pair were patrolling just above a cloudbank at 7,500 feet when the Englishmen dove on them. Lt. Zach Barnes (Scott Campbell 8/0) bypassed an early attack and intentionally overshot his opponents to gain altitude. His wingman, however, Lt. Allan Christianson (Scott Jones ??) was caught alone against the two German aces.

Scheele's initial attack caught Christianson with a passing blow, but his flight leader's was more telling. Seizing his opportunity, Strauss nosed his Albatros up under Christianson's SE and opened fire. His right Spandau locked up halfway through the burst, but the damage was done. Smoke poured from the wounded Hispano engine and Christianson sped westward to survive a crash-landing on his home field. Barnes had no choice but to follow, or risk a lone fight with the two German aces. His SE 5 easily outdistanced both Albs and he returned home unmolested. *ISD*

## CROIX DE GUERRE TO ZIMMERMAN Hess Pummels Salmsons for Double

18 October, 1918, just inside German lines (10/18/97)-2Lt. Bud Zimmerman (Dory 1/0) is to receive the French Croix de Guerre for his bravery under fire during a recent photography mission. Two American Salmson 2A2's, flying in close formation for mutual protection, penetrated German lines and were attacked by a pair of Fokker DVII's. Lt. Aron Hess (Stephen 29/17) could only get close enough for a 300' bottom shot, but it was enough. The first Salmson (Scott 1/0, 1/0) slipped out of formation and dove for Allied lines, it's pilot critically wounded. Now alone, Lt. Birch Waltman and Zimmerman (Dory 1/0, 1/0) pressed on. Arriving over the target area, they made their photography runs in spite of incessant attacks from Hess and Lt. Rutbert Kettering (Scott Campbell 2/0). Their photos taken, the Salmson crew dove at full throttle for the lines, having already absorbed several critical hits. Covered by Kettering, Hess tucked under the Salmson's tail and denied Zimmerman the opportunity for return fire. (*con't*, "Hess," pg. 2)

(Hess, *con't*) Hess fired non-stop 10 times in a row, but the Salmson refused to fall. As the American crew leveled out over a country road, Kettering pulled away and made for home, leaving the coup de grace for his wingman (he could've tried to steal the kill, you know!) Hess climbed away and held his fire to see what the Americans would do. Waltman tried to steady the unwieldy craft, now laden with 39 bullet holes and 5 critical hits. Unable to turn right or maneuver, Waltman pancaked the two seater onto the road where it flipped over in a slow somersault. Waltman and Zimmerman survived uninjured, but what of the previous glass negatives that they risked their lives to obtain? Unable to fire during the combat, Zimmerman had slipped the first exposure back into its protective casing. The other was still in the camera, where it also survived the crash. The Yanks hitched the first available ride back to the airfield, where they relayed their story and proudly produced the fruits of their labor. They also learned that their wingmen, both rookies, had perished in a terrible crash just inside Allied lines.

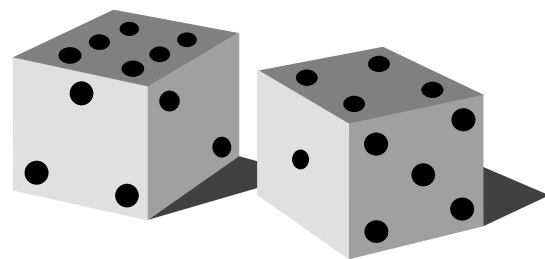
Hess and Kettering safely returned, where the German ace was afforded immediate confirmation of both kills. Hess is now just three victories short of eligibility for the coveted Pour le Merite (the Blue Max). *ISD*



## HUN BALLOON ATTACKERS WIPED OUT **Gadouix, Giles Down New German Ace**

18 Feb, 1918, ½ mile in Allied lines (10/18/97)-(Dory flew a German Alb in this mission, but was shot down by ground fire while attacking the balloon. Disgusted, Dory refused to record her mission on tape, so we regrettably have no information on her pilot or background). It was a tall order for the Germans to fly into enemy territory, knock down a heavily defended balloon from only 400 feet, then dogfight two SPAD XIII's on the way home. But Vz. Ignati Gottenheim (Stephen 12/4) and his wingman (Dory 2?/0) were willing to give it a try. Gottenheim had nothing to lose... after all, he'd been shot down on three of his first four missions, so his death was really only a matter of time. However, it came to his wingman first. After Ignati had already committed himself to a tail attack on SLt. Pierce Giles (Scott Jones 4/2), the Alb pilot (Dory) flew in on the balloon. The ground batteries opened up with full fury and blew the Albatros out of the sky. The flaming hulk smashed into the

ground, killing the pilot instantly. Now outnumbered by superior planes and still in side French lines, Ignati had his hands full. To make matters worse, his left Spandau had just locked up. At an opportune moment, Ignati abandoned his attack on Giles and made a break for German lines. Giles veered away, happy to have the pesky Hun off his tail. The remaining Frenchman, SLt. Gaston Gadouix (Scott Campbell 4/2) nosed his SPAD over and dove full speed on Ignati's fleeing Pfalz DIIIa. He easily closed the gap and began firing, despite Ignati's frantic evasive maneuvers. Giles now joined the attack as well, with both SPADs in hot pursuit of Ignati as he fled back across the lines. As the German trenches passed under his wings, Ignati made for a distant road while Gadouix closed to 100' range for his final bursts. The damaged Pfalz managed a bumpy landing behind German lines, completing Ignati's 12<sup>th</sup> mission and ranking him among the aces. Giles, who spent much of his time on the defensive with Ignati on his tail, put in a claim for the kill along with Gadouix, and managed to win the cut. *ISD*



# The LATEST DIRT

## Time For Another Quiz

Okay. Here it is again. The famous Indy Squadron subscriber survey. This means that you will actually have to fill it out and return it in the mail (922 E. Hervey, Indpls, 46203). You must do this. Offenders will be dealt with severely. This means you. There are no exceptions. Honesty is critical, and constructive criticism is expected. Do your part! Strike a blow! Participate, and make the world a better place.

When I receive the Indy Squadron Dispatch, I

- ☐ Rip it open and devour every word
- ☐ Scan it for the really cool stuff I like
- ☐ Won't risk a paper cut to open it

My favorite ISD column is (you can check more than one):

- ☐ Everything. Can't decide what's best.
- ☐ Skywriting. I use ISD as a news bulletin.
- ☐ Dogfights. I can scan through it, look for my name and remember the missions.
- ☐ The Latest Dirt. Stupidity is cool.
- ☐ Ace Update, so I can keep up on everybody's hot pilots.
- ☐ Anything that makes fun of Marty Stever

My favorite squadron event is

- ☐ The Armistice Day FitS Tournament
- ☐ The Red Baron Fight
- ☐ Our Mini-campaigns
- ☐ Our regular gaming nights
- ☐ Going to the bathroom after a long game

The Indy Squadron Victory Medal is

- ☐ A great thing. I want one bad.
- ☐ A nice thought for the winner.
- ☐ No big deal.

The Armistice Day FitS Tournament is

- ☐ The ultimate DP win and a great tradition.
- ☐ Kinda cool once a year.
- ☐ Probably not be worth the trouble.
- ☐ Never heard of it.

The Red Baron Fight's new award, an engraved glass goblet, is

- ☐ Better than anything we've given out before
- ☐ Not as cool as those silver bars.
- ☐ Boring. We don't need awards.
- ☐ Breakable.

I spend about \_\_\_\_ reading the Dispatch

- ☐ Twenty minutes or more
- ☐ Ten minutes
- ☐ Five minutes or less

I usually read the Dispatch

- ☐ More than once
- ☐ One time thoroughly
- ☐ One time briefly
- ☐ By picking out articles of interest
- ☐ I usually don't read the Dispatch

ISD should be published

- ☐ More often!
- ☐ With the same frequency as always
- ☐ Less
- ☐ Not at all

I prefer to get ISD on

- ☐ The old format (4 pages, folded in center, with artwork)
- ☐ The current format (similar to this issue)
- ☐ Stone tablets

Now, mail this in!!! Send it to Stephen Skinner, 922 E. Hervey St., Indpls, IN 46203. Your opinions are a big help, so send this in immediately! *ISD*