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the perfect companion to masters of the air on apple tv this is a superbly illustrated examination of the aircraft pilots crews and operations of the us eighth air force the us eighth air force known as the mighty eighth was a combat air force activated in georgia usa on january 28 1942 its bomber command soon moved to northern europe to conduct strategic bombing missions seeking to destroy germany s ability to wage war among the major operations it participated in were big week in february 1944 the d day landings in june 1944 and the defeat of the luftwaffe and destruction of german industry eighth air force was the largest of the deployed combat army air forces in numbers of personnel aircraft and equipment at peak strength eighth air force had 40 heavy bomber groups 15 fighter groups and four specialized support groups this work provides a superbly illustrated and fully comprehensive exploration of the mighty eighth s bomber and fighter planes its incredibly brave pilots and crew and its daring and dramatic operations it also explores the careers of key personalities associated with the mighty eighth such as earle partridge james doolittle and william kepner packed with hundreds of color aircraft profiles battlescene artworks and period photographs the mighty eighth provides a truly comprehensive look at the illustrious history of the us eighth air force

includes aircraft and crews from every u s eighth air force base operational in britain in wwii the author is a leading historian

told by a been there done that combat commander mclaughlin gives us precise accounts of such air battles as the devastating bombing of schweinfurt gen philip p ardery author of bomber pilot a memoir of world war ii on an early morning in the fall of 1942 mclaughlin s group set out for a raid on a french target immediately after dropping its bombs mclaughlin s plane was hit a huge fire burned a four foot hole in his wing his waist gunner bailed out his radio operator was wounded the plane lost all oxygen and his pilot put on a parachute and sat on the escape hatch waiting for the plane to explode and this was only mclaughlin s first sortie he went on to pilot the mission command plane on the second raid against schweinfurt the largest air raid in history which resulted in the destruction of 70 percent of german ball bearing production capability mclaughlin also participated in the bombing of heavy water installations in norway as a group leader mclaughlin was responsible for the planning and execution of air raids forced to follow the directives of senior and sometimes less informed officers his position as one of the managers of the massive sky trains allows him to provide unique insight into the work of maintenance and armament crews preflight briefings and off duty activities of the airmen no other memoir of world war ii reveals so much about both the actual bombing runs against nazi germany and the management of personnel and material that made those airborne armadas possible well written fast paced and filled with anecdotes bowling green daily news he laces tense battle scenes with humorous anecdotes about the famous people we met along the way charleston gazette

the us 8th air force was based in the uk from 1942 onwards spread exclusively across east anglia and operating from over 40 locations the remains of some of these sites can still be found and a few are still airfields the 8th flew intensive bomber and fighter sorties over europe over 2000 aircraft mostly b 17s b 26s and p 47s involving 150 000 men and a vastly sophisticated supply chain were engaged in a ceaseless war of high altitude daylight precision bombing that did much to secure eventual allied success

in the skies of world war ii europe the eighth air force was a defining factor in turning the tide against the nazis in these gripping oral histories the sacrifice savagery and supremacy of the mighty eighth is described by those who experienced it and survived it at the outbreak of world war ii america was woefully unprepared for a fight though europe was already years into the battle soon though america s war machine was rolling out pilots engineers planes and materials in astounding numbers it was called the eighth air force and it would hit the nazi juggernaut like a lightning bolt launching a then groundbreaking campaign of daylight bombing runs the men of the eighth would suffer more casualties than the entire marine corps in the pacific theater but they would also prove to be the most effective weapon against the enemy taking out strategic targets such as munitions plants and factories that were vital to the german war effort and grinding them to a halt in the mighty eighth the men who fought in the greatest air war in human history tell their stories of courage and camaraderie as only those who were there can tell them

from the beginning of world war two the raf s bomber command had been the only means of striking hitler s reich and its war machine the entry into the war of the united states and the subsequent arrival in the uk of the eighth air force was to more

than double the allied capability the flying fortress and liberator heavy bombers were mostly flown across the atlantic by their young unblooded aircrew and many succumbed en route and never arrived flying in north europe was a different ball game from american skies and it took a considerable time before the crews familiarised themselves with the vagaries of fog low cloud rain and snow the american bombers bristled with defensive armament and elected to fly in close defensive formation during the day leaving the raf to carry out nighttime raids with the arrival of long range protective escort fighters the task became a little easier this book explains including many first hand accounts how the american bomber force helped fight to eventual victory by decimating german industry transport systems and breaking the nazi war spirit author martin bowman is one of britain s foremost aviation historians and has written many books and articles illustrations 60 b w photographs

ships cars trains planes

the mighty eighth were a key part of allied attempts to bomb hitler s germany into submission and were at the forefront of the war against the third reich their reputation for bravery and tenacity was won in countless daylight raids over the skies of occupied europe and in the savage character of world war ii airfighting christopher anderson drawing on images from private collections and rare archives now presents an exciting pictorial history of the unit and an important study on the uniforms and equipment of this elite formation this book includes more than 100 rare and unusual photographs accompanied by detailed and informative captions on the men uniforms equipment and insignia of the 8th air force

the heroics of the airmen who served in the united states eighth air force and fought in the embattled skies of europe during world war ii are legendary when in 1942 they commenced their campaign against nazi germany their arrival sent a deep shudder of despair through the german high command for the next three years while raf bomber command bombed at night by day the american eighth air force pounded the enemy war machine to its knees until by may 1945 victory had finally been won this commemorative book provides a unique glimpse into the lives of some of the men and machines that fought in that bitter often titanic struggle together with some of the extraordinary missions they flew beautifully illustrated using an unparalleled collection of paintings drawings and specially created maps from the archives of the military gallery this book is not simply a collection of artwork first and foremost it is a historically accurate recollection of events painstakingly researched with the assistance of leading historians

the me 262 was the first of its kind the first jet powered aircraft although conceived before the war with the initial plans being drawn in april 1939 the stormbird was beset with technological particularly the revolutionary engines and political difficulties resulting in it not entering combat until august 1944 with claims of nineteen downed allied aircraft the performance of the me 262 so far exceeded that of allied aircraft that on 1 september 1944 usaaf general carl spaatz remarked that if greater numbers of german jets appeared they could inflict losses heavy enough to force cancellation of the allied daylight bombing offensive the story of how the stormbird came to be is fascinating history and it comes to life in the hands of noted historian colin heaton told largely in the words of the german aces who flew it the me 262 stormbird provides the complete history of this remarkable airplane from the drawing boards to combat in the skies over the third reich features two forewords one by jorg

czy pionka me 262 night fighter pilot and another by historian and author barrett tillman

the mighty eighth affirms the elected civilian authority as the arbiter of military rules of engagement while lamenting its consequences the general mcchrysal drama illustrates the selfless sacrifice military leaders will make to achieve combat objectives with minimum loss of life despite shackling political restrictions during the vietnam war it took a regime change and another general shown on the front cover to finally employ the war ending strategy called the 11 day war Lt col wayne goodson usaf ret reveals a long awaited truth about the everyday drama personal and otherwise of anderson afb guam goodson exposes the roles of the national media liberal politicians and academia that led to public distain of the military goodson attempts to alter secular unpatriotic attitudes in honor of the b 52 aircrews of the strategic air command and the role they carried out to end the vietnam war the mighty eighth is a masterful piece that pulls the whole story together from the azores to guam you will find yourself inserted in the personal experiences of Lt col john wayne goodson ret while learning the around the clock happenings on guam and details of the ongoing b 52 kc 135 operations Lt gen george h mckee usaf ret

in this riveting account historian stephen ambrose continues where he left off in his 1 bestseller d day ambrose again follows the individual characters of this noble brutal and tragic war from the high command down to the ordinary soldier drawing on hundreds of interviews to re create the war experience with startling clarity and immediacy from the hedgerows of normandy to the overrunning of germany ambrose tells the real story of world war ii from the perspective of the men and women who fought it from june 7 1944 on the beaches of normandy to the final battles of germany acclaimed historian stephen e ambrose draws on hundreds of interviews and oral histories from men on both sides to write a compelling and comprehensive portrait of the citizen soldiers who made up the u s army ambrose re creates the experiences of the individuals who fought the battle from high command eisenhower bradley and patton on down to the enlisted men within the chronological story there are chapters on medics nurses and doctors on the quartermasters on the replacements on what it was like to spend a night on the front lines on sad sacks cowards and criminals on christmas 1944 and on weapons of all kinds in this engrossing history ambrose reveals the learning process of a great army how to cross rivers how to fight in snow or hedgerows how to fight in cities how to coordinate air and ground campaigns and how citizens become soldiers throughout the perspective is that of the enlisted men and junior officers and how decisions of the brass affected them

the lucky ones is a collection of stories gathered from the wartime experiences of a few us airmen who served in the 8th air force bomb groups in england during wwii the stories in this collection narrated by the airmen themselves recount the harrowing adventures the airmen endured in their most trying missions over europe these are stories of encounters with enemy fighters struggles to control flak damaged planes grueling crash landings and desperate bail outs from burning planes many airmen fortunate enough to survive these experiences were captured by the germans once on the ground their treatment at the hands of their captors is painfully re told here miraculously some airmen managed to evade captivity and escape the germans sometimes as an entire crew in the course of the war more than 30 000 young americans lost their lives over europe as one airman said the real heroes were the many who died in combat these are the stories of other heroes who survived what seemed certain death these are the stories of the lucky ones

the splendor of the mighty eighth squadron's silver birds and the legends who flew them come alive on page upon spectacular page seventy five luscious color paintings by talented british and american military artists accompanied by the commentaries of the leading historian of american aviation roger freeman capture every aspect of pilot and plane sleek dives breathtaking bombing raids and precious moments of rest you'll see a fighter's view of a quaint french town marred by steel tanks marching down its streets yet still flying the flag of its allies and the return of the memphis belle that most famous of all flying fortress aircraft and one image graphically captures a dramatic dash in which a desperate german airman deliberately slices into an american plane with his propeller the u s pilot bailed out safely triumph and tragedy alike are vividly captured for historians veterans and battle buffs to treasure for years to come selected by the military book club

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