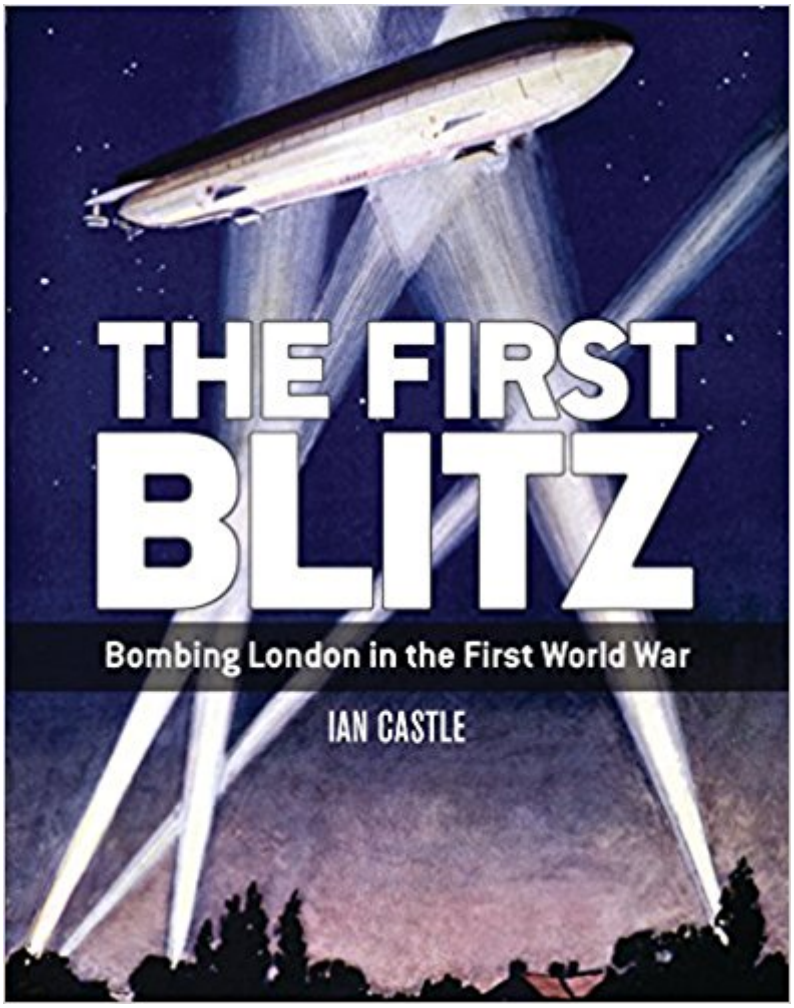
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The First Blitz: Bombing London In The First World War (General Military)



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Synopsis

This book tells the story of Germany’s strategic air offensive against Britain, and how it came to be neutralized. The first Zeppelin attack on London came in May 1915 - and with it came the birth of a new arena of warfare, the ’home front’. German airships attempted to raid London on 26 separate occasions between May 1915 and October 1917, but only reached the capital and bombed successfully on nine occasions. From May 1917 onwards, this theatre of war entered a new phase as German Gotha bombers set out to attack London in the first bomber raid. London’s defences were again overhauled to face this new threat, providing the basis for Britain’s defence during World War II.This comprehensive volume tells the story of the first aerial campaign in history, as the famed Zeppelins, and then the Gotha and the massive Staaken ’Giant’ bombers waged war against the civilian population of London in the first ever ’Blitz’.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Ian Castle has lived in London all his life and balances writing with work in the advertising industry. He has been writing for Osprey for over 15 years. Ian regularly lectures at the National Army Museum in London and is a member of the Airship Heritage Trust.

I’m an aviation history buff; I found it difficult to find thoroughly researched books on the subjects of blimps, dirigibles and zeppelins. Finally, here in a single volume, is a concise history of these "lighter-than-air" flying machines. The book concentrates on the blitz by Nazi Germany, especially

over London, during World War I, but provides a delicious and savory evolution of these cigar-shaped machines and the purposes for which they were used. Excellent reading! Entertaining! If you’re an aviation history aficionado, you’ll thoroughly enjoy this book.

Pleased with product and satisfied with service.

Tough to contemplate.

Interesting and well written.

Ian CastleÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s The First Blitz tells the story of the Zeppelin, Gotha, and Giant air raids on London in World War One. It is one of the best overviews of the topic in print. Over the last century, the air raids on Britain have been the subject of many histories, some of them also excellent ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ books by Joseph Morris (1925), Douglas Robinson (1962), Ray Fredette (1966), and Christopher Cole & E.F. Cheesman (1984) come to mind. Many of these have concentrated on one aspect of this air campaign like the Zeppelins or the Gothas or the air defense efforts. Ian Castle takes a middle-of-the-road approach, devoting a fair amount of attention to the raidsÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ effects on the populace of London but also covering well all the other aspects of the topic.The graphics transform this book from quite good to exceptional. Castle not only tells the story well, he displays a talent for organizing information in a very understandable way and graphics of all types are his best tool. The maps are beautiful and very helpful in guiding the reader to a deep understanding of the individual bombing raids. This reviewer has walked the route taken by Heinrich MathyÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s Zeppelin L13 on its devastating September 1915 raid and visited a number of other sites described in the text. The combination of CastleÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s descriptions, the maps, and Christa HookÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s paintings get the reader quite close to the experience of being on the sites themselves. The author is as adept at zeroing in on fine details about individual raids as he is at describing national-level politics or strategic military decisions that ultimately affected the character of the raids or the air defense.Ian Castle explains in the acknowledgements that Osprey has reprinted and updated two of his earlier works to create this single volume. If you already own both London 1914-17: The Zeppelin Menace and London 1917-18: The Bomber Blitz, you wonÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t find much here that is new. If you have neither or only one of them, however, this book is well worth reading. The use of footnotes would have improved this history, but that is a small complaint when stacked against everything else about

this work that is exceptional.Steve SuddabyThe reviewer is a past president of the World War One Historical Association (WW1HA). This review was originally written for the WW1HA magazine, "World War One Illustrated".

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