

THE FIRST WORLD WAR INTERACTIVE

Fighter Aces 1914-1918

An ace is a fighter pilot who shot down five or more enemy aircraft.

The rules for checking an enemy "kill" varied between countries. Some required a witness. Others were not so strict and the kills could be shared.

Albert Ball
42 victories



Albert Ball was the first British ace idolized by the public. Ball was killed in combat but the German pilot. Officially listed as missing in action, it was several years before the details of Albert Ball's death were known.

Richthofen
80 victories



Manfred von Richthofen was German and the most famous fighter ace. The British called him the jolly "Red Baron". He was shot down as he flew over the trenches in April 1918.