

## 5) WORLD WAR I (1914 - 1918)

### 5.1) DEVELOPMENT OF WARFARE AVIATION

Prior to World War I there had been an major evolution of the aircraft with many experimental designs, heroic pioneers of aviation and the development of warfare aviation.



Miniature sheet

On 9 May 1912 there was first successful take-off from a moving ship, the HMS Hibernia.

An improved Short S.27 was used by Lt Cdr C.R. Samson.

#### Synchronized machine gun

Sopwith Strutter  
Multi-role biplane.  
First British aircraft to enter service with a synchronised machine gun. Operated by both Britain and French Aéronautique Militaire.



#### The monoplane

Bristol M.1  
A monoplane fighter, it holds the distinction of being the only British monoplane fighter to reach production during the conflict 1916 - 1917.



During the war years the role played by aircraft would change drastically. At first, aircraft were mainly used by the military for reconnaissance but later new technological advances allowed pilots to drop bombs and shoot down enemy aircraft.

### 5.2) AIRCRAFT OF WORLD WAR I



China 1921 issue featuring Curtiss JN-4  
(1921 issue with tail fin showing Republican striped emblem, later re-issued 1929 with tail fin showing Nationalist 'sun' emblem).

The Sopwith Camel was the most successful British fighter aircraft of WWI, though it was difficult to fly and required huge skill. Credited with shooting down almost 1,300 enemy aircraft it was also successful as a ground attack craft.

The Fokker D VII was a fighter aircraft designed by Reinhold Platz of the Fokker-Flugzeugwerke. Germany produced around 3,300 D.VII aircraft in the second half of 1918.

In service with the Luftstreitkräfte, the D.VII quickly proved itself to be a formidable aircraft.

#### Some notable aircraft of WWI:

The Curtiss JN 'Jenny'  
was a series of biplanes built by the Glenn Curtiss Aeroplane Company. The JN-4 was possibly North America's most famous WWI aircraft and was widely used to train pilots. It was a twin-seat, dual-control biplane. After World War I it continued as a civilian aircraft, as it became the backbone of American postwar civil aviation.

