

# R. A. F.'s Own Story Of Gremlins Told By Pilot

During the battle of Britain, when only the stout hearts and incredible recklessness of the R.A.F. saved the island empire from the Germans, was born the most fascinating tale of the Little People since Alice in Wonderland.



A Gremlin

Many, many years ago, the legend told by the pilots of the R.A.F. goes, in the wet forests of England, lived the goblins and the gnomes and the pixies. But one of the clan of tiny people was vastly different from all the rest.

The Gremlins had lived in the wood for thousands of years, the serious Air Force pilots will tell you. And it wasn't until their wood was suddenly invaded by tractors and their trees pulled down that they objected. Finally they saw a huge factory arise on the site of their former home and before many months the Gremlins saw airplanes being wheeled from the gaping doors of the factory. So the leader of the Gremlins called a meeting of the tribe and it was decided to split up into small groups, seek

out the airplanes and make mischief for those who flew them. Thus it was that during the heaviest of the fighting to save Britain—when the Hurricanes and Spitfires were up from dawn to dusk and the noise of battle was heard all day in the sky—it was then that the first Gremlin was seen by the R.A.F.

In the December issue of *Cosmopolitan Magazine* appears the R.A.F.'s own story of the Gremlins. It is written by a pilot who fought at Crete, Greece and Britain.

It seems that the first Gremlin was seen by a pilot named Gus who was patrolling in his Hurricane at 18,000 feet over Dover. The amazed Gus looked out of his cockpit and there, standing on his wingtip he saw a little man.

He was only about six inches high, with a large round face and a pair of horns growing out of his head. On his feet were a pair of tiny black suction boots which enabled him to stay on the wing at 300 miles an hour. The thing that amazed Gus was what the little man was doing. He had a large drill and was busy drilling a line of holes along the tightly stretched metal skin of the Hurricane.

From that day on the fight to educate the Gremlin clan to aid the R.A.F. and not to fight it was taken up by the pilots and ground crews. Finally, Gremlin Gus—you see all the Gremlins take their names from the pilot they are attached to—saw that he was misbehaving and a school for Gremlins was started. To the school came all the Gremlins, all the Fifinellas, (they are the female Gremlins) and all the little boy Gremlins who are called Widgets. The little girl Gremlins, called Flipper-Gibbets, enrolled in the school along with their parents. At the completion of their course they were awarded wings; and thus it is that the tide of battle has turned and on every shrieking Hurricane and Spitfire is an accompanying Gremlin.

The story of Gremlin Gus, Gremlin Jam-Face and Gremlin Stuffy and their clan is the greatest contribution to living folklore in a hundred years. Walt Disney, who illustrated the *Cosmopolitan* article, is bringing them to the screen.



Nautic-Minded Gremlin