

THE SPITFIRE STORY

Alfred Price

The Supermarine Type 300, a light single-seater fighter armed with eight machine guns and powered by a Rolls-Royce PV XII Merlin engine, made its first flight from Eastleigh, Southampton on 5th March 1936. Registered K 5054, it took off into clear skies and flew for 20 minutes. The flight was a success.

Three months later the contract was signed for the first 310 aircraft – the Spitfire had arrived. By the time production ended in February 1948 some 20,400 aircraft had been built, in 22 different versions, and the Mark 24 was one of the finest piston-engined interceptor fighters in the world.

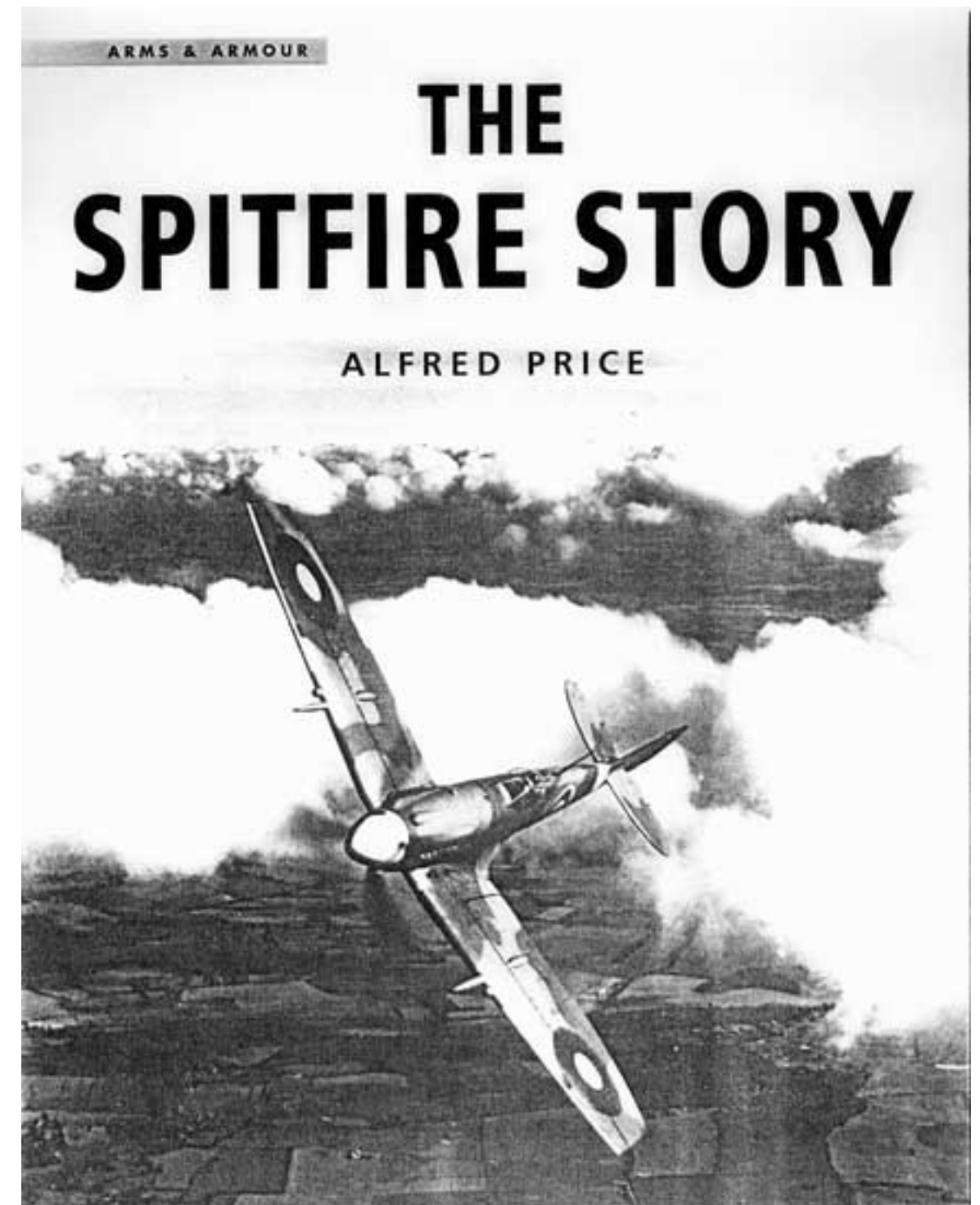
In *The Spitfire Story* aviation historian Alfred Price traces the life of the aircraft that became, and remains today, an international legend, from the original concept of design genius Reginald Mitchell to that first flight and on through 12 years of continuous development. Now a classic of aviation history, this book is the result of many years of original research. Alfred Price had the help of many people directly engaged in the design, production and testing of the Spitfire, in particular of Jeffrey Quill, the former Chief Test Pilot for Supermarine.

With over 350 photographs, line and colour artworks and extensive appendices, *The Spitfire Story* is a fitting tribute to the aircraft that more than any other represents the defiant spirit of victory in the Battle of Britain.

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