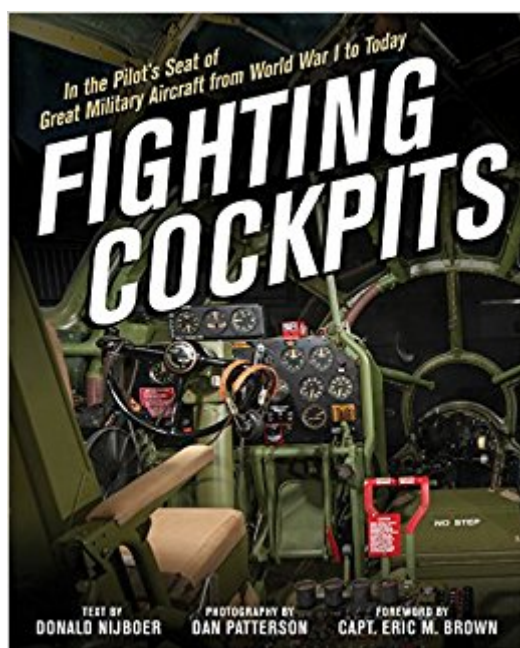


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Fighting Cockpits: In The Pilot's Seat Of Great Military Aircraft From World War I To Today



Synopsis

What was it like to sit in the pilot's seat and take control of a P-51 Mustang in World War II? What about an F-14 Tomcat at the height of the Cold War? Or a Lockheed Martin F-22 Raptor today? The cockpits of these fighter and bomber aircraft are revealed in *Fighting Cockpits*. Showcasing more than 50 of the world's most famous combat cockpits from early World War I aircraft to present-day fighters, this book includes more than 200 rich color photos from photographer Dan Patterson, as well as detailed history about combat cockpit development from aviation expert and historian Donald Nijboer. Presented in large-format, you'll be blown away by studio shot spreads of views from the cockpits, vintage photographs of the aircrafts in action, and modern photography of surviving crafts. This book will complete any history buff or aviation enthusiast's library. Aircraft include: *Wind in the Wires*: Nieuport 28, Royal Aircraft Factory S.E.5, Bristol F.2, Fokker Dr.I, Sopwith Camel, Sopwith Triplane, AEG G.IV, SPAD VII, Halberstadt CL.IV, Fokker D.VII *The Rise of the Monoplane*: Martin MB-2, Hawker Hind, Fiat CR.32, Boeing P-26 Peashooter, Curtiss F9C, Sparrowhawk, Vought SB2U Vindicator, Westland Lysander, PZL P.11 *World War II: Supermarine Spitfire*, Messerschmitt Bf 109, Republic P-47 Thunderbolt, North American P-51 Mustang, Handley Page Halifax, Vickers Wellington, Focke-Wulf Fw 190 Wurger, Fairey Firefly, Fiat CR.42, Ilyushin Il-2 Sturmovik, Heinkel He 219 Uhu, Kawasaki Ki-45 Toryu, Curtiss SB2C Helldiver, Northrop P-61 Black Widow, Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress, Boeing B-29 Superfortress, Dornier Do 335 Pfeil, Messerschmitt Me 262 Schwalbe, Arado Ar 234 Blitz *Cold War to the Present*: North American F-86 Sabre, Boeing B-52 Stratofortress, Grumman A-6 Intruder, General Dynamics F-111 Aardvark, Hawker Siddeley Harrier, McDonnell Douglas/Boeing F-15 Eagle, Grumman F-14 Tomcat, Fairchild Republic A-10 Thunderbolt II, General Dynamics/Lockheed Martin F-16 Fighting Falcon, Mikoyan MiG-29, Rockwell B-1 Lancer, Lockheed Martin F-117 Nighthawk, Lockheed Martin F-22 Raptor, Lockheed Martin F-35 Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter

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Customer Reviews

"Fighting Cockpits... places the reader inside the cockpit of these incredible machines - Business Insider" Nijboer's new book offers a fascinating take on the development of such technology. With high-resolution color photos of more than 50 historic cockpits by photographer Dan Patterson, "Fighting Cockpits" successfully gives even a casual reader a real feel for what facing the elements, adversaries and crude technology actually meant for World War I-era pilots. Perhaps "Fighting Cockpits" is most impressive for reminding us that the continuing development of military aircraft technology may have paradoxically kept us out of a third world war - Forbes.com "What aviation fan, historian or participant does not wish to sit in cockpits of historical aircraft? To become part of its space? To be ensconced within its environment? Fighting Cockpits delivers this and much more - Travel for Aircraft (Seattle Post-Intelligencer)"...his amazing book, Fighting Cockpits, is packed with wonderful photos, amazing details, and insightful comments from pilots who've flown everything from the Sopwith Camel to the B-17 to the long-awaited F-35 - WIRED.com "This is a very intelligent and extremely rewarding book. It informs and it really looks fab." - War History Online

Donald Nijboer is an aviation author, historian, a documentary writer/producer, as well as a college instructor and Smithsonian speaker. His articles have appeared in Flight Journal, Aviation History, and Aeroplane Monthly. Donald lives in Toronto, Canada. Dan Patterson is an accomplished photographer who has excelled in the fields of portraiture, architecture, and aviation. His work has been featured in 23 books, and in 2003 he received the first annual Harry B. Combs Award from the National Aviation Hall of Fame for Excellence in the Preservation of Aviation History. The National Portrait Gallery in London selected five of his portraits of British aviators to be included in their permanent collection. In addition, he has served as an aviation lecturer for the Smithsonian Journeys program. Dan lives in Dayton, Ohio.

I kept waiting for someone to write a review that answered my biggest question.....was this a new book or a compilation of images from Donald's other 3 cockpit photography books. I ended up biting the bullet and just ordering the book. Thankfully this book is about 90% new material. The cockpits

that were featured in earlier books that are repeated in this book are at least photos from different angles than in the previous books. My fears were alleviated! I highly recommend this book to anyone interested cockpits or planes in general and to fans of Donald Nijboer this is a welcome addition to his other 3 books.

Good Book

Son loved it! Well done

Great

I would normally not self-describe as an aviation history buff. But thanks to this book I may become one. As a student of the last 100 years of geopolitics, I have heard of the succession of military aircraft that made pivotal contributions to world events, like the Sopwith Camel, Spitfire, Messerschmitt, Mig 29, B-52, F-18 etc., but never had any concrete sense of them. Let alone, what it actually looked like or felt like to fly them. Fighting Cockpits is a complete survey of the history of fighting aircraft from biplane to the present. This evolution is divided into four logical chapters, and each aircraft is given a consistent one or two page treatment with its history, engineering highlights and impact on the left panel, and a first-person pilot experience of flying it on the right. It's concentrated enough for someone new to the subject, but full of unique insights for those more familiar. The photographs of the cockpits are often breathtakingly beautiful, which is weird to say about sophisticated killing machines. The lighting has an almost sculptural quality to it. The images of the restored wood and leather cockpits of the earliest aircraft in particular, are coffee-table art book quality. At the other end of the spectrum is the F 35. As a Canadian I appreciated the imagery and pilot testimonial of this aircraft that is the subject of much debate in my country about whether it should be acquired. Before Fighting Cockpits, I would never have had such an upfront and personal understanding of the F 35 nor where it fit in the long history of fighter aircraft.

Fighting Cockpits is another of Quarto Publishing's oversized, illustrated coffee table books. This one focuses on famous Warbirds from World War I to the present, primarily from the pilot's viewpoint. Each of the 51 featured aircraft has its own two to four page entry that contains the title of the model, a color photo of its cockpit as displayed in a contemporary museum, a description of the plane's history and usually the Pilot's Impressions

written by a modern pilot who has flown the model. On the later pages of the sections are diagrams or pictures of the planes, either on land or in the air, sometimes with the men who flew them. The photos really add a lot. Aircraft from several nations and many manufacturers are included. As I advanced through the book I noticed the progressively more complex cockpits with more dials that eventually gave way to touch screen controls. I enjoyed the pilots' comments about the strengths and limitations of the various aircraft. The visual limitations from upper wings of bi-planes and the varying comfort levels of the pilots' seats were things that I had not thought of before. I appreciated being introduced to the many warbirds covered in this work. Quite a few of the aircraft pictured are on display at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force in Dayton. When I travel there or to other air museums I will be looking for some of the details I have read about in this book. This is one I will keep handy. As I encounter references to airplanes in other military histories I am sure that I will pull "Fighting Cockpits" off the shelf for a refresher on the aircraft about which I am reading. I am sure you will enjoy the text and pictures in this tome as much as I have. I did win a free copy of this book in a drawing.

A very nice book, overall a great job. Excellent texts by pilots who have actually flown in the cockpits. Lots of additional "in action" shots, plenty info. Brilliant! Photography: If I should be critical I must say the full page hero images of many (not all) of the cockpits are slightly disappointing. They lack juice and contrast (shadows pulled too much in PP?) and occasionally lacking resolution. Perhaps it is partly the reproduction, I don't know. The lighting is a bit flat and "straight on" and bordering to harsh causing some blown out areas and instrument reflections sometimes making dials impossible to read. Don't get me wrong. It is a great book, I just wish the lighting, 3D depth and dynamic range sometimes was a tad more carefully crafted, and that the contrast was increased with 10-20%. But I am aware it must have been a helluva difficult job with canopies, space, etc. As for cockpit lighting and photography the book "At The Controls" by Long and Avino remains the benchmark in my eyes.

Fighting Cockpits: In the Pilots's Seat... is a beautiful book. The large size format is perfect for the detailed cockpit photographs. Plenty of facts for hardcore aviation enthusiasts but still interesting for those less knowledgeable. My favourite feature is the Pilot Impressions. It's fascinating to read first-hand accounts of the experience of flying these amazing planes. I especially enjoy reading about the late Capt Eric M Brown - an inspiring man. How wonderful that Nijboer was able to interview him. This is a must-have book for anyone with an interest in aviation.

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