
The

Indy Squadron Dispatch

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"The original, local squadron newsletter"

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SKYWRITING

THE NEXT GAMING DAY is Saturday, December 13th, 1997, at the home of Stephen & Alice Skinner. The games, the first the Skinners have hosted since their move last year, will be held in their WWI library. It contains autographed prints, a Lee Enfield .303 rifle, authentic British flying goggles, and some other really cool stuff.

YOUR MATHEMATICALLY CHALLENGED EDITOR lost count. This issue is Vol. 9, No. 8, which means the last one, although labeled number 8, was actually number 7. Got it? Your copy is now a priceless collector's piece.

THE PRICE JUST WENT UP for use of the Indpls War Memorial's MacArthur Hall, home of the Armistice Day FitS Tournament. The single day rental now runs \$50.00. An early survey of squadron members indicates that we're still willing to pay the price... at least for now.

A NEW CALENDER IS ENCLOSED in this issue. It's the first one we've released since early summer, so take a good look at it and mark your calendar accordingly. ***We schedule dates nearly a year in advance so that you can plan ahead and be sure to attend!! Mark your calendar!***

HOW 'BOUT A FEW QUOTES? Tell us more than the bare facts in your post game report on the tape recorder. If you're thinking, "man, that game really stunk," then tell us why! Include some personal opinions on the game, the airplanes, or your good (bad?) rolls.

NO NEWS THIS TIME on minutes from the last gaming night. We'll catch up in the next issue.

STEPHEN WINS THIRD INDY CROWN

Dory Close Second As Brits Decimate Huns

Scott Jones had all the luck in the world during the 1997 Armistice Day Championship Tournament. Unfortunately, it was all bad. He and his wingman, Scott Campbell, were outnumbered by the British and trapped inside and unforgiving tourney box. The odds stacked up like this:

Dory Oda/Sop. Dolphin (1 extra Lewis)	Scott Campbell/Fokker DVIII
Graham Shepfer/Sop. Camel 150	Scott Jones/Fokker Triplane
Stephen Skinner/Sopwith Snipe	

On the game's first turn, Stephen crept underneath Scott Jones' climbing DrI and pounded him with a 7 hit burst from point blank range, while Dory, Graham, and Scott Campbell (who was inadvertently put on a 60 second time limit by Scott Jones, his own wingman!) all traded shots. A typical tourney box slugfest followed for the next three turns, with Scott Jones invariably moving first and taking the worst punishment. Dory cracked off a shot at Scott Campbell's DVIII and jammed a gun in the process, also locking up the other gun on the next turn (and flying nearly the entire game with only a Lewis gun!) Scott Jones' tragic mission continued when he, too, jammed a gun, rendering his lead-laden Tripe nearly defenseless. As Stephen closed in for another shot at the DrI, Scott Campbell approached from the rear and delivered a burst into the Snipe's tail, forcing Stephen into a circle with a jammed rudder. He was able to correct it after only 1 turn, but Campbell had unknowingly saved his wingman's life (if only for the moment). At this point, 6 turns into the game, the Germans were holding their own in spite of Jones' battering. Scott Campbell and Stephen were the hot shooters, Dory had no guns, Graham flew brilliantly but couldn't hit the ocean on a clear day, and Jones' mishaps had only just begun.

The game began to take shape when Graham's 8 hit top burst gave Jones a no effect wound. On the following turn Scott Campbell's tail attack hit Graham's pilot with a light wound, forcing Graham to abandon his attack on the DrI and temporarily saving Jones' life for a second time! Stephen cleared a momentary gun jam and dove his Snipe onto Campbell's DVIII, while Dory nosed up for a bottom shot. Both Britishers fired and smoke poured from the Fokker. With 5 engine hits and a load of lead in each wing, Scott Campbell had little choice but to cut his motor and glide back to German lines, shortcutting a good score and forfeiting any chance at the title. He set the Fokker down on a field inside his own lines and saved a 3 mission pilot as consolation. Scott Jones finally had the highlight of his day when he pumped a critical hit into Graham's Camel, smoking it's engine and cutting the Sopwith's dive to a scant 50 feet. Unable to keep up with the running fight, Graham landed at a forward Allied field and

survived his light wound. Scott Jones' DrI, under attack by Stephen for 5 turns, was now trapped by Stephen and Dory with multiple critical hits and little hope of escape. Instead of attempting an escape, Scott drastically altered the championship by intentionally turning back toward Dory's Dolphin, who had fallen out of shooting range. Dory attacked from 150' below; the best shot she could manage. Stephen considered pulling in for a 50' bottom shot that would put him at point blank range while simultaneously blocking Dory's shot, but opted for the more sportsmanlike top shot. He missed, of course, and Dory scored a 6 hit burst that sawed off Scott's left wing. Scott finished his woeful mission by bailing out with a faulty parachute, his pilot splattering himself into German lines. This left Dory with one solo kill (Scott Jones' DrI) and one shared kill (Scott Campbell's gliding Fokker DVIII). Stephen finished with only his half of the shared kill and a bucketload of points from constant firing:

1. Stephen (Snipe)	114
2. Dory (Dolphin)	104
3. Scott Campbell (Fokker DVIII)	51
4. Graham Shepfer (Camel 150)	37
5. Scott Jones (Fokker DrI)	18

Final observations: Stephen's third Indy crown came through good shooting (and lots of it) but Dory would still have won her fourth in a row if it were not for gun jams. Scott Campbell flew well against impossible odds and secured the 2nd best finish ever for an Armistice Day rookie (Graham got 2nd his rookie year). Graham proved that bad shooting defeats good flying every time. And Scott Jones flew his best but couldn't buy a decent initiative roll to save his life. Noticeably absent from the game were Alice (stood up by her babysitter at the last minute), Terry and Jonathon, Brian, Jason (a former champion), and Nate.

Questions at the end of the day: Should Stephen have ensured his victory by blocking his wingman's shot? Should Scott have influenced the outcome of the year's biggest game by intentionally sacrificing his pilot to another attacker? What can be done to even the odds in a 5 player championship and still give each player an equal chance at winning? Is the War Memorial worth \$50.00? These questions and more should be addressed before next year's event. In the meantime, Stephen joins Dory as the only 3 time champion in Indy Squadron history:

1989	Stephen Skinner
1990	Clark Sigmund
1991	Stephen Skinner
1992	Jason Meador
1993	Terry Phillips
1994-6	Dory Oda
1997	Stephen Skinner

Winslow Wins Cut for Albatros; Brits Lose Balloon

8 Feb, 1918, British Lines (11/8/97)-The British have lost another balloon to air combat, but made the Germans pay heavily for the effort. In 130 hp Camels, Lt. Tom Longfellow (Scott Campbell 1/0) and Sgt. Martin Winslow (Graham ?/?) attacked an Albatros formation approaching the balloon. The first Alb to make a run on the balloon (Dory 1/0) caught the most lead, with Winslow opening fire and tailing it through four consecutive maneuvers. (*"He shows up once a year and flies and kills me! I was trying to get to the balloon and put one hearty hit in it to help my buddy, but of course I missed"-Dory*). Longfellow pumped in several more hits, although one of his guns jammed with the first shot. The Albatros lost it's left wing and plunged into the ground, while the second Alb, the DVa of Unt. Helmar Frankkyl (Stephen 10/1) closed in for another attack on the balloon. Knowing he had time for only one pass before the Camels were on him, too, he pressed the triggers and watched the balloon turn to a fireball. He quickly turned away from the oncoming Camels and made it back across the lines with his first kill. *ISD*

ZIEGAL POCKETS 12th MISSION, STRUTTERS RULE

8 August, 1917, German lines (11/8/97)-Two German aces were embarrassed by a flight of puny Sopwith Strutters in a bombing raid on German supply trucks. Repeatedly repelling attacks by the Albatri, Strutter pilot Lt. Dan Rowan (Graham 4/0) said "we quickly split up and I strafed the trucks. I hit a whole bunch of different times but being single guns, front and rear, didn't do a really large amount of damage." Captain Benjamin Albert Wallace and Lt. Patrick Dellam (Dory 4/0, 4/1) were also in on the British attack and found themselves maneuvering against Hun ace Unt. Heinrich Ziegel (Scott Campbell 12/1). Ziegel attempted to tail, but Wallace skidded his Strutter around and forced Ziegel to take Dellam's fire head-on, so the German finally broke off the attack. Ziegel later reported that "we did a terrible job." Vz. Heiner Scheele's attacks (Stephen 18/7) were equally impotent, and the entire British flight escaped unharmed after knocking out all of the German supply trucks. *ISD*

RUSSELLI PLUGS A H ACE, LOGS 7TH MISSION

8 June, 1917 (11/8/97)-Austro-Hungaria's 2nd ranking ace was nearly killed in a fight with three Italian Hanriot's. Ltn. Kurt Weissensteiner (Stephen 14/5) flew his Oeffag Alb D3 into the formation and delivered a 10 hit megaburst into Sgte. Lappo Fippo's (huh?) HD-1 (Scott Jones ?/?). Before Weissensteiner could finish the kill one of his guns jammed, and "Fippo" wriggled away with a fine maneuver. Sott. Alfredo Russelli (Dory 7/0) closed in and fired two bursts which crippled the Austrian's Albatros. Lt. Mario Luzano (Graham 1/0) added another burst and Weissensteiner's D3 nearly crumpled under three critical hits. (*"I ended up with most of [my] damage in the rear fuselage, so it was a fairly successful battle for a guy who's as green as the grass is long"-Graham*). Under cover of his wingman (Scott Campbell), Weissensteiner was lucky to make a quick escape from Russelli and Luzano. For Russelli's part, he is now the squadron's most experienced Italian pilot. (*"I actually started this pilot a long, long time ago in a campaign. I'm not even sure when. Every time I get a chance to fly Italian I pull him out and fly him, and now he's 7 and 0, so I'm kinda proud of him!"-Dory*). *ISD*

The LATEST DIRT (For Those We Left Behind)

I am ashamed to say that there are among a few (alright, a lot) of miserable failures among us who actually failed - FAILED - to turn in their Pop Quiz which was so thoughtfully included in our last issue. They are undoubtedly much "busier" than we commoners who sit around watching Oprah reruns and eating bon bons by the handful and could therefore never understand their plight. As a matter of fact, only a single local player turned in their quiz in a timely manner! So, with respect to you, the busy-busy-busy superexecutive type, we have revamped and re-issued this stellar quiz which now includes philosophical meanderings, retrospective gradient justifications and even the obligatory Marty Stever jokes, in the high hopes that you will, this time, cooperate. Read, enjoy, and participate!

I receive the Indy Squadron Dispatch and

- ☐ 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 it for a news bulletin.
- ☐ Dogfights. I 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 making 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 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
- ☐ Not as cool as those silver bars.
- ☐ Boring. We don't need awards.

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

Marty Stever is

- ☐ Always right. Just ask him.
- ☐ Janet Reno's evil twin.
- ☐ Blah, blah, blah.
- ☐ All the above.
- ☐ Who's Marty Stever?

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!!! (But cut out the calendar first!). Send it to Stephen Skinner, 922 E. Hervey St., Indpls, IN 46203. *ISD*

INDY SQUADRON MASTER CALENDAR

Every calendar is updated; ALWAYS discard old one!!

Dec 13	Skinner's (791-1010)	10am	Camel Night
Jan 1	North	11am	No Frills DP Marathon
Jan 24	South	tba	Mystery Mission Night
Feb 21	South	tba	Albatros Night
Mar 14	North	tba	Trivia Night
Apr 10-12???	Kankakee, IL	tba	Mini-convention??

May 9 Skinner's
10am Red Baron Fight IX
June/July no sanctioned games