



WILLIAM EARL JOHNS

(Bengeo, 1893 - London, 1968)

Tripehounds

indistinctly signed and inscribed (lower right)

watercolour and bodycolour

190 x 285 mm

Provenance:

Phillips Ipswich, 25 September 1997, Pictures & Works of Art including the Baird Collection, lot 480/2

Dating from 1916, this drawing of a World War I dogfight by W.E. Johns, author of the Biggles Novels, is among the earliest depictions of flying and aerial combat.

Commissioned into the royal flying corps, in 1918 Johns was shot down over the Western Front.

In 1932 he launched the magazine *Popular Flying*, in which his Biggles stories, eventually to number close to a hundred, first appeared.