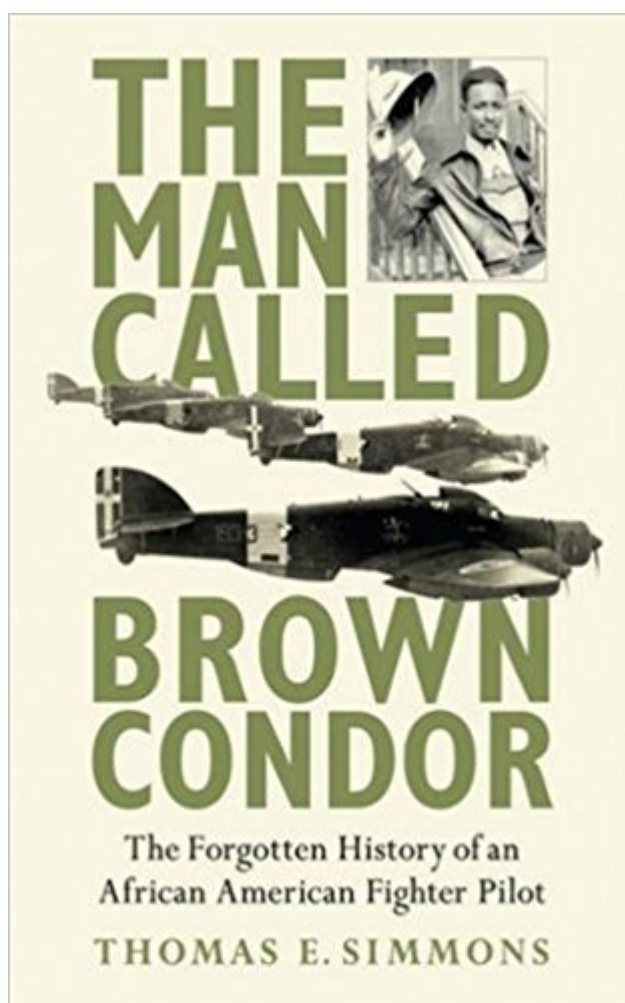


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The Man Called Brown Condor: The Forgotten History Of An African American Fighter Pilot



Synopsis

How did a black child, growing up in segregationist Mississippi during the early 1900s, become the commander of the Imperial Ethiopian Air Corps during the brutal Italo-Ethiopian War of 1935? In this gripping, never-before-told tale, biographer Thoma

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

[Robinson's] lifelong triumph over adversity belongs to the greatest of American success stories. —Peter Hannaford, Washington Times

The story of John C. Robinson, born in segregated Mississippi at the turn of the century, and his remarkable story of not just becoming a pilot but rising to become the commander of the Ethiopian Air Force during the Italo-Ethiopian War of 1935. —Publishers Weekly

Simmons spent over 20 years researching the remarkable life of John D. Robinson, who rose from segregationist Mississippi to become a distinguished pilot, founder of the Tuskegee Institute's school of aviation, a bold defender of Ethiopia during the 1935 Italian invasion, and, finally, founder of the Ethiopian Air Force. —Library Journal

An inspiring affirmation that celebrates the old adage that where there's a will, there's a way, even against seemingly impossible odds. —Kirkus Reviews

“All New York Greets Pilot on Arrival” —“Newsmen Get Lowdown on African War from Colonel John C. Robinson” —“Pioneered Aviation in Chicago” —“Started Air School” —“Colonel Robinson, Brown Condor, Returns

Home — “Gangway for the Brown Condor” — “Crowds Wait on War Hero” — “There has never been such a demonstration as was accorded the thirty-one-year-old Chicago aviator who left the United States thirteen months ago and literally covered himself in glory trying to preserve the independence of the last African empire. There are reports that he will be joining the faculty of Tuskegee Institute to teach aviation.” — The Chicago Defender newspaper on John C. Robinson — “his heroic return to America, where he was greeted by a crowd of twenty-thousand supporters in the streets of Chicago

This is an important book about an extraordinary individual. It's been said that victors write history, but even being on the winning side isn't always enough. As Senior Editor of World Book, I revised the encyclopedia's Civil War article to include what had been an important omission: that there were more freed slaves in the Union Army by war's end than soldiers in the entire Confederate militia. That factor played a decisive role in the war's outcome. Similarly, John C. Robinson was a great American aviator - internationally acclaimed in his lifetime - but as a black Mississippian, he's been largely forgotten. If not for author Thomas Simmons' excellent research - much of it derived through personal interviews - Robinson's achievements might continue to go unnoticed. Yet much of what this man did looms all the brighter when we consider the racial barriers he surmounted. When an aviation school denied him admission, Robinson took a janitorial job there and audited classes broom-in-hand. He built his own plane, started his own flying school - even helped create a black airport when white ones refused to refuel his plane. Robinson's pushed for an aviation program at Tuskegee Institute to train other black pilots, giving rise to the famous Tuskegee airmen who performed so bravely as the Red Tail squadron in World War Two. Not waiting for the US to enter that war, Robinson began fighting fascism in 1935 when Mussolini attacked Ethiopia. The Brown Condor led the Ethiopian air force, being twice wounded and also gassed. And after the war, he helped establish an Ethiopian airline.-- Newton Berry

Great book. Opened my eyes to Mussolini's ruthless invasion of Ethiopia, and the difficulties of breaking into aviation for African American pilots. This is the story of a brave, dedicated and devoted man who lived for Ethiopians, and for the future of African American Aviation, in spite of terrible odds and opposition. John C. Robinson was and is a real American hero and inspiration.

This book arrived in the morning and I didn't put it down until I was done in the evening. Such an extraordinary story about a truly extraordinary man that is beautifully told through the writing of

Thomas Simmons. It is one of those books that will stay with me for a very long time. And I will encourage others to learn about the life and legacy of John Charles Robinson.

Great book about a great man. I am a big fan of minority success stories. I have heard of the Tuskegee Airman, and as Paul Harvey used to say, "...now you know the rest of the story..."

Very good account of the history of black aviators

I learned a great deal from this book. It was exciting as well as educational. It was read just after reading The Wright Brothers which helped to understand the time line and the many events in our history.

Good read. Never heard of this man before. What a pity he had to get recognition for his skill & ability outside the land of his birth

Excellent true story of the perseverance of a young man who had all the odds against him to learn to fly and how he overcame those odds and became an American hero. I know the author and lived most of my life in Gulfport where the young man grew up during the time of segregation.

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