

Ch. 3 - Two Stories About Flying

II. The Black Aeroplane

Summary:

Author flying his Dakota aeroplane

The author says that he was flying an aeroplane at 1 o'clock at night. The moon was coming up in the east behind him. Stars were shining in the clear sky above him. He was flying his old Dakota aeroplane over France back to England. He was dreaming of his holiday. He was looking forward to being with his family at the breakfast table.

Call for Paris Control

He decided to call Paris Control. He then radioed to it. He told it that he was on his way back to England. Paris Control duly acknowledged. It advised him to turn twelve degrees west.

Sees storm clouds

He duly turned to that direction. Everything was going well. Paris was about 150 kilometres behind him. Then he saw the storm clouds. They looked like black mountains in front of him. He knew he could not fly up and over them. He didn't know for a moment what to do.

Great flying problems faced

He decided to go back to Paris. But he also wanted to get home. So he took the risk and flew into the storm. He could see nothing outside his aeroplane. Everything was black. The old aeroplane jumped and twisted in the air. He looked at the compass. It was gone. He tried to contact Paris Control. But he couldn't contact it too. He was lost in the storm.

Another aeroplane in those clouds

Then in the black clouds he saw another aeroplane. It had no lights on its wings. He could see it flying next to him in the storm. He was glad to see another person. He was saying to follow him. The author thought he was trying to help him. So he followed him. He flew for half an hour. He had fuel only to last for five or ten minutes. He began to feel frightened. Then he started to go down.

Saved and lands safely

Suddenly he saw that he was on the runway. He looked for his friend in the black aeroplane. He wanted to thank him. But the sky was empty. He went into the Control Tower. He asked a woman where he was. She looked at him strangely and then she laughed. She told that there was no other aeroplane except his.

Author's great surprise

The author was wonderstruck to hear it. He wondered who had helped him to arrive there. He was without a compass or a radio. He did not have enough fuel also in his tanks. Who was the pilot on the strange black aeroplane flying in the storm without lights ?
