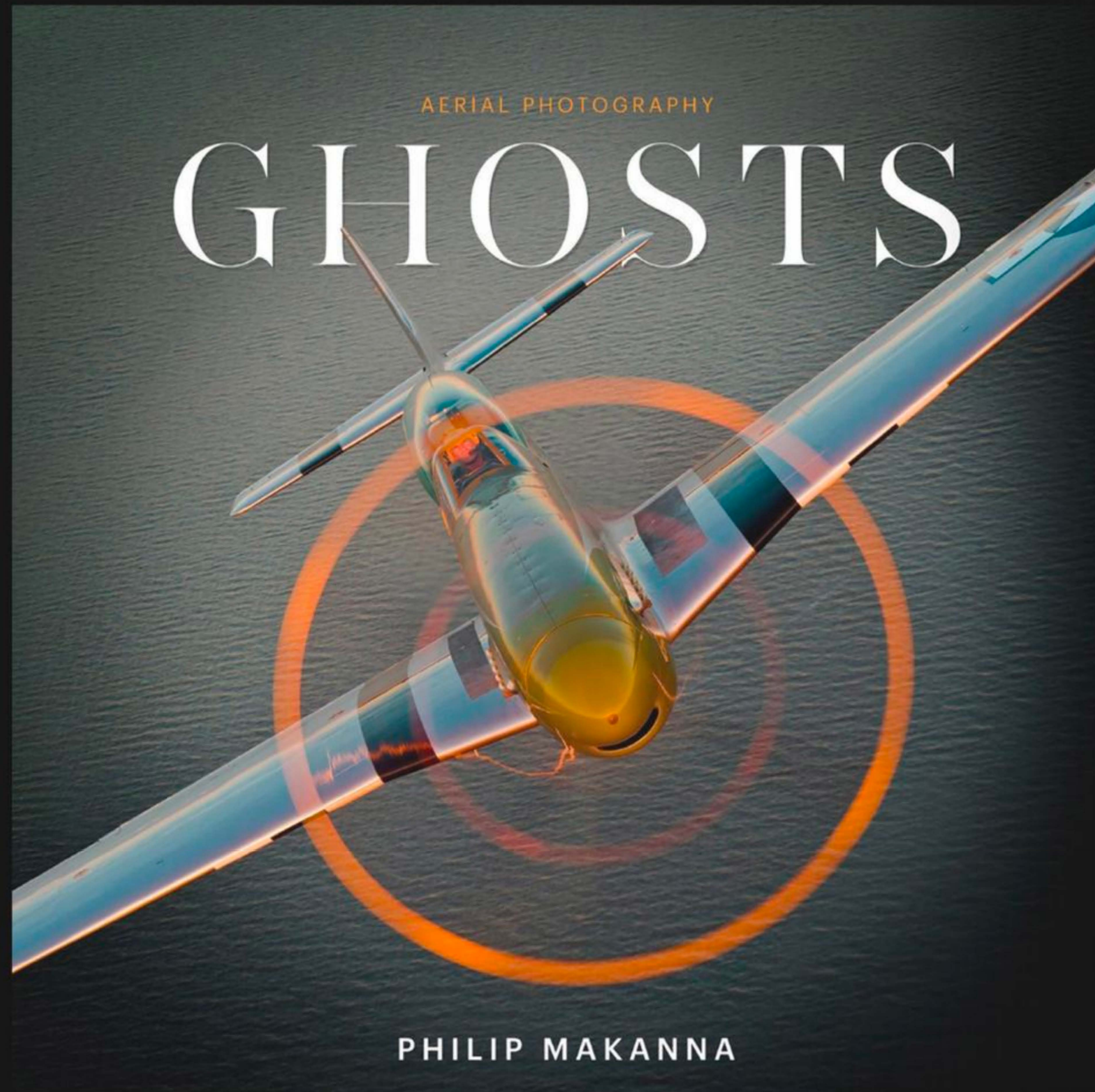


BOOK IN REVIEW

Article by ISAP Editor Kevin Hong



IT'S FINALLY HERE! After more than 40 years in aviation, world-famous air-to-air photographer Philip Makanna has published his eighth and final book - a collection of the best photographs that he has made in his career. If you have seen the word GHOSTS on an aviation calendar or book, you undoubtedly know who Philip Makanna is and have seen his work. His gorgeous photography of World War I and World War II aircraft from all over the world in many years of calendars can now be seen in this final collaboration of Philip's devotion to vintage aircraft.

We were fortunate enough to review one of the newly released limited edition books called GHOSTS - Aerial Photography. The high quality luster on the dust cover jacket definitely grabs your attention with vibrant colors of the sunlight reflecting off of the beautiful P-51 Mustang on the front cover. On the back shows a great photo of a World War I action scene reverting to a simpler time at the dawn of dogfighting.

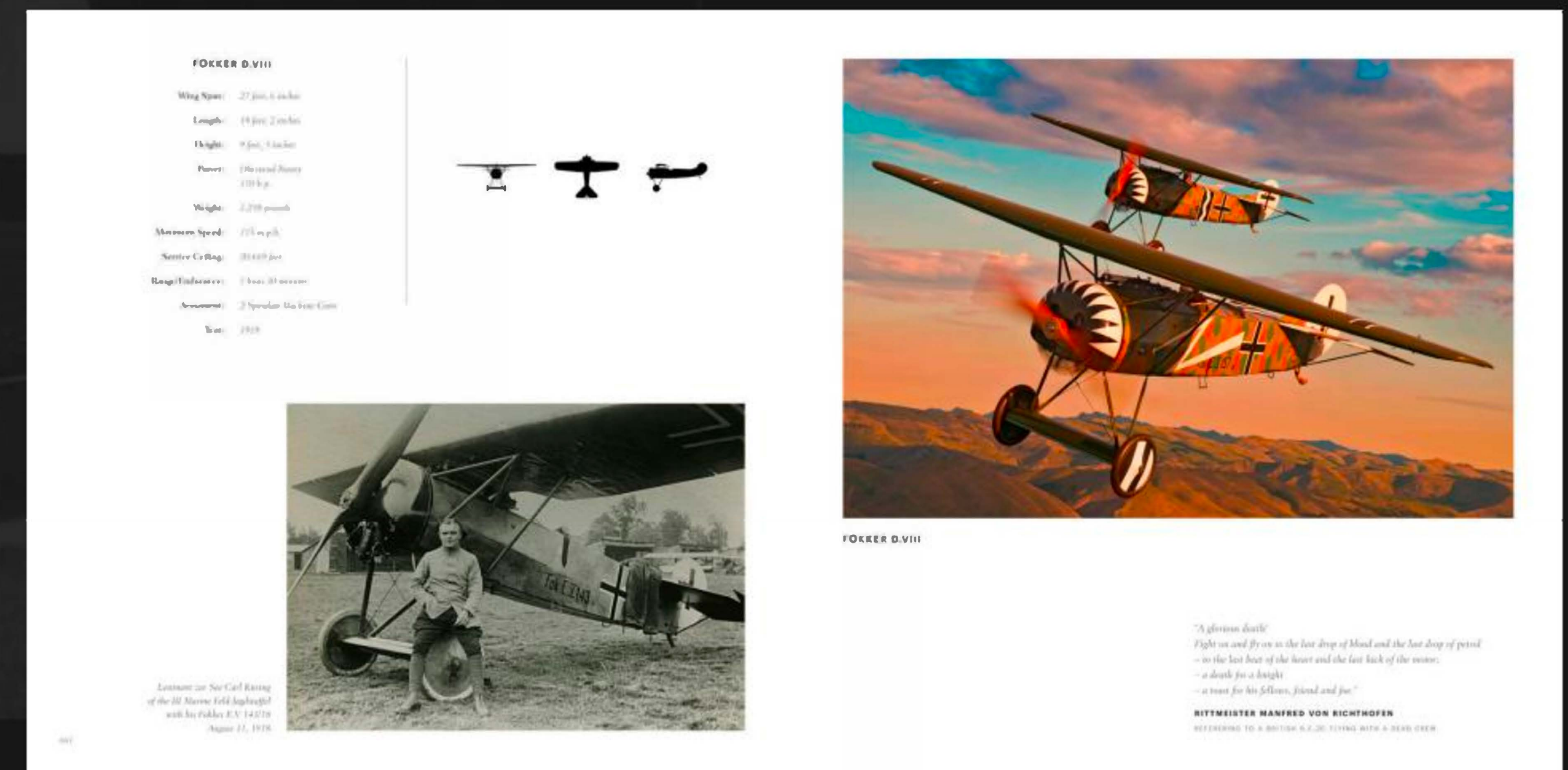
The printer that made the book is very elaborate and the selection of paper makes the colors in the photographs pop right out of the page. The photos are very vibrant and design throughout the entire book is very elegant. It's not a book that is full of text blocks and mediocre airplane photos. This book is definitely a work of art. The placement of photos and text balance each other very well.

Every aircraft type is accompanied by captions, quotes, technical specifications and three-view silhouettes in black and white. Historic archival photography enhances the sleek and elegant design. The photos shot by Philip and the historical photos tell a story and capture the beauty of each aircraft.

For the content, the book draws you in as soon as you open the book to the first page. An elegant black and white photo of a World War I plane in the center of the first page starts the journey back in time. The text is structured in two main chapters covering aircraft from World War I and World War II.

If you have read Makanna's other books, this new book will definitely show his journey from around the globe documenting these great airplanes from England and New Zealand to Texas and back. The World War I section is truly amazing. The beautiful landscape of New Zealand and formations of planes tell a story that begins and ends in the clouds—full of the beauty, romance and tragedy that accompanies these legends of flight.

Each spread tells a story not only about the aircraft but also some of the history behind the pilots and people that flew them. There are also quotes from pilots and people like HG Wells, and Winston Churchill setting the tone for a progressive timeline throughout the book as you turn each page.







VOUGHT F4U-5N "CORSAIR"  
N43RW - Baranoff

**VOUGHT F4U-5N "CORSAIR"**

Wing Span	42 feet
Length	32 feet 6 inches
Height	12 feet 6 inches
Power	Two Pratt & Whitney R-2800 at 2,000 hp
Weight	Empty: 10,500 pounds Loaded: 14,000 pounds
Maximum Speed	430 mph
Service Ceiling	43,000 feet
Range/Endurance	1,000 miles



FACING PAGE: A jungle elephant loading a Corsair of the Fleet Air Arm at an airfield near the Indian Ocean, 1944

The historical photos paired with the photos Makanna took are a great contrast from the past and more recent years. As I was reading and looking at the photos I realized some of the planes in them are no longer exist. Some aircraft were destroyed and others may have been restored after their crash.

If you are an aviation enthusiast, love aviation photography, or love aviation history, you will really enjoy this book. It is definitely a huge accomplishment to travel around the globe and shoot some of the rarest aircraft in the world over the last 40 years. For everyone that has been collecting the GHOSTS book series since the beginning, you definitely don't want to miss the last book produced by Philip Makanna. This is a must-have for all fans of aviation photography.

GHOSTS - Aerial Photography has been printed by the incredible craftsmen that have printed the GHOSTS calendars and books for decades. 11.5" x 11.5", 192 pages, premium paper, hardbound. This is a limited edition of 1,000 copies. Each book is autographed by Philip Makanna and will be available exclusively from GHOSTS.com.

