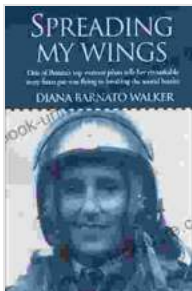


One of Britain's Top Women Pilots Tells Her Remarkable Story From Pre-War Flying

Joan Hughes was born in 1914. She was a British pilot who flew in the 1930s and 1940s. She was one of the first women to fly solo across the English Channel and to fly from England to Australia. Hughes was a pioneer in the field of aviation and her story is a remarkable testament to the determination and courage of women.



Spreading My Wings: One of Britain's Top Women Pilots Tells Her Remarkable Story from Pre-War Flying to Breaking the Sound Barrier by Diana Barnato Walker

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 8113 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 224 pages
Lending : Enabled



Early Life and Flying Career

Hughes was born in Harrow, London, England, in 1914. Her father was a doctor and her mother was a nurse. Hughes had a passion for flying from a young age. She began flying at the age of 16 and quickly became proficient in the air. In 1934, she became the first woman to fly solo across the

English Channel. This was a significant accomplishment, as it had only been done by a few men at that time.

In 1936, Hughes flew from England to Australia. This was a 10,000-mile journey that took her over four months to complete. Hughes was the first woman to fly solo from England to Australia, and her journey inspired many people around the world.



Wartime Service

During World War II, Hughes served as a pilot in the Air Transport Auxiliary. The ATA was a civilian organization that ferried aircraft from factories to operational units. Hughes flew a variety of aircraft during her time in the ATA, including Spitfires, Hurricanes, and bombers.

Hughes' work in the ATA was dangerous. She was frequently flying in bad weather and over enemy territory. In 1942, she was forced to land her plane in a field after it was damaged by enemy fire. She was able to escape unharmed, but her plane was destroyed.



Joan Hughes in uniform during her wartime service with the Air Transport Auxiliary.

Post-War Flying

After the war, Hughes continued to fly. She became a glider pilot and competed in gliding competitions. In 1951, she won the British national gliding championship. She also set several glider records.

Hughes retired from flying in the early 1960s. She remained active in aviation, however, and served as a member of the British Gliding Association and the Royal Aeronautical Society.



Legacy

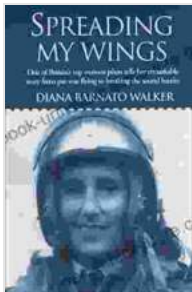
Joan Hughes was a pioneer in the field of aviation. She was one of the first women to fly solo across the English Channel and to fly from England to Australia. She was also a skilled glider pilot and competed in gliding competitions. Hughes' accomplishments helped pave the way for other women in aviation.

Hughes was a role model for women and girls around the world. She showed that women could accomplish anything that men could do. She was a courageous and determined woman who never gave up on her dreams.



Joan Hughes in later years, receiving an award for her contributions to aviation.

Joan Hughes was a remarkable woman who made significant contributions to aviation history. She was a pioneer in the field of flying and her accomplishments helped pave the way for other women in aviation. Hughes was a role model for women and girls around the world and her legacy continues to inspire people today.

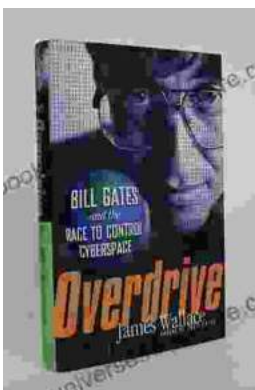


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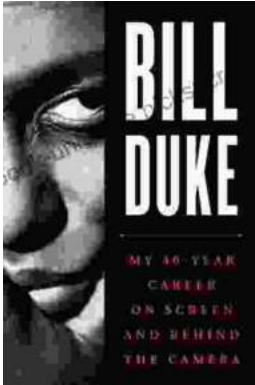
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