

▷ PDAs and VGA mobile devices for which it's primarily intended.

Other benefits of version 1.3.0 include a memory stick option, for running on any computer, and the ability to export flight plans to other portable GPS systems, including Garmin, Lowrance and Magellan. The new version also offers weight and balance reports, frequency sheets and comprehensive briefing packs. For more details, check out www.pocketfms.com.

Online Radiotelephony CAP 413 Supplement 3

THIS supplement to CAA Radiotelephony Guide CAP 413 is aimed at general aviation pilots, in the form of an interactive quick reference to the UK phraseology most commonly used in general aviation operations. The supplement covers arriving at and departing from aerodromes, cross-country flight, operating at unattended aerodromes, instrument approaches and emergency messages. It is only available online at www.caa.co.uk/cap413supplement3. □

BOOK REVIEWS

Alexa: The life and death of an Austin 7 Ruby

By Brian Milton; published by Burning Daylight Publications; paperback; £10.00

Brian Milton has always been an adventurer. At the age of 21 he spent nine weeks on the road in the USA, ending up washing dishes 300 miles inside the Arctic Circle before going back to San Francisco. He flew from London to Sydney in a Shadow in 1987, and he was the first to fly a microlight round the world in 1998.

The trip chronicled in this book, when he tried to drive a 1937 Austin Ruby from London to South Africa to marry his fiancée, happened long before microlights or even hang gliders had entered his life. There's not a word of flying in it – but this is recognisably the same Brian many of us are privileged to meet at microlighting events.

Poor Alexa didn't make it, being reduced by the time she was abandoned to only two working pistons, a dodgy big end, and no brakes – Brian had to use his feet to stop...

Africa at this time was a seething mass of rebellion and dictatorship, and Brian turns what from a lesser man might have been merely a quixotic idea, into a true adventure. It ends in Mungbere, Democratic Republic of Congo, possibly presciently, with Brian los-

ing his temper with an official and Alexa abandoned on an airfield.

Brian's writing style is as readable as ever, and this is one book I'd definitely want in my Christmas stocking.

The First Jet Pilot

By Lutz Warsitz; published by Pen & Sword Aviation; hardback; RRP £19.99

This is the story of German test pilot Erich Warsitz. If he had been English or American, his flying would have become the stuff of legend. But history is written by the winners, and it's taken until now for Erich's story to be given the publicity it deserves.

Erich's chief claims to fame are the two ground-breaking flights he made in the couple of months leading up to the outbreak of WWII – the first flight conducted entirely under the power of a liquid-fuelled rocket (the Heinkel He176) and the first flight in a jet (the Heinkel He178).

Although the He176 proved to be a bit of a developmental dead end (the Messerschmitt Me163 was the only operational use of the technology), it was much the more challenging aircraft from a pilot's point of view – the seat was so narrow the pilot could only operate the controls on the right side of the cockpit with his left hand, and because of the lack of propwash the rudder didn't become effective until 300km/h. Up to this speed the wheelbrake was the only means of stopping, and on grass strips, too...

The He178, though of greater historical significance, was easier to fly.

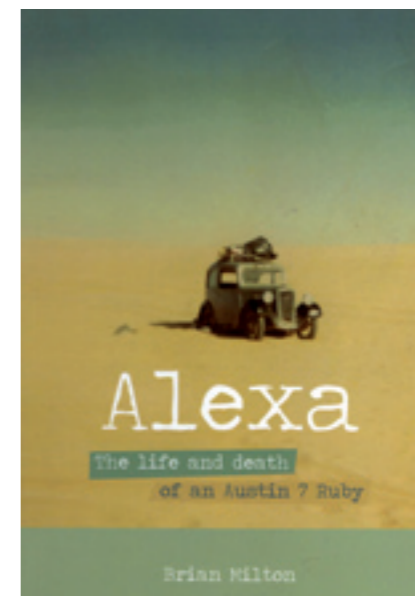
During the development phase, Erich worked with Heinkel as well as Werner von Braun and others, and his insights into that period make fascinating reading – as does the revelation that the work on the Heinkel jets was stopped because Hitler was convinced the war with Great Britain would be over in a year...

The book is written by Erich's son, based on interviews he did with his father. It includes fascinating photographs too, and is a spellbinding read.

Haynes Messerschmitt Bf109 Manual

By Paul Blackah & Malcolm Lowe; published by Haynes Publishing; hardback; RRP £17.99; ISBN: 978 1 84425 642 6.

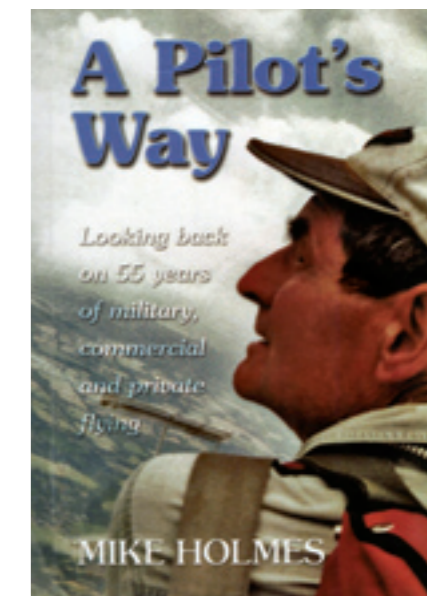
Following on from its hugely successful



Spitfire maintenance manual, Haynes has brought out the equivalent for the Bf109G.

Author Paul Blackah was involved with the restoration of Black 6, the very rare Bf109G that was restored to flying condition a few years ago.

Like the Spitfire manual, this tells the Messerschmitt Bf109 story, focusing on the Bf109G version. The authors describe how to restore a 109 to flight, relate the experience of owners, pilots and engineers, and provide detailed insights into operating and servicing this legendary Luftwaffe fighter. Data boxes cover Bf109 facts and figures, plus interviews with Luftwaffe pilots and modern-day owner-pilots, and the book is illustrated with a mix of specially commissioned colour and archive photographs together with reproductions from Luftwaffe official wartime servicing manuals. It also covers restoration projects in the UK and overseas.



A Pilot's Way

By Mike Holmes; published by Woodfield Publishing, www.woodfieldpublishing.com, tel 01243 821234; paperback; £9.95 +P&P; ISBN 1-B4683-083-4.

Subtitled 'My 55 years of military, commercial and private flying', this book follows the story of the author's life as a pilot. It starts in the 1930s with his introduction to flying by the legendary Sir Alan Cobham, through RAF training in Southern Rhodesia and service in Meteors, Harvards and Varsitys.

On leaving the RAF he flew Comets, Avro 748s and BAC 1-11s, after which he took up gliding and microlighting, finally calling it a day when he could no longer fold up small enough to get in and out of his Thruster.

He's an experienced writer, and it's an enjoyable read. □

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