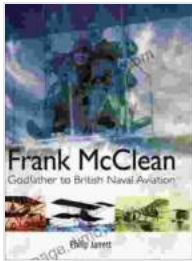


# Frank McClean: The Godfather of British Naval Aviation



## Frank McClean: Godfather to British Naval Aviation

by Philip Jarrett

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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Frank McClean was a British naval officer who played a pivotal role in the development of naval aviation in the early 20th century. He was instrumental in the development of the first aircraft carriers and seaplanes, and his leadership helped to establish the Royal Navy as a global leader in naval aviation.

McClean was born in 1879 in Scotland. He entered the Royal Navy in 1897 and served in a variety of ships before becoming a specialist in torpedo warfare. In 1910, he was assigned to the Admiralty as a staff officer responsible for naval aviation. At the time, the Royal Navy was only just beginning to experiment with aircraft, but McClean quickly recognized their potential for naval warfare.

McClellan was a strong advocate for the development of aircraft carriers. He argued that aircraft carriers would allow the Royal Navy to project air power far beyond the range of land-based aircraft. He also played a key role in the development of the first seaplanes, which could be launched from and landed on ships. In 1914, McClellan was appointed commander of the Royal Naval Air Service, the forerunner of the Fleet Air Arm. Under his leadership, the RNAS rapidly expanded and played a vital role in the First World War.

After the war, McClellan continued to serve in the Royal Navy, holding a number of senior positions. He retired in 1935, but continued to be active in naval aviation. He died in 1959.

Frank McClellan was a visionary leader who played a major role in the development of naval aviation. His legacy lives on in the Royal Navy's Fleet Air Arm, which is one of the world's most capable naval air forces.

## **The Development of Aircraft Carriers**

The development of aircraft carriers was a major technological breakthrough that revolutionized naval warfare. Aircraft carriers allow navies to project air power far beyond the range of land-based aircraft. This gives navies the ability to strike targets inland and to control the seas around them.

The first aircraft carrier was the HMS Furious, which was converted from a battlecruiser in 1917. The Furious was not a very successful ship, but it proved the concept of aircraft carriers. In 1922, the Royal Navy launched the HMS Hermes, the first purpose-built aircraft carrier. The Hermes was a much more successful ship than the Furious, and it helped to establish the Royal Navy as a leader in the development of aircraft carriers.

In the years leading up to the Second World War, the Royal Navy continued to develop and build aircraft carriers. By the outbreak of the war, the Royal Navy had the largest and most powerful aircraft carrier fleet in the world. Aircraft carriers played a vital role in the Royal Navy's victory in the Second World War. They were used to strike targets in Germany, Italy, and Japan. They also played a key role in the Battle of the Atlantic, where they helped to defeat the German U-boat threat.

Today, aircraft carriers are an essential part of the Royal Navy. They are used to provide air support for troops on land and to protect the seas around the United Kingdom. The Royal Navy's aircraft carriers are among the most advanced in the world, and they play a vital role in maintaining the United Kingdom's global security.

## **The Development of Seaplanes**

Seaplanes are aircraft that can take off from and land on water. They were first developed in the early 20th century, and they played a vital role in the development of naval aviation. Seaplanes could be used to scout for enemy ships, to attack enemy targets, and to perform search and rescue operations.

The first seaplanes were very simple aircraft. They were typically small and had a limited range. However, as technology improved, seaplanes became more sophisticated and capable. In the 1930s, the Royal Navy developed the Supermarine Walrus, a seaplane that was used extensively in the Second World War. The Walrus was a versatile aircraft that could be used for a variety of roles, including reconnaissance, anti-submarine warfare, and air-sea rescue.

Seaplanes continued to be used by the Royal Navy after the Second World War. However, they were gradually replaced by helicopters, which are more versatile and capable. Today, seaplanes are still used by some navies around the world, but they are no longer as common as they once were.

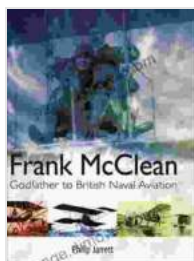
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If you are interested in learning more about Frank McClean and his role in the development of naval aviation, I recommend reading the following books:

- Frank McClean: The Godfather of British Naval Aviation by David Hobbs
- The Royal Navy and Air Power, 1914-1945 by Derek Wood
- British Naval Aviation: The First 100 Years by Sturton

**\*\*Relevant\*\***: Frank McClean, British naval officer, Godfather of British Naval Aviation, development of aircraft carriers, development of seaplanes, Royal Navy

**\*\*SEO title\*\***: Frank McClean: The Godfather of British Naval Aviation



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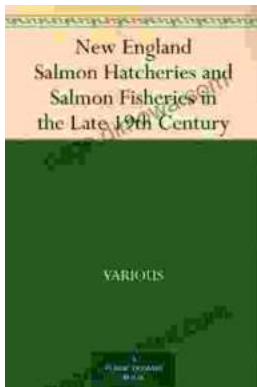
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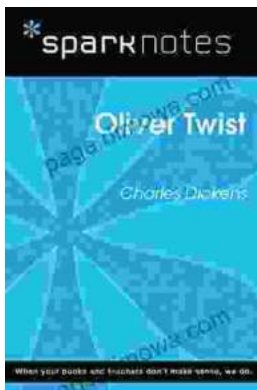
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