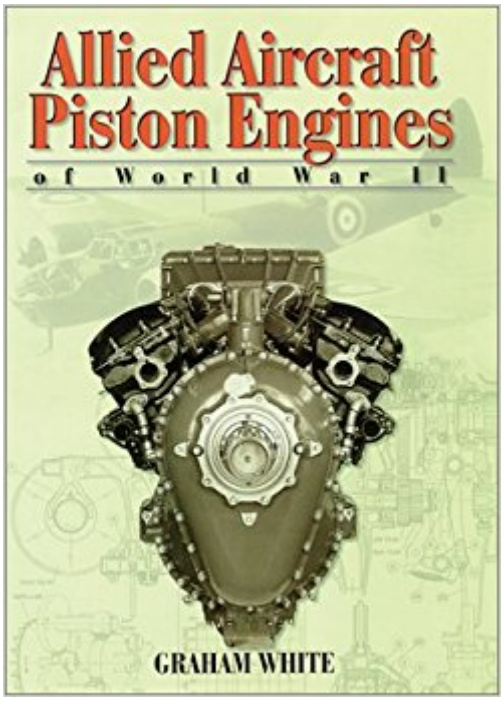
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Allied Aircraft Piston Engines Of World War II: History And Development Of Frontline Aircraft Piston Engines Produced By Great Britain And The United (Premiere Series Books)



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Synopsis

Illuminates some of the historically significant technical developments that were incorporated into World War II aircraft engines that directly contributed to the execution and tactics of the war. Engines detailed in the book include those from these manufacturers: Rolls-Royce; Bristol, Napier; General Electric; Pratt and Whitney; Allison; and Wright Aeronautical Corporation.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Definitive books on the subject seem to appear about once in a generation. This is one of those." -- SpaceNews"Everything you need to know about the aero-engines that won the war between the covers of one volume." -- Rolls-Royce Heritage Trust"Provides a fascinating look at the development of all the great aircraft piston engines." -- Air Fan International

Though born in England, Graham White has spent most of his life in the USA. A mechanical engineer by profession, White now negotiates and writes contracts for IBM. White has had a lifelong interest in aviation and its history, and in particular, the piston engines of World War II. He has collected and restored several of these engines to exhibition condition and working order in his own workshops. He is also an avid collector of the classics of engineering and aviation literature, and an active member of the Society of Automotive Engineers.

I purchased this used and it arrived promptly and in good condition. An excellent resource if you are a fan of this sort of thing but while well written it wouldn't be considered a "page turner". Fairly narrow in scope with major focus on the RR Merlin and Pratt and Whitney R2800 and selected others. Written for a layman with some prior knowledge on the topic. I found it to be well worth the investment of time and money.

The title of the book says it all. This is a richly detailed book describing the development and internal workings of the Allied aircraft piston engines of World War II. It was not written for the novice - an underlying understanding of how internal combustion engines work is required, as well as some historical background on the aircraft the engines were used in. With this in mind, the book serves as a rich dessert for anyone interested in either piston engines or World War II military aircraft. Besides the fine technological details and engineering drawings, the book goes into the details of how the mating of certain engines with certain airframes resulted in aircraft with a certain look or performance (or, sometimes, underperformance). For example, the P-38's did not do as well in Europe as they did in the Pacific, mainly because of the Army's insistence on keeping the Allison engine with its troublesome turbosupercharger instead of switching to the Merlin engine. The Army's obsession with the turbosupercharger also resulted in the oversized P-47. The P-51 happened almost by accident - it was the result of a private design by North American and a field modification by the RAF - mating a perfect airframe with the better Merlin engine. Although it was eventually ordered by the thousands by the US Army Air Force, it was never written into any official specs.I would have liked to have seen a companion section (however brief) on German and Japanese aircraft engines as well.

Oh yes, this was good! It covered many areas, collates information from all the usual sources plus some truly insightful comments. If you have been wading through all the standard efforts, they tend to be a little one-sided. This effort covers most of the major players and gives a fair evaluation of each. I suppose the thing I'd really have wished for would be more on the personalities. Still, a definitely valuable addition to the bookshelf!

The technical acheivments in piston engines during WWII tend to get forgotten. The car industry slowly caught up with this stuff over the next 40 years or so.It covers all the important engines and types with lots of details on design etc. I went on a kick reading about Harry Ricardo after this book, he seems to be an unsung technical driver of much early 20th century engine design.

While there are hundreds if not thousands of books devoted to World War II military aviation, only a handful cover with any detail the critically important aspect of aero engine development. This is one of the few books available on this topic and Graham White generally does a good job covering in detail the principal (as well as obscure) British and American aircraft engines. White begins his book by describing some of the challenges faced by aircraft piston engine designers before diving headlong into the specific histories and technical aspects of key British and American engines. His descriptions of each engine are highly technical and he displays his talents as an engineer and mechanic in terms of his detailed description of engine parts and systems. White also brings us back to the bigger picture with vivid descriptions of the personalities who played a role in the design and manufacture of each engine as well as descriptions of the aircraft that used them.White admits that by only covering British and American (as opposed to Axis) engines he is only telling "half" of the aircraft engine story, and one hopes that White chooses to take up the challenge of telling this other half in a future second book. In the meantime, some areas where White's book falls short include a much-needed glossary explaining the terminology he uses for those aviation buffs and historians not steeped in the field of engineering or engine mechanics. Furthermore in some cases White's descriptions of World War II aircraft can be found in sources elsewhere or are simply inaccurate-he should have stuck with what he knows well by focusing on the technical aspects of how each engine related to a particular aircraft rather than waste space discussing each aircraft's development and operational histories. Finally White's conclusion-a tirade against 21st century corporate capitalism-is too opinionated and frankly out of place in a work of this nature.Despite these small flaws White's book remains one of the few available authoritative sources on the topic of aircraft piston engines, and is an important acquisition for anyone interested in World War II military aviation.

Graham White is the resident authority on all things piston. A very interesting read.

I loved this book. But it's not for layman. Very dense and detailed. The book tells some history of the applications of the engines, wich is very interesting.

A good book for aviation history buffs. I use it as a reference for museum visitors.

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