

The Bird Soldier

"I am going to fly birds... I shall fly English birds against the birds of the Germani"
("Flying Training"- "Survival", p. 78-121)

QUIZ. Choose the right answer. More than one option may be correct.

1. LAC stands for Leading Aircraftman. RAF stands for Royal Air Force.
2. Dahl started his flying training in Nairobi.
3. Flying training took six months.
4. If you talk about a herd of animals that includes "a big tusker, his cow and their one baby", which animal are you referring to? elephant
5. A man who catches and kills elephants illegally is an ivory- Poacher
6. The small enclosed space where the pilot sits in an aircraft is called a Cockpit
7. Goggles are Glasses
8. In 1939, pilots kept a record of every flight they had ever made in their log book.
9. After eight weeks of Initial Training School, Dahl's training continued in Habbaniya / Iraq
10. After his final training, Dahl became A pilot officer and a fighter pilot
11. A boulder is something that Dahl hit before his plane accident (p. 100). But what exactly is it? A large rock (gully: zanja, barranco ditch: zanja, cuneta)
12. After his accident, Dahl remained in hospital for five Months
13. After his recovery, Dahl Joined his squadron in Greece

Complete the sentences.

1. When you fly by yourself, you are flying solo
2. R. Dahl's first training plane was a tiger moth
3. Dahl learned to spin and to loop the loop (spin: girar, loop the loop: rizar el rizo)
4. When you finish advanced flying training, you join a squadron and face the enemy
5. The Harts had machine guns on their wings
6. In Habbaniya, men had to be packed in ice to keep cool when they suffered from the heat and got heatstroke.
7. The Gladiator was armed with two fixed machine-guns that fired bullets through the revolving propeller. (revolving propeller: hélice giratoria)
8. After his plane accident, Dahl was taken to a hospital in Alexandria
9. If you need to move injured people from one place to another, you may need a light frame, similar to a bed, called a stretcher
10. After the accident, Dahl's eyes were permanently closed by the swellings on his face. He thought he was blind (adjective)
11. During his recovery, Dahl fell in love with Mary Welland, his nurse
12. Because of an extremely serious concussion, Dahl had terrible headaches

General comprehension:

1. When did Dahl start flying by himself? What plane did he use for that? Does he have happy memories of that time in his life? (p. 83-88)
2. What have you learned about Habbaniya, Iraq? What is it famous for today? (p. 89, 91-93)
3. From Dahl's point of view, why did so many British pilots die during World War II? (p. 96)
4. Compare the account of the accident in *Going Solo* (p. 99-103) with its report on the article "Shot Down in Libya".¹ How are they different? Which one is more accurate in your opinion?
5. Was Dahl happy with the orders he received after his recovery? Why? (p. 119-120)

¹ "Shot Down in Libya": <http://www.roalddahlfans.com/shortstories/shottext.php> or <http://www.carmengomez.com/literature/dahl/dahl.htm>