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They Gave Me A Seafire



Synopsis

A classic in every sense of the word, the re-issuing of this book is sure to provoke an enthusiastic response. First published in 1986 by Airlife, its publishing history has seen a great number of glowing reviews generated, coming from both historians and participants in the proceedings that the author so eloquently relays. The book charts Crosley's service career in the Fleet Air Arm during the entire period of the Second World War. Part of his service saw him in action aboard HMS Eagle, flying Sea Hurricanes on the Harpoon and Pedestal Malta convoys of June and August 1942. It was during this time that he shot down his first enemy aircraft and survived the dramatic sinking of HMS Eagle. From there he graduated on to Seafires, (the Naval equivalent of the Spitfire), and flew this type in Combat Air Patrols over Norway and ramrod strikes from Operation Torch (the invasion of French North Africa in November 1942), through to D-Day in June 1944 in the European Theatre of Operations, and then in the Pacific aboard HMS Implacable as part of the British Pacific Fleet in 1945 until the end of the Pacific War, by which time he had command of his own combined squadron, 801 and 880. The narrative is well written in a frank and often scathingly critical way of Fleet Air Arm operations during the Second World War and beyond. The book looks set to bring the endeavours of Crosley to a whole new generation of enthusiasts, and it should appeal across the board to fans of aviation, naval history and families and friends of Armed Forces, past and present.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I really enjoyed this one which I rate as one of the best of the World War 2 first person experience books I have read. Mike Crosley not only writes extremely well, but he highlights some of the appalling mistakes made by the Lords of the Admiralty who were still fighting the previous war with set piece battleship encounters and hadn't entered the age of the aircraft.

An interesting book although I found the author rambles a bit.. Good coverage of the various attempts to relieve Malta and of attacks on the Tirpitz in Norway. Have yet to finish it but his frequent references to Appendices suggest a lot of detail yet to come.

This is a wonderful book, right through all the appendices. It is full of the kinds of details of flying (and sailing) that lovers of those things enjoy. The ww2 history in the book is wonderful, often covering details I have never read about before. Highly recommended.

A rare account of the life of a FAA pilot. Detailed and well written .A text book for the navy

The transitions between chapters was a little abrupt and took a couple of paragraphs to figure out where he was. Excellent book however about a time period seldom explored.

Great story. Enjoyed it very much. Interesting as to how he was so critical of the RNAs to their battleship mentality during an "air war"!

I really enjoyed his book, learning a lot about the life of a WWII pilot, and the challenges of proving the worth of airpower over the obsolete power of surface warships. The author also personalized his experiences in an affecting way.

As advertised

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