

Ben Bennions DFC Battle of Britain Fighter Ace: The Untold Story of Heroism and Bravery

The Battle of Britain is one of the most significant chapters in the history of World War II. Fought between the Royal Air Force (RAF) and the German Luftwaffe, this intense aerial campaign played a crucial role in preventing Hitler's invasion of Britain. Among the countless heroes who participated in this battle, one name stands out - Ben Bennions.

Early Life and Training

Benjamin Bennions, popularly known as Ben Bennions, was born on June 15, 1918, in London, England. Growing up in a family with a rich aviation heritage, it was no surprise that Bennions developed a deep passion for flying from an early age.

At the tender age of 17, Bennions joined the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve (RAFVR) as an airman. Recognizing his extraordinary potential, he was selected for pilot training and soon earned his wings, becoming a fully-fledged fighter pilot.



Ben Bennions DFC: Battle of Britain Fighter Ace

by Nick Thomas (Kindle Edition)

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Entering the Battle of Britain

When the Battle of Britain broke out in the summer of 1940, Bennions was serving as a pilot officer with No. 1 Squadron RAF. This prestigious squadron played a vital role in defending the British skies against the Luftwaffe's relentless attacks.

Bennions quickly made his mark in the Battle of Britain, displaying exceptional aerial combat skills and undying bravery. His relentless pursuit of enemy aircraft earned him a reputation as one of the most formidable fighter aces.

The Dogfights and Victories

Engaging in intense dogfights high above the skies of England, Bennions showcased extraordinary skill and tenacity. Over the course of the battle, he was credited with shooting down an impressive tally of enemy aircraft.

One of Bennions' most famous victories came on September 15, 1940, when he engaged in a fierce duel with three German Messerschmitt Bf 109s. Despite outnumbering him, Bennions skillfully outmaneuvered his opponents and shot down two of them before the third retreated. This display of sheer determination and skill earned him the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC).

The Aftermath

After the Battle of Britain, Bennions continued to serve with distinction in the RAF, participating in other significant combat missions. His heroism and courage never wavered, making him a revered figure among his fellow pilots.

Tragically, on May 15, 1941, while escorting a bomber formation, Bennions' aircraft was hit by enemy fire. Despite valiant efforts to save himself, he was unable to regain control and crashed into the English Channel. The loss of this exceptional fighter pilot was deeply mourned by all.

Legacy and Recognition

Ben Bennions' contributions to the Battle of Britain and his exceptional skill as a fighter pilot have not been forgotten. His name is immortalized on the Battle of Britain Memorial Wall in London, honoring the brave men and women who defended Britain's skies during this critical campaign.

The story of Ben Bennions serves as a powerful reminder of the sacrifices made by those who fought in the Battle of Britain. Through his courage and heroism, he exemplified the indomitable spirit that ultimately led to victory.

Ben Bennions was more than just a skilled pilot, he was a true hero. His remarkable achievements in the Battle of Britain, combined with his ultimate sacrifice, make him a figure worthy of admiration and remembrance. The bravery displayed by Bennions and his fellow fighter aces during this crucial battle will forever hold a special place in the annals of military history.

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Ben Bennion enlisted in the pre-war RAF, serving first as an 'erk' (ground crew) before being selected for pilot training. His first posting led to service in the Middle-East and Bennion's passport and other travel documents had to be rushed through. A clerical error led to his name being recorded as 'Bennions'. Ben served in 41 Squadron and following their overseas tour he returned to the UK and Catterick. Patrols and scrambles were common throughout the early months of the war, but it was in May 1940, that 41 Squadron first saw the enemy in any number, providing air cover for the retreating BEF. The Dunkirk operations saw Bennions record his first combat victory—he was to damage or destroy 20 plus enemy aircraft during the following months, earning the DFC and becoming one of the RAF's top scorers. The squadron alternated between Catterick and Hornchurch, and although Bennions was afforded some rest between operational periods, the front-line the sorties came thick and fast, particularly during the latter phases of the Battle of Britain when Bennions was flying several patrols and scramble every day. His tally grew steadily. His much deserved DFC was promulgated on 1 October 1940, the day he was due to begin a short period of leave. However he decided to have one last crack at the enemy and during this engagement, adding another Messerschmitt BF 109 to his total, he was hit and

forced to bale out. Badly wounded in the head, Bennions lost an eye and became a member of Sir Archibald McIndoe's famous Guinea Pig Club.



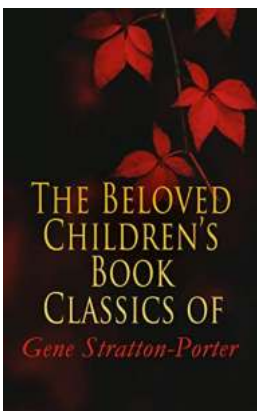
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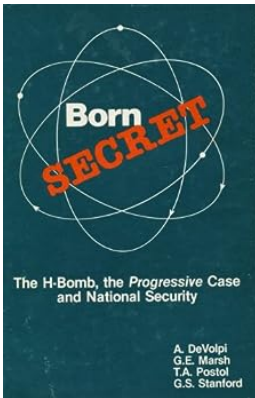
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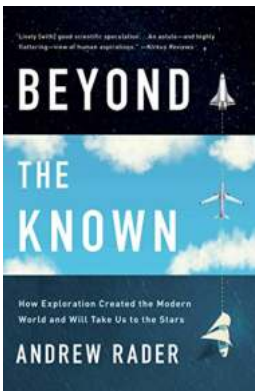
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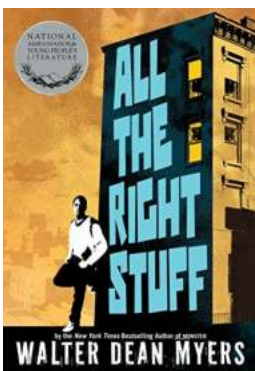
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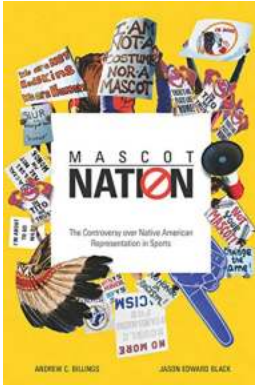
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