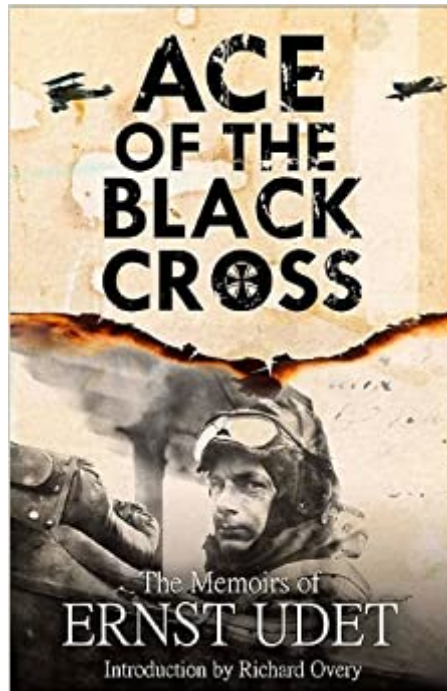


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Ace Of The Black Cross: The Memoirs Of Ernst Udet



Synopsis

Above the mud and misery of the trenches and the endless slugging matches of the First World War another contest was played out with all the military glamour, chivalric values and deadly outcome of a mediaeval, knightly tournament. This was the battle in the air between the first primitive aircraft and the intrepid aviators who flew them. This image of air war is brought nobly to light in the memoirs of Ernst Udet, the German Ace of Aces, whose impressive wartime record was second only to the legendary 'Red Baron'. Written in a jaunty, Boy's Own style Udet paints a romantic picture of his experiences and captures what perhaps many young pilots must have felt as they flew off each day to duel with the enemy, the elements and an unreliable technology. Ace of the Black Cross also illustrates the way in which war and defeat left this young generation of tough, spirited, individuals rootless and restless. After the war Udet used his flying skills to give displays to crowds of gawping onlookers, a circus act that left him frustrated and resentful. In 1941, disillusioned and depressed, he shot himself. On the wall before he died he scrawled a message for Germany: 'Iron man, you have betrayed me'.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Born in 1896, Ernst Udet joined the infant German Air Service in 1915. He went onto win the Iron Cross First Class and Pour le Merite. Between the wars Udet became a stunt pilot. In 1939 he was put in charge of air force development and production, but on 17 November 1941, he killed himself.

A very interesting read...

I am somewhat of expert on Von Richthofen but Udet was a mystery to me and after reading this shockingly well-written and fascinating book, Udet is now more of an enigma to me and perhaps will lead me to him and away from the Baron.

His history is covered from WW1 to the beginning of WW2. I did not know that this pilot was such a great ace. His feeling on flying and his rise to a major during WW1 is covered as well as his combat action. In between the wars his life reads as a action packed dare devil. Good read on the famous person

Ernst puts you in the cockpit to feel and experience your innermost awareness of being an ACE PILOT

Interesting but somewhat disjointed. There isn't a whole lot of combat action in the book. What combat there is was interesting to read about from Udet's point of view. He jumps from his early kills to his last one and you wonder how he got from his 20th kill to his 62nd and what happened in between. This book isn't just about WWI but covers Udet's life after the war. There isn't any talk in the book about Goering and the Nazis which would have been interesting. He does mention Goering briefly as Goering was Udet's commander during WWI.

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