



Rob Morales has changed his format a bit from three columns, to two. Blame me because it was my suggestion that the three column format was a bit hard to read. Two columns do run up the page count because the pictures are bigger, but hey, who is counting? They're electronic, not paper!

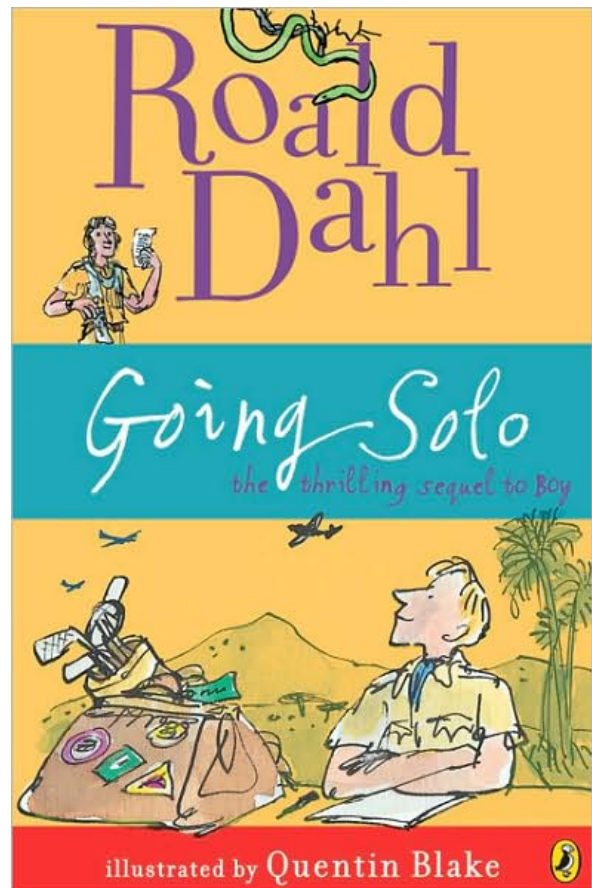
Another plus is better seeing Chuck Davenport's excellent pictures which nearly all have a more realistic, low-camera-angle not the view-from-space vertical shot often seen. If this means the photo includes the visage of its builder, I think that makes it more interesting. To me as an outsider, it gives a feel for the personality of the group. After all, IPMS chapters are made of PEOPLE, not just a bunch of models that magically appeared on a table one night. *(Again, this is all my opinion; write if you don't agree. Or if you do agree, for that matter. Anyway if you don't like the format, blame me, not Rob!)*



This fully-rigged 1/72nd model should appear considerably LARGER than full size on your screen!

One model that caught my attention was this Gloster Gladiator, as flown in North Africa by RAF pilot Marmaduke ***“Pat” Pattle**. Brit Bunkley’s model is evidently from the 1/72nd new-tool Airfix kit. Rob’s newsletter cutline says the model is “in progress”, but it looks pretty complete (and pretty darn NEAT) to me!

With the Italian CR 42 “Falco”, the Gladiator was one of the last biplanes to see combat, and also in North Africa. The picture reminded me of a Gladiator connection in one of the best aerial combat books I’ve read recently. “Going Solo” is the autobiography of ANOTHER RAF ace, Roald Dahl. This Englishman of Norwegian extraction today is best remembered as a one of the world’s most published authors, not a WWII ace. But in 1939 his famed children’s books were far in the future, and he was in Africa as a very young expatriate working for Shell Oil in Tanganyika. His adventures even before the war started were too numerous to begin to mention even, and then things got exciting when he took his RAF pilot training in Kenya. Things became pretty dicey ...he mentions that at the end of the war being the only survivor of thirteen who began with him in pilot training class in Africa ...probably because serious crash injuries had grounded him even before the U.S. entered the war.



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roald_Dahl

With training for today’s pilots lasting for years before they see action, it’s hard to imagine the rush-to-combat measures that were taken by the RAF (and later, the Luftwaffe and Japanese) when things got really bleak. Dahl’s Gladiator connection came with things going badly in Africa, and he was thrust into a Gladiator with the checkout of “it’s an airplane, go fly it”; and sent out with even worse instructions on finding his base out in the desert. Running out of daylight and ideas, he tried to land, but wound up crashing and burned in no-man’s-land between British and Italian front lines! By a miracle he survived but was burned and temporarily blinded

...and then his adventures REALLY started, involving further combat (in Hurricanes) against the Luftwaffe in a losing cause in Greece; and then against the Vichy French in Syria. The book is far from new, but I recommend Dahl's "Going Solo" heartily! https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Going_Solo

There are all sorts of options to find and enjoy Dahl's book, including Kindle...

http://search.half.ebay.com/going-solo-roald-dahl_W0QQmZbooksQQ_trksidZp2682Q2em1447Q2el2686

http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_sb_ss_i_2_10?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=going+solo+roald+dahl&srefix=going+solo%2Caps%2C161

Now, in case you're desperate for more trivia,

Some Other Stuff!!!

1. "The Avro **WHAT?**"in this interesting article

<http://www.vintagewings.ca/VintageNews/Stories/tabid/116/articleType/ArticleView/articleId/556/Avro-What.aspx>

...you'll learn what the mighty and famed Avro Vulcan delta-wing bomber had ALMOST been named! For good measure, the source of the names of a lot of many other Brit bombers is discussed, including many interesting pictures. Among them is proof that my guess that the name of the Avro Lincoln



recently discussed in one of these "forwards", had nothing whatever to do with the sixteenth American president!

For all this fascinating stuff, go to ...

<http://www.vintagewings.ca/VintageNews/Stories/tabid/116/articleType/ArticleView/articleId/556/Avro-What.aspx>

2. | Su-34

Recently we've been hearing a lot about our friends the Russians "rushing in" (no pun intended) to help out in Syria. Included has been deployment of their big, highly capable Su-34 "Fullback" attack airplane.



These interesting articles have a lot more on the subject....

<http://nationalinterest.org/blog/the-buzz/revealed-russias-lethal-su-34-fullback-goes-global-14807>

...including this Russian YouTube sales pitch YouTube brochure, should you want one of your very own!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2h4kXPzOe1A>



3. While we're on the subject of advanced Russian technology, here's another YouTube on the Sukhoi T-50 5th generation fighter....

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vanJ9ZUzG4E#t=58.698>



* Yes, the mother of this man who would become a famous RAF ace hung the name "Marmaduke" on him! So it's understandable why Marmaduke Pattle (not Paddle) was better known by his nickname of "Pat". His was quite a story too....

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pat_Pattle