



### **Book Description:**

Air Chief Marshal Sir Hugh - later Lord - Dowding was one of the greatest Englishmen of the 20th century.

He created Fighter Command with its unique early warning system (radar) from nothing in 1936 to the efficient defensive force it became in 1940. In consequence Fighter Command was the only arm that was properly prepared for battle when war against Germany came to Britain. Hugh Dowding led Fighter Command in the Battle of Britain, and was victorious. The campaign, although a series of defensive engagements fought out over four months, was one of the decisive battles of Western Civilization. The strategic importance of the Battle of Britain was recognized at the time, yet, shortly after it was

won, and seen to be won, Dowding was summarily relieved of his command and, in 1942, retired without recognition, reward or promotion. This book reveals that his demotion was the outcome of a shabby conspiracy by fellow officers notably, by Sholto Douglas and Leigh Mallory, who by their success usurped Dowding's and Park's commands, and proceeded to demonstrate their incompetence in the succeeding air battles.

In March 1941 the Air Ministry published a brief account of the Battle, and in it there was no mention of Dowding. Churchill was furiously indignant. But in November 1940 he had acquiesced in Dowding's removal. Why? And what are the factors that led to Dowding's dismissal in the first place? What was Churchill's role in this wretched business? Were there other people lurking and conspiring in the background? In this thought-provoking and authoritative book, Jack Dixon answers these questions, poses others, and explains Dowding's true greatness.

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