

Audio file

[Peter Caulkett.m4a](#)

Transcript

Speaker 1

Conversation with Peter Caulkett and Peter you brought a book down today.

Speaker 2

Correct, yes, the CEO's query by Patrick J Watts it's it's the history of Spitfire MJ 7:30 which my father flew in North Africa as a test pilot on the squadron. The Spitfire has got quite a checkered history. It's still flying today. It's flown in this country and it's now in the US at Virginia Beach and the Naval Air Show Base. And I've seen it in here and in the US I've seen it flying several times.

Speaker 1

And what's your? Your father's connection with this aircraft.

Speaker 2

Well, the Spitfires were built at Castle Bromwich in the West Midlands and they were tested there by the Chief test pilot who was called Alex Henshaw. They were then crated up and shipped out to the squadrons and my father flew it as a test pilot on the squadron in North. There we go.

Speaker 1

And you say that your father had come over from Argentina.

Speaker 2

That's right. Yes, he was. He was born in Argentina in 1919. His parents were British. So he had Anglo Argentine nationality. He spoke fluent Spanish and English and in 1939. He shipped over on a boat as mess boy to join the RAF.

Speaker 1

So how much later did he fly?

Speaker 2

Right, the I can't remember the date. It's in the it's in. The book. Guessing 1943, but round about then.

Speaker 1

Fantastic. So you have some immigration papers that. I think you photographed.

Speaker

As well.

Speaker 2

Yes, they call it. It's in. It's in Spanish, they call it Argentine immigration regulations. No lying. It's in Spanish and English. But it was actually emigrating from Argentina to England. And this is dated. 1939 December 1939 when he worked, he worked his passage as a mess boy on the Chris s s. Christine Marie registered in Liverpool.

Speaker 1

Do you know what the this of incentive? Was to come to England or do you? Want to come to England?

Speaker 2

Well, he had relatives in England. He had been over as a I think, a 15 year old. He was he, he was 20 in 1939. His his parents were British and his father actually came over for the First World War. So yeah, there was an incentive for. Him to come over.

Speaker 1

And did he particularly come to join? The war effort here.

Speaker 2

Ohh yes. Oh yeah. He came over to join the Navy, so I don't know what's happened. I don't know why he perhaps his working. His passage across the Atlantic put him off and he joined the Air Force instead.

Speaker 1

Thank you very much. OK, thank you.