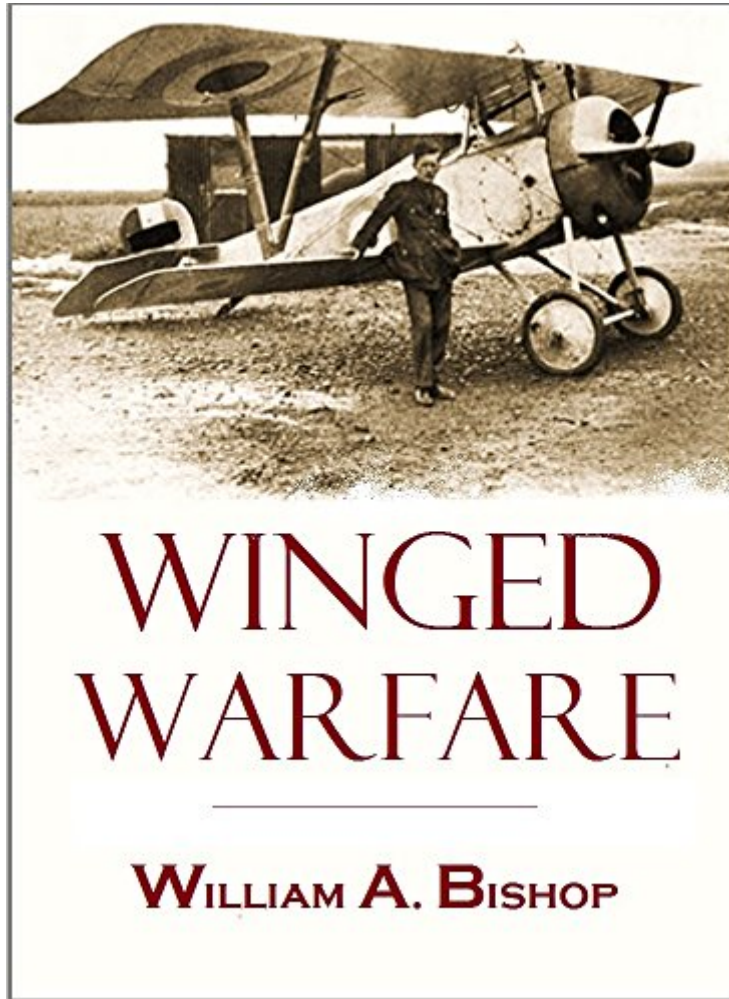




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Winged Warfare (1918)



Synopsis

Air Marshal William Avery "Billy" Bishop (1894 – 1956) was a Canadian flying ace and Victoria Cross recipient of the First World War. He was officially credited with 72 victories, making him the top Canadian ace of the war. In 1918 Bishop wrote of his flying adventures in "Winged War" the personal narrative of one of the foremost champions of the air. It is a vivid narrative of unusual interest and reality with many photos. If any special distinction was to be awarded to the author of the best personal narrative on his career as an aviator, first honors would easily go to Major Bishop. His book is not only well written, but carefully planned to convey a considerable amount of knowledge to the layman without mental burden. This flyer possesses a sense of humor and proportion, in addition to which he has lived through a remarkable series of experiences. The reader who seeks a broad-gauged view of what the military airman does, and is required to do, need go no further than this book; the author in telling his experiences has covered very completely the subject of aerial warfare in bang-up story-telling style. Major Bishop went to the front intending to serve in the cavalry. But apparently he never thought of the mud, and when he saw it he didn't like it, and made up his mind to fly to ill-fates which, at that time, he knew not of. He tells a tale, not of successes only, but of failures, mistakes, disappointments and escapes, some of which he attributes simply to good luck. He even confesses to moments of timidity, notably when it became necessary to undergo the ordeal of receiving the Victoria Cross. Bishop, who crossed to England with a Canadian cavalry regiment, joined the air service and within two months of his landing in France he had become an "ace," entitled to special marking for having sent down live hostile machines. Bishop writes: "It was the mud, I think, that made me take to flying. I had fully expected that going into battle would mean for me the saddle of a galloping charger, instead of the snug little cockpit of a modern aeroplane. The mud, on a certain day in July, 1915, changed my whole career in the war." It was to this camp that the aeroplane came that stormy day in July. A week later my plans were in motion. I met a friend in the Royal Flying Corps and confided to him my ambition to fly. He assured me it would be easy to arrange a transfer, and instructed me as to what I should do. If I wanted to get to the front quickly I would have to go as an observer, meaning that when I flew over the German lines I would be the "passenger" in a two-seated plane and would do just what my title indicated – observe. In WWII, Major William A. Bishop, ace of aces, was put in charge of training flyers. We may be happy that his skill and knowledge were placed where they were conserved to the country, altho it is probable that the ace himself would rather have returned to the front. "A Winged Warfare," has been described as "one of the most amazing accounts of personal bravery ever written. The lone-handed attack on a German aerodrome is an adventure almost by

itself in the history of fighting."Originally published in 1918; may contain an occasional imperfection

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A must have book by Billy Bishop. I have not completed reading it, but it is enjoyable so far. It arrived in good condition, a little more worn than advertised but, it's an old copy. No real problems. I would recommend this book and would purchase from seller again. Thanks!

Excellent book well written . Shipping was fine recommend vendor and book

WW-1 flying and fighting the way that it really was. No Hollywood angles. Buy it and enjoy every page. HG

This tells of the exploits of Billy Bishop. The highest scoring pilot of the British Empire, and of Canada in WWI. During his career, he was credited with 72 confirmed victories. Winged Warfare tells his story from when he first shipped overseas to Europe, until August of 1917 when he was sent back first to London to receive the Victoria Cross, and then back to Canada on leave. The

highlight of the book for me was when he describes his attack on a German aerodrome near Cambrai. This is the raid for which he was awarded the Victoria Cross, Britain's highest military award. I just cannot recommend this book too much. It is a must have for everyone and anyone interested in WWI aerial history.

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