

*Spitfire and Hurricane fighter pilots recount their experiences of combat during the Battle of Britain.*

## Last of the Few

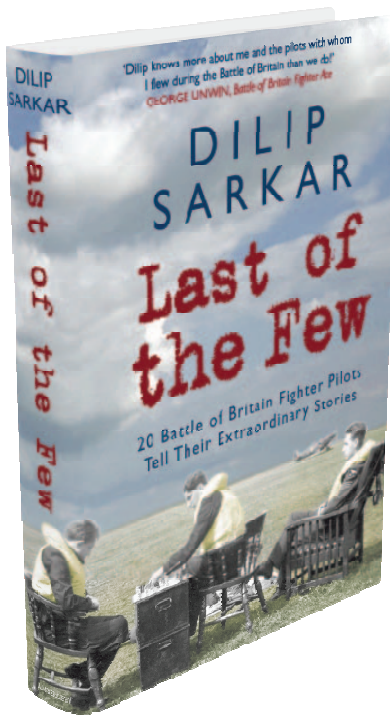
20 Battle of Britain Fighter Pilots Tell Their Extraordinary Stories

DILIP SARKAR (editor)

- Author has interviewed more Battle of Britain pilots than any other historian.
- A separate chapter on each pilot.
- 'Dilip knows more about me and the pilots with whom I flew during the Battle of Britain than we do! If anyone ever needs to know anything about the RAF during the summer of 1940, don't ask the Few, ask him!' GEORGE 'GRUMPY' UNWIN, *Battle of Britain fighter ace*.
- 'Dilip Sarkar understands perfectly the mysteries of air tactics and strategy, enabling him write authoritatively, lively and deeply touching stories of those days when friend and foe met in the air' PETER TOWNSEND, *Battle of Britain fighter ace*.
- Over 60 historic photographs, most originate from the personal albums of Battle of Britain veterans and have never been reproduced before.

2,927 aircrew of RAF Fighter Command fought and won the Battle of Britain in 1940, 544 lost their lives in action. They flew to battle in Spitfires and Hurricanes, Defiants and Blenheims, although it is the two former fighter types – single-seaters both – that still inspire and capture our imagination.

The legendary legless fighter 'ace' Douglas Bader once said that the Battle of Britain was 'not won by a few aces, but by the average squadron pilot who collectively did their bit.' One of those men, Peter Fox, described himself and his fellows as mere 'also rans' – but clearly, without them, Fighter Command could not have prevailed. In this book, Dilip Sarkar relates their stories, researched through personal interviews, correspondence and contemporary archive material. Many of the pilots featured became 'aces' in the Battle of Britain, others achieved such status afterwards whilst others went into action only to be instantly blasted out of the sky without even having seen the enemy. Their collective experience, however, is typical of those who flew Spitfires and Hurricanes in 1940.



### BIBLIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

**Publication:** 18 February 2010

**Price:** £20

**ISBN:** 978-1-84868-435-5

**Size:** 234 x 156mm

**Binding:** Hardback

**Extent:** 240 pages

60 photographs

**Rights:** World, all languages

### MARKETING, PUBLICITY, PRESS

- 8 of the 20 veterans will be available for interview and intense media interest is expected as 2010 is the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Britain and their will be huge interest generated by events and airshows to commemorate the event.
- Reviews in the aviation and history press to include *Flypast*, *RAF News* and *BBC History Magazine*.
- Reviews in the national weeklies, national daily and Sunday newspapers, to include: *The Daily Mail* and *The Sunday Telegraph*, *THES*, *TLS* and *The London Review of Books*.

### THE AUTHOR

Fascinated by the Battle of Britain since childhood, 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. A retired policeman, 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.

### PRaise FOR DILIP SARKAR



#### *The Few*

'A well-researched, detailed chronicle of the Battle of Britain'  
HUGH SEBAG MONTEFIORE,  
author of *Dunkirk*

'Compelling reading'  
LADY BADER

*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 RAF's top scoring fighter ace in WW2*

*Fighter Pilot*  
'This book deserves to achieve success'  
DAME VERA LYNN

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