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# Hurricane: Hawker's Fighter Legend



## Synopsis

2017 marks the 80th anniversary of the remarkable Hawker Hurricane formally entering service. The RAF's first monoplane fighter, it dragged the air force into a position where it could defend Britain in her 'hour of need.' Prior to the Battle of Britain, a number of squadrons equipped with the fighter had seen action firstly in the 'Phoney War,' and then during the disastrous campaign in France. Even then with the odds so heavily stacked against the Hurricane pilots, impressive scores were achieved. Indeed, the Hurricane was the true workhorse of the RAF. It came into its own in the hot summer months of 1940 valiantly defending the skies above Britain. Outnumbering Spitfires three to one, the Hurricane also downed far more enemy aircraft. Without the obvious elegance of the Me 109 or the Spitfire, the Hurricane was nonetheless beloved by its pilots for its ability to simultaneously take a battering and inflict serious damage from its remarkably stable gun platform. Despite the intervening decades the Hurricane is still well loved to this day. Often overshadowed by the Spitfire, recent years have seen a resurgence in interest in the plucky 'Hurry.' This remarkable book reveals the Hurricane in all its glory--from fascinating first-hand accounts from the men who flew her to the truly breath-taking images from John Dibbs of the Hurricanes still in flight today. This lavish, fully illustrated edition is a must-have for all fans of aviation history.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 256 pages

Publisher: Osprey Publishing; 7th Revised edition edition (May 23, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1472822951

ISBN-13: 978-1472822956

Product Dimensions: 9.6 x 11.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.7 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

Best Sellers Rank: #794,592 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #69 in Books > Arts & Photography > Vehicle Pictorials > Aviation #460 in Books > Engineering & Transportation > Transportation > Aviation > History #503 in Books > History > Military > Vehicles

## Customer Reviews

John Dibbs is unquestionably the world's premier aerial photographer, having flown over 1,100 aerial sorties, and flying in 125 different types. John has published 17 books including the acclaimed series of Flying Legends publications. His award winning work has graced hundreds of magazine

covers over the last 25 years. Raised in London, his interest in aviation was passed on by his father who grew up during the Battle of Britain near Northolt aerodrome. John now lives in Seattle, and is serving on the Board of the National Museum of World War II Aviation in Colorado Springs. His work can be viewed at [www.planepicture.com](http://www.planepicture.com). Osprey Aviation Editor since 1989, Tony Holmes is a native of Fremantle, Western Australia. Responsible for devising the Aircraft of the Aces, Combat Aircraft, Elite Units and Duel series, Tony has also written more than 30 books for Osprey over the past 26 years, including the original Spitfire – Flying Legend with John Dibbs in 1996. Gordon Riley was introduced to the world of vintage aviation thanks to growing up with a father who had been a Lancaster pilot during World War II. His interest in preserved vintage aircraft came from visits to the Skyfame Museum at Staverton and the Shuttleworth Collection at Old Warden in the 1960s; he later became one of the founding members of the Midland Aircraft Preservation Society. Having cut his teeth with short articles in “Control Column” he became an editorial assistant on “Aviation News” in 1972 and remained there for a year. He published Britain’s first magazine dedicated to vintage aircraft – the aptly titled “Vintage Aircraft” magazine which he edited from 1976 – 1986 as well as compiling the “Vintage Aircraft Directory” and “Aircraft Museums Directory”. Following his monumental two volume work “Spitfire Survivors – Then and Now”, co-written with Peter R Arnold and the late Graham Trant, Gordon carried out extensive research which culminated in the publication of “Hawker Hurricane Survivors” in 2015.

The Hurricane stands out as a real essential fighter. Courtesy of its sturdiness, availability in great numbers, reliability and versatility, the Hawker Hurricane's product succeeded in countering the Axis strength in the critical phase at the beginning of WW II. At a superficial glance it seemed similar to the Spitfire but "under the skin" the Hurricane was a really different animal, with traditional design and construction compared to the very advanced Spitfire. Albeit this aspect could limit performance and development potential, in many theatres of operation it was an advantage: for example during the Battle of Britain the Hurricane saved the British Isles from Nazi dominance due to a winning combination made by high combat readiness, straightforward development and quick production, three factors that did not belong to the rather immature Spitfire Mk I beleaguered in that period by many issues on armament and an appalling low production rate. This wonderful book, the perfect companion to the similar Spitfire title

published by Osprey last year, is a real celebration of this astounding workhorse and constitutes a combination of excellence between the really astounding John Dibbs shots and the authoritative and interesting by Tony Holmes and Gordon Riley. Mr. Dibbs images are so effective that the reader can almost hear the powerful rumble of the Merlin and as in the previous Spitfire volume every single example of these perfectly restored Hurricanes tells a different story, from the clashes in the British skies to the hard fighting for Malta and Finland. The *“Hurricane glory”* final gallery is a feast for the enthusiast and closes in the best way a *“must to have”* book.

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