



# Above and Beyond: The Canadians' War in the Air, 1939-45

*Spencer Dunmore*

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From the first skirmishes over Europe in September 1939, Canadian airmen served in almost every theatre of the Second World War, from bases in Britain and Europe, North Africa, and Southeast Asia. And in the months and years that followed, with the slaughter mounting in hostile skies around the globe, the contribution of Canadian pilots, navigators, gunners, air bombers, and flight engineers grew out of all proportion to their country's population.

In the early days of the conflict, great numbers of Canadians served in units of Britain's RAF and Fleet Air Arm. As the war progressed, however, the Royal Canadian Air Force came into its own, and by Germany's surrender, forty-eight RCAF squadrons were overseas, almost completely manned by Canadian officers and men.

Among the Canadians were Johnny Fauquier and Reg Lane, Canada's leading bomber pilots; Stan Turner, perhaps the country's greatest fighter leader; Len Birchall, the gallant "Saviour of Ceylon"; the redoubtable ace Buzz Beurling; the great naval hero Hammy Gray; Roly Dibnah, Bert Houle, and many others.

These brash young men from the Empire's senior dominion had little time for ceremony and tradition. Countless British officers considered them dangerously independent and lacking in respect for rank. But in the air, where it counted, the Canadians more than proved their worth.

Combining first person accounts of the action and his own vivid prose, Dunmore captures the high drama and gut-churning tension of dogfights and bomber raids, charts the victories and defeats of the armies and navies below, and recreates the mood abroad in wartime as the world watched the drama unfold.

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#### **Betty Dansby:**

Above and Beyond: The Canadians' War in the Air, 1939-45 can be one of your basic books that are good idea. Most of us recommend that straight away because this guide has good vocabulary that may increase your knowledge in language, easy to understand, bit entertaining but still delivering the information. The writer giving his/her effort that will put every word into pleasure arrangement in writing Above and Beyond: The Canadians' War in the Air, 1939-45 however doesn't forget the main stage, giving the reader the hottest and also based confirm resource details that maybe you can be one of it. This great information may drawn

you into completely new stage of crucial pondering.

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