

(Download free ebook) Courage Alone: The Italian Airforce 1940-1943

## Courage Alone: The Italian Airforce 1940-1943

*Chris Dunning*

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**Chris Dunning : Courage Alone: The Italian Airforce 1940-1943** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Courage Alone: The Italian Airforce 1940-1943*:

23 of 23 people found the following review helpful. Worth the WaitBy History BuffDue to publishing delays my book arrived 6 months after the order was placed so I wondered if this book was worth the wait? I had previously read reviews on the "out of print" version of this book. This 2009 version of the book was updated and now has 360 pages. Here are some of the items included in the book: #1 Over 150 pages covering the various unit histories within the Italian Air Force. #2 Eleven pages of maps showing airfields used by the Regia Aeronautica including Italy, North Africa, East Africa, Russia, Europe and the Balkans. #3 Squadron allocations are covered in eight pages. #4 Thirteen pages showing Orders of Battle. #5 Aircraft specifications and camouflage/markings are discussed and there are many

color side profiles of aircraft used by the Italian Air Force.#6 One page showing color unit badges.#7 Excerpts from Italian aircraft manuals.#8 Tables listing Italian Aces and Allied shipping casualties (damaged and sunk).#9 Interesting sections on "Why the Regia Aeronautica Lost" and "The Carrier Aquila".The book was worth the wait and provides much information on a very scarce subject.7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Outstanding reference source for the Regia AeronauticaBy WryGuy2"Courage Alone: The Italian Air Force 1940-1943", by Chris Dunning, covers the Regia Aeronautica (the Italian Air Force, or RA) from when Italy declared war in June 1940 to its surrender to the Allies in September 1943.Before describing what this book is, let me first say what it is not. It is not a description of the combat and operational history of the RA in its many campaigns during that time frame, except in an indirect way. Do not buy this if that's what you're looking for. What you get when you buy this book is a detailed individual history of all of the RA gruppi (aircraft formations of typically 18 to 24 aircraft) and independent Squadriglia (aircraft formations of typically 9 to 12 aircraft), analysis on the RA command structure, impressive maps of bases and locations in all the theatres the IAF was involved, and orders of battle. You also will find individual chapters on aircrew, individual fighter aces, brief details of all of aircraft types used by the RA, equipment, markings, camouflage, rare pictures (many in color), and an analysis of why the RA lost, among others.Again, this book is not for the casual reader looking for an entertaining tale about IAF operations over Great Britain or the Soviet Union. Its for the modeler, author, serious historian, or World War II buff looking to learn about the nuts and bolts of the IAF. To that audience, this book is pure gold, as very little has been written about the IAF, particularly at this detailed of a level. The production quality of this book is quite high, and it's obviously a labor of love for the author.Highly recommended.6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. A Monumental WorkBy Raphael A. RiccioThis book represents a monumental effort by Dunning to chronicle the story of the Regia Aeronautica during the war. It is extremely well organized, overwhelming with information, and impressively documented with photographs and color plates. My only criticism is that I would have liked to have seen the subject covered in a chronological order by theater, rather than unit by unit in numerical order, but that's a personal preference and does not detract from the validity of the book. As other reviewers have stated, this book more than adequately fills a void in coverage of the Regia Aeronautica. I'm not sure that the book puts the achievements of Italian pilots in the context I had expected, or to the extent that I had thought it might. Be that as it may, this book is an indispensable English language reference on the Regia Aeronautica, and is more than reasonably priced for the size and quality of the book, and the treasure trove of information it presents.

Derided by Allied propaganda which made it out to be an air force equipped solely with elderly biplanes, ineffective in attack or always in retreat, the Regia Aeronautica was overshadowed by its more ruthless Axis partner, the Luftwaffe. Using research from a mass of original documentation, including personal accounts and combat diaries, the author takes an objective view and shows that the men who flew the Macchis, Fiats, and Savoias were no less skilled or determined than their opponents. The book discusses area commands, theaters, squadron allocations, anti-shipping operations, aircrew, and details of the top fighter aces. Comprehensive tables provide information on aircraft equipment, squadron allocation, and unit histories. With drawings from original aircraft handbooks, almost 250 photographs, more than 100 color profiles, and unit badges, *Courage Alone* provides a detailed reference source for historians, modelers, and enthusiasts alike.

"In fact, this revised and updated edition is probably the most comprehensive book on the subject yet written. It makes this an outstanding reference for both the historian and for the modeler. It is a book that I thoroughly enjoyed reading and browsing through and I'm sure that you will agree. Highly recommended." -Modeling Madness, reviewed by Scott Van Aken, November 2009 (Modeling Madness 2009-11-01)"Overall, an excellent book, on that should find its way on to your shelf, especially if you are interested in the Mediterranean theatre of operations or specifically the Regia Aeronautica. Highly recommended." -IPMS, reviewed by Chris Durden, December 2009 (IPMS 2009-12-01)About the AuthorChris Dunning has spent twelve years researching original wartime documents, unit war diaries, and personal accounts to produce a comprehensive and dispassionate history of the Regia Aeronautica.