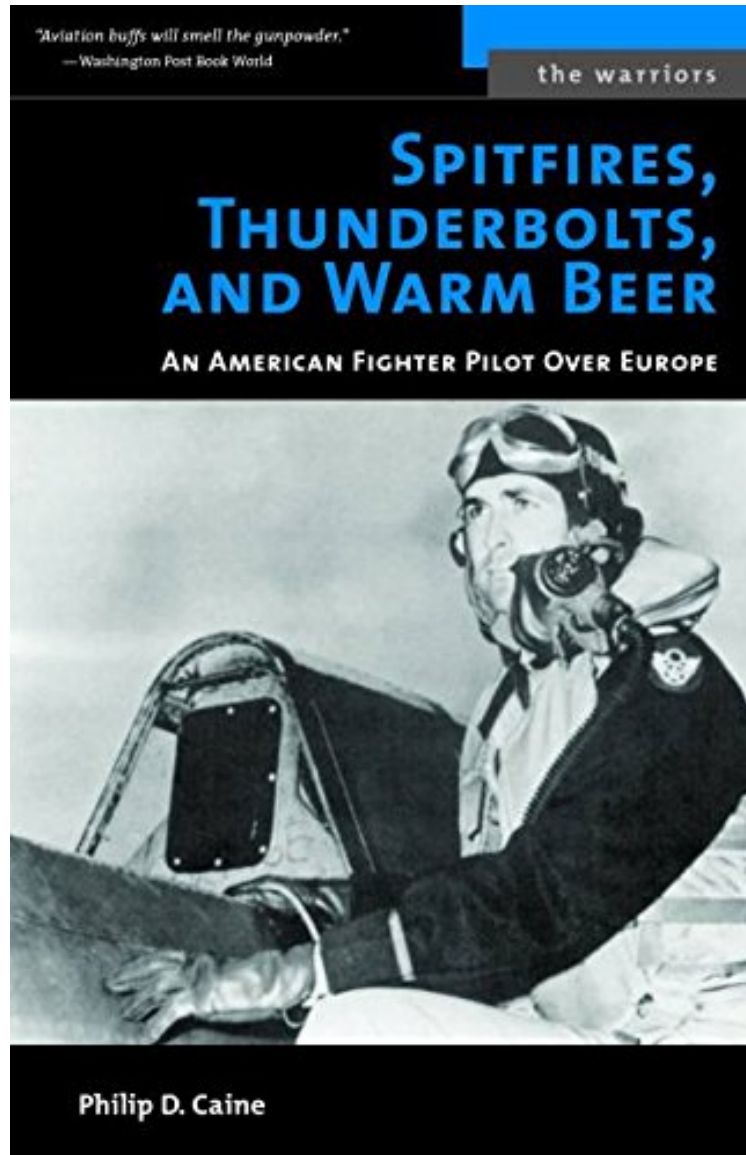


[PDF] Spitfires, Thunderbolts, and Warm Beer: An American Fighter Pilot Over Europe (The Warriors)

Spitfires, Thunderbolts, and Warm Beer: An American Fighter Pilot Over Europe (The Warriors)

Philip D. Caine

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Philip D. Caine : Spitfires, Thunderbolts, and Warm Beer: An American Fighter Pilot Over Europe (The Warriors) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Spitfires, Thunderbolts, and Warm Beer: An American Fighter Pilot Over Europe (The Warriors):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. For the first time, I wished I could have been a pilot By Jeffrey

CanadaThe story told here was not dramatized or romanticized, but told as it happened, like a regular report from a friend who was there. The descriptions of flying were technical enough to captivate this non-pilot, but not so technical so as to lose me. What was truly unique in this book were the descriptions of LeRoy Gover's interactions with the English civilians. The book describes wartime England with deep empathy and understanding--noting the food shortages, etc., but not faulting the English, as a less-sensitive American might have done. It was these scenes on the ground, that gave me the deepest feeling of being there. I salute Mr. Gover and the author for preserving these observations. There were two technical issues. One was that the text was not thoroughly proofread by a human being after conversion to electronic format, so some errors in the scanning showed up as correctly spelled words that were obviously out of place (such as palm instead of plane). This is a common problem in electronic books, but, in this book, the errors were much less severe than average. However, it would be nice to see them all go away. My other gripe is with the author, who, writing in the third person, switches between the pilot's first name and last name frequently, leading me to think until well into the book that two friends were in the situation rather than one person. However, I cannot suggest a solution, so I will note it as a "feature" for the next reader to be aware of. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Understated, factual, not especially riveting
By Christopher T. Dahle
A pretty matter of fact review of the life of an American fighter pilot in Britain during the early part of WW-II. Lots of girlfriends in the beginning, lots of narrow escapes at the end. No question that Gover was a hero and great pilot who survived to become a leader before completing 150 missions and being rotated home to become an instructor. Kindle edition is fine if you are just reading it for the historical information, but it suffers from the problems typical of non-fiction books on Kindle, poorly reproduced photographs, misplaced captions. I suspect I would have enjoyed it more if I'd read the bound version. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Personal Perspective on WWII Aviation
By Rodger Ewing
Leroy Gover entered the fight against Nazi Germany before the United States did. He did this by volunteering to fly and fight for the Royal Air Force. This book is his amazing story, from learning to fly to going to England and serving with the RAF even before the famed "Eagle Squadrons". His service spanned flying Spitfires for both the RAF and later the Eagle Squadrons, until merged into the US Army Air Force and flying the infamous P-47 Thunderbolt. What I most liked about this book is that since it is based upon Mr. Gover's personal journals and letters written home during the war, it captures not a brash, cocky fighter pilot, but a sometimes naïve, sometimes scared, often homesick and always filled with youthful curiosity for the people and country he was living in. His book touches upon the "daily grind" of war, the boredom, the struggles with the weather and limited food, and well as the sudden intensity of aerial warfare. I found this book an immediate connection to my life and time in the USAF and think all readers can connect as well. Give Spitfires, Thunderbolts, and Warm Beer a read and I think you too will enjoy the ride.

In 1941, before America entered World War II, determined young LeRoy Gover signed on with Britain's Royal Air Force to fly the plane of his dreams, the fast, sleek Spitfire. When America joined the fight, he transitioned to the powerful P-47 Thunderbolt. Former USAF pilot and aviation historian Philip D. Caine has skillfully selected from the young flyer's letters and diary entries to create a vivid portrait of the kind of man who helped win the war. A story of great courage, Spitfires, Thunderbolts, and Warm Beer is a testament to the many other brave men who served.

"Aviation buffs will smell the gunpowder." "An enthralling account of courage, humor, and a bit of luck." "A wonderful tale of one man's love of flying . . . a remarkable story." "Spitfires, Thunderbolts, and Warm Beer is one of the most important books to emerge on World War II air combat, for while it deals with the gripping dogfights, it also paints a marvelous picture of a young American fighter pilot's life in wartime Britain. Philip Caine has excerpted the diary of a great combat leader to paint a true picture that is filled with rarely noted details of life on the ground as well as in the air. It is undoubtedly one of the best personal accounts of the war." "Philip Caine has constructed a spellbinding account of an American fighter pilot's life 'over there' in war-torn Britain. His unobtrusive commentary enhances the dramatic contents of LeRoy Gover's diaries and letters. They portray the triumphs and tragedies of aerial combat as well as the pleasures and constraints of life in blacked-out but defiant London. This is an outstanding addition to the best books on World War II." About the Author
Brig. Gen. Philip D. Caine, USAF (Ret.), has more than 4,500 hours of flight time, taught military history at the U.S. Air Force Academy, and is the author of *American Pilots in the RAF* (Brassey's, Inc., 1993) and *Aircraft Down! Evading Capture in WWII Europe* (Brassey's, Inc., 1997). He lives in Monument, Colorado.