



Hauptmann Godwin Von Brumowski by I. Berryman

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This new book, about the life and exploits of the top Austro-Hungarian scout or fighter pilot in the First World War, is the brainchild of artist Ivan Berryman, in collaboration with the subject's grandson, Hubertus Sulkowski. Having seen little else written about this successful pilot elsewhere, I was quite pleased to see him receiving a colourful biography of his own, albeit a short one.

The book itself is beautifully laid out on high quality glossy paper, and in colour, all essential as the main purpose of the exercise appears to be to show a series of 17 paintings by the author, which depict various events known to have occurred in Brumowski's career as fighter pilot, especially in Italy, during the 1914 – 1918 war. These are without doubt excellent, and show off not only the author's considerable talent as an artist, but give graphic testament to this brave and outstanding Austro-Hungarian airman.

There are too a number of contemporary photographs, some of which have been provided by Brumowski's family. The latter show not only the man and his aircraft in wartime, serious or relaxed mood, but also his few surviving ephemera, such as medals and keepsakes he had from that war.

Divided into seven chapters, the narrative provides what information the author has managed to assemble. As Bromowski unfortunately died in an aircraft accident prior to World War Two and relatively little detail is known about some fairly big parts of his life prior to that event, the author has thoughtfully padded the narrative out with a lot of peripheral information about the war on the Italian Front, details of the offensives fought there and even some peripheral characters who served with Brumowski, for example Frank Linke-Crawford.

That there is little information available today on this enigmatic man is evident, but having read the book, Brumowski is somewhat more familiar to me than

before I started reading, as is that vicious yet under-reported war on the Italian Front. The book concludes with a detailed list of all Brumowski's victories as they are known today, always helpful to the interested researcher. The latter has been ably produced by the author with assistance from Italian historians.

Perhaps in time someone elsewhere will uncover a lot more personal information about both Godwin von Brumowski and his exploits in the sky during 1914-1918. Until then, this short book will serve as an interesting, rather colourful and fitting testament to his determination and fortune in Russian and Italian skies during World War One. Highly recommended. - **Peter Chapman**