



Biggles The Camels Are Coming

W.E. Johns

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At the end of WW1, Biggles and fellow pilots contend with enemies in their own Sopwith Camels. "The Camel closed up until it was flying beside him; the pilot smiling. Biggles showed his teeth in what he imagined to be an answering smile. 'You swine,' he breathed: 'you dirty, unutterable, murdering swine! I'm going to kill you if it's the last thing I do on earth.'"

Biggles The Camels Are Coming Details

Date : Published July 15th 1993 by Red Fox (first published 1932)

ISBN : 9780099283218

Author : W.E. Johns

Format : Paperback 208 pages

Genre : Adventure, Fiction, Historical, Historical Fiction, War, Childrens

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From Reader Review Biggles The Camels Are Coming for online ebook

Deb (Readerbuzz) Nance says

I hated the first couple of pages; I didn't get what was happening in the story. Then I decided to back up and just read it and go with it, not trying to figure out every little anachronistic aviation term. I got it. I flew with these very, very young pilots in World War I. It is a ride. A real ride in the air and a ride through time. It's full of all the things that the book police would hate today: shooting, killing others with a sense of triumph, hatred for other peoples. But, nevertheless, a fabulous adventure book.

Harry says

The further adventures of Biggles and his Sopwith Camel squadron on the western front. Another selection of connected short stories rather than a full novel but non the worse for it. Great boy's own stuff.

Olivia says

What in the world went wrong here!!?? Biggles all of a sudden is a swearing, hard-core fellow with no emotions. I totally did not like him in this one. Technically, W.E. Johns wrote this book first of any other Biggles stories (it is the third one that I've read). So I've imagined a scenario for why his first book is different than his others: Everyone disliked Biggles because he swore too much. Why would they let their kids read such a book? And so they asked the author if he could create a cleaner character, who smiled sometimes and wasn't so coarse with his speech.

Okay. So other than the swearing, why didn't I like it? One main thing I felt was that it repeated a lot from Biggles Learns To Fly. Also, once Biggles shoots down two German planes just so he can win twelve bottles of whiskey. *Really!* (view spoiler). That was cheesy and made him even more blah and mediocre.

I've started the next one and it is much more promising. Something must have changed in the authors mind in how he wanted to represent Biggles. So, I'm not saying goodbye to him yet, but I do not recommend this book.

Pete Wildman says

This is the classic Biggles, full of authentic WW1 air combat, cynical, realistic and with a hero who smokes, curses and drinks half a bottle of whisky before daylight. Children's stories?

Graham says

I started reading this as a complete Biggles novice and ended up as a fan. The first couple of stories were a little struggle, as it took me time to get into the author's style, but by the end I was sailing through them and having a great time.

Biggles was one of the great British fictional heroes of mid 20th century. He was a champion aviator who started life in THE CAMELS ARE COMING, a selection of connected short stories that sees him flying a Sopwith Camel and battling the Boche during the First World War.

The stories are short, snappy, and filled with aerial combat scenes which are described evocatively. There's always a twist of sorts in store and a freshness and momentum that make the tales highly readable. Biggles gets a real satisfaction from outwitting and out-flying the enemy and that transfers to the reader; at the same time he's a real gentleman who respects his foe. The next in the series is THE CRUISE OF THE CONDOR and I'll be certain to catch up with it.

Will says

This book is about a British flight commander in World War One.qwertyui

Ian Patterson says

Great read on the antics of a very young pilot in WW1. Gets across the characters and their attitudes, the machinery, the fighting had the loss of life. Worth reading even today.

Daniel Bratell says

The first Biggles stories, 17 of them, originally published in some magazine. This Biggles is a lot more emotional, angry, not in control, than later Biggles. Maybe you could say more immature.

The author mentions that Biggles could never have existed but that he represents the emotions and spirit of RFC (Royal Flying Corps), the predecessor of RAF. The stories are of course dated, but still reasonably entertaining.

Wilson E. Stevens Sr. says

This is a pretty interesting book to read. My grandfather drove an ammunition truck during World War One in France where most of this book takes place. I found the description of the airplanes very interesting, and looked up and got photo's of each of the one's mentioned. I may read more of the series, as it was worth

while from a plot, as well as a historical view.

Des Pemberton says

Although "The Camels are Coming" book is the third in the Biggles' series; it was the first one written. Each chapter is an anecdote of events that probably may have actually occurred during the Great War; but for the book were modified and attributed to Captain Bigglesworth, RFC. There were a number of flaws in the some of the chapters, but the book was entertaining and appeared to give a good insight into the life and dangers of being a pilot in that era.

The book covers the last two or so years of the War, so it's strange there was no mention of the amalgamation of the RFC and RNAS into the RAF on 1 April 1918. Another anomaly, and one I picked up in my review of the book "Marked for Death": no mention of non-commissioned (NCO) pilots in the RFC/RAF. The only mention of an NCO pilot with regard to a particular individual was a German, and he got accused of lacking moral fibre.

Jennifer Biggs says

Such a great book. It allows a little bit of insight into the mind of WWI pilots and I really enjoyed it. It had all the great aspects of good story telling and the forward by Captain W.E Johns is insightful and a treat as well. Highly recommend this book if you can find a copy

Louise (A Strong Belief in Wicker) says

My first sortie with Biggles. It reads more like a collection of short stories. An intriguing look back at WWI at this time.

<http://astrongbeliefinwicker.blogspot...>

Sanoo says

Red Fox edition has Bilggles: Pioneer Air Fighter attached to it.

Robert says

First published in 1932, this is the first Biggles book that Captain W E Johns wrote. It is structured rather like an anthology of short stories. Each of the seventeen chapters sees Biggles fly a different mission, or become embroiled in a different escapade, and there is little over-arching narrative to connect them, which means this is a very easy book to dip in and out of as time or circumstances allow. The chapters are short and fast-paced, with plenty of action and the occasional touch of humour, and on the whole I found it to be a very enjoyable read.

I missed out on reading Biggles's adventures as a child, and I am now closer to forty than fourteen, but I did not find that this lessened my enjoyment. The book is not especially childish, and is darker in places than the popular conception of a Biggles story led me to believe – by the last chapters, Biggles is drinking half a bottle of whisky for breakfast and his friends are becoming increasingly concerned for his sanity.

There are numerous footnotes in the text that explain some of the words that readers may not be familiar with ("archie", for example, and "onions") and I found these to be quite helpful. From what I understand, Biggles's adventures are drawn largely from Johns's own experiences, and for readers looking for an introduction to First World War aviation this is a good place to start.

Huw Collingbourne says

The first Biggles book I've read and not as juvenile as I was expecting. This is a collection of short stories about young 1st World War aviators. While there is a good deal of rip-roaring adventure, it also confronts the fear, the danger and the frequent death that were the everyday experience of those young man. A surprisingly enjoyable read.
