

The Spitfire Ace Of Aces: A Last Look Back at a Legendary Pilot

James Edgar "Johnnie" Johnson was the highest-scoring fighter pilot of the Royal Air Force during World War II. He was credited with shooting down 38 enemy aircraft, including 21 over France during the Battle of Britain. Johnson's wartime experiences were chronicled in his autobiography, "Wing Leader."

Early Life and Career

Johnson was born in Kingston upon Hull, England, on March 9, 1915. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1937 and was posted to No. 19 Squadron, flying Hawker Hurricanes. In 1939, he was transferred to No. 603 Squadron, which was equipped with Supermarine Spitfires.



Johnnie Johnson's Great Adventure: The Spitfire Ace of Aces' Last Look Back by Bryce Andrews

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

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Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
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Lending : Enabled



The Battle of Britain

Johnson played a major role in the Battle of Britain, which took place from July to October 1940. He flew numerous sorties and engaged in numerous air combats. On September 7, 1940, he shot down three German Messerschmitt Bf 109s in a single day.

Later War Service

After the Battle of Britain, Johnson continued to fly Spitfires with No. 603 Squadron. He was promoted to squadron leader in 1941 and to wing commander in 1942. In 1943, he was appointed station commander of RAF Tangmere.

In 1944, Johnson was transferred to the Far East, where he commanded No. 146 Wing, which was equipped with Hawker Typhoons. He flew numerous sorties over Burma and Malaya.

Post-War Career

After the war, Johnson remained in the Royal Air Force. He held various staff appointments and commanded several RAF stations. He retired from the RAF in 1966 with the rank of air marshal.

Johnson died on January 30, 2001, at the age of 85. He is remembered as one of the greatest fighter pilots of all time.

Johnson's Legacy

Johnson's legacy is one of courage, determination, and leadership. He was a brilliant tactician and a fearless fighter pilot. He inspired his men to achieve great things and played a major role in the Allied victory in World War II.

Johnson's autobiography, "Wing Leader," is a classic work of aviation literature. It provides a fascinating account of his wartime experiences and offers insights into the life of a fighter pilot.

James Edgar "Johnnie" Johnson was a true hero. He was a skilled fighter pilot, a courageous leader, and a dedicated servant of his country. His legacy will continue to inspire generations to come.



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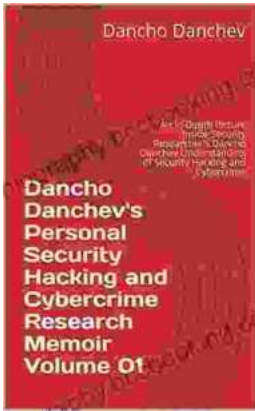
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