

SPLASH ONE: THE STORY OF JET COMBAT

(Ivan Rendall)

Aggression, hunting and killing make up the function of a jet fighter, according to author Ivan Rendall, whose book, *Splash One*, sets out to tell the story of aerial combat in the jet age – from global confrontation at the start of the Cold War to policing the skies over Iraq and Bosnia. Using interviews (many previously unseen) and declassified combat reports, Rendall is able to convey detailed descriptions of fighting, both in and from the air, from the men who participated in some of the classic battles for air superiority in the last 50 years.

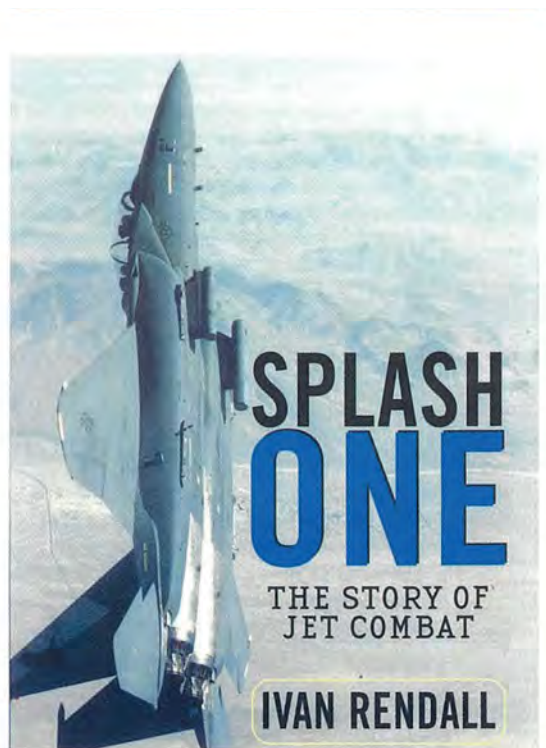
As well as analysing more than half a century of technical developments in the fighter itself and its weapons systems and electronics, he also traces the evolution of aerial combat doctrine and tactics perfected in battles in world-wide theatres.

Ranging from the Korean war to Vietnam, from the Six-Day War to the Yom Kippur War and, later, the Gulf, the book traces the salutary lessons which led to the establishment of the legendary 'Top Guns' school of air combat. Turning to the future, Rendall, who served in the RAF, speculates on the possible new generation of fighter systems and pilots which might be expected to respond to the challenges of the next century. Will the traditional heroic fighter pilot we have come to know be replaced by robot warrior, microcircuits and "smart weapons," he ponders.

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