

Le 17 oct. 2016 à 10:30, Paige Hayward <paige.hayward@keypublishing.com> a écrit :

Hi There Patricia

I have put your review below: I apologise this review is going in the Aeroplane monthly magazine but Britain at war.

(PIC 6 HERE)

The Aviation Department of the Royal Army Museum in Brussels
published by editions Pat.H

Belgium's Royal Museum of the Armed Forces and of Military History contains one of my favourite aircraft collections. Sure, its surroundings in the imposing late-19th century Park du Cinquantenaire/Jubelpark in Brussels are rather down-at-heel, the victim of years of insufficient investment, but the place has a certain character — and, while some of the exhibits likewise need a spruce-up, among them are some real gems. The line-up of First World War aeroplanes, for instance, is quite exceptional.

This book is really a glorified museum catalogue, detailing the 144 civil and military aircraft that form part of the aviation department. Not all are in the main Brussels building, some being stored away from public view, but each is given due coverage. This is one of the volume's charms — since every airframe has a page to itself, the likes of Henri Chandelon's un-flown home-built helicopter, which survives solely in the form of an incomplete steel-tube fuselage frame in the museum's store, are given as much space as the Spitfires or F-16. However, the level of uniformity doesn't work in design terms. The accompanying image of each aircraft has to fit into exactly the same space, making for some extremely unsympathetic crops.

The text contains historical information on each type and the museum's specific examples. It is naturally in French and Flemish as well as English, and — for the most part — reads well. An introductory section on the collection's history is worthwhile, despite an unduly fussy design and captions in a miniscule font. An undeniably useful reference. Ben Dunnell

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I asked Andy about this and he said Yes, he has the book and can review it for our January issue J