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*Colin Heaton, Anne-Marie Lewis*  
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**Colin Heaton, Anne-Marie Lewis : The Me 262 Stormbird: From the Pilots Who Flew, Fought, and Survived It** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Me 262 Stormbird: From the Pilots Who Flew, Fought, and Survived It:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. WW II Jet CombatBy stevekratzThis is the most complete chronicle of the history of the Me 262 to date. A very thoroughly researched book which includes aircraft serial numbers as they relate to numerous accidents and shootdowns of operational planes. This level of documentation allowed chroniclers to determine who shot down who and even arrange face to face meetings between some of the former combatants which are truly eye opening. Descriptions of the behind the scenes political dynamics affecting the development and deployment of this revolutionary jet are especially fascinating. The real payoff with this book is the unprecedented glimpse into the daily operational life of elite Luftwaffe jet aces, told in their own words, as they struggled against impossible odds and the loss of so many comrades. This is a must read for WW II buffs who are looking for an authoritative and comprehensive history of the first operational jet fighter. 5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. A good book on a fascinating subjectBy sienThe Me 262 Stormbird: From the Pilots Who Flew, Fought, and Survived It (2012) by Colin Heaton describes the development of the Me 262 and how it was used and how some of the more famous units that flew it fared. The book also has appendices that catalog Me 262 pilots. The Me 262 was a remarkable aircraft, it was the first operation jet fighter and was developed by the Germans during WWII when they were under incredible strain. After the war with far greater resources at their disposal it would take the US and the Soviets five years to build axial flow jets with swept wings like the Me 262. However, the Me 262 was incredibly unreliable with engines that lasted on average 10 hours and flamed out if the throttle was moved in any way but very gently. The Me 262 also had R4M rockets which were remarkably destructive but again, only when they worked. The electrical systems on the plane were also incredibly fragile. In addition while the 262 was almost unbeatable once it was flying comfortably it was also very vulnerable on take off and landing. The 262 was also flown against incredible odds. It was common for 50 to 1 or 100 to 1 to be the ratio of German aircraft to Allied aircraft when it was in service. The book's chapters on development are really interesting and discuss why a number of senior German officials didn't fully support the program. While the Me 262 was an eventual success it wasn't clear it always would have been. The book also discusses what would have happened if the Germans had brought the plane into service a year earlier and in numbers. It could, potentially have halted the Allied bombing campaign and possibly lengthened the war. The possibility that this would have resulted in Atomic Weapons being used against Germany is

not discussed. The chapters of the book on the operational use of the Me 262 are definitely interesting initially but become repetitive. The book also seems to collate information available in other books, however it provides an informative and interesting summary on the Kindle. The book also has a short interesting discussion on how the Allies scoured Germany for pilots and Me 262s after the war in order to strengthen their own militaries. It's a good book on a fascinating subject. It could have done with better editing. There are some really poor sentences in the book. The book is also padded with Me 262 pilot records that would be better just be kept online somewhere. But overall the book is an interesting account of the development of an incredible fighter and its operational history. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. ... German aces that flew this incredible aircraft and its awesome capability. Thank God for Hitler's stupidity that delayed ... By Bobnaumann Fascinating insight of the German aces that flew this incredible aircraft and its awesome capability. Thank God for Hitler's stupidity that delayed the production of this plane until the last year of the war. Had Me262s been available in squadron strength in 1943, we could not carried out the strategic bombing of Germany.

The Me 262 was the first jet-powered aircraft to see regular service in the skies of World War II. This piece of engineering captured the imaginations of aviation enthusiasts of all stripes--from children following the course of World War II at home, to the Allied pilots who flew against it. The story of how the Stormbird came to be is a fascinating one, and it comes to life here in the capable hands of noted historian, Colin Heaton. Although conceived before the war, with the initial plans drawn in April 1939, the Stormbird was beset with technological problems (particularly in the revolutionary engines) and political difficulties, resulting in it not entering combat until August 1944. However, when it took to the skies, it returned with claims of nineteen downed Allied aircraft. The Me 262 outperformed Allied aircraft to such a degree that on September 1, 1944, USAAF General, Carl Spaatz, remarked that if greater numbers of German jets appeared, they could inflict losses heavy enough to force cancellation of the Allied daylight bombing offensive. Told largely in the words of the German aces who flew the aircraft, The Me 262 Stormbird provides the complete history of a truly incredible aircraft from the drawing boards to combat service of the Third Reich. Features two forewords, by Jorg Czypionka, Me 262 night fighter pilot, and Barret Tillman, historian and author.

"hellip;as operational history, the book is both informative and strongly recommended." - Air Power History

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