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Messerschmitt Me 262: Development /Testing/Production



Synopsis

Accounts of the developments of the fighter, fighter/bomber, reconnaissance, and night fighter versions.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Accounts of the developments of the fighter, fighter/bomber, reconnaissance, and night fighter versions.

Book required for my graduate class. Good info about the Me262. Sort of a coffee table book though.

ok read for a college textbook.

This is a 'must have' book on the Messerschmitt Me 262. Lots of new photographs. Outstanding color photos - excellent text. Every page something new.

This 9"x11" 111-page book provides the reader with a detailed description of the development and operational capabilities of the famous Me 262 German WW2 jet aircraft. This discussion of the aircraft is accompanied with a wealth of beautiful photographs and diagrams that really bring the Me 262 to life! Pages 1-13 provide an overview of the aircraft and its place in military aviation history. Pages 14-51 provide a diary of the development of the Me 262 from Messerschmidt

"receiving the first information about turbo-jet propulsion" in 1937 to its use as a jet fighter in Autumn 1944 to Spring 1945. The initial prototypes are discussed on pp.14-25, beginning in Autumn 1938 and ending on July 18, 1942. It is interesting to note that the development of the fuselage was completed before that of the wings and jet engines. A propeller-driven version, the Me 262 V1, was first flight tested on April 18, 1942. The first jet-propelled Me 262 V1 is tested on March 25, 1942, with the propeller-driven capability retained as a precautionary measure--a fortunate decision, as the BMW P 3302 engines failed immediately after takeoff (p.23)! The first successful flight under jet power would have to wait until July 18, 1942 (p.25). The testing of the proper jet-propelled Me 262 is seen to range from Summer 1942 to Summer 1944, with a number of "setbacks and advances" (pp.30-51). Pages 51-79 give operational details and a description of the range of armaments and special features available for various Me 262 models. Of particular interest is a version with a 50 mm canon that projects at least 6 ft. from the nose of the aircraft (p.65)! Pages 80-96 consist mostly of large color photographs of the Me 262, inside and out. In addition, pp.86-87 span the official colored drawing of the aircraft from the graphics department of Messerschmidt AG, Augsburg (1944). Pages 97-106 describe the production of the Me 262, including the implementation of decentralized production designed to cope with the damage done by Allied bombing. A complete set of production figures are included (p.106). Pages 107-111 consists of an Appendix that includes the design layout and performance graphs.

I called this an overview because while this book has many excellent photos (some in WW2 color, others of a beautifully restored Me-262), the author gives a general background of jet development, the difficulties in getting this jet into service. There are plenty of line drawings of all aspects of the plane, statistics and data for those interested in such details. The book itself is first class - glossy paper, great photos - especially of the factories before and after the Allied raids as well as photos of the hardened shelters the Germans were building to protect the factories from air raids. Crowood Aviation Series has a book on the Me-262 with a little more narrative (by David Barker), but the photos in the book are what makes this one a great buy. I appreciate both technical and artistic aspects, which is why I bought both! If you have to choose one, it would boil down to whether or not you prefer facts/stats over photos and color. Both books are good. I lean towards this one.

This book is not only historically accurate, but easy to read as well, with many original photos and illustrations. Like already said, it's a 'must have'. However, if you are more interested in operational use of the Me262 you could be dissatisfied. This work is more about prototypes and airframe

variations: no savage dogfights in here...

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