



Wings of the Luftwaffe: Flying the Captured German Aircraft of World War II

By Eric 'Winkle' Brown

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During more than two decades of uninterrupted flying Eric 'Winkle' Brown enjoyed the most extraordinary career of any test pilot and no pilot has a logbook that lists a greater variety of aircraft types flown. The first naval officer to head the élite Aerodynamics Flight at the world renowned Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough, 'Winkle' Brown fulfilled his childhood ambition to fly German aircraft. Indeed, he was to fly no fewer than 55 individual German aircraft types, ranging from such exotic creations as the push-and-pull Dornier Do 335 and the remarkable little Heinkel He 162 Volksjager to the highly innovative combat types that were entering the inventory of the Luftwaffe shortly before the demise of Germany's Third Reich.

'Winkle' Brown also interrogated many of the leading German wartime aviation personalities, such as Willy Messerschmitt, Ernst Heinkel, Kurt Tank, and Hanna Reitsch. From his unique knowledge of German aviation, 'Winkle' Brown has selected the most important and most promising aircraft employed by the Luftwaffe and those evolved for that air arm in Germany during World War II--the true wings of the Luftwaffe.

He describes their background and characteristics, and together with more than 200 photographs, color profiles, and sectional drawings provides an in-depth assessment of the contribution made to the annals of military aviation in the late 1930s and early 1940s by an aircraft industry that proved itself truly second to none in ingenuity.

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Review

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5 stars-Must for every aviation library (*Air Classics* 2010-09-01)

Product mention. (*FineScale Modeler* 2010-11-01)

"Overall an excellent work, very highly recommended." -IPMS, October 2010, reviewed by Bill Hollis (*IPMS* 2010-10-01)

About the Author

Captain Eric Brown had a 31-year career in the Royal Navy, and is the Fleet Air Arm's most decorated pilot.

After a distinguished operational tour flying from Britain's first escort carrier, he was selected as a test pilot in 1942. In his test flying career he has flown a world record 490 basic types of aircraft, and made a world record 2,407 aircraft carrier landings in fixed-wing aircraft. In 1995 he was inducted into the US Navy's Carrier Aviation Test Pilot Hall of Honor, the only non-American to have received this accolade.

In 2000 he joined a very select group, when he was invited to deliver the Lindbergh Memorial Lecture at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, and along with Neil Armstrong was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from Edinburgh University in 2008.

Now in his nineties, he still lectures regularly in Britain, Europe and America.

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