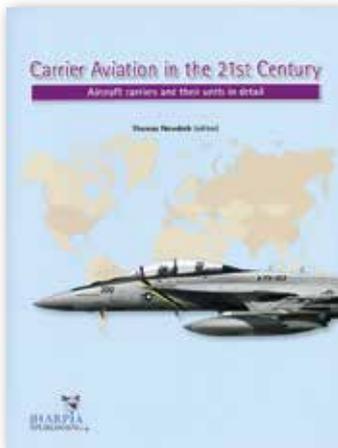


AIRPOWER FROM THE SEA



Carrier Aviation in the 21st Century
By: Thomas Newdick
ISBN: 978-0-9973092-2-5
Price: £34.99 Format: 209 x 280mm
Web: www.casematepublishing.co.uk

This mighty tome examines all aspects of carrier aviation but makes an important distinction between fixed-wing- (not including V-22 Osprey) and rotary-wing-capable ships; just the former are covered. Nations with such vessels

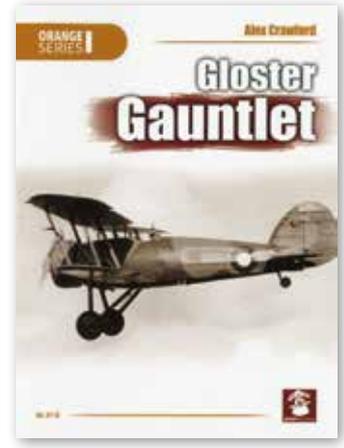
are chronicled alphabetically, and it's surprising how few (nine) have chosen to operate aircraft carriers, with just two (USA and China) fielding more than one (soon to be joined by the UK). There is a historical overview of carrier operations for each country, followed by analysis of future intent, a description of the ship classes, and its fixed- and rotary-wing aircraft. Finally, the organisational structure of each navy's likely carrier battle group is presented in tabular and pictorial form. Perhaps understandably, the US Navy and US Marine Corps receives the most attention, and a two-page graphic highlights the disparity between these forces and the rest of the world...between them, they operate twice as many fixed-wing-capable vessels as all other navies combined. This is a well-balanced volume, with plenty of high-quality colour photos (of aircraft, helicopters and ships) complementing the text, although it's more a general reference document than a modeller's guide. **5F**

256 pages

RUNNING THE...

Gloster Gauntlet
By: Alex Crawford
ISBN: 978-83-65281-61-6
Price: £15 Format: 230 x 166mm
Web: www.mmpbooks.biz

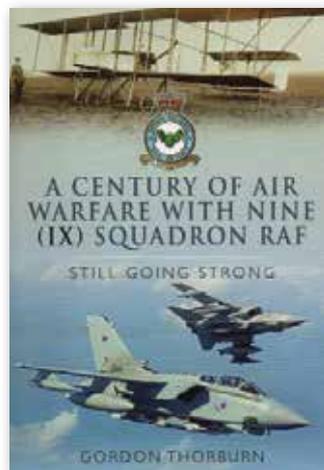
One can trace the origins of Gloster's Gauntlet biplane to 1926 with the issue of Specification F.9/26, which sought a replacement for the then existing Gloster Gamecock and Armstrong Whitworth Siskin. It was to be a protracted affair, with disappointment and 'moving goalposts'...but lessons learned along the way made the Gauntlet what it was and helped to form the same firm's later Gladiator. MMP's softback explains the type's route to market and entry into service, before delving into its employment in Palestine and South Africa, and second-line duties such as work with the Meteorological Flights. Camouflage and Markings, and Foreign Service are two more chapters, and the latter offers airframe lists for Danish and Finnish aircraft. All chapters, though, benefit from



useful period photos showing the whole aircraft and in close-up (walk-rounds of a 'warbird' are included). The line drawings in 1/72 scale are also handy for modellers, as they exemplify the structural differences, while scheme inspiration lies in the 18 colour profiles, with plan views and separate illustrations of upper wing RAF squadron identities. All in all, a good-value guide to an important and handsome aircraft...and ideal for anyone building kits from Aeroclub, AZ Model and others. **CC**

80 pages

GROUND-ATTACK BATS



A Century of Air Warfare with Nine (IX) Squadron, RAF
By: Gordon Thorburn
ISBN: 978-1-78303-634-9
Price: £25 Format: 240mm x 160mm
Web: www.pen-and-sword.co.uk

As the RAF's senior bomber unit, 9 (IX) squadron holds more battle honours than any other... with a history spanning the RFC era through to the jet age. Details of operating ponderous beasts such as the Royal Aircraft

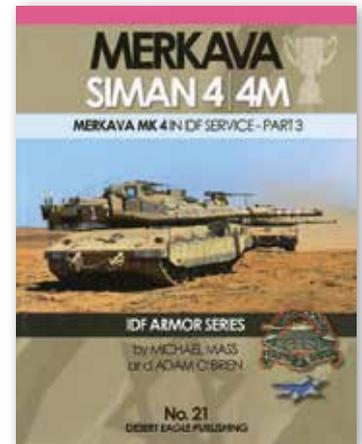
Factory B.E.2, Vickers Virginia and Handley-Page Heyford through to the sleek and powerful Canberra, Vulcan and Tornado are covered comprehensively. This fascinating book recounts the squadron's many firsts, including first to hit the enemy, and first to get into a dogfight. While operating Lancasters armed with 12,000lb Tallboy bombs, the unit was instrumental in sinking *Tirpitz* in November 1944. Many previously unpublished black and white images, which include target zones and maps adorn the pages. Separate chapters cover in-depth and personal accounts from air and groundcrew members, along with several gripping stories of captures, escapes and evasions. Into the modern era, the last chapter deals with Canberra and Vulcan operations, as well as the squadron's involvement in the First Gulf War in 1991, flying the Tornado GR.1. This is an enthralling read for anyone interested in the wide-ranging exploits of what's arguably the RAF's premier ground-attack unit. **AD**

286 pages

DESERT WARRIOR

Merkava 4 in IDF Service Part 3
By: M Mass and A O'Brien
ISBN: 978-965-7700-08-2
Price: £29.50 Format: 279 x 215mm
Web: www.aviationbookcentre.com

Desert Eagle has returned to the Merkava 4, with this its third volume on the type. After the standard introductory section covering the Merkava family of vehicles (including armoured personnel carrier versions), there is a comprehensive explanation of the Trophy active-protection system fitted to Merkava 4Ms. What then follows is manna from heaven for armour modellers, with close-up photographs of the 4/4M variants divided into In Action, General View, Man and Machine, Weapons, Suspension, Insignia, Powerpack Installation, Instructor's Chair and Goo trailer sections. Arguably the latter two are the most intriguing, highlighting little known aspects; namely how tank commanders and crew are tested in the field by their tutors (although the turret-mounted chair looks rather precarious), and the 8-tonne capacity,



single-axle trailer (also used on Merkava 3 and Puma). All photos are in full colour, and the captions supply a wealth of information, at times offering explanations for features as well as describing them in detail. The authors' modelling background shines through, as even the smallest differences between Merkava 4 and 4M are highlighted, making this the perfect reference for any kit of this Israeli main battle tank...notably the recent newly tooled offerings from Hobby Boss and Meng. **5F**

84 pages

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