

[Ebook pdf] Spitfire: The Legend Lives On (General Aviation)

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John Dibbs, Tony Holmes

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#833945 in Books Osprey Publishing 2016-05-24 2016-05-24 Original language: English PDF # 1 11.47 x 26.42 x 9.611, 3.40 #File Name: 1472815491224 pages9781472815491 | File size: 20.Mb

John Dibbs, Tony Holmes : Spitfire: The Legend Lives On (General Aviation) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Spitfire: The Legend Lives On (General Aviation):

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Glorious aerial photography By John Joss This masterful work by aerial photographer John Dibbs and wordsmith Tony Holmes is an epic tribute to the Supermarine Spitfire and commemorates the 80th anniversary of the maiden flight of the prototype, the famous K5054. This is a great big book, suitable for the coffee table, and can consume hours of delightful viewing. The book traces the history of the Marks in a series of chapters that include the Mark V, the Mark VIIIs, an individual IXB, the PR (Photo Reconnaissance) series, the Packard Merlin and Griffon Spitfires, the Seafires and 'Spitfire Spectacular,' a paen of praise for a great collection of historical airframes flying today. The individual aircraft shown are remarkable in that material is included about many of the pilots who flew them in battle, including their head shots, and restoration data makes one realize what a great achievement it is to bring an aircraft 'back from the dead' after years or decades of being lost. The 'From the Archive' chapter at the end captures many great historical images (sadly, none is credited). An appendix includes further details. A brief bibliography (see below) is offered, along with an index. The photographs, as would be

expected from an expert such as Dibbs, are magnificent and draw the reader in with their beauty and power. Many of the head-on shots, with the Spitfires rolling around the camera aircraft at steep bank angles, are magnificent and represent the ultimate in aerial photography. But, in context, what a pity that the authors did not include anything about the aircraft used for the photography, nothing about the camera(s) used nor any information about the techniques necessary to acquire the photos safely (aerial photography is notoriously unforgiving, unless you are Clay Lacy and have his costly Astrovision technology that permits many aspects to be captured). Sadly, neither Alex Hensdaw's "Sigh for a Merlin" nor Stanley Hooker's "Not Much of an Engineer" is included in the bibliography, though both books belong there and in the libraries of those who genuinely care for the aircraft and its history, and references to them in the text are minimal. Hooker was the functional father of the Merlin and Griffon that powered the Spitfire and Seafire. These two, plus Jeffrey Quill ("Spitfire: A Test Pilot's Story"), probably more than any others, including 'Mutt' Summers, who flew the prototype for the first time but is not mentioned, were responsible for the successful development of the Spitfire. Nor are any side or three-view drawings provided, for example tracing the appearance from Mark to Mark—for this, the reader must go to Quill (pages 190-191 in the original Murray edition). In context, though the book mentions the markedly different exhaust notes of the Merlin and Griffon engines, one might long for a CD of those memorable sounds, such as that which Pink Floyd's Nick Mason included in his book about his classic car collection. If a picture is worth a thousand words, so are memorable sounds (Merlin, Griffon). This fine book belongs in the library of anyone interested in seeing, in glorious colour, the history of one of the world's greatest fighter aircraft. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Walter Schmidt Gorgeous photography of the most beautiful airplane, IMO, to ever grace the sky. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Harold Ross Great additions to my collection of Spitfire Pubs!

The Spitfire turns eighty on March 5, 2016, and the passion for the Royal Air Force's best-loved fighter is running at an all-time high. There are more than fifty Spitfires flying in the world today, and John Dibbs has shot virtually all of them, "on the wing," in his breathtaking style. This eye-catching book combines this unique collection of stunning photos with poignant firsthand accounts of flying the airplane in combat from some of the most famous Aces to pilot the Spitfire and from some of the forgotten pilots. Chronicling the history of this most iconic of British aircraft, this book is a must-have purchase for aviation enthusiasts.

"I can recommend this book to modelers, aviation historians and those looking for a nice tome for their coffee table. The photographs alone are worth the price of admission! All will like it and find useful information within its covers." - IPMS "In all, it makes for an excellent combination history/photo book that no fan of the subject or war birds in general should be without." - Modeling Madness "If you appreciate the graceful curves of Supermarine's fighter and eye-popping photography, you'll love this book." - Fine Scale Modeler ". . . a work that can be enjoyed by either a casual flip-through or an intense reading." - WWII History "Not only do you get stunning pictures of flying Spitfires but it's also a beautiful portrait of England from the air." - Anglotopia.net "With graceful lines and patrician curves, the Supermarine Spitfire doesn't have a bad side, a truth photographer John Dibbs exploits for this coffee table book, which glorifies the majestic fighter from every conceivable angle and in a variety of light conditions. There are some 50 Spitfires still flying, and Dibbs has shot nearly all of them. The book also features dozens of archival images and first-hand accounts from the men who flew the Spitfire in combat." - Smithsonian Air Space About the Author John Dibbs, the world's premier aerial photographer with access to most of the fifty-five airworthy Spitfires, has also amassed an amazing collection of Spitfire ephemera, all of it included in this book. He lives in the US. Osprey Aviation Editor since 1989, Tony Holmes is from Fremantle, Australia. Responsible for the Aircraft of the Aces, Combat Aircraft, Elite Units, and Duel series, Tony has also written over 25 Osprey books.