



World War 1, German Air Fleet Society Fundraising, Dec. 1916

Luftfahrendank Set of 25 as a Pane

Not found in Jackson catalog *For God Kaiser and Fatherland*.

According to Kiddle, this set was issued by the Deutscher Luftflotten Verein (German Air Fleet Society), as a fund raiser for the war effort. The inscription "Copyright W. Sanse" appears in the photograph oval, but not on all stamps.

This must have been printed after Nov. 21, 1916. The Austro-Hungarian Ruler Franz Joseph died, and Crown Prince Carl became Kaiser Carl 1. The rulers of Germany, Bulgaria and Turkey are shown: they did not change during the war.

Notes on some of the pilots pictured:

- Oswald Boelcke is pictured second in row #1. He became a pilot just as the war began, and was one of the first two pilots given the Pour le Merite (Blue Max). Very influential in developing strategy for the aerial war, he died October 28, 1916 in a mid air collision.

- Max Immelmann is second row #2. with his Pour le Merite. The most famous of the early German aces. He died 18 June 1916.

- Hans-Joachim Buddecke (1890-1918) row 3, #1.

Pictured in a Turkish hat/uniform and his Pour-le Merite at his neck. He had gone to the US in 1913 to become a pilot and businessman, but came back and enlisted in September 1914. He was sent to Gallipoli to assist the Turkish air force against the British (c.1915) and returned in the summer of 1916. The Turkish picture could have been taken in early 1916, and perhaps all of 1917, when he was back assisting in Turkey. He is wearing his Pour le Merite, awarded in April of 1916.

- Rudolph Windisch(1897-1918), row 4. He did not begin flying front line until May 1916; in October 1916 he was given the Prussian Order of the Crown for activity at Russian front.

- Maximillian von Cossel, row 3. is the soldier Windisch dropped off in an October 1916 raid in Russia.

- Otto Parschau Row 4, wearing his Pour le Merite awarded July 1916.

- Rudolf Berthold 1891-1920 row 4 #3, was a German ace who survived the war with 44 victories. He became a pilot before the war, joined the army in January 1915, but did not become famous until 1916. Wearing his Pour le Merite of Oct 1916.

- Manfred von Richtofen is not pictured; he received his Pour le Merite in January of 1917, and he would have been famous enough by spring 1917 that he would have been included. During April he had 22 victories, and was in command of a group including his brother Lothar; both were often used for propaganda. Neither is shown. Other pilots famous late in the war not pictured: Ernst Udet, or Herman Goering.

This gives us a logical time frame for the pane of December 1916 through March of 1917.

- The bottom row portraits are all non pilots. Famous designers and builders Count Zeppelin and Tony Fokker in #1 and #2. #4 is Colmar von der Goltz, a Prussian military officer who died of typhus in April 1916. He served in Belgium and later in Turkey. Johann Schütte (1873-1940) was a competitor of Zeppelin, designing and building dirigibles using primarily a wood structure rather than aluminum, as Zeppelin did.

