

## Reviews T for Tommy March 2017

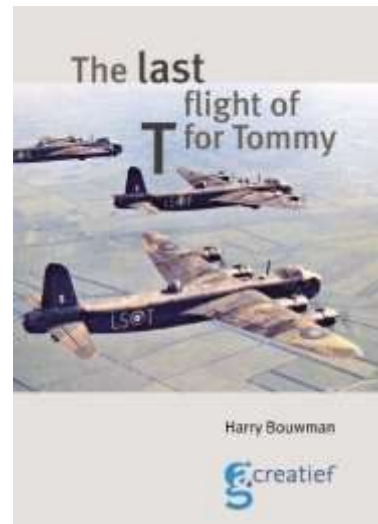
Review received from the next of kin of P/O Harvey Kieswetter (Obs.)

*"I have a degree in History with certification to be a High School History teacher. 'T for Tommy' is one of the best war books I have ever read. I was so pleased at the reportings from both sides about the events that took place. It was put together in a logical way and back up with photos and short descriptive paragraphs that made fascinating reading. I found myself asking questions about history that I hadn't before. I loved the viewpoints represented. These are woven chronologically together in such a way as to create a more complete picture than is usual for history books. No one could have told it better. Its format reaches all age groups.*

*The English translation is impeccable. I come from a long line of English professors who would love your unique approach to a tragic story. It is a story that shows the best of humanity. I am honored that your town has taken such good care to preserve this history and that you are telling it from the approach of a neutral position. You show the effect that war has on innocent countries. Thank you for the endless hours and the meticulous research. I am quite impressed! We intend to buy at least one more which we will donate to Harvey's High school."*

Jen Score, Cochise, AZ, USA.

(Harvey Kieswetter is my husband's Great Uncle. My husband's middle name is Harvey after Harvey Kieswetter.)



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*"I read your book and found it very interesting. All the information you included was a great history lesson for me and gave me a good insight as to what life was like for people during the war, especially for the citizens of an occupied country like the Netherlands. I found it humbling to know what a crew went through from the start of an operation to the landing if they made it home. Reading the accounts of the Dutch who saw my dad's crews plane on fire left me saddened for those young brave men who never made it home and thankful that my dad wasn't on that plane. I also imagined the horror that those poor young men must have felt during the fiery crash."*

Judy Lynch, daughter of Ken Dougan, the original bomb aimer of 'T for Tommy'

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*"An excellent book for both children and adults, especially the amount of detail you have given."*

Michael Davies, ex-Air Gunner, U.K.

To Harry Bouwman:

*First of all a bit about myself. I'm not a typical Air Gunner as I am a post war A.G. unlike most of the others you may know. I did not fly during the war, I was part of the 'cold war' RAF. My war was spent on the South coast not far from Dover, the nearest German was about 22miles away around Calais. I also spent some time in London with my Father where he worked. I saw war as a schoolboy. After the war all men had to do 2 years 'National Service' when they reached 18 years of age. I was very lucky to do my 2 years in the RAF as an Air Gunner. In 1953, our glorious comrades from Russia were now the 'enemy' and the Germans were now our friends, war is a bit stupid, fun if you live but not if you don't. Our crew, all ten of us used to take off from Germany and bomb the UK (only practice bombs)*

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*and the British Fighters tried to intercept us. Just like the war years we flew over The Netherlands, this was the time of the great floods.*

*Now about your book, most books cover whole squadrons or all of Bomber Command. This book covers one Aircraft 'T for Tommy' from all angles, the ground crew, who often get left out, the air crew, the target, the people on the ground and the enemy. The amount of research that Harry Bouwman has done is very good and detailed. Harry is a school teacher and he explains all the technical papers, so with luck children will understand and try to avoid going to war when they grow up. It also explains what happened in 1939 and after. Just try to live on half a loaf of bread per week and very little else, think what it would be like to be a Jew. It shows how much we owe to other nations, the British Commonwealth and the USA. As someone said 'if you don't know your history you will just go on making the same mistakes again', a message made clear by 'T for Tommy'. Try to think what it would be like waiting to know if you would be on 'ops' tonight, will you come back, will your mates come back? You get some idea in the book, most of the Air Crew were not much more than school boys. (Half of our crew in 1952 were not much more than school boys.) Remember what happened in 1940 is now History, technology has moved on very quickly since then, an Air Gunner in a Stirling in 1942 was nowhere like an Air Gunner in a B29 in 1952, talk to some Air crew of the War years if you can.*

*If any of your students get to London, have a look at The Bomber Command memorial near Hyde Park Corner, (It's the one on Page 11) and read some of the cards.*

*Hope this helps the students, if I can help any more let me know, they should not be forgotten.*

From Mike Davies, one of the last (if not the last to qualify as an Air Gunner in 1952). I was the Treasurer of the Kent Branch of the Air Gunners Association and on the committee of the Folkestone Air Crew Association. From what our members said all Groups and even Squadrons had different methods, the Middle East, Far East and the UK bases had even more odd ways.

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*"I feel the book would be excellent as a text book for teaching British children about the WW2"*  
Mr. John Gentleman, chairman of the Mildenhall Register, Dullingham.

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[International Bomber Command Centre](#)

13 May 2015 ·

*Now back in stock, Great Book.*

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*„The last flight of T for Tommy“ ist eine hervorragende, gut recherchierte Lektüre über das Schicksal des Stirling Bombers R9168 und seiner Crew. Die Geschehnisse der schicksalhaften Nacht stellt Harry Bouwman vom Briefing bis hin zum Absturz im gesamt-geschichtlichen Zusammenhang dar. Viele Fotos und Originaldokumente bringen dem Leser die Geschichte des Bombers, seiner Besatzung und viele weitere Themenbereiche näher. Durch seine packende Art zu Schreiben, führt der Autor den Leser näher an das damalige Geschehen heran.*

*Danke an Herr Bouwman für seine umfangreiche Recherche und dafür, dass er den Schülern diesen Teil der Geschichte auf so detaillierte und leicht verständliche Weise schildert.*

*„The last flight of T for Tommy“ ein Buch für Jung und Alt.“*

Marcel Lesaar, Deutschland

(Marcel Lesaar ist ehrenamtlicher Mitarbeiter des LVR – Amtes für Bodendenkmalpflege im Rheinland)

*"T for Tommy is an outstanding book containing many original documents, many stories and descriptions of the occupation, the resistance and the plight of the Jews, it assures the reader that the many Air Crew who lost their lives ridding the world of the Nazi war Machine did not do so in vain and amounts to many hours of research by the Author.*

*Thanks to the Author Harry Bouwman and his young pupils a memorial now stands on the crash site of T for Tommy, here others can visit to pay their respects and give thanks."*

Bob Allan, Fraserburgh, Scotland

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*"The Canadian Embassy in The Hague welcomes the publication of the English language version of your book 'The last flight of T for Tommy'. Particularly the inclusion of additional information of the role of Canadian airmen is particularly appreciated."*

Mr. J. Lambert, Canadian Ambassador in the Netherlands.

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*"This book is very interesting reading. The story of how you have taken the sacrifice of the War and made in into education of young children typifies in so many ways, the idea behind the project to create an educational bridge between schools in Britain and the Netherlands."*

Lieutenant Colonel C.A. Le Hardy, L.D., Military & Air Attaché, British Embassy, The Hague. (1997)

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*"This new edition of the book, with the great story behind it, what happened then with 'T for Tommy' and many other pilots who lost their lives, will certainly make remembering easier. This is the lesson we have to pass on to the youth of today. The additional information about the circumstances of WWII in the Netherlands makes this book really unique."*

G.J. Zwanenburg, KON., MBE, Recovery Officer (Rtd), Royal Netherlands Air Force.

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*"My father was KIA on a raid to Italy. I was raised with feelings of hate against the Germans. After reading your book I began to understand that also German pilots were only doing their job."*

Cyril Price, Southampton, U.K.

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*"This small book gives something which I have never seen in a book before, the beginning and the end of a plane's operational flight when the end is a disaster in a foreign land."*

Maurice Winton, ex-Air Gunner, Regina Saskatchewan, Canada.

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*"There are many books written about WWII, but 'The last flight of T for Tommy' is marvelous. The tragedy of the crew is affecting to read. It's a very special book that has to be present in every school library."*

Frans v.d. Velden, ex-Head teacher primary school, Steenwijk, Holland.

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