

Neville Duke: The Daring Test Pilot who Pushed Aviation to New Heights

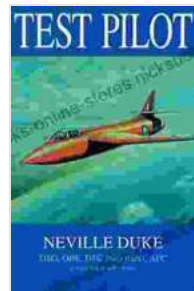


Neville Duke was a British test pilot who made significant contributions to the development of aviation technology during the 20th century. He was born in London in 1920 and joined the Royal Air Force (RAF) at the outbreak of World War II. After serving as a fighter pilot during the war, Duke became a test pilot in 1946.

Early Career and World War II

Duke's early career as a test pilot was marked by his daring and skill. He flew a wide variety of aircraft, including the de Havilland Vampire, the

Gloster Meteor, and the Hawker Tempest. He also conducted important research on new jet engine technology.



Test Pilot by Neville Duke

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

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- Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
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During World War II, Duke served as a fighter pilot with the RAF's No. 609 Squadron. He flew Spitfires and Hawker Hurricanes, and claimed five enemy aircraft shot down. He was also involved in the D-Day landings, flying low-level reconnaissance missions over the beaches of Normandy.

Post-War Career and Test Pilot Achievements

After the war, Duke continued his work as a test pilot, and he quickly became one of the most respected figures in the aviation industry. He was involved in the development of some of the world's most iconic aircraft, including the Hawker Hunter, the English Electric Lightning, and the Concorde.

Duke was known for his fearless approach to testing new aircraft. He was always willing to push the limits and explore the unknown. On one

memorable occasion, he flew the Hawker Hunter at a speed of Mach 1.5, making him the first British pilot to break the sound barrier.







Later Life and Legacy

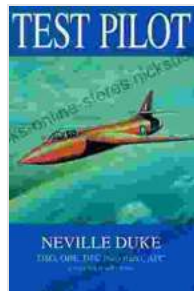
Duke retired from test flying in 1962, but he remained active in the aviation industry. He served as a consultant and advisor to various organizations, and he also wrote several books on aviation history. He was also a passionate advocate for air safety and education.

Neville Duke died in 2006 at the age of 86. He was widely regarded as one of the greatest test pilots of all time. His daring exploits and contributions to aviation history will continue to inspire generations of aviators.

Here are a few of Duke's most notable achievements:

- First British pilot to break the sound barrier (Mach 1.5)
- First pilot to fly the Hawker Hunter, Gloster Meteor, and English Electric Lightning
- Helped develop the Concorde supersonic airliner
- Flew over 7,000 hours in various aircraft
- Claimed five enemy aircraft shot down during World War II

Neville Duke was a true pioneer of aviation. He was a fearless test pilot who pushed the boundaries of what was possible. His legacy will continue to inspire aviators for generations to come.

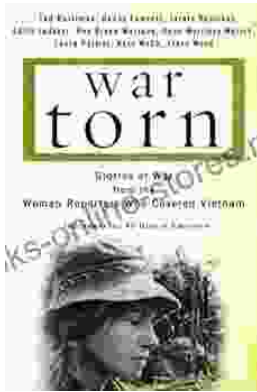


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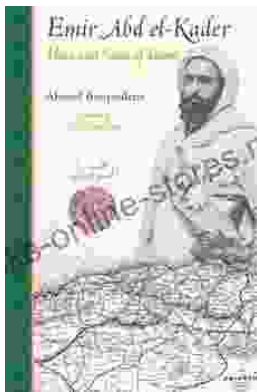
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