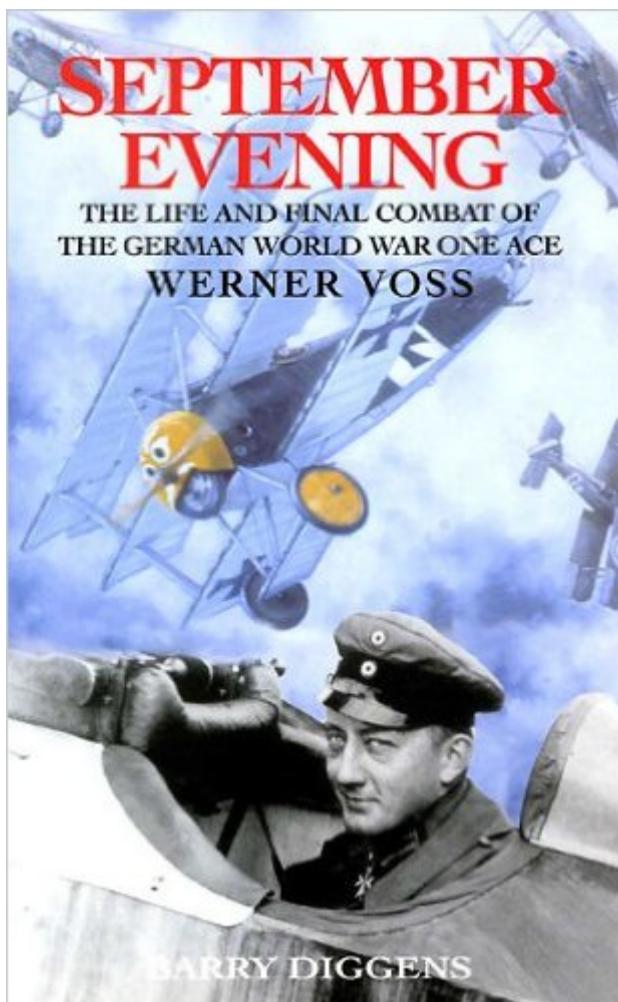


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# September Evening: The Life And Final Combat Of The German World War One Ace Werner Voss



## Synopsis

This is the first full-length biography ever written on the life and death of the nineteen-year-old Werner Voss, who was a legend in his own lifetime and the youngest recipient of the Pour le Mérite, Germany's highest award for bravery in WWI. At the time of his death he was considered by many, friend and foe alike, to be Germany's greatest ace and, had he lived, he would almost certainly have overtaken Manfred von Richthofen's victory total by early spring 1918. Voss is perhaps best remembered for his outstanding courage, his audacity in the air and the prodigious number of victories he achieved before being killed in one of the most swash-buckling and famous dogfights of the Great War; a fight involving James McCudden and 56 Squadron RFC, the most successful Allied scout squadron. Yet the life of Voss and the events of that fateful day in September are surrounded by mystery and uncertainty and even now aviation enthusiasts continue to ask questions about him almost on a daily basis. Barry Diggens was determined to find out the truth and his book unearths and analyses every scrap of information concerning this extraordinary young man. His conclusions are sometimes controversial but his evidence persuasive and this study will be welcomed by, and be of great interest to, the aviation fraternity worldwide. Includes an excellent photographic section.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

First off, let me say this is a "Must Read" for anyone remotely interested in the aerial campaigns of WW1 and/or the career of Werner Voss. The subtitle of the book: "The Life and Final Combat of the German World War One Ace Werner Voss" neatly describes the organization of the book with 77

pages devoted to his life and wartime career prior to September 23, 1917, while the final 89 recount the climatic dogfight and its aftermath. I must say that I was a bit disappointed with the depth of coverage dealing with his wartime career. The author explains that much family and archival material was lost during the Second World War and other than an examination of his relationship with von Richthofen, his personal and professional life remains indistinct. What we are left with is a valuable recounting of all the pertinent postings during his service career and thumbnail descriptions of his 48 aerial victories. In the recounting of Voss' final Dogfight, where he fought nearly single handed against nine British aircraft, the author gives the reader a clear picture of this epic encounter as well doing some first rate detective work examining the numerous controversies surrounding the fight. The appendices which include the after-action reports of the participants and a fine selection of photographs are a highlight of the book. This will be a valuable addition to every WW1 aviation bookshelf.

This book not only serves its purpose (examining the life of German ace Werner Voss) but serves as a good introductory book for anyone interested in learning something about World War I dogfights and aces, because the author talks about a lot of aces, including Richthofen, Ball, Mannock, Collishaw, Lothar Richthofen, etc. The photos (all in black and white, of course) are also stunning, with great restoration job upon them.

Barry Diggens has provided an exhaustive examination of the life and wartime experience of the great WWI German ace Werner Voss, a charismatic young man who rivaled the accomplishments of Manfred Von Richthofen, "The Red Baron". Not many books focus on Voss and his short life so this book is a treasure for aviation enthusiasts! I highly recommend this volume to any one that really gets into reading of the exploits of the daredevil pilots of WWI and finding out what makes them "tick"!

This is an exhaustively (but impressively) researched & detailed book mainly about one extraordinary pilot, but naturally it discusses many others on both sides of the Great War. Voss's flying/fighting prowess put many others to shame ... even the more famous "Red Baron". He seemed a born flyer -- talented & recklessly brave to a fault. I appreciate the photo insert as well (but I sure wish the Kindle version had pointed out the existence of a photo insert somehow...would have been nice to refer to it while reading. It took me by surprise.) While it is a non-fiction account of a real life warrior, it is a story told in a very likeable, upbeat tone by the author. Even so, I had to

stop reading after the main portion - I skimmed the remaining chapters about his girlfriend, alternate theories of his death, and I'm saving the appendices for later. But, by and large a very readable & interesting work.

I wanted to know who Werner Voss was, what he was like. This book is well researched and also adds to describe the character of Voss well, to leave you with a feeling of what the young man must have been like. In so much as it can, from a part of aviation history when pilots were just trying to get principles of combat flying down, and when most of them accomplished it by intuition alone.

I GOT THIS BOOK AND I WAS VERY HAPPY WITH IT. FOR THE FIRST TIME ANYWHERE YOU CAN NOW FIND THE REAL STORY OF THE TEENAGE ACE WERNER VOSS. HE WAS THE BETTER PILOT THAN THE RED BARON SOME SAY AND EVEN THE BARON HIMSELF SAID HE WAS THE ONE TO WATCH. THIS BOOK TELLS THE STORY OF A GREAT KID TO HIS LAST BATTLE WITH THE 7 S.E.5A SCOUTS ON THAT SEPTEMBER EVENING.

One of the few books on Voss. Sometimes the discussions about other authors' theories and pilot reports get a little confusing, but this is a man who died almost 100 years ago with conflicting reports about how he died... it was war after all.

Though not knowing the source material and not being an expert on WWI aviation, this appears to be a well written and researched book on the story of Werner Voss. The author sheds some light on the relationship of Voss to the 'Red Baron', Von Richthofen, and his personal life and characteristics. I thought he was thorough and fair in his treatment of contradictions in the historical record. He gives a good picture of aviation at the time of Voss.

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