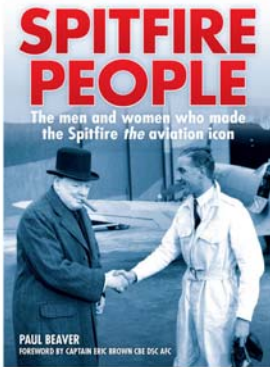


For Immediate Release:



## **SPITFIRE PEOPLE**

**The Men and women who made the Spitfire *the* aviation icon**

UK price: £25.00, Hardback, ISBN: 978-1-910505-05-2

Format: 233x169mm, Page extent: 256, Illustration: 120 black and white photographs

**Published to mark the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Britain**

*'The first comprehensive compilation of the people, places, politics and means of production of the Spitfire'* Captain Eric Melrose Brown

Published to mark the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Britain, *Spitfire People* examines the world's most iconic aeroplane from the people perspective, breaking new ground by using previously unpublished sources to shed light on the Spitfire's design, production and operation. Paul Beaver not only uncovers the political supporters without whom the Supermarine fighter would not have progressed after the first failed attempt, but also identifies those who designed the famous wing when Supermarine brought in new talent. This allowed the creation and development of a truly gifted team of designers whose legacy is Britain's finest aeroplane and the only Allied machine of the Second World War to have remained in production and service throughout the conflict. *Spitfire People* explores the roles of over 50 significant people in depth and the achievements of dozens more are recognised.

- Political people: Sir Winston Churchill (voice in the wilderness and wartime leader), Air Marshal Sir Wilfred Freeman (senior champion of the Spitfire in the Air Ministry), Lord Beaverbrook (Minister for Aircraft Production).
- Design and development people: Reginald Mitchell (chief designer 1934–36), Joe Smith (chief designer 1938–47), Jeffrey Quill (chief test pilot), Ernest Hives (Rolls-Royce experimental head and key player in the design of the Merlin engine), Sir Stanley Hooker (Merlin engine developer), the ladies of Vickers Supermarine at Trowbridge and the people of Salisbury and Southampton (factory workers).
- Operational people: James 'Johnny' Johnson (highest-scoring Spitfire ace), Henry Cozens (first squadron commander), Geoffrey Wellum (youngest Battle of Britain pilot), Douglas Bader (Spitfire wing leader and inspirational disabled pilot).
- Experimental people: Tony Martindale (RAE Farnborough test pilot), Eric 'Winkle' Brown (chief naval test pilot who flew 14 types of Spitfire and Seafire).
- Heritage people: Ray Hanna (Old Flying Machine Company), Carolyn Grace (the only female Spitfire owner in the world), Phill O'Dell (chief test pilot at Rolls-Royce and Spitfire display

pilot); Matt Jones (Boulton Flight Academy – the only Spitfire school in the world); John Romain (Mr Spitfire of his generation).

Author Paul Beaver is a historian, broadcaster and commentator as well as an historic aeroplane pilot who has been flying the Spitfire since 2011. Although he has over 40 books to his credit, this is his first for 20 years. He lives near Salisbury, where he is chairman of Salisbury Wings Week. This book is based on research for his sell-out talk at the Chalke Valley History Festival.

**Author Paul Beaver is available for interview**

**Media Launch: On Thursday 18 June at The Royal Air Force Club, 128 Piccadilly, London W1J 7PY (By invitation only).**

**For more information regarding the book, to request an invitation to the media launch or an interview with Paul Beaver, please contact: Rebecca Leppard/Eventageous PR Ltd T: 01452 260063 or email: [rebecca@eventspr.co.uk](mailto:rebecca@eventspr.co.uk)**

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