

SPITFIRE THE HISTORY OF A LEGEND
Mike Lepine



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THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN

The Supermarine Spitfire was developed by R.J. Mitchell and his team for just one reason – to intercept and shoot down enemy bombers from British skies. Lauded by the Chairman of Vickers as ‘a real killer fighter’, the Spitfire was so advanced that it proved a huge challenge to the British aviation industry. The project ran so late that it only began to arrive in significant numbers even as the Battle of Britain was beginning.

It was during the Battle of Britain in 1940 that the Spitfire became an enduring legend and a symbol of the British fighting spirit, partnering with the Hawker Hurricane to defeat the might of Hitler’s Luftwaffe and prevent invasion. From 1942-3 onwards, it would range and fight around the world, from Malta and North Africa to Soviet Russia and Burma, often taking on new roles like ground attack and bomber escort for which it had never been designed.

Profusely illustrated with the pick of historic photographs, **Spitfire The History of a Legend** covers all the significant Marks developed during the Spitfire’s operational service, explaining how the aircraft evolved to meet the challenges presented by the war’s changing requirements and by the threat of new generations of Luftwaffe fighters. It also includes coverage of fascinating Spitfire variants including the Seafire, Seafang and Spiteful.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION:

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KEY SELLING POINTS:

- 2020 marks the 80th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain fought between July and October 1940.
- The Spitfire is the most famous plane of World War Two. Its groundbreaking design and superior specifications gave the British a decisive advantage fighting the Luftwaffe in the Battle of Britain.
- D Day - In June 1944 Spitfires played an important part in the biggest seaborne invasion in history as the Allies landed in Normandy and gained a crucial foothold in France.
- The Spitfire is a design classic.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Mike Lepine is a **Sunday Times No1 best-selling author**. He has written some **thirty-five books** and has been published throughout the world from **America to Finland**, and from **France to Japan**.

He has also worked extensively in television in programming as diverse as the arts, consumer rights and comedy. For many years the Editor of the **Aviation & Military Video Club**, Mike was instrumental with DD Home Entertainment in bringing much rare archival film footage to the public for the very first time.

