



WHIRLWIND

WESTLAND'S ENIGMATIC FIGHTER



NIAL CORDUROY

Whirlwind Westland S Enigmatic Fighter

Niall Corduroy



Whirlwind Westland S Enigmatic Fighter:

Whirlwind Niall Corduroy ,2017-01-21 Faster and better armed than the Spitfire the Whirlwind was the RAF s response to a new generation of armoured German bombers which it expected to meet over England in 1940 A few months after its first flight 1 000 Whirlwinds were ordered but nine months later the RAF cancelled the entire programme Just 114 were built but they went on to have a distinguished three year career from the uneasy months following the Battle of Britain to their final sorties against Hitler s V weapon sites in France Based on original research from military and corporate archives this groundbreaking study throws new light on why the RAF had such high hopes for the Whirlwind but was then prepared to cancel it It exposes for the first time the political and corporate wrangling that surrounded the Whirlwind programme while bringing a fresh perspective to the aircraft s valiant operational history calling on German records and Ultra signals Attacking railways shipping torpedo boats and airfields often against fierce opposition the Whirlwind squadrons flew with outstanding courage and determination regarding themselves justifiably as a privileged elite within Fighter Command the fewest of the few In its thorough research and captivating style Whirlwind Westland s Enigmatic Fighter is a fitting tribute to the designers engineers and pilots who believed in the Whirlwind and made it glorious **Combat in the Stratosphere**

Steven Taylor,2024-05-31 The first book devoted exclusively to exploring the development and use of aircraft designed specifically for high altitude operations in World War II In the summer of 1940 a new German aircraft began appearing in the skies over the British Isles Unlike the rest of the Luftwaffe s fleet in the Battle of Britain these aircraft were flying at a height of 40 000 feet and higher way beyond the reach of the RAF s defending fighters These virtually untouchable intruders were examples of the Junkers Ju 86P The world s first operational combat aeroplane equipped with a pressurized cabin they were able to reach a maximum altitude of 42 000 feet The Ju 86P s introduction ushered in a new era of aerial warfare where combat would take place at previously unimaginable heights The Ju 86P was just one of many high altitude aircraft projects developed by both the Axis and Allied powers during the Second World War Others included the Vickers Wellington Mk VI Vickers Windsor Boeing B 29 Superfortress Junkers Ju 388 Heinkel He 274 and Henschel Hs 130 With pressurized cabins such aircraft offered obvious tactical advantages bombers and reconnaissance aircraft could operate safely above the maximum ceiling of the opposing side s fighters prompting intense development especially by the British and Germans of pressurized interceptors to meet the threat they posed **Combat in the Stratosphere** is the first book devoted exclusively to exploring the fascinating story of the development and operational history of aircraft designed specifically for high altitude operations during the Second World War But this is not a book solely about the machines themselves It also focuses on the men who flew these revolutionary aircraft both in the testing phase and in combat and the physical challenges these courageous airmen faced as they pushed themselves to the very edge of physical endurance in this desperate race to reach ever higher altitudes Drawing on a wide range of sources including air combat reports British Cabinet files and Air Ministry

documents as well as first hand accounts of aeronautical engineers and the pilots who flew these aircraft Combat in the Stratosphere reveals the full story of this largely overlooked aspect of Second World War air warfare high above the skies of Europe North Africa the Soviet Union and Japan *Westland Whirlwind Mk. I* Alex Crawford, Phil H. Listemann, 2008 The Westland Whirlwind belongs to that category of aircraft which entered production but failed to live up to their designers expectations Its unreliable engines can be seen as a major reason for this but it only serves to hide other serious problems Indeed even with better engines the results would probably have been the same as the concept of a twin engined fighter aircraft capable of meeting single engined fighters escorting bombers formations on an equal footing was fallacious as combat in WW2 was soon to prove The true story of the Whirlwind and the pilots who flew it is here told with over 50 photographs many being published for the first time **Westland Aircraft** Source Wikipedia, 2013-09 Please note that the content of this book primarily consists of articles available from Wikipedia or other free sources online Pages 35 Chapters Westland Whirlwind Westland Welkin Westland Lysander Bell H 13 Sioux Westland Wapiti Westland Wyvern Westland PV 7 Westland Wessex Westland 30 Westland Widgeon Westland Wizard Westland Westbury Westland Westminster Westland N 1B Westland Weasel Westland Wagtail Westland Wallace Westland F 7 30 Westland PV 3 Westland Limousine Westland Interceptor Westland Walrus Westland Yeovil Westland Witch Westland C O W Gun Fighter Westland IV Westland Hill Pterodactyl Westland Woodpigeon Westland Dreadnought Excerpt The Westland Whirlwind was a British twin engined heavy fighter developed by Westland Aircraft It was the Royal Air Force s first single seat twin engined cannon armed fighter and a contemporary of the Supermarine Spitfire and Hawker Hurricane It was one of the fastest aircraft when it flew in the late 1930s and was much more heavily armed than any other However protracted development problems with its Rolls Royce Peregrine engines delayed the entire project and only a relatively small number were ever built During the Second World War only two RAF squadrons were equipped with the Whirlwind and despite successful use as a fighter bomber it was withdrawn from service in 1943 The Whirlwind was developed for the RAF in the mid 1930s following the retirement of biplane fighters With increased fighter attack speeds creating shorter times for firing on targets it was decided to improve the amount of armament Instead of two rifle caliber machine guns eight were required Cannons such as the 20mm Hispano Suiza HS 404 which could fire exploding ammunition offered another type of heavy firepower and requirements were made for aircraft designs which could carry four cannons A problem for designers in the 1930s was that most agile combat aircraft were generally small These Gloster Meteor, Westland Whirlwind and Welkin Fighters James Goulding, 197? **Westland Whirlwind** Alan Wilburn Hall, 2006* **WESTLAND WHIRLWIND.** NEIL. ROBINSON, 2023 **Westland Whirlwind** Bruce Robertson, 1971 Detaljeret beskrivelse af Westland Whielwind som blev et effektivt jager bombefly i RAF under 2 verdenskrig **Westland F37/35 Whirlwind** Bruce Robertson, 1965

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