

RETIREMENT CLUB NEWSLETTER

May 2015 No 309

Manton Lane MK41 7PF

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APRIL WALK - Mike Lock



We set out from the Polhill Arms in Renhold with 23 walkers and 2 dogs on a warm and sunny day. We initially followed the course of Renhold brook towards the northern edge of Bedford and then took a winding route around the village before walking along the northern edge of Mark Rutherford School playing fields towards Mowsbury golf course. The route then turned North to cross the golf course towards Ravensden. We passed through some woodland and then climbed the hill to Ravensden, turning East at the hilltop then crossing several varied arable fields before reaching the northern edge of Renhold again. Passing fields containing several friendly ponies (and two llamas which showed no interest in us at all) we then crossed a field of rape to arrive back at the Pub for a drink and some food, having completed almost exactly 5 miles.

MAY WALK - Wednesday 13th May 2015

Keith Rose will lead this walk which starts from The Red Lion, Brafield on the Green, Northamptonshire, NN17 1BP

Please meet at the usual time of 10.15 am for a 10.30 start.

One Hundred Years of Aviation April 1915 - John Cherry

1st today Lt Roland Garros shot down a German Albatross two seat machine with the Hotchkiss machine gun fitted to his Morane-Saulnier Type N monoplane. Steel wedge deflectors attached to the propeller protect the blades from damage as bullets pass through the turning propeller arc.

9th In Australia the inaugural meeting of the Australian Aero Club was held today at the Café Francais in Melbourne.

11th The prototype Zeppelin-Straken VG 01 heavy bomber fitted with one tractor and two pusher engines flew for the first time today. This giant bomber is made at the hired Gotha works and will be known as the Zeppelin-Straken R1.

14th Today a Zeppelin bombed a house in Station Road, Wallsend Newcastle Upon Tyne. The Robinson family escaped with minor injuries.

16th Today Lt PNL Bellinger of the US Navy in an AB2 flying boat was catapult launched from a barge.

19th A single bullet fired by a German reservist named Schlenstedt pierced the fuel pipe of a Morane-Saulnier Type N monoplane today as it flew over Courtrai, Belgium forcing the machine to land. The pilot failed to destroy the machine before he was captured, and now the allies have lost not only one of their best airmen – Roland Garros – but also one of their top secrets; how to fire a machine gun through the disc of an aeroplane's propeller. "Now the cat is out of the bag". Over the past three years attempts have been made to synchronize the gun with the propeller, in France, Germany, Russia and Britain so far there have been no results.

22nd The Germans have worked fast to improve on the French forward-firing system reported on three days ago. Anthony Fokker was asked to solve the problem at his Schwerin factory, the Dutchman and his colleague Heinrich Luebbe hit on an approach first put forward by Franz Schneider in 1912-13, synchronizing the gun and the propeller so that the gun only fires when the blades are not in front of it. Fokker and Luebbe have installed a prototype of their system using a Fokker M5K monoplane fitted with a parabellum gun.

Today RFC aeroplanes saved members of the infantry from a gas attack at Ypres, Belgium when they spotted a yellow-green cloud moving towards French troops they warned commanders who ordered a retreat.

26th Today Second Lt WB Rhodes-Moorhouse RFC has been killed after making a low-level bombing attack on the railway station at Courtrai, Belgium in a BE2c. He has been posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross.

30th The German Navy zeppelin L9 commanded by Kapitain Lt Mathys attacked three British submarines within three hours today, damaging the conning tower of one the D4.

One Hundred Years of Aviation May 1915 - John Cherry

10th Captain LA Strange of No 6 Squadron RFC had a lucky escape today when he fell out of his Martinsyde S1 Scout whilst trying to free a jammed ammunition drum; he hung on through an upside-down spiral of several thousand feet before pulling himself back into the cockpit to regain control.

11th Today the German High Command has ordered continuous airship raids on England to bomb the country into submission.

14th The first US Navy airship will be made by The Connecticut Aircraft Company.

21st Today the Spad A2 biplane fighter made its first test flight.

27th Today seventeen French Voisin biplanes of Groupe de Bombardment 1 attacked a strategic military target at Ludwigshafen near Mannheim. It was described in the official communiqué as, "The finest feat of arms yet accomplished"

An Halberstadt C type flown by Oberleutnant Kastner and with Leutnant Georg Langhoff as the observer/gunner made the first intended German air attack on another armed aeroplane, a French

Voisin that was making an armed reconnaissance flight over the German airfield at Douai. The Voisin was shot down but the two man crew survived.

Today, four days after Italy declared war on Austria-Hungary an Austrian Lohner L1 flying boat was captured off the Italian coast and taken to Varese to be inspected by Macchi technicians.

31st Seven civilians have been killed and fourteen injured today when Zeppelin LZ38 made the first bombing raid on London dropping 3000 pounds of bombs.

Canada's first flying school, The Curtiss Aviation School opened for business today.

In Germany the C-type reconnaissance biplane has been introduced; it is powerful with a 150-160 hp engine and flexibly mounted Parabellum machine gun in the rear cockpit. The C-types will be made by Albatross, Aviatik, DFW, LVG and Rumpler.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS	
Wednesday 13th April, 10:15	May Walk. .The Red Lion, Braefield on the Green, Northamptonshire, NN17 1BP

Please send any copy for publication to me by the 15th of the month, Keith Rose

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