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They Flew Hurricanes



Synopsis

The Hawker Hurricane, together with the Spitfire, is the most famous aircraft of the Second World War. Many pilots including Douglas Bader thought it was superior to the Spit but together they saved Britain from Nazi invasion and possible defeat. Adrian Stewart has produced a gloriously atmospheric and nostalgic book capturing the spirit of this great aircraft and the pilots who flew them. It tracks the aircraft as it was developed and improved and follows it to the many theatres of the war where it saw service. Among the lesser known are Burma and the hazardous convoy protection both in the Arctic and Mediterranean, flying from makeshift "carriers". This book will fascinate specialist aviation historians and those who enjoy a rattling good war story, backed by a superb selection of rare photographs.

Book Information

File Size: 1982 KB

Print Length: 196 pages

Publisher: Pen and Sword Aviation (June 19, 2006)

Publication Date: August 16, 2013

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00DN5TYHO

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #176,201 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #58

in Books > Science & Math > Earth Sciences > Atmospheric Sciences #157 in Kindle Store >

Kindle eBooks > History > Military > Aviation #421 in Books > History > Military > Aviation

Customer Reviews

THE BOOK "THEY FLEW HURRICANES" From turned out to be a very good reader. If there is anything you want to know about the WW II Hurricanes this is the place to look. The Hurricanes flew in all the theaters of WW II leaving a record to be proud of. It was and is a plane that likes pilots, light wing loading makes it fly easy (compared) to many other war planes. Like all planes it had a couple of things I felt could have been designed differently. One is a 35 gal. reserve fuel tank placed

behind the instrument panel (almost in your lap) and a larger capacity of ammunition. Flying around with empty machine guns is not much fun. I liked the engine, vision through the canopy. The landing gear was very well designed with a spread that made landing much better than the Spitfire or Boeing PT-17. All and all I enjoyed the book and learned a lot from it. If you like airplanes you will like this book. I liked it reading it through my kindle, try it. Col. DeVere Woods Ret.

Hurricanes are completely overshadowed by Spitfires in WW2 literature. This book sets the record straight. Hurricanes were a great aircraft that made a major contribution in many theaters of the war. This book documents the many strengths of Hurricanes over other fighters and the tremendous skill and bravery of the pilots who flew them. Highly recommended for WW2 aviation buffs.

The flight sequences, strategy and history were all spot on, and I will guarantee that the drama portion was mirrored perfectly by the experience of many people during the Battle of Britain. I was somewhat sad at the end, but ultimately felt a great sense of appreciation for the sacrifices of our war dead. We should always remember and honor them.

The Hurricane was often overshadowed by the Spitfire in spite of its excellent qualities and greater flexibility. In production from the late 1930's as the first monoplane fighter in the RAF, it served with little basic change as a fighter bomber until the end of the war. Recommended for those interested in the Battle of Britain and WWII aviation.

So which fighter really won the war? Was it the Mustang? The Spitfire? The Hurricane? Your answer will almost certainly be biased by your origin (hint - it's not the Mustang). The Hurricane is often overlooked because the Luftwaffe pilots refused to believe that they'd be shot down by an aeroplane with fabric wings. Whilst it's true that the Hurricane couldn't be developed as far as the Spitfire was it had some advantages. It was easy to make and repair. It could out turn both the Bf 109 and Spitfire under certain circumstances, it could soak up a lot of damage and was a very stable gun platform. The development of the Hurricane and the theatres it fought in are covered by referencing pilot and squadron diaries and the whole is told at a slightly breathless pace. I certainly learnt a few things. Did you know that there was a 12 gun Hurricane; I certainly didn't. So this is a great book filled with exciting stories and facts about an under-praised aircraft. The references alone could keep you reading for weeks. Highly recommended.

A thorough, comprehensive research on the exploits of this famous aircraft of World War II. Being an aviation enthusiast and having a particular interest in this period of history, I found a lot of information that I didn't have on this great airplane. Especially interesting were the many recollections of the pilots themselves, as they flew their combat missions. A must for Hurricane and other RAF aircraft enthusiasts.

To those who believe the Spitfire was the most effective plane the RAF flew in WW II, this book is an eye opener and shouldn't be missed. It also has many wonderful photos of the men and machines it speak of. I greatly enjoyed having my knowledge of the Hurricane broadened and corrected.

If you like reading about WWII and the Battle of Britain- and technical details of both the war and fighter planes - you will love this book. It also dispels some of the bad opinions about the Hawker Hurricane - in comparison with the more famous Spitfire - well worth reading.

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