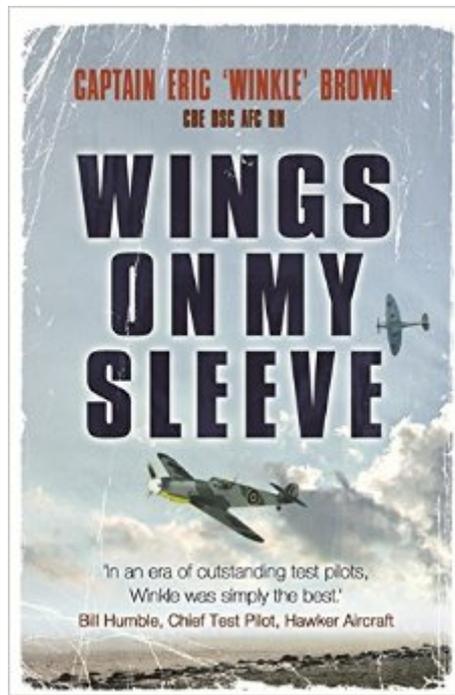


The book was found

Wings On My Sleeve (Phoenix Press)



Synopsis

Eric Brown went to Germany in 1939 on an exchange course, and his first experience of the war came when the Gestapo arrested him, not knowing he was an RAF pilot. The rest is history. He is the only man alive to have flown every major and most minor combat aircraft of the Second World War (as well as all the early jets), and has been interviewed by the top Nazis. While testing the Nazi jets in war-stricken Germany, he interviewed (among others) Hermann Goering and Hanna Reitsch. A living legend among aviation enthusiasts, his amazing life story deserves to be told in full; from crashing in front of Winston Churchill to unmasking a Neo-Nazi ring in the 1950s to his terrifying flights in primitive jets and rockets.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A delightful biography of the military flying career of one of Britain's best-known and most successful test pilots. Quietly humorous and understated. This particular paperback was poorly bound and began to lose pages before I finished reading it. The black and white pictures are often muddy and poorly reproduced. A fun read for the aviation enthusiast nevertheless.

The book is an amazing read. The only problem is as soon as I opened it up the pages started falling out. The binding was very bad. By the time I got half way through, I was not holding a book any more but a bunch of loose pages.

In this book, Captain Brown is sitting next to you and telling you the incredible story of his life. While his writing style will probably not win him any prize (being the most decorated FAA pilot in history he certainly doesn't need any!), the book is written in an easy to follow conversational style. It is just amazing how flying 8 different aircraft (mostly prototypes) in one day can be part of your daily routine, and that's what Captain Brown did for many years. To say he is a walking encyclopedia of aircraft in the 1939-1970 period would be an understatement, and he has the distinction of being one of the very few who have flown almost all major types in WWII of any air force - that is not only UK, but also US, Germany, Italy, Japan...In just shy of 300 pages you cannot go into every detail when presenting a lifespan of interesting adventures, so this book is a good introduction into the human being behind all the records, and puts many things into perspective. It certainly also serves as a good companion to Captain Brown's many other books (if you can find them), which are usually devoted to more delimited topics and thus enter into much more detail. There are also a few very interesting pictures, correctly captioned and wonderfully accompanying the text. Regarding the binding (see other reviews), the book is rather heavy for its small size, and the binding is a bit narrow, but nothing that will get in the way of an extraordinary reading experience. You would probably need quite some harsh treatment to get a few pages loose, so if you open the book and pages do fall out, then you should return it! I seldom recommend any book as a "must have", but this one is one of these that any aircraft enthusiast simply cannot miss - highly recommended.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. The author has flown virtually everything as a test pilot and was also a English carrier pilot on HMS Audacity under very trying conditions.

Eric "Winkle" Brown started his professional career in 1940 in the British Fleet Air Arm. His first ever carrier landing, at the age of 21, was as a member of a small group of pilots testing whether it was possible to operate on a modified banana boat with half the landing distance of a purpose-built British aircraft carrier and half as many arrestor wires. His career continued in that vein for the next thirty years. This is the autobiography of an exceptional pilot who had a unique career (where unique is used in its original meaning of the only one of its kind). Nobody has ever flown as many aircraft types, nobody has ever made as many carrier landings and few have ever been in as many situations where survival depended on skill and split-second judgment. Added to that he spoke fluent German and, amongst many other things, interviewed Goering. If the term had been coined when Captain Brown was still flying, he would certainly have been said to have "The Right Stuff". This book is the rare case where the blurb is accurate, perhaps even understates the

extraordinary content of the book. It is also very well, and very modestly, written. I could not put it down. If you are interested in WW2, or aircraft, or courage, or exceptional people then read this book.

He was an amazing pilot, a pilot's pilot. Anyone who has taken the controls in an aircraft will be delighted with his descriptions of World War II, and his test flying of some 400 different types of aircraft. Get the hard cover version if you can, as the soft cover version is extremely poorly bound, but if on the soft cover is available, it's still well worth getting.

Having spent the last 30 years living and working next door to Naval Air Station Patuxent River, I've heard a LOT of flying stories. "You can always tell a fighter pilot...but you can't tell him much". Eric Winkle Brown's memoir is the best compilation of flying stories that I've ever heard. Imagine getting your very first flight with none other than Ernst Udet. Imagine flying F4F's off a converted banana boat during the darkest hours of WW2. Imagine flying captured Luftwaffe jets right out of Germany. Most ironic was the idea for the angled deck on aircraft carriers. Purely by accident the idea was sketched out in a board meeting for another reason when someone said "What a great idea for launching and recovering aircraft simultaneously". Great book. I'm ordering another one for a gift to a good friend and test pilot who flew in the same era.

This is an extraordinary book which gives you firsthand accounts of a test pilot who flew most of the planes produced, and experimental planes before, during WW2 and shortly afterward WW2. Mr Brown has flown more experimental planes than any other pilot. It's simply a superb book for those interested in seeing WW2 planes in action. Particularly the development of German jet WW2 aircraft.

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