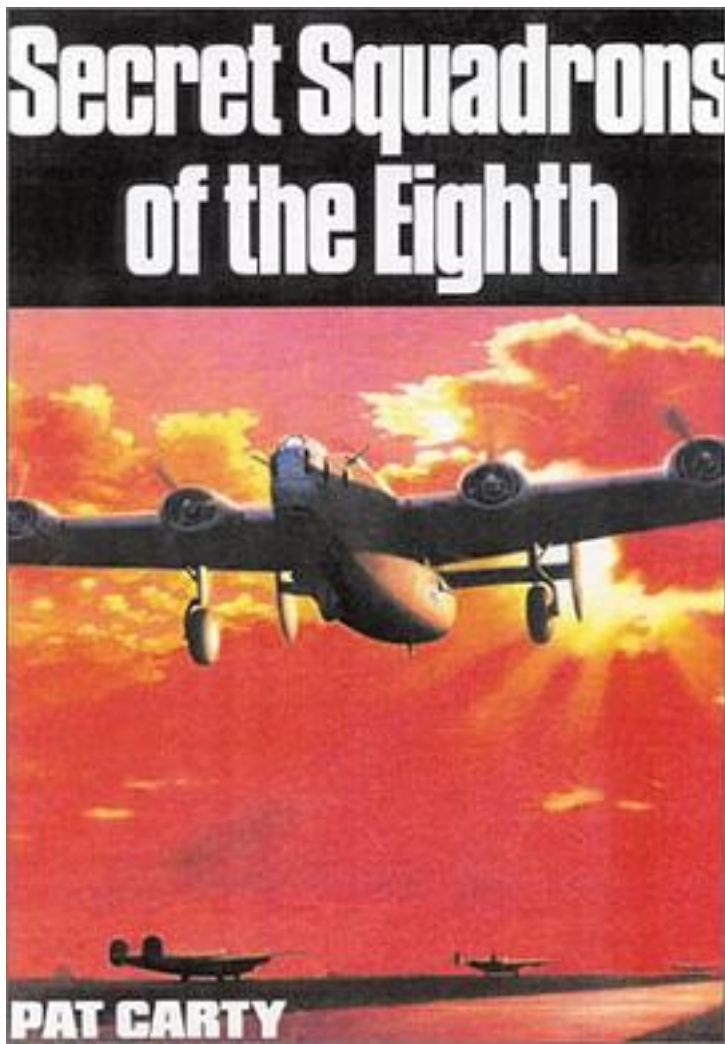


Secret Squadrons of the Eighth



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The first volume in this new series which provides a graphic account of the background, equipment, and the tactics of famous military operations. Many of these operations would see the first use of pioneering new weaponry, equipment or military tactics against an unsuspecting enemy. These fascinating stories will be of interest to military historians, wargamers and historians alike. This fantastic new book analyses the German raid on the Belgian fort of Eben-Emael and its consequences, separating myth from truth. When the Germans launched their offensive against Belgium, Holland and France in May 1940 one major obstacle stood in the way; Eben-Emael. Defending the strategically vital line of the Albert Canal and the Meuse River, it was considered to be the most impregnable fortification in Europe. To overcome the fort's formidable defences the Germans conceived an audacious plan. In the early hours of 10th May a select band of 77 soldiers on board nine DFS230 gliders landed on the perimeter of Eben Emael. The defenders were taken completely by surprise and the fort's guns and other installations were destroyed within minutes. The glider-borne troops held the forte for the next 24 hours, and this was crucial in facilitating the Germans' unstoppable advance towards the Channel. Profusely illustrated, including many contemporary photographs showing the immediate aftermath of the raid, this brilliant book is a truly gripping account of how this incredible feat of arms was accomplished.

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