

Contents

INTRODUCTION 6**THE SPITFIRE STORY** 20

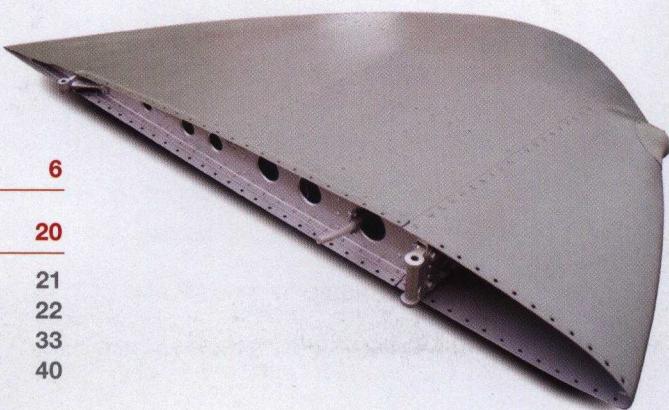
Introduction	21
Spitfire: The story of a fighting aircraft	22
The pattern of development	33
Squaring up to the enemy	40
The main production variants of the Spitfire family	43

RESTORE TO FLIGHT 50

Introduction	51
Anatomy of the Spitfire	52
Dimensions and weights	87
Obtaining spare parts	88
The limits to authenticity	88
The Spitfire industry	90
• Restoration and repair projects	91

THE OWNER'S VIEW 94

Introduction	95
First, catch your Spitfire	96
The question of provenance	102
The bottom line	102
The inevitable paperwork	102
Insurance	103
Running costs	103

**THE PILOT'S VIEW** 104

Introduction	105
Flying a Spitfire	107
Wartime pilots' views	110
Display flying a Spitfire	116
A boyhood dream fulfilled	122

THE ENGINEER'S VIEW 124

Introduction	125
Safety first!	126
Tools and working facilities	126
Jacking and airframe support	127
Recommended lubricants and fluids	128
Servicing a Spitfire	129
Preserving a Spitfire	137

EPILOGUE 138**APPENDICES** 140

A representative selection of surviving Spitfires and Seafires	140
How many airworthy Spitfires are there now, worldwide?	154
Glossary of terms	156
Useful contacts	157

INDEX 158