

The story of the Battle of Britain as experienced by the pilots who flew from Duxford air base in Cambridgeshire.



Duxford 1940

A Battle of Britain Base at War

DILIP SARKAR

- Author has interviewed more Battle of Britain pilots than any other historian.
- Over 200 historic photographs, most originate from the personal albums of Duxford survivors and have never been reproduced before.

The Imperial War Museum site at Duxford is rightly recognised as the premier aviation museum in Europe, hosting exciting air shows and where the evocative sight and sound of an airborne Spitfire can be experienced most days. Back in the dark days of 1940, however, when Britain alone defied Nazi Germany, Duxford was a crucial Sector Station in Fighter Command's front line.

Flying Hurricanes and Spitfires, Allied fighter pilots scrambled from Duxford's grass runway time and time again to engage the enemy. Indeed, from here that legendary airman Douglas Bader frequently sallied forth to drive back the *Luftwaffe* that fateful summer, alongside other 'aces' such as Brian Lane, George 'Grumpy' Unwin, and Alan 'Ace' Haines. Duxford's Station Commander was the flamboyant Group Captain 'Woody' Woodhall, who doubled as the fighter controller; the introduction to this book features his hitherto unpublished memoir on the Battle of Britain period, leading the reader perfectly into this unique collection of extremely rare photographs presented by well-known aviation historian Dilip Sarkar. Most photographs originate in the personal albums of Duxford survivors, and provide, therefore, an incredible window through which we are able to glimpse the life, and death, at Battle of Britain Duxford.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

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200 photographs

Rights: World, all languages

MARKETING, PUBLICITY, PRESS

- Author is an acknowledged expert on the Battle of Britain with over 20 books on the subject to his credit.
- Book signings at several major airshows in 2009 are planned.
- Reviews in the aviation and history press to include *Flypast*, *RAF News* and *BBC History Magazine*.

PRAISE FOR DILIP SARKAR

The Battle of Britain: The Photographic Kaleidoscope
'An excellent book' LADY BADER

Bader's Tangmere Spitfires
'A most diligent and carefully researched account'
JOHNNIE JOHNSON

THE AUTHOR

Fascinated by the Battle of Britain since childhood, Dilip Sarkar remains both moved and inspired by the story of Churchill's fabled Few, those young airmen who stood between freedom and a Britain dominated by Nazi Germany. Since the 1970s he has met and interviewed more Battle of Britain pilots than any other historian. He has researched the subject thoroughly and has published over twenty books, titles which include the only biographical works formally endorsed by the families of both Group Captain Sir Douglas Bader and Air Vice-Marshal Johnnie Johnson. In 2003, Dilip was made an MBE for services to aviation history, and elected to the Fellowship of the Royal Historical Society in 2006. He lives in Worcester.

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