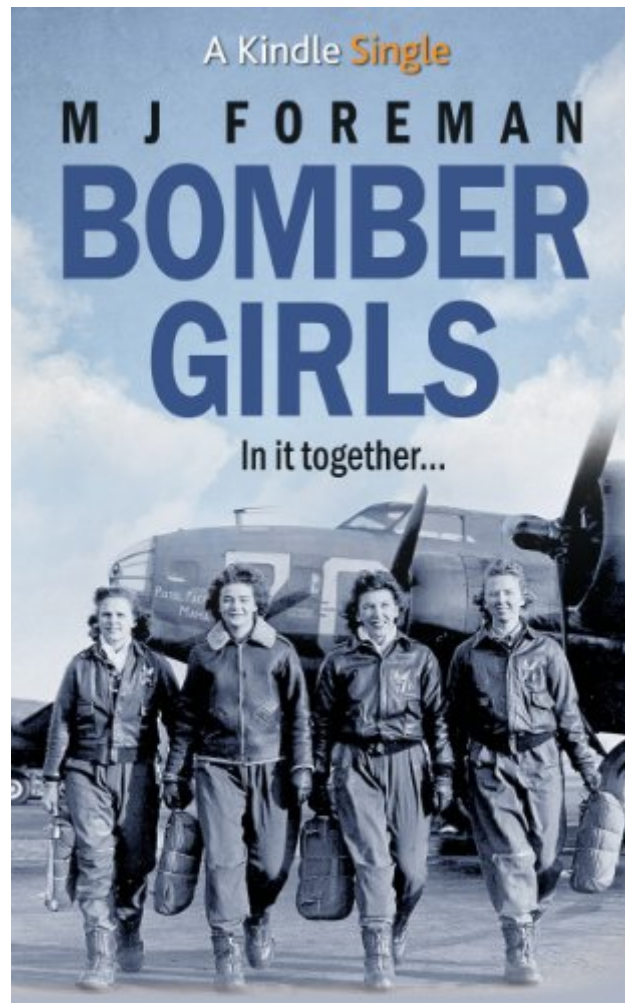




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Bomber Girls (Kindle Single)



Synopsis

Their finest hour – In 1939, with Britain fighting for its life against Nazi Germany, the Air Transport Auxiliary was formed to back up the Royal Air Force. All of its pilots were men. But by 1940, after Fighter Command lost hundreds of pilots during the Battle of Britain, Winston Churchill realised the recruitment pool needed to be widened. In stepped ATA Senior Commander Pauline Gower, who had been a famous flier before the war. When Gower and ATA founder Gerard Poppe Erlanger discussed the idea of women flying in the ATA she answered the question ‘why women?’ with ‘why not?’ These women pilots were to become the Bomber Girls. By the end of the War, 166 extraordinarily brave young women learned to laugh off morale-crushing socio-political taboos in a bid to help Britain in its hour of need. Among them was the world-famous aviatrix and socialite Amy Johnson who, in 1930 had made a pioneering solo flight, from Britain to Australia. But most were ordinary girls, who nonetheless counted themselves the equal of any man, and were willing to face death to defeat the enemy. Unlike the male pilots, they had none of the firepower to defend themselves against enemy attack; neither had they been taught any specific manoeuvres that might save their lives if they were shot at. Their orders from the commanders at the ATA ferry pools were simple and straightforward: stay on course, try not to fly above 800 feet in bad weather, and don’t try anything fancy. But their fight was not just against the Nazis. It was also against the male establishment of the Armed Forces. Thanks to the political guile of Miss Gower they were the first collective of women to earn the same salary as their male colleagues doing the same job. Even so, it was only in 2008 that women of the ATA were rewarded with medals for their outstanding work and heroism during the war years. Bomber Girls is the inspiring account of the achievements of those 166 women during the Second World War, not only in defending their country, but in breaking new ground for women’s rights. Based on exclusive interviews with the veterans of those harrowing years, it is a brilliantly told story of the War’s heroines. M J Foreman is a journalist, writer and editor with a varied experience in newspapers, broadcasting, and communications. Her books include *So You Think You Know Canterbury?* and *Kent Revisited*.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Nice essay on another forgotten piece of World War II history: the women pilots who kept British airfields supplied with every type of plane they needed to fight the war. Foreman goes into the women's personalities, backgrounds, training, and how they dealt with misogyny and the work they did. Very enlightening, and with a bibliography in case readers want to know more-- and I do.

I loved this book. It is amazing to find out about so many women of several countries that played an integral role in the WWII air theatre. We heard about so many other heroic acts and this seems to have been forgotten.

A delightful book about some great people. A good recording of yet another "behind the scenes" effort to defeat tyranny. This documented story gives us but another proof that women have the right stuff and can do anything society might ask for. And make us all smile in the process.

Was a good book reading about the brave women who wanted to fly planes during the war. I am not for iliac with the different names of air planes so that was confusing

This book just didn't grab me. It felt that it was written at the level of a research paper. The title of each paragraph suggest good things to come, but you are then let down with the content that fails to

really to engage with the reader. The anecdotes provided within seem to just touch the surface and offer more, but never deliver.

This book offers a look at the life of the women in the ATA. Fairing Aircraft for the British Air Force around England in time of WWII. It also lead to the advancement of women in the Modern Air Force to fly Fighter Jets.As the same with the WASPS of the Untied States...

Giving credit where credit is due. That is what this book does and does very well. These women of Britain and their counterparts in the U.S. and other countries deserver more credit than they were given at the time.

Bomber Girls was an ok historical read. It repeated information several times, enough to be annoying. Good look at the women who flew during WWII. I give it three stars, not as good as I had hoped, a short read.

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