

TSR2

by **Tim McLelland**

Midland Publishing

128 pages hard cover; RRP \$39.95

Distributed by DLS Australia

Tel: (02) 9587 5044

EAGERLY AWAITED, this book on the BAC TSR.2 ('Britain's Lost Cold War Strike Aircraft') is a comprehensive account of what many regard as symbolic of the start of the final decline of the British aircraft industry at the hands of politicians, specifically the British Labour government of Harold Wilson.

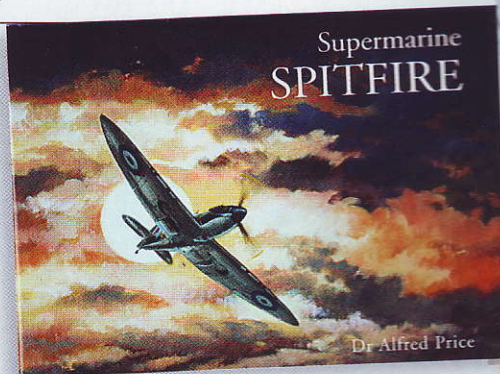
The author covers the whole project from initial concepts through to cancellation after only one aircraft had been flown. It's a fascinating story well told. The author's depth of research is commendable and it's well-written, although the page design with its massively long paragraphs often makes the text seem overly dense and not easy to read. This is not the author's fault, but the designer's.

I like the fact that the author doesn't get overly emotional about the subject as others have. It's not entirely dispassionate, but controlled. The information is presented in a straightforward way and there is a lot of it covering all the political, industrial and technical aspects of the programme.

Supporting the text is what must be just about every photograph of the TSR.2 ever taken. There's also 1/72 scale line drawings and colour profiles including one depicting the official proposed camouflage scheme for production aircraft. The scale drawings make you realise what a large aeroplane it was – 20 feet (6.1m) longer than a Lancaster!

One chapter is devoted to attempts to sell the TSR.2 to Australia and this makes for interesting reading. So are the parts covering Lord Louis Mountbatten, who took it upon himself to try to scuttle the project from the start and did it a great deal of damage in the process.

This is a welcome addition to my library.



ZERO HOUR IN BROOME

by **Dr Tom Lewis and Peter Ingman**

Avonmore Books

Tel: (08) 8431 9780

www.avonmorebooks.com.au

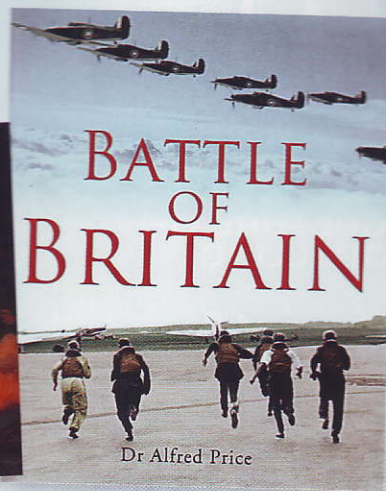
184 pages soft cover; RRP \$44.95

MOST OF US ARE AWARE of the Japanese raids over a wide area of Australia's top end during WWII, starting with the devastating attack on Darwin on 19 February, the first of many. What has often been overlooked is the attacks on Broome on the north-west coast of Western Australia, and this self-published book sets out to set the story straight.

Sub-titled 'the untold story of the attacks on north-west Australia in 1942', the authors say this is the first proper and full account of the events at Broome, noting that they "have not been analysed since the Australian Official History of World War II. Following intensive research, the book debunks myths and inaccuracies propagated by the Official History."

This could indicate a book full of conspiracy theories, but it's not. The depth of research is very substantial and the facts as they are presented entirely believable and supported. The detail incorporated is considerable and makes for a very interesting account of a significant part of Australia's war history.

The book is nicely produced and has the expected array of photographs, maps, tables and appendices to support the main text. There's also colour profiles of aircraft and ships involved and information on them. This is an important addition to the story of Australia in WWII.



SUPERMARINE SPITFIRE

by **Dr Alfred Price**

Classic Publications

128 pages hard cover; RRP \$39.95

BATTLE OF BRITAIN

by **Dr Alfred Price**

Midland Publishing

144 pages hardcover; RRP \$39.95

Both distributed by DLS Australia

Tel: (02) 9587 5044

IT'S SPITFIRE and Battle of Britain book publishing season! Whenever a significant anniversary comes around for either of them, so does a swathe of new books. In the case of the Battle it's the recent 70th anniversary and with the Spitfire it's the 75th birthday coming in March.

A quick look at my bookshelf revealed no fewer than 36 Spitfire books – including three of my own and five others by Dr Price. And that's not counting technical publications, pilot's notes and lots of other stuff. It seems we have an insatiable appetite for Spitfires whether it be real ones, models, books or DVDs. The demand will always be there.

So what does this one offer? If you're a diehard Spitfire book collector, probably not much that's new in terms of information, but the information presented is useful and comprehensive. Lots of 'breakout boxes' and tables help create a good overall Spitfire history within the book's 14 chapters and three appendices.

The landscape format encourages the use of large photographs of which there are many, supported by some colour profiles.

The Battle of Britain book has also seen much of its material appear before but again, this package is well researched and well written. If you're planning to acquire just one book on the subject, this will do nicely.

Divided into phases of the Battle, the text is supported by maps, diagrams, breakouts on people and equipment, and insights from some who took part on both sides. There is an excellent selection of photographs and appendices cover a number of subjects to round out the story. It's a good, solid work – as you'd expect from Alfred Price.