1965

Bantam Books N7157


Printers: [printed in the USA]

Price: 95¢

SBN: 553 07157 095

Front cover: col. painting [unsigned] German airman and Fokker D.VIIs. The explosive novel of Germany's flying death squad – the supermen of the skies who lived, loved, fought and died for the glory of the Fatherland

Rear cover: synopsis

Notes: p.[iv] This low-priced Bantam Book has been completely reset in a type face designed for easy reading, and was printed from new plates. It contains the complete text of the original hard-cover edition. Not one word has been omitted

[2] original edition:

Copy: [not held]

[3] Corgi Books 1966:

The Blue Max, Jack D. Hunter, Corgi Books, A Division of Transworld Publishers Ltd


Printers: Cox & Wyman Ltd, London, Fakenham

Price: 35p.

SBN: 552 07470 5

Front cover: col. illus. [unsigned] German fighter pilot in cockpit

Rear cover: stills from film

Notes: Novel of World War 1 German fighter pilots; made into film


The Blue Max, Jack D. Hunter, Cassell

First published in Great Britain by Frederick Muller in 1965. This paperback edition published in 2004. 20 x 12.5 cm. pp. [viii] 1-280

Printers: Cox & Wyman Ltd, Reading

Price: £6.99

ISBN: 0 304 36680 3

Front cover: pale blue with red illus. of Albatross D.III

Rear cover: soft-focus photog. Illus. of WW1 German scouts. Synopsis. Cover design Peter Dyer, cover illustration Stephen Parkes

Reviews: [Gerald J. Pollinger. Air Pic., April 1964, p.124] … weaves a pretty grim story of a fictional German fighter pilot and his ill-assorted colleagues, and their adventures on the ground and in the air during the fateful spring of 1918. There is a lot of staccato dialogue (including some short words we cannot repeat here) and an attempt to draw a parallel between one man and one nation. The blurb describes the book as an allegory; it might be, but it is not a bad novel for those who like somewhat harrowing reading. …

Four Square Books

Flying machines, edited by Roy MacGregor-Haste, A Four Square Book


Printers: Cox & Wyman Ltd, London, Fakenham and Reading

Price: 5/-

Front cover: painting of Bristol Boxkite “specially constructed for the 20th Century-Fox film Those Magnificent Men in Their Flying Machines. The picture story of the men, women and machines which first conquered space.”

Rear cover: [synopsis]

Pan Books X419

An Old Captivity, Nevil Shute, Unabridged


Printers: Richard Clay (The Chaucer Press) Ltd, Bungay

Price: 3/6

Front cover: [unsigned] montage of characters, Viking boat and floatplane

Rear cover: … blends the fascinating description of a near-impossible seaplane flight with the story of a haunting romance mirrored in the distant past

[2] original edition:

[3] reprint:

An Old Captivity, Nevil Shute


Printers: Richard Clay (The Chaucer Press) Ltd, Bungay

Price: 5/-

Front cover: [unsigned] featuring only characters
**Pan Books X382**  
*Strike Hard, Strike Sure, Epics of the Bombers*, Ralph Barker, Unabridged, Pan Books Ltd  
London  
17.5 x 11 cm. pp. [x] 11-207 [208] + 8 plates. Maps, index  
**Printers:** Hazell Watson and Viney Ltd, Aylesbury  
**Price:** 3/6  
**Front cover:** col. illus. Lancaster pursued by Me.109s [unsigned]  
**Rear cover:** extracts from reviews over photo of Churchill and Short Stirling  
**Reviews:** [Gerald J. Pollinger. *Air Pic.*, Feb. 1963, p.60] … in his new work, which appears to be much more of a “scissors and paste” job, the author describes “the epics of the bombers” – all British, one is delighted to note. Most of these you may have read before … but it’s a useful collection of reminiscences for those who read the original stories in longer form or saw the Sunday serialization, written in a breezy, journalistic style …

**Pan Books X410**  
*That Magnificent Air Race*, John Burke, A Pan Original, There Are Eight Pages Of Photographs From the Film, *Those Magnificent Men In Their Flying Machines*, between pages 96 and 97 of this book, Pan Books Ltd: London  
**Printers:** Richard Clay (The Chaucer Press) Ltd, Bungay  
**Price:** 3/6  
**Front cover:** col. illus. signed Glenn Steward. A new novel from 20th Century-Fox’s star-studded Todd-AO and colour comedy-adventure  
**Rear cover:** col. photo and cast list of film

**Panther Books 1894**  
**Printers:** Cox and Wyman Ltd, London, Reading and Fakenham  
**Price:** 3/6  
**Front cover:** aerial photo in red with RAF roundel design. The story of the reconnaissance men who flew the dangerous skies above the battlefields  
**Rear cover:** synopsis on red aerial photo  
**Reviews:** [Gerald J. Pollinger. *Air Pic.*, Nov. 1961, p.362] This is in part autobiographical, and in whole the story of a squadron and a wing of the R.A.F. employed in the Mediterranean theatre from 1942 and 1945. The aircraft were all engaged on fighter reconnaissance … Although written in a rather flat style, the book does provide us with an insight to the workings of another “branch” of the activities of the Royal Air Force in wartime, and is to be noted therefore.

**Penguin Books 2301**  
*Wings above the Diamantina. Arthur Upfield*  
**Copy:** not held

**Sabios del Mundo Entero 18**  
*Sabios del Mundo Entero, La Cierva*, Por E. Garcia Albors, Ediciones Cid  
**Printers:** Gráficas Dirección, Madrid  
**Front cover:** photog. port.  
**Rear cover:** series advert.

**Battle of Britain Books.** As a prefatory note to this brief survey it should be pointed out that most of the books mentioned are now out of print, and in any case may not easily be obtained at your local bookshop. Furthermore, paperback editions of some of the books have appeared, sometimes (as in the case of Hillary) in several versions. …

It is probably a little difficult to categorise books about the events that took place twenty-five years ago this month. There are the obvious histories like *The Narrow Margin* (Hutchinson), a classic by Derek Wood and Derek Dempster. With this one would perhaps place the two versions (one illustrated) of the H.M.S.O. booklet issued at the time, and subsequent books of the same title like *The Battle of Britain* by N.D. Smith (Faber, 1962, unobtainable), by Basil Collier (Batsford, 1962), and Edward Bishop (Allen & Unwin, 1960). But there have been less prosaic titles such as *Strike from the Sky* by Alexander McKee (Souvenir Press, 1960), *Blitz on Britain* by Asher Lee (Four Square, 1960), and the forthcoming *The Critical Day* by James Ludovici. Other titles have been used more than once: there is *The Sky Suspended* by Drew Middleton (Secker & Warburg, 1960) and a book of the same name by Jim Bailey to be published later this month by Hodder at 20s.
Bailey’s book is in another category however, and is not like the latest straight short history *Battle for Britain* by Ronald W. Clark (Harrap, 18s. 6d.) due out very soon. Bailey describes his experiences as a Defiant pilot in No. 264 Squadron during the Battle of Britain. First and foremost of these personal accounts must be *The Last Enemy* by Richard Hillary (Macmillan and Pan, 1942, 1956, et seq.), but many other autobiographies or biographies have included major details about the Battle, such as Basil Collier’s *Leader of the Few* (Jarrolds, 1957) about Lord Dowding, *Reach for the Sky* by Paul Brickhill (Collins, 1957) about Douglas Bader, *The First and the Last* by Adolf Galland (Jarrolds, 1957) (Methuen, 1955), and a host of other German accounts, by Werner Baumbach in *Broken Swastika* (Hale, 1960), *Swastika in the Air* from Karl Bartz (Kimber, 1956), and other German books as yet (some will be) untranslated for British readers. The “Few” are mentioned in *Wing Leader* by J.E. Johnson (Chatto, 1956), *The Fighter Aces of the R.A.F.* by E.C.R. Baker (Kimber, 1962), *R.A.F. Biggin Hill* by Graham Wallace (Putnam, 1957), *Sailor Malan* by Oliver Walker (Cassell, 1953), *Nine Lives* by A.C. Deere (Hodder, 1959), *Fly for Your Life* (Stanford Tuck) by Larry Forrester (Muller, 1958), and the forthcoming *One of the Few* by John A. Kent. There are illustrations of *Some of the Few* in the book of the same name by John P.M. Reid (Macdonald, 1960). The Belgian Jean Offenberg in *Lonely Warrior* (Souvenir, 1956) and various Poles and Frenchmen have also put pen to paper. H.E. Bates wrote the fiction setting in *A Moment in Time* (Michael Joseph, 1964, 21s.) But aside from the above there are other sources. Have a look at the concise accounts in several sections of *The Air Forces of the World* by William Green and John Fricker (Macdonald, 1958), of which a new edition is pending. And read too William L. Shirer’s digest of all the German generals’ memoirs and directives in parts of *The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich* (Secker, 70s., or Pan, 12s. 6d.). *The Hurricane Story* by Paul Gallico (Joseph, 1959) is a curiosity and not to be compared with other monographs or single volumes on aircraft of the time which we have mentioned in these columns on other occasions. But there were quite a few H.M.S.O. booklets like the 9d. *Roof Over Britain* (1943) about the ack-ack, and also others on the fire services, and civil defence which are worth turning up. And to this list you will have to add related stories like *Invasion 1940* by Peter Fleming (Hart-Davis, 1957), and then the list grows endless.