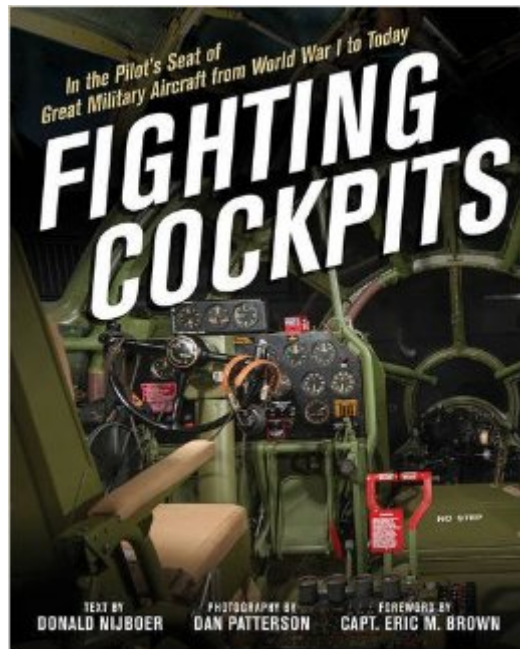


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# Fighting Cockpits: In The Pilot's Seat Of Great Military Aircraft From World War I To Today



## Synopsis

Climb inside the cockpits of the world's most famous military aircraft from World War I, World War II to the present day! What was it like to sit in the pilot's seat and take control of a P-51 Mustang in World War II? What about an F-14 Tomcat at the height of the Cold War? Or a Lockheed Martin F-22 Raptor today? The cockpits of these fighter and bomber aircraft are revealed in *Fighting Cockpits*. Showcasing more than 50 of the world's most famous combat cockpits from early World War I aircraft to present-day fighters, this book includes more than 200 rich color photos from photographer Dan Patterson, as well as detailed history about combat cockpit development from aviation expert and historian Donald Nijboer. In the beginning of the twentieth century, aircraft had open cockpits. Pilots during World War I had to bundle up with fleece-lined leather coats, sheepskin thigh boots, and woolen underclothing to avoid freezing in the cold air four miles up. There was no heating, no oxygen for high flying, no retractable undercarriage, no engine starter, no radio links with air or ground, no brakes to help with landing, and no parachutes. The pilot was afforded merely left and right foot pedals to control the rudder and a single central control stick to cause the nose of the plane to pitch up or down. Since then, the cockpits of fighters and bombers have seen quite an evolution, and the chronology is represented in *Fighting Cockpits*. Presented in large-format volume, this book will complete any history buff or aviation enthusiast's library.

**Aircraft includes...**

**Wind in the Wires:** Nieuport 28, Royal Aircraft Factory S.E.5, Bristol F.2, Fokker Dr.I, Sopwith Camel, Sopwith Triplane, AEG G.IV, SPAD VII, Halberstadt CL.IV, Fokker D.VII

**The Rise of the Monoplane:** Martin MB-2, Hawker Hind, Fiat CR.32, Boeing P-26 Peashooter, Curtiss F9C, Sparrowhawk, Vought SB2U Vindicator, Westland Lysander, PZL P.11

**World War II:** Supermarine Spitfire, Messerschmitt Bf 109, Republic P-47 Thunderbolt, North American P-51 Mustang, Handley Page Halifax, Vickers Wellington, Focke-Wulf Fw 190 Wurger, Fairey Firefly, Fiat CR.42, Ilyushin Il-2 Sturmovik, Heinkel He 219 Uhu, Kawasaki Ki-45 Toryu, Curtiss SB2C Helldiver, Northrop P-61 Black Widow, Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress, Boeing B-29 Superfortress, Dornier Do 335 Pfeil, Messerschmitt Me 262 Schwalbe, Arado Ar 234 Blitz

**Cold War to the Present:** North American F-86 Sabre, Boeing B-52 Stratofortress, Grumman A-6 Intruder, General Dynamics F-111 Aardvark, Hawker Siddeley Harrier, McDonnell Douglas/Boeing F-15 Eagle, Grumman F-14 Tomcat, Fairchild Republic A-10 Thunderbolt II, General Dynamics/Lockheed Martin F-16 Fighting Falcon, Mikoyan MiG-29, Rockwell B-1 Lancer, Lockheed Martin F-117 Nighthawk, Lockheed Martin F-22 Raptor, Lockheed Martin F-35 Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I would normally not self-describe as an aviation history buff. But thanks to this book I may become one. As a student of the last 100 years of geopolitics, I have heard of the succession of military aircraft that made pivotal contributions to world events, like the Sopwith Camel, Spitfire, Messerschmitt, Mig 29, B-52, F-18 etc., but never had any concrete sense of them. Let alone, what it actually looked like or felt like to fly them. *Fighting Cockpits* is a complete survey of the history of fighting aircraft from biplane to the present. This evolution is divided into four logical chapters, and each aircraft is given a consistent one or two page treatment with its history, engineering highlights and impact on the left panel, and a first-person pilot experience of flying it on the right. It's concentrated enough for someone new to the subject, but full of unique insights for those more familiar. The photographs of the cockpits are often breathtakingly beautiful, which is weird to say about sophisticated killing machines. The lighting has an almost sculptural quality to it. The images of the restored wood and leather cockpits of the earliest aircraft in particular, are coffee-table art book quality. At the other end of the spectrum is the F 35. As a Canadian I appreciated the imagery and pilot testimonial of this aircraft that is the subject of much debate in my country about whether it should be acquired. Before *Fighting Cockpits*, I would never have had such an upfront and personal understanding of the F 35 nor where it fit in the long history of fighter aircraft.

*Fighting Cockpits: In the Pilots's Seat...* is a beautiful book. The large size format is perfect for the detailed cockpit photographs. Plenty of facts for hardcore aviation enthusiasts but still interesting for

those less knowledgeable. My favourite feature is the Pilot Impressions. It's fascinating to read first-hand accounts of the experience of flying these amazing planes. I especially enjoy reading about the late Capt Eric M Brown - an inspiring man. How wonderful that Nijboer was able to interview him. This is a must-have book for anyone with an interest in aviation.

Great book that not only describes war bird cockpit design but also documents the "pilot experience" in their respective cockpits as planes evolved over the last 100 years...Photography is top notch! This is a book the WW2 pilots in my family would have enjoyed reading!

Incredible photos, beautiful layout, and a rich history about the evolution of cockpits. Great gift that you will read before giving away, if you even do. Seriously a great looking book.

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