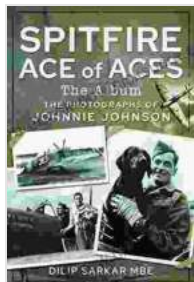


# The Legendary Spitfire Ace of Aces: A Detailed Look into the Life of Douglas Bader



## Spitfire Ace of Aces: The Album: The Photographs of Johnnie Johnson

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 44579 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 225 pages





Douglas Bader was born on February 21, 1910, in St. John's Wood, London. He was the son of Frederick and Jessie Bader. His father was a successful businessman, and his mother was a nurse. Bader had two older sisters, Phyllis and Joyce.

Bader attended Radley College, a boarding school in Oxfordshire. He was a good student and a talented athlete. He played cricket, rugby, and hockey. He also enjoyed swimming and flying.

In 1928, Bader joined the Royal Air Force. He was assigned to No. 23 Squadron, a fighter squadron based at RAF Kenley in Surrey. Bader quickly proved to be a skilled pilot. He was fearless and aggressive in

combat. He shot down his first enemy aircraft, a Heinkel He 111 bomber, in December 1939.

On August 9, 1940, Bader was shot down over Kent. He was forced to bail out of his Spitfire, but his parachute failed to open. He landed heavily on the ground and suffered severe injuries to both legs. Both legs were later amputated below the knee.

### **Overcoming Adversity**

Despite losing both legs, Bader was determined to continue flying. He fitted himself with artificial legs and returned to the RAF. He was assigned to No. 616 Squadron, a fighter squadron based at RAF Tangmere in Sussex.

Bader quickly proved that he was still a formidable pilot. He shot down 22 enemy aircraft during the war, making him one of the most decorated fighter pilots in the RAF. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Order (DSO) and the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) with Bar.

Bader's courage and determination inspired his fellow pilots. He became a symbol of hope and resilience for the British people during the war.

### **Post-War Accomplishments**

After the war, Bader continued to serve in the RAF. He held various staff positions and commanded No. 616 Squadron for a second time. He retired from the RAF in 1969 with the rank of Group Captain.

After retiring from the RAF, Bader became a motivational speaker. He spoke to audiences around the world about his experiences and how he

overcame adversity. He also wrote several books, including his autobiography, *Reach for the Sky*.

Bader died on September 5, 1982, at the age of 72. He is buried in the churchyard of St. Martin's Church in Stanford in the Vale, Oxfordshire.

## **A Legacy of Inspiration**

Douglas Bader was a true British hero. He was a courageous and determined fighter pilot who overcame adversity to achieve great things. His story is an inspiration to us all.

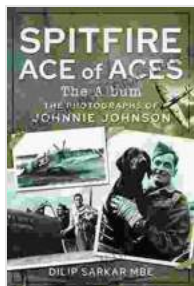
Bader's legacy lives on today. The Bader Foundation, which he founded in 1983, provides support to disabled people around the world. The Douglas Bader Trust, which was set up in 2010, works to preserve Bader's legacy and inspire future generations.

Douglas Bader was a remarkable man who lived an extraordinary life. He is a true role model for us all.

## **Timeline of Douglas Bader's Life**

- **1910:** Born in London
- **1928:** Joins the Royal Air Force
- **1939:** Shoots down his first enemy aircraft
- **1940:** Shot down over Kent and loses both legs
- **1941:** Returns to the RAF and shoots down 22 enemy aircraft
- **1945:** Retires from the RAF
- **1969:** Retires from the RAF with the rank of Group Captain

- **1982:** Dies at the age of 72



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