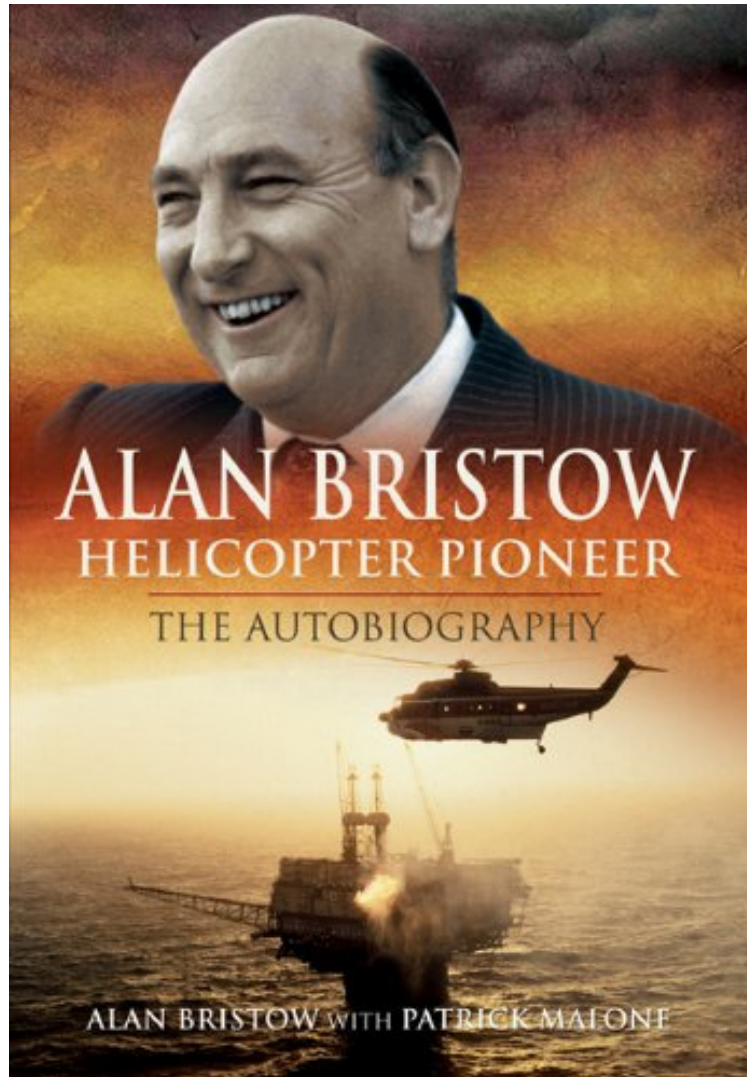


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Alan Bristow: Helicopter Pioneer: The Autobiography

Alan Bristow

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Alan Bristow : Alan Bristow: Helicopter Pioneer: The Autobiography before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Alan Bristow: Helicopter Pioneer: The Autobiography:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Truth is more strange than fictionBy Bernard KoetherA great story, true! And one that should inspire young men and women to reach out and achieve their dreams.8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. A personal account of an incredible life.By Ned MiddletonSome time ago one of my sons called to ask me some questions about the British army. It transpired that a new employee in his firm was, like myself, a retired army officer and my son was concerned that this man had a senior position of trust and was claiming to have done far more than seemed possible during that former career in uniform. I wonder if the call would have been made at all had that new colleague been Alan Bristow whose own real-life CV might have been instantly dismissed as pure

fiction. Alan Bristow died shortly after this biography was completed and, all things considered, we should be grateful for its completion. Survivor of two ships sinking under his feet in WW2, credited with shooting down two Stukas, one of the earliest British helicopter pilots, first man in the world to land a helicopter on a battleship, holder of the Croix de Guerre, veteran of many of the world's conflicts from WW2 onwards, flew air support for pirate whaling fleets as well as for oil workers in the Persian Gulf and much more besides. Everything this man accomplished and experienced led inexorably to his forming Bristow Helicopters, the largest helicopter company in the world outside the USA. Oh!, and he almost brought down Margaret Thatcher's government. Alan Bristow lived a full and complete life and this autobiography discloses the detail of his life and his service to others as well as to himself. Above all it reveals his underlying adventurous spirit which dominated everything he undertook. The book comprises 370 pages of often riveting text, with approx. 90 black and white photos which take the reader from those early days of service, to the various machines flown, right up to the latter days of boardroom, business and politics. It also has the most thorough Index!, which makes cross-reference so easy. As far as biographies go, this is one of those very rare "5" Star products. For those who like helicopters, much of what you know is owed to this man, for those who admire adventurers, this man is your subject, for those who simply enjoy biographies, this man lived a life which has now provides an excellent read. NM7 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Informative and Entertaining By Donald B. Stoneking As a retired helicopter aviator, I had the good fortune of working for Bristow Helicopters Limited (BHL) from 1975 till 1984. During this time, I held positions from Line Pilot to Chief Pilot at BHL. As memory serves me Mr. Bristow and I first met during 1975 at Abu Dhabi. This first meeting was to provide me one of the old man's famous dressing down due to my non-standard uniform. However, the following flight to Das Island, and surrounding oil rigs, is one of my most cherished memories I have from thirty-nine years as an aviator. We, my wife Joyce and I, were to meet Mr. Bristow, members of his family, and many of the BHL Stalwarts again in the following years. But none of those memories are as vivid as my first meeting with one of the legends of the helicopter industry. ALAN BRISTOW HELICOPTER PIONEER for me was informative and entertaining. It is a first-person narrative of the helicopter industry in the words of one of the industry's legends. Having sat in a Bristow Bar and heard the old man talk, reading this was like listening to his voice tell his story. From the first word to the last word, I was enthralled. It is a must read for past, current, and future members of the helicopter industry and anyone wanting to vicariously live the life of a true life adventurer! Donald B. Stoneking USA - 62313-2159

Alan Bristow, founder of Bristow Helicopters, died on April 26, 2009, seven days after completing his autobiography. He was a truly remarkable man; his full-page obituary was published in The Times and The Daily Telegraph. As a merchant navy officer cadet during the war Bristow survived two sinkings, played a part in the evacuation of Rangoon and was credited with shooting down two Stukas in North Africa. He joined the Fleet Air Arm and trained as one of the first British helicopter pilots, he was the first man to land a helicopter on a battleship and became Westland's first helicopter test pilot. Sacked for knocking out the sales manager, he flew in France, Holland, Algeria, Senegal and elsewhere, narrowly escaping many helicopter crashes before winning the Croix de Guerre evacuating wounded French soldiers in Indochina. For four years he flew for Aristotle Onassis's pirate whaling fleet in Antarctica before joining Douglas Bader and providing support services to oil drillers in the Persian Gulf. Out of that grew Bristow Helicopters Ltd, the largest helicopter company in the world outside America Bristow's circle included the great helicopter pioneers such as Igor Sikorsky and Stan Hiller, test pilots like Harold Penrose and Bill Waterton, Sheiks and Shahs and political leaders, business giants like Lord Cayzer and Freddie Laker - with whom he tossed a coin for pound;67,000 in 1969 - and the author James Clavell, a lifelong friend whose book 'Whirlwind' was a fictionalized account of Bristow's overnight evacuation of his people and helicopters from revolutionary Iran. Bristow represented Great Britain at four in hand carriage driving with the Duke of Edinburgh and precipitated the 'Westland Affairs' when he made a takeover bid which eventually led to the resignation of Michael Heseltine and Leon Brittain, and almost to the downfall of Margaret Thatcher.

...engaging from literally the first line...love him or hate him, Bristow was respected and this book tells you why. (Speedreaders) About the Author Patrick Malone is an author and historian.