

# The Definitive Biography Of Battle Of Britain Fighter Pilot And Author Of The

Douglas Bader was one of the most decorated and celebrated heroes of the Second World War. A fighter pilot with the Royal Air Force, he was shot down and lost both of his legs in 1941. Despite his disability, he continued to fly and fight, becoming one of the most successful fighter pilots of the war.



## Richard Hillary: The Definitive Biography of a Battle of Britain Fighter Pilot and Author of The Last Enemy

by David Ross

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

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Bader's story is one of courage, determination, and resilience. He was a true pioneer, and his achievements have inspired countless people around the world. In this definitive biography, author John Nichol tells the full story of Bader's life, from his early childhood to his death in 1982.

Nichol draws on a wealth of sources, including interviews with Bader's family and friends, as well as his own personal papers. The result is a deeply researched and engaging biography that brings Bader's story to life.

This book is a must-read for anyone interested in the Second World War, aviation history, or the life of one of the most extraordinary men of the 20th century.

## **Early Life**

Douglas Bader was born in London, England, on February 21, 1910. He was the youngest of three children, and his father was a successful businessman. Bader was a sickly child, and he spent much of his early years in and out of hospital.

Despite his health problems, Bader was a determined and adventurous child. He loved to play sports, and he was particularly fond of flying. At the age of 16, he joined the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

Bader's early flying career was marked by both success and setbacks. He was a natural pilot, but he also had a tendency to be reckless. In 1931, he was involved in a serious accident that left him with a broken back.

Bader was determined to continue flying, and he underwent a series of operations to repair his back. In 1934, he was finally cleared to fly again. He was assigned to the Royal Auxiliary Air Force, and he flew a variety of aircraft, including the Hawker Hurricane.

In 1939, the Second World War broke out. Bader was called up to active duty, and he was assigned to the 222nd Squadron of the Royal Air Force.

## **The Battle Of Britain**

The Battle of Britain was one of the most important battles of the Second World War. It was fought between the Royal Air Force and the German Luftwaffe from July to October 1940.

Bader played a key role in the Battle of Britain. He was one of the most successful fighter pilots of the war, and he was credited with shooting down 22 enemy aircraft.

Bader's most famous victory was on August 19, 1940. He was leading a squadron of Hurricanes when they were attacked by a group of German Messerschmitt Bf 109s. Bader shot down two of the German aircraft, and he forced the rest to retreat.

Bader's bravery and leadership during the Battle of Britain earned him the respect of his fellow pilots. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Distinguished Service Order, and he was promoted to the rank of Squadron Leader.

## **Later Life**

Bader continued to fly and fight after the Battle of Britain. He was shot down again in 1941, and he lost both of his legs. Despite his disability, he continued to fly and fight, and he became one of the most successful fighter pilots of the war.

Bader retired from the Royal Air Force in 1946. He went on to write several books about his experiences, including *The Narrow Margin* and *Reach for the Sky*. He also became a successful motivational speaker and businessman.

Bader died in London on September 14, 1982. He was 72 years old. He is buried in the churchyard of St Martin's Church in Hawkinge, Kent.

## **Legacy**

Douglas Bader was one of the most decorated and celebrated heroes of the Second World War. His courage, determination, and resilience have inspired countless people around the world. He is a true pioneer, and his legacy will continue to inspire generations to come.

Bader's story has been told in numerous books, films, and television programs. He is a national hero in Britain, and his name is synonymous with courage and determination.

The Douglas Bader Foundation is a charity that provides support to disabled people. The foundation was established in 1983, and it has helped thousands of people to live full and active lives.

Douglas Bader was a truly remarkable man. He overcame adversity to become one of the most successful fighter pilots of the Second World War. He is an inspiration to us all, and his legacy will continue to inspire generations to come.

Douglas Bader's story is one of courage, determination, and resilience. He was a true pioneer, and his achievements have inspired countless people around the world. This definitive biography tells the full story of Bader's life, from his early childhood to his death in 1982. It is a must-read for anyone interested in the Second World War, aviation history, or the life of one of the most extraordinary men of the 20th century.

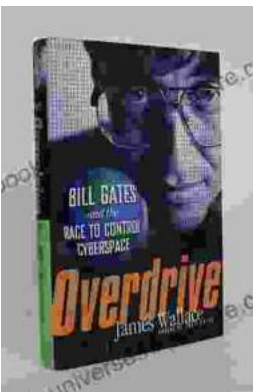


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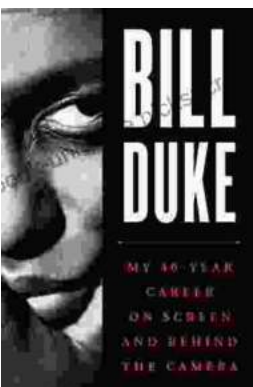
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