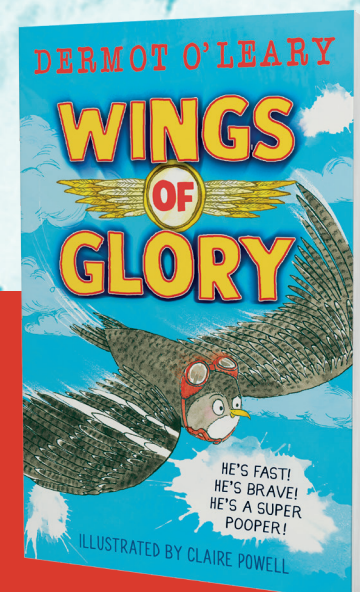




IN POO WE TRUST!

CAN ONE TINY BIRD BECOME A HERO?
AN ACTION-PACKED ADVENTURE WITH A SMATTERING
OF BIRD POO FROM **DERMOT O'LEARY**



Activities, sneak peeks and **EXCLUSIVE** poster inside



WELCOME TO THE ROYAL BIRD FORCE!

READ AN EXTRACT!



'Bandits at two thousand feet below! Look lively and be ready to follow me to intercept!'

Linus's orders cut through the rushing headwind like a dagger. Each one of the birds under his command answered 'Roger!' in unison, and, keeping in perfect formation, waited for his next command.

Linus, a tiny swift from the green fields of England, was squadron leader of an elite fighting unit of peregrine falcons, the fastest and most famous birds in the whole of the Royal Bird Force. They had said it couldn't be done: a little swift commanding the best of the RBF, but here he was, at the head of his loyal unit who would follow him to battle and back.

He looked down at the formation of enemy bombers just



WORDSEARCH

Can you find all the words below?

Z	I	O	T	M	E	E	R	K	A	T	A	N	B
U	S	M	F	A	L	B	A	T	R	O	S	S	E
S	A	W	I	P	S	E	G	F	S	B	A	L	D
G	G	W	W	L	P	B	U	R	A	F	A	L	R
G	F	K	S	T	S	L	L	L	L	L	A	B	A
K	E	A	V	O	G	A	S	H	A	W	K	M	F
P	E	B	L	P	L	C	N	W	F	C	N	W	U
E	A	N	L	B	U	O	B	S	K	E	I	A	B
I	B	Z	F	S	A	N	B	A	T	S	L	E	R
C	G	F	B	S	L	S	L	T	P	E	F	D	W
A	A	G	O	D	L	L	U	B	L	C	L	A	L
N	E	I	C	N	B	N	O	E	I	G	I	P	W
U	S	S	W	M	A	S	D	P	L	A	A	R	O

- ☐ GOSHAWK
- ☐ ALBATROSS
- ☐ FIELDMICE
- ☐ MEERKAT
- ☐ BATS
- ☐ OWL
- ☐ BUZZARD
- ☐ FALCON
- ☐ BULLDOG
- ☐ PELICAN
- ☐ SWIFT
- ☐ PIGEON



COLOURING

skirting the tops of the white fluffy clouds, heading for the British coastline, and smiled to himself. They wouldn't know what had hit them.

'Tally ho, follow me!' he cried, banking into a steep dive towards his quarry.

Moving as one, his squadron followed. Flying at almost two hundred miles per hour, the falcons and their leader made the distance in no time. They levelled off, undetected, flying just above the lumbering enemy bombers.

Directly below them, Linus could see that the lead plane, a Junkers 88, had its window open. The pilot was looking around, maybe trying to determine his exact location.

Linus knew exactly what to do. 'Squadron, begin intercept!' he ordered.

He dived next to the pilot's window, then suddenly banked right so that he flew straight into the cramped cockpit. Before the pilot had a chance to wonder what on earth was happening, the small bird landed on his head and, using his tiny claws, pulled the pilot's flying helmet over his eyes. The cockpit descended into utter chaos, the pilot trying his best to control the plane, which was lurching all over the skies, and the crew screaming and climbing



over each other, trying to shoo the pesky intruder away.

Gleefully flapping around to cause as much chaos as he could, Linus finally flew out of the cockpit, soaring steeply to safety. Looking back, he saw with delight that his team had followed his lead and every bomber in the formation was now either banking, diving or climbing. The whole German squadron was in complete disarray. As his squadron flew back to join him one by one, he heard the welcome sound of a Rolls-Royce Merlin engine and turned to see the imposing sight of a squadron of friendly Hurricanes coming over the cliffs to intercept the bombers. The slower enemy planes were now scattered and vulnerable, and the birds watched with satisfaction as the RAF either shot down or chased off the last of the enemy.

'Well, Squadron Leader, sir, you've done it again!' exclaimed one of his wingmen. 'There's not a finer bird in the RBF. It's an honour to fly with you, Linus. Linus. . . LINUS!'

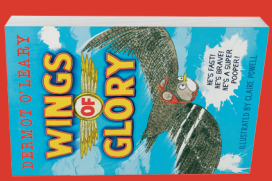
'LINUS! Wake up! You have to come and see this!'

Ten thousand feet above the plains of central Africa, Linus was asleep on the wing, in the very clever way that swifts can, gliding on the rising air of the warm thermals.



WINGS OF GLORY

Read all about Linus' adventures in



FUN FACTS ABOUT SWIFTS

• **They fly over 800km a day**, migrating 3,400 miles twice a year from Africa to the UK.

• **Swifts can sleep, eat, and drink whilst flying**. Imagine how far you could travel if you could sleep whilst flying.

• **Their favourite place to nest is in our houses** and they've been sharing our roofs done since the Roman period.

• **Swifts are very light and only weigh 36-50g**, what can you think of that weighs this much?

• **Their wingspan can range from 42cm to 48cm**, that's just a bit bigger than your average ruler!

• **Swifts pair for life** and will return to the same nest each year with their mate.

• **Swifts are the fastest birds in level flight in the world**, reaching over 70mph!

WHICH BIRD ARE YOU MOST LIKE?

- What's your favourite food?**

a) Beef burger

b) Fish fingers

c) Veggie sausages
- How fast are you?**

a) As fast as lightning

b) Quite fast

c) Super speedy

- What's your best sports skill?**

a) Diving

b) Football

c) Running
- How old were you when you first started walking?**

a) 18 months

b) 12 months

c) 9 months

Mostly As – Falcon
Falcons are the fastest creatures in the world, reaching speeds of over 200mph. Did you know that falcons nest in our cities? They love to nest high up in tall skyscrapers.

Mostly Bs – Goshawk
Goshawks are exceptional at flying through forests and dodging branches. Did you know that in medieval times, having a goshawk was the ultimate sign of nobility?

Mostly Cs – Swift
Swifts are the fastest birds in level flight, reaching 70mph – even a falcon can't beat that! Did you know that young swifts don't land for the first 3-4 years of their life?