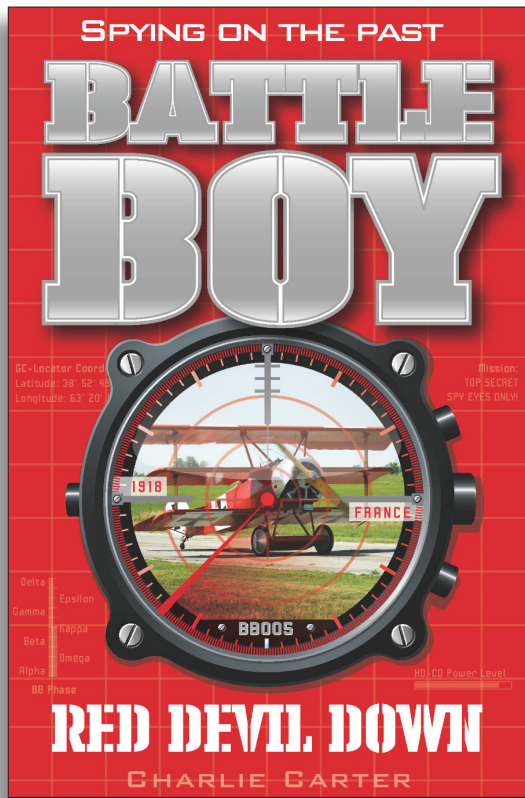


# Battle Boy RED DEVIL DOWN

Charlie Carter

## Teachers' Notes

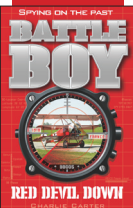


### Introduction

Napoleon Augustus Smythe (Battle Boy 005) is in the wrong place at the wrong time. He is supposed to be finding out who shot down the Red Baron – the most famous pilot of World War One. The Red Baron was a German fighter pilot. He was the most successful flying ace of the Imperial German Army Air Service.

On his way to finding out who shot the Red Baron, Napoleon has to convince a trigger-happy sergeant that he is not a spy. Then he has to outrun a German jeep called a Torpedo on a rickety old motorbike.

And this is before his mission has even begun ...





## Curriculum Links

HSIE: Significant People and Places

English: Reading, Writing, Talking, Listening, Researching, Presenting

Mathematics: Mapping

Science and Technology: Using Technology, Design and Make

Creative and Performing Arts: Drawing, Painting

PDHPE: Decision Making

## Learning Outcomes

Students will have the opportunity to

- read texts independently and in groups
- respond to themes and issues in a text
- draw on a range of skills and strategies to read and comprehend a text
- analyse techniques used by authors to create certain effects and use language creatively
- research a topic of historical significance
- explain the significance of particular people, actions and events in the past
- locate places on a map
- present reasons for and against a given topic
- use drawing and painting techniques for a given topic

## Before you read

Look at the title and front cover of the book. Work in pairs and discuss or write a short paragraph suggesting what the story may be about. Read out your group's ideas to the rest of the class and compare ideas.

## Read the book

Read *Red Devil Down* as directed by your teacher in one of the following ways

- as a whole class
- in small reading groups
- individually



Stop every now and then to re-evaluate where you think the story may be heading. Discuss your ideas with a friend as well as parts of the story you like and why.

## After you read

Use the following questions to promote discussion of the book.

Discuss these questions as a class or write the answers down.

1. Which World War is this story set in? Which countries were involved in this war?
2. How is Napoleon informed about each new mission?
3. How did Napoleon receive his mission instructions? p8
4. What was Napoleon's mission in *Red Devil Down*? p10
5. What is the GC-Locator? What went wrong with the GC-Locator?
6. Where and when did Napoleon land for his mission?
7. Who saved Napoleon from the soldiers? p33
8. What was the Red Baron's full name? p34
9. What type of gun was the Rattlesnake? p59
10. Why do you think the lone soldier walked away? p75
11. Why did Napoleon feel sad about the death of the Red Baron but Skin did not?
12. Who was officially credited with shooting down the Red Baron? Do you think that Australians shot down the Red Baron? Explain your answer.



## Classroom Activities

### In Disguise

Describe the disguise that was given to Napoleon for his mission to find out who shot down the Red Baron. Sketch Napoleon wearing the outfit (p11).

### Painting

The scene where Napoleon lands for his mission is described on page 21. Use watercolours and a 'Monet' style to paint the scene where Napoleon landed.

### Warplanes

Use the internet or books to find pictures, illustrations or photos of different warplanes, or sketch some of your own. Label the different parts of the planes. Make your own model of the Red Baron's plane – the Fokker DR-1 Dreidecker – using paddle-pop sticks and other recyclable materials (p35).

### The Fokker DR-1 Dreidecker

Research the history of the Fokker DR-1 Dreidecker. Include who invented the plane, when and where the plane was invented and how it was used.

### Interesting Fonts

Look at different pages of the book. Discuss the effect the different fonts and font sizes have on the story. Write your own short adventure narrative and include different fonts and font sizes. Choose a topic that relates to history.

### Feelings

List some words to describe how Napoleon felt when the three German soldiers were interrogating him (pp28-30).

### Language Barrier

The phrase *Auf Wiedersehen* means 'Goodbye' in German. Find out how to say 'Hello', 'Goodbye' and 'Thank you' in as many languages as you can. List the phrases and practise the greetings with a classmate.

### Mapping

Use an atlas or maps on the internet to locate the villages of Cappy and Saint Colette in the Somme, France, where the Red Baron flew and was shot down. Use an outline of a map of France or Europe to mark these locations. Use Google Earth to look at the current locations.



### **Aussie Slang**

List some of the Aussie slang phrases found on pages 55, 56 and 57. Write down some other sayings that are unique to Australia and Australians. Write an explanation of each phrase and share your phrases with the class.

### **Precious Gifts**

Napoleon gives Monty a bullet case from the battlefields of the Somme for his birthday. Why was this bullet case precious? What is the most precious present you have received? What is the most precious present you have ever given someone else?

### **Caricatures**

Sketch a caricature or cartoon of one of the following:

- The Red Baron flying his plane.
- The driver with the rooster on his head (p50).

### **Circle Meeting - Nobody ever wins in war**

Sit in a circle on chairs or on the floor. Go around the circle saying 'Yes' if you agree with the statement or 'No' if you disagree. The next time around give a short reason for your response. Keep going around adding new facts or challenging ideas. The rules are that you may say 'Pass' at any time, only one person speaks at a time and there are no wrong answers.

### **The Red Baron**

Napoleon meets the Red Baron on his mission. Research the life and history of the Red Baron and present a mini project that includes:

- His full name and nicknames
- Why he was called the Red Baron
- Dates and places of birth and death
- Nationality
- Family history
- Years of service
- Rank
- Career as a pilot
- Victories and defeats
- The last word he allegedly spoke
- A picture or illustration of the Red Baron
- Any other interesting facts