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Last Flight From Singapore



Synopsis

“Donahue makes no attempt either to dramatize or underplay his experiences. He tells them in a simple, unvarnished manner, much as if he were sitting down with some friends back home. The result is pretty close to what the real thing must have been.” New York Times

In June 1940 a young commercial pilot from Minnesota, Arthur Donahue, signed up to become a pilot in the R.A.F. He would spend the next two years fighting for the British in their Spitfire and Hurricane planes over the Channel and in the Far East. During the Battle of Britain and Battle for Singapore he distinguished himself and was greatly respected by his comrades who flew alongside him. Eventually he would lose his life fighting for the Allied cause. Last Flight from Singapore documents Donahue’s life from the autumn of 1941 through to the evacuation of Java after being wounded in “the greatest military disaster ever suffered by British arms.” It is an incredibly personal account that highlights the dangers of the path that Donahue had taken. With his vivid description of the dogfights, the humor of the pilot’s mess, technical details of the planes and the constant threat of danger Last Flight from Singapore transports the reader back to the skies of World War Two. As a bonus for the reader the publisher has also included Donahue’s previous work Tally Ho! A Yankee in a Spitfire at the end of this book, which covers his life during the Battle of Britain. These two memoirs truly show the bravery of those to whom “Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few”. While in Singapore Donahue won the Distinguished Flying Cross, his citation reads: “This officer carried out many low level reconnaissance sorties and successfully attacked enemy shipping and ground objectives. On one occasion while attacking enemy troops who were attempting a landing in the Singapore area, he silenced the enemy’s fire and enabled the rest of the squadron to press home attacks with impunity. He has destroyed several enemy planes.” Arthur Donahue was an American fighter pilot who volunteered to fly for the British Royal Air Force in World War II. He was killed in action in September 1942. Donahue wrote two books about his RAF service, Tally-Ho! Yankee in a Spitfire (published in 1941) and Last Flight from Singapore (published in 1943).

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Customer Reviews

Another excellent story and history...a lot of the histories written in and after WW2 have been out of print or unavailable. With kindle, we have them available and inexpensive. This book was great.

This is a first hand account of a Minnesotan who flew for the RAF in WW2. The personal experiences made, for me, an endearing story. I was unaware that this purchase included 2 published books during the war before he died in combat. And another available in non kindle format .com in the UK.. I have read plenty of WW2 books, mostly nonfiction. A DFC is a distinguished flying cross a British medal that is title not a rank, but is included as any description is addressed about him. I am fascinated that he was able to get his books published whilst his day job as a full time aviator at war. His matter of fact reporting does not make him a special aviator during the books. Some how this book escaped my 20 plus years of WW2 history. I thank kindle for providing this and other memoirs from the American Civil war to the present forever war.

Author Arthur Donahue follows up his Tally-Ho! Yankee in a Spitfire with an account of his days flying the Hawker Hurricane for the RAF in Singapore just days before it was surrendered to the Japanese. Great read!

An extraordinary and personal story by a Hurricane fighter pilot of several miraculous escapes from capture or near-death in Sumatra, Singapore and Java. Tragically, the author subsequently lost his

life the following year in Europe. It is remarkable that his memoirs have survived to be published.

Good description of war in Singapore area. Good information about how American pilots operated in the British air force, in the air and on the ground.

The book is based on a diary of the pilot, an American, flying for the RAF in the British Far East prior to and during the Japanese invasion. While the subject matter is interesting the story is a bit laborious.

Clearly Britain underestimated the speed at which the Japanese would sweep across South East Asia. Interesting point of view of pilots of the Royal Air Force and how they saw the war.

Great read! An American pilot in the RAF's account of his activities in the Far East. I was struck by the openness and candor from the author as he recounts a doomed campaign.

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