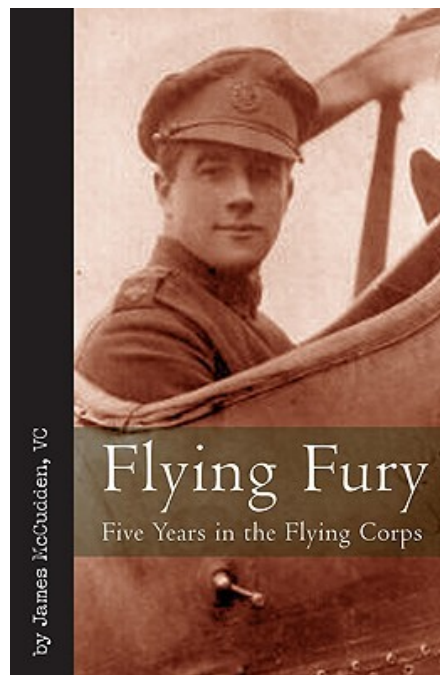




Flying Fury: Five Years in the Royal Flying Corps

James McCudden

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The day-to-day insights of a brilliantly daring World War I ace that only ends with his death at the age of 23
...

James McCudden was an outstanding British fighter ace of World War I, whose daring exploits earned him a tremendous reputation and, ultimately, an untimely end. Here, in this unique and gripping firsthand account, he brings to life some of aviation history's most dramatic episodes in a memoir completed at the age of twenty-three, just days before his tragic death.

During his time in France with the Royal Flying Corps from 1914 to 1918, McCudden rose from mechanic to pilot and flight commander. Following his first kill in September 1916, McCudden shot down a total of fifty-seven enemy planes, including a remarkable three in a single minute in January 1918. A dashing patrol leader, he combined courage, loyalty, and judgment, studying the habits and psychology of enemy pilots and stalking them with patience and tenacity.

Written with modesty and frankness, yet acutely perceptive, Flying Fury is both a valuable insight into the world of early aviation and a powerful account of courage and survival above the mud and trenches of Flanders. Fighter ace James McCudden died in July 1918, after engine failure caused his plane to crash just four months before the end of World War I. His success as one of Britain's deadliest pilots earned him the Victoria Cross.

Flying Fury: Five Years in the Royal Flying Corps Details

Date : Published by Casemate (first published July 9th 1987)

ISBN : 9781935149101

Author : James McCudden

Format : Hardcover 304 pages

Genre : Aviation, History, Biography, Military, Military History, War, World War I, Military Fiction, Nonfiction

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From Reader Review Flying Fury: Five Years in the Royal Flying Corps for online ebook

David says

Although this book is far from being a literary masterpiece, it is nevertheless historical testimony to the author, one of the greatest allied aces of WWI.

Alan Russell says

Boring reading

Technically sound but reads like a flight log rather than a documentary. Cannot help thinking these flyboys had resort accommodations in comparison to the poor soldiers in the trenches who continuously suffered poor weather and poison gas.

Jack Harmon says

Abcd

An excellent history on how the air war was fought during the first war. It says six more words have to be added in order for them to publish this tome.

A.L. Sowards says

This was a good first-hand account of one man's WWI experience. McCudden transferred from the Royal Engineers to the Royal Flying Corps in spring 1913. He started the war as a mechanic/spotter/gunner, then became a pilot and ended up downing an impressive 57 German planes, rising to the rank of major, and earning a Victoria Cross (among other awards).

I enjoyed this look at life for a WWI pilot and recommend it for others wanting to get a taste of what it would have been like. Lots of dogfights, interesting little details about the time period, and McCudden's thoughts on the war, his comrades, and his enemies. He is quick to give praise to the brave men he sees—even his foe. He doesn't spare himself, pointing out where he made mistakes and then learning from them. It feels very honest—like someone's diary or a detailed email from a friend.

(view spoiler)

McCudden was a natural storyteller and I enjoyed his straightforward style. He didn't live long enough to go through the editing process, but the publisher really should give the book a quick proofread (at least the version I read, a kindle book). I appreciate that they left most things in McCudden's own words, but they really should fix some of the punctuation.

If you're curious about WWI aviation and can overlook some typesetting issues, you should check this one out. Rounding up from 4.5 stars.

Tom Simpkins says

Great bio of life in the Royal Flying Corps during WW1

Don Blower says

Glorifying killing or the respectable face of serial killing?

Initially I was enthralled by this autobiography. Then I was seduced into the commonplace of violent death and finally sickened by the ordinariness of the tally of those killed. For whom is the killing for? For king and country?

Cary Kostka says

This was a fantastic look into the life of a British pilot during WWI. That this book encompassed his reflections and thoughts between a period between 1913 and 1918 gives great insights into the development of aviation and aerial combat techniques during the infancy of flying.

Martin says

The most dull of the WWI pilot memoirs I've read. The book breaks into many, many paragraphs detailing action in the air, but almost nothing about life on the ground, and that would be an interesting portion. There is almost zero introspection. There's also nothing about his promotions, medals, and honours. They are barely mentioned.

It was interesting that McCudden started out as a mechanic and worked on his planes throughout his career, including make his own modifications. There are many combats in which 6 planes go up, but 2 or 3 fall out due to mechanical issues before combat is joined.

Ironically the last memoir I read, I Flew with the Lafayette Escadrille, included the author's mention that the most important lesson he learned in flying school was that if one loses power at take-off, just land. Do not try to turn around to get to the field, no matter what. Failing to obey this lesson is exactly how McCudden perished.

Rupert Matthews says

A wonderful book, but terrifying. This is the first hand account of the war in the air during World War I. The author is the great British ace, but he began his career as a mechanic. He went out to France in August 1914

and served in the RFC right through. The book is an absorbing account of the Western Front, and of war flying. He gives a good account of fighting in the air, of life on the ground and of the attitudes of the men who served. Cannot recommend this highly enough.

Edward Lengel says

Unlike many memoirs published during 1914-1918, this one reads authentic, if only because McCudden had no opportunity to revise the then-unpublished manuscript before his death in an accident in mid-1918. Fortunately, the publishers decided to brave criticism of McCudden's oft-stated respect for his German adversaries, and published his manuscript apparently as he wrote it. The technical detail makes this a boon for aviation buffs (which I am not), and the unpolished immediacy of this diary-like account will appeal to all those who study the First World War.

KOMET says

I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book. Considering his humble origins in a Britain heavily rooted in class, and his rise from a bugler in the Royal Engineers to a mechanic in the Royal Flying Corps to one of the finest fighter pilots of the First World War, James McCudden shows that anyone can aspire for greatness, provided one is willing to work and sacrifice.

For anyone with a curiosity about what air warfare in the First World War was really like, READ THIS BOOK. I highly recommend it.

Brett says

This book came up on my Kobo reader as a recommendation after the Derek Robinson trio and the Donald Jack books on WWI aviation.

Overall it was very interesting reading since it was written from James McCudden's journal pages.

Joe Griswold says

Good over view of air war WW 1

Very well written he put you right in the. Cockpit .

It put you right in the cockpit .it was the best stick with the best aircraft that won the battle.,

Curtiss says

The service record of a World War I ace whose death was the result of a flying accident caused by engine failure on take-off, after being victorious over 54 aerial opponents while serving with the Royal Flying Corps.
