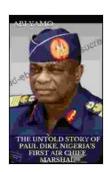
# The Untold Story of Paul Dike, Nigeria's First Air Chief Marshal

Paul Dike was born in 1927 in Zaria, Nigeria. He was the son of a Methodist minister and a teacher. Dike attended Government College, Zaria, and then the Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology in Ibadan. After graduating, he joined the Royal Nigerian Air Force (RNAF) in 1953.



## The Untold Story Of Paul Dike, Nigeria's First Air Chief

Marshal by Anthony Smith

4.4 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 7848 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Print length : 20 pages

Lending : Enabled



Dike's career in the RNAF was meteoric. He quickly rose through the ranks, becoming a squadron commander in 1961 and a wing commander in 1964. In 1967, he was appointed the Chief of the Air Staff, becoming the first Nigerian to hold the position.

As Chief of the Air Staff, Dike oversaw the expansion and modernization of the RNAF. He also played a key role in the Nigerian Civil War, which lasted from 1967 to 1970. Under Dike's leadership, the RNAF provided vital air support to the Nigerian Army, helping to secure a victory for the federal government.

After the war, Dike continued to serve as Chief of the Air Staff until 1975. He then retired from the RNAF and entered the private sector. He worked as a consultant and businessman, and also served on the boards of several companies.

Dike died in 2017 at the age of 90. He is remembered as one of the most important figures in Nigerian aviation history. His legacy is one of leadership, innovation, and service.

### **Early Life and Education**

Paul Dike was born on November 2, 1927, in Zaria, Nigeria. His father was a Methodist minister and his mother was a teacher. Dike attended Government College, Zaria, and then the Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology in Ibadan. After graduating, he joined the Royal Nigerian Air Force (RNAF) in 1953.

Dike's early life was marked by his love of learning and his desire to serve his country. He was a bright and inquisitive child, and he always excelled in his studies. He was also a talented athlete, and he played football and cricket for his school teams.

Dike's decision to join the RNAF was motivated by his patriotism and his desire to make a difference in the world. He believed that aviation was the key to Nigeria's future, and he wanted to be a part of that future.

#### **Career in the Royal Nigerian Air Force**

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#### Legacy

Paul Dike died in 2017 at the age of 90. He is remembered as one of the most important figures in Nigerian aviation history. His legacy is one of leadership, innovation, and service.

Dike was a pioneer in the field of aviation in Nigeria. He was the first Nigerian to become a pilot, the first Nigerian to command a squadron, and the first Nigerian to become Chief of the Air Staff. He also played a key role in the development of the RNAF into a modern and effective fighting force.

Dike was a man of great integrity and character. He was a dedicated and selfless leader, and he always put the needs of his country first. He was

also a kind and compassionate man, and he was always willing to help others.

Dike's legacy will live on for many years to come. He is an inspiration to all Nigerians, and he will always be remembered as one of the greatest aviation pioneers in the history of Africa.



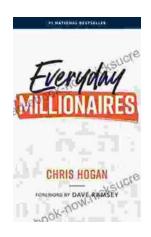
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