

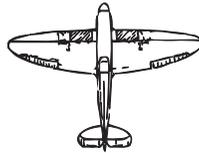
STORM RISING



STORM RISING

A MOVIE TREATMENT

The true story
of international aeronautical design and espionage
between the great wars, focusing on Beverley Shenstone,
developer of the Spitfire's elliptical wing



VERNON BROOKS



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Front cover [HU1664] and back cover [CH27] photos courtesy of the Imperial War Museum. Other images © bigstockphoto.com.

Photo of the author by Janet Brooks.

Storm Rising

ISBN 978-1-927755-19-8 (paperback)

ISBN 978-1-927755-20-4 (ebook)

Cataloguing information available from
Library and Archives Canada.

Printed on acid-free paper.

Agio Publishing House is a socially responsible company,
measuring success on a triple-bottom-line basis.

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 c s

DEDICATION & AUTHOR'S NOTES

This story is dedicated to the memory of Beverley Shenstone whom we knew as the cousin of my late wife Nancy Fraser. His life story is so incredible that I want it made into a movie so people can be inspired by his example.

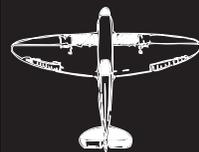
We thank the Toronto Reference Library for permission to quote items from Beverley Shenstone's unpublished autobiography held by the Library.

Storm Rising is a work of creative non-fiction written by Vernon Brooks about real people and events. A few dates have been changed in the accompanying scripts and unknowable espionage details created to advance the story line. All events are real or could have been, although Germany's Secret Police Chief Heinrich Himmler and his associate Reinhard Heydrich assumed their posts in 1931 instead of 1929 as described.

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LOGLINE



In the style of box office blockbuster *The Imitation Game*, ***Storm Rising*** reveals the true story of espionage and aeronautical design that led to the Spitfire fighter plane being superior to the German fighters, helping win the Battle of Britain. A nerdy young Canadian (Beverley Shenstone) unwittingly becomes the key figure in a battle of wits between British MI6 and the Nazi secret police as both countries race to re-arm prior to the rising storm of World War II.

SYNOPSIS



SYNOPSIS VERSION ONE

In the style of box office blockbuster *The Imitation Game*, ***Storm Rising*** reveals the true story of espionage and aeronautical design that led up to the Spitfire fighter plane being superior to the German fighters, helping win the “Battle of Britain” and thwarting Hitler’s massive invasion plans.

In 1929, unaware of MI6’s behind-the-scenes help, nerdy young Canadian engineering graduate Beverley “Bev” Shenstone obtains a key foreign student worker position at the Junkers aircraft factory in Dessau, Germany where he gathers critical information on aircraft design and construction techniques, and on clandestine Nazi rearmament plans. His activities are monitored by the charming Hedda Möller (actually a Nazi police spy).

Narrowly avoiding attack by the brutal Nazi Brownshirts militia, Shenstone moves to the Wasserkuppe glider school where he works for the brilliant designer Alexander Lippisch. When the SS attempt to kidnap him, Shenstone is rescued by British air attaché and spymaster G/C Malcolm Christie, and ingeniously smuggled out of the country.

A position awaits him at Supermarine Aviation Works, helping chief designer R.J. Mitchell by designing an innovative elliptical-shaped

wing for the new Spitfire fighter. In the lead-up to war, Shenstone makes secret trips into Germany to observe their prototype jet fighters.

With better maneuverability and speed compared to the German Messerschmitt Bf109, Spitfire pilots help win the aerial “Battle of Britain.” Without air superiority, Hitler cannot invade Britain. Shenstone’s espionage and aeronautical prowess have made an important and largely unknown contribution to victory.

SYNOPSIS – ALTERNATE VERSION

It's 1929 and the Great Depression has begun. With the stock market crash, German businesses fail, the US government cancels its aid to Germany and unemployment soars. As dissent builds, Hitler's National Socialist German Workers' Party ("Nazi" party) is ominously growing in influence and membership. Although forbidden to create warplanes by the 1918 Treaty of Versailles, Germany boosts top aeronautical designers and manufacturers such as Dornier, Fokker, Junkers and Messerschmitt who are creating world-leading military and civilian aircraft.

Meanwhile, in Toronto, Canada, a bright young aeronautics engineering graduate, Beverley "Bev" Shenstone, is fixated on learning how planes can be designed with metal skins instead of wood and canvas, with single wings instead of as biplanes. In 1929 he lands a trainee spot in the Junkers aircraft factory with the help of his Toronto professor and unseen British Intelligence connections. The naïve Bev has no insight into German politics, which makes him a person of interest to both the German and British Secret Services, the former to pursue for interrogation and the latter to protect and cultivate as an unwitting industrial spy.

Bev becomes fluent in German and greatly expands his aeronautics

knowledge, in part though internship with brilliant designer Alexander Lippisch, soaking up German methods of aircraft design and manufacture. He also learns to understand Nazi fanaticism and brownshirt street brutality. His stay becomes precarious.

In 1931, after narrowly avoiding being kidnapped by Nazi security agents, Bev is extricated spectacularly by British MI6 to work at the Vickers Supermarine works in Southampton, England.

In 1933, Hitler becomes German Chancellor and unites his country in preparation for the STORM of World War (WWII) that will devastate Europe in 1939/40.

Drawing on his German training and own brilliance, in 1934 and 1935 Bev designs and refines a thin elliptical wing for the Supermarine Spitfire fighter prototype. This enables both high speeds and very tight turns – which will help RAF pilots best the German Me 109e fighters in aerial dogfights and win the “Battle of Britain” in 1940. As a consequence of this defeat, Germany is forced to cancel its planned invasion of Britain. Thus preserved, Britain can rebuild and serves as the launching point for the massive Allied invasion of Western Europe in 1944. Germany surrenders in 1945.

Right up to the declaration of war in 1939, Bev makes discrete visits into Germany to meet with top aeronautical designers at their factories, gathering vital intelligence about German aircraft capabilities for the British Air Ministry. During the war, he works in Britain and visits the USA, liaising with the US military and aircraft industry. After the war, he helps Alexander Lippisch – who has been

extracted from a crumbling Germany at war's end in Operation Paperclip – secure work on jet-powered delta wing designs.

The movie could begin and end with a Canadian family in Toronto, today, discovering the young Canadian Bev Shenstone's pivotal contribution to WWII victory through his unpublished memoir and files of clippings, photos and drawings.

DRAFT
ACT-BY-ACT
TREATMENT

[**Note:** this draft treatment does not
directly match the draft screenplay scripts,
but provides a similar approach.]

