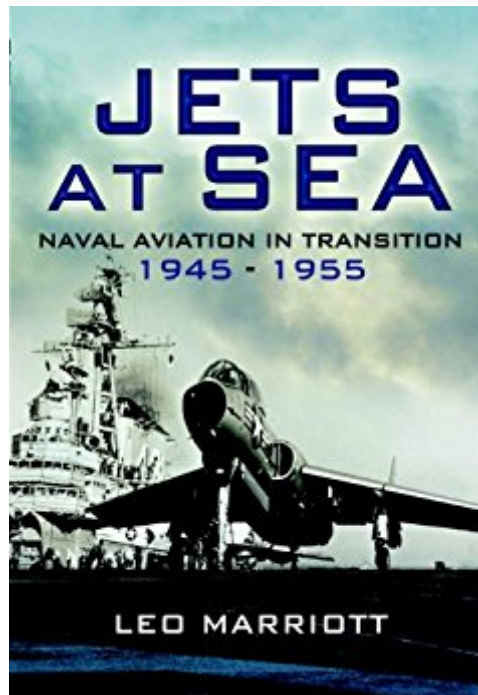




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Jets At Sea: Naval Aviation In Transition 1945 - 55



Synopsis

As World War Two drew to a close, jet-powered aircraft were beginning to be introduced into service. To take advantage of this major development it was necessary for all the world's air powers to rethink combat tactics and develop the means of handling these faster and generally larger aircraft in the air, on land and especially at sea. As this modern breed approached and finally broke the sound barrier, so did landing and takeoff speeds. The decade after the war saw rapid developments in the design of both naval aircraft and their seaborne bases – the aircraft carrier. The first jet to land aboard a carrier was a modified de Havilland Vampire in 1945 on H.M.S. Ocean. Progress was rapid and the application of British inventions such as the angled flight-deck, steam catapult and mirror landing sight soon became adopted by the major navies of the world. Naval aircraft too became more sophisticated by the addition of high-lift flap systems and strengthened undercarriages to allow them to operate more safely at sea. The author describes the development of these improvements and then their operational advantages in the Korean War and Suez. He goes on to describe the US development of a potential nuclear carrier-borne bomber, the French Navy and its withdrawal from Vietnam in 1954 and then the use of naval aircraft for anti-submarine work.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

There's lots of good information in this book about a very critical period in the development of sea based airpower and the author clearly knows of what he writes. An additional point in the book's favour is that it is not limited to developments in the U.S. Navy; the Royal Navy is also covered and this is quite appropriate as many of the features on aircraft carriers of the post World War Two period were developed by the British and adapted to American ships. What keeps me from giving this book a full five stars is in the structure and layout. There were places that editing could have been a bit tighter as evidenced by the frequency with which the author indicated a detail was "Outside the scope of this book". Most of the photos were clumped together at the ends of chapters which made it a bit challenging to see their relevance when there was a larger gap between them and the text relating to them.

The only thing negative I can write about this book is: Mr Marriott needs to write another book on the years from 1956 to 1965 and another from 1965 to 1975. He hasn't left any details out on the British not American Navies. I personally like this book because it shows something that hasn't been done written before.

Most books on naval aviation that I have read has been from the US Navy perspective. The author of this book includes developments by other nations, particularly the British, An informative and interesting book.

Concise history of the post WW2 period Naval aircraft and associated technologies (Canted Deck, Steam Cats, Mirror Landing Aids). Includes an interesting description of the "flexible" flight deck and, inter alia, the role played by Winkle Brown.

This a good comprehensive history of US and Royal Navy aviation. I liked it even if it skipped around a lot.

Excelent book. Lots of information. I recommend.

An encyclopedia of navy jets, mostly British.

Havent read it as yet.

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