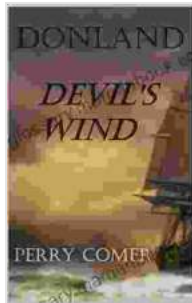


Donald "Devil Wind" Perry Comer: The Legendary Test Pilot Who Defied Death



Donland: Devil's Wind by Perry Comer

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 1283 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 189 pages
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In the annals of aviation history, the name Donald "Devil Wind" Perry Comer stands as a legend. As a fearless test pilot, he pushed the boundaries of human flight and left an enduring legacy in the annals of aeronautics.

Early Life and Career

Donald Perry Comer was born on July 23, 1922, in Kentucky. From a young age, he was fascinated by airplanes and dreamed of flying. After graduating from high school, he joined the US Army Air Corps in 1942. During World War II, he served as a flight instructor and later flew P-51 Mustangs in combat. After the war, he continued his aviation career as a test pilot for North American Aviation.



The X-15 Program

Comer's most famous achievement came during his time as a test pilot for the X-15 program. The X-15 was an experimental aircraft designed to explore the upper limits of the atmosphere. In 1963, Comer became one of only seven pilots to fly the X-15 over Mach 3. He also set an altitude record of 267,000 feet, which stood for nearly two decades.

It was during these high-altitude flights that Comer earned his iconic nickname. As he approached Mach 3, his skin began to peel from the intense heat and wind. The sight of his glowing face inspired one of his fellow pilots to exclaim, "He looks like a devil!" And so, the legend of "Devil Wind" Perry Comer was born.

The SR-71 Blackbird

After the X-15 program, Comer continued to push the boundaries of aviation. In 1967, he joined the Lockheed Martin team that was developing the SR-71 Blackbird. The SR-71 was a supersonic reconnaissance aircraft that flew at Mach 3 and could reach altitudes of over 85,000 feet. Comer made several key contributions to the development of the SR-71, including the design of its air intake system.



Donald "Devil Wind" Perry Comer helped to develop the SR-71 Blackbird.

NASA and the Space Shuttle

In the late 1970s, Comer joined NASA. He played a key role in the development of the Space Shuttle and was considered a possible candidate for the astronaut program. However, his health prevented him from flying in space. Despite this setback, he continued to work for NASA until his retirement in 1986.

Legacy

Donald "Devil Wind" Perry Comer was a true aviation pioneer who left an enduring legacy in the annals of flight. He was a fearless test pilot who pushed the boundaries of human flight and helped to pave the way for future space exploration. His daring feats and unwavering dedication to aviation continue to inspire aviators and astronauts to this day.



Awards and Honors

* Collier Trophy (1980) * Presidential Medal of Freedom (1983) *
Congressional Gold Medal (1988) * National Aviation Hall of Fame (1989)

Donald "Devil Wind" Perry Comer was a true legend in the world of aviation. His fearless test flights, record-breaking achievements, and unwavering dedication to the pursuit of human flight continue to inspire aviators and astronauts alike. His legacy as one of the greatest test pilots of all time is secure, and his name will forever be synonymous with the indomitable spirit of aviation exploration.



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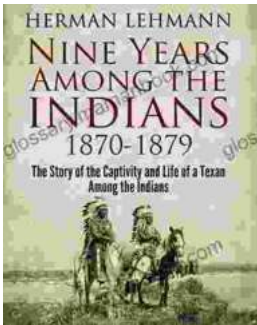
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