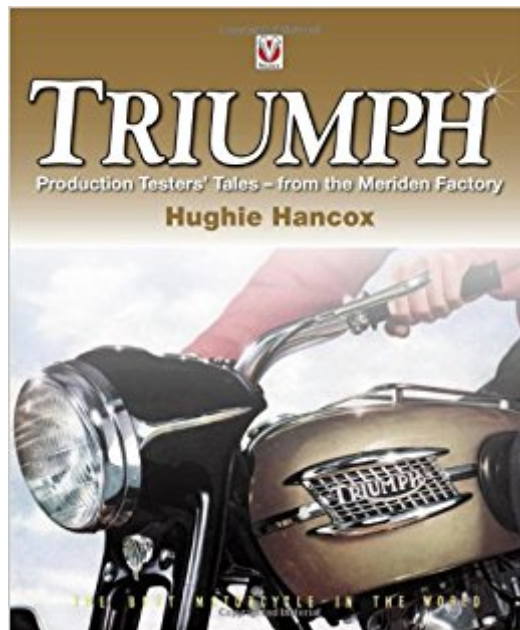




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# Triumph: Production Testers' Tales From The Meriden Factory



## Synopsis

From the 1950s through to the 1970s, Hughie Hancox worked at the Triumph Meriden factory in various capacities – as a fitter, a member of the famous Royal Corps of Signals Motorcycle Display Team, in the experimental department (where he actually worked on the prototype Bonneville), and eventually as one of the legendary Triumph testers. This latter role provided countless unique experiences with some of the most iconic British motorcycles ever manufactured. The story of production testing at Meriden has never before been published, and this intimate and pragmatic account comes straight from a man who was at the heart of it. With many previously unpublished pictures and service bulletins, plus helpful advice on problems that still exist with the bikes today, this is a unique book about a fascinating time and place in British industry.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Hughie Hancox began work at the Meriden factory in 1953, working as a fitter until his call-up for National Service. He eventually graduated to the famous Royal Corps of Signals Motorcycle Display Team, or 'White Helmets' as they were known, serving as a riding member of the team and as the corporal team fitter, responsible for keeping the Team Triumphs on top form. After demob in 1959 Hughie resumed work at Meriden in the experimental department, and actually worked on the prototype Bonneville. He eventually became one of the legendary Triumph testers. He then functioned as fitter, technical advisor and trouble-shooter until the factory closure in 1973. Hughie ran his own restoration business from 1981, becoming hugely successful all over the world with his

work on Triumphs. In carrying out his restoration work, Hughie employed the methods and techniques that he learned all those years ago at Meriden, bringing an unparalleled authenticity to his work. He appeared in numerous films and television programmes, and featured prominently with other famous faces on several motorcycling videos. He was also an accomplished author, with an existing best-seller (now in its third reprint) about his time at Meriden. Hughie Hancox passed away in August 2011.

A great follow up to his first book, *Tales of Triumph Motorcycles and the Meriden Factory*. Hughie is a great story teller and he really puts you in the scene at the Meriden factory. A bonus is all the artwork and copies of factory literature. He sprinkles plenty of technical tips throughout his stories or maybe it's that he surrounds his tech tips with such great stories. Either way the book is a spell binding look at a place and time that have unfortunately passed. Of all the books I've read on the history of Triumph and the British motorcycle industry, these two are my favorites.

Hughie was a production tester in the 1960-1962 period and there is particularly good insight into that range of Triumphs. With that, I was inspired to buy a 1962 6T Thunderbird! Lots and lots of easy-going stories and anecdotes. Many pictures and spec sheets. A book to read and reference back to for the "inside scoop". Detailed discussion of the strengths and weaknesses of each model and what they did to affect improvements. I believe in many ways, the way it was written was to serve as historical reference. So if you're interested in the history of the famous marque, you're in for a treat.

Excellent and informative book.

What a shame it was to find that another link to the Meriden factory is gone. While this book does not have the readability as his former book on the Meriden Days, the illustrations, photos and old Triumph ads more than make up for that and then some. This book concentrates on the pre unit models in depth. Too bad that a unit based T120 book from Mr. Hancock will not be forthcoming. A must book for the diehard Triumph devotee.

Back when motorcycles were still fun. Have you noticed that no-one is smiling in most new bike ads?? A nice series of stories from people who are willing to ride motorcycles for a living (lucky bastards!) and had a tremendous amount of fun doing it (luckier bastards!!)

Bought as a gift exactly as described Delivered before stated delivery date Will do business with again. He loves it.

Hughie Hancox' love of freedom is expressed in his devotion to Triumph motorcycles. Everyone should have the life that he enjoyed, although I was greatly saddened by his manner of passing.

Gift for a friend....(but I read it first!)

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