The 357th Fighter Group produced 42 aces, more than any other group within the USAAF. It was also the first group in the Eighth Air Force to be equipped with the P-51. Thanks to this fighter and the talented pilots assigned to the group (men such as Bud Anderson, Kit Carson, John England and Chuck Yeager) the 357th achieved a faster rate of aerial victories than any other Eighth Air Force group during the final year of the war. It also claimed the highest number of aerial kills - 56 - in a single mission. The group was awarded two Distinguished Unit Citations (the unit equivalent of the Medal of Honor). Written by Chris Bucholtz, this book is crammed full of first-hand accounts, superb photography and some of the most colorful profiles to be found in World War II aviation.

A multidimensional, multidisciplinary work on one of the least understood but most important conflicts in modern history. • 760 alphabetically organized entries covering all aspects of the Korean War era-military, political, economic, social, and cultural • Nearly 150 primary documents in a separate volume • More than 125 contributors, including both civilian professors from a wide range of disciplines as well as military officers • An updated historiographical essay compiled by Dr. Allan R. Millett, one of the nation's leading military historians and experts on the Korean War • More than 350 illustrations and 21 detailed maps • A chronology of the Korean War, a glossary, and a general bibliography

Unquestionably the best American fighter of World War 2, the North American P-51 Mustang served in large numbers with the USAAF's Eighth Air Force from late 1943 until VE Day, and was the mount of most aces in-theatre. Charged with the responsibility of escorting huge formations of B-17 Flying Fortress and B-24 Liberator bombers on daylight raids deep into Germany, the P-51 pilots of the various fighter groups within the 'Mighty Eighth' went head to head with the cream of the Luftwaffe's fighter squadrons for control of the skies over the Third Reich. Aircraft of the Aces 1, 19 and 24 are also available in a single volume as 'Aces of the Mighty Eighth'. The third book in the "For Advanced Players" series. It is really books 3 and 4 for two reasons. First, many of the concepts are similar for both games. Second, players mastering one game can easily make the transition to the other. Some of the ideas discussed in the seven-card stud eight-or-better section include starting hands, when an ace raises, disguising

your hand on third street, play on fourth street, fifth street, sixth street, seventh street, position, bluffing, staying to the end, and scare cards. Some of the ideas discussed in the Omaha eight-or-better section include general concepts, position, low hands, high hands, your starting hand, how to play your hand, play on the flop, multiway versus short handed play, scare cards, getting counterfeited, and your playing style. A great deal of this material has never appeared in print before. The Eighth Sea

Masters of the Air over Europe 1942-45

'Down to Earth' Strafing Aces of the Eighth Air Force Aces of the Mighty Eighth

'Long Reach'

P-38 Lightning Aces of the Pacific and CBI

Nicknamed the 'Bluenosed Bastards of Bodney' due to the garish all-blue noses of their P-51s, the 352nd FG was one of the most successful fighter groups in the Eighth Air Force. Credited with destroying almost 800 enemy aircraft between 1943 and 1945, the 352nd finished fourth in the ranking of all groups within VIII Fighter Command. Initially equipped with P-47s, the group transitioned to P-51s in the spring of 1944, and it was with the Mustang that its pilots enjoyed their greatest success. Numerous first-hand accounts, 55 newly commissioned artworks and 140+ photos complete this concise history of the 'Bluenosers'.

The arrival of the Spitfire in Burma came at a crucial time as the RAF struggled against the Japanese to support the Chindit operation on the ground. Proving a huge boost to morale, the Spitfire played a large part in defeating the enemy, and covering the subsequent Allied advance through Burma, protecting the ground troops and providing vital supplies. Covering this little documented aerial war, this book tells the stories of the 54 aces who flew against the Japanese, and also those who fought in India and Australia. Full-colour artwork reveals the markings and paint schemes of this most-famous of British planes, whilst first-hand accounts and archive photographs bring the aerial battles of Burma, India and Australia to life. The P-38 was used on virtually every front to which the USAAF were committed, but enjoyed

its greatest successes in the Pacific and China-Burma-India (CBI) theatres. The speed, range and firepower of the P-38 made it the favourite of nearly all aircrew fighting in the Solomons, New Guinea and the Philippines, and over 1800 Japanese aircraft fell to its guns. From the first encounters at the end of 1942 until the Lightning scored the final Fifth Air force victories in August 1945, these pilots made the Pacific skies very much their own battleground. Like The Long Reach, Down to Earth is a message from the battle at its height, told in their own words by the men who fight' this is how Brig-Gen Francis Griswold, VIII Fighter Command, ends his introduction to this book. His official endorsement reveals just how important a document Down to Earth was to the teaching of tyro fighter pilots heading for action in the ETO. More leading aces were lost to flak whilst ground strafing than to German fighters. In this book William Hess has included biographies of all the pilots that originally contributed to this work back in 1943-44.

Aces of the 325th Fighter Group
An Epic Saga of Survival in the Air War Over Germany
Gabby
Ace in a Day
Aces of the 78th Fighter Group
Aces of the Mighty Eighth Dbleday
Dubbed the 'Eagles of Duxford', the 78th Fighter Group (FG) was

unique in being the only fighter unit in the 'Mighty Eighth' to fly the P-38 Lightning, P-47 Thunderbolt and P-51 Mustang operationally. Arriving in the European Theatre of Operations (ETO) in November 1942, and eventually committed to combat five months later, the 78th, along with the 4th and 56th FGs, 'wrote the book' on long-range fighter escort by VIII Fighter Command in the ETO. This volume charts the group's highs and lows during its two years in action from Duxford, focusing on the exploits of the 51 pilots who achieved ace status with the 78th during World War 2. These men included Capt Charles London, the very first Eighth Air Force ace, and Maj Quince Brown, who was the 78th's most successful aerial ace prior to being murdered by the SS after he was shot down over Germany. By VE Day, the 'Eagles' of Duxford' had downed 316 aircraft and destroyed a further 320 machines on the ground during strafing attacks on German airfields.

A World War II pilot describes his rise in the military, combat record, and time as a POW

This is a paranormal love story spanning eternity. Mike and Cindy, two young lovers, discover that they have literally been soul-mates forever. While weekending in Las Vegas, they have a life-altering paranormal experience which leads them to embark on a search to find and reunite with their eight other soul mates. These ten lovers have lived innumerable lifetimes together, both within this Realm and the seven other Realms that together make up the multiverse in which we all exist. After the ten soul mates are finally reunited, they set out to to uncover the hidden nature of the universe, and to learn their part in it. Their journey takes them from Earth to their eternal home in the Prime Realm. There they discover many bizarre and unorthodox truths about the meaning of life, death, love, and the underlying nature of reality. What they learn will shake their belief-system as they find they can defy all of the normal laws of nature and alter their bodies and even their sexes at will. Eventually the group participates in creating a new Big Bang that results in the beginning of the ninth Realm in our multiverse. As readers follow along in this journey of discovery, they may find themselves questioning and reexamining their fundamental beliefs about sex, love, religion, spirituality, and the true meaning and purpose of life. Whether you agree or disagree with the premise of this novel, you will find the book difficult to put down and even more difficult to forget.

Whether you are following a problem-based, an integrated, or a more traditional medical course, clinical biochemistry is often viewed as one of the more challenging subjects to grasp. What

you need is a single resource that not only explains the biochemical underpinnings of metabolic medicine, but also integrates laboratory findings with clinical practice. You will find all this, and more, in the eighth edition of Clinical Biochemistry and Metabolic Medicine. This well-respected text provides comprehensive and measured guidance to this complex area, reflecting the ongoing changes in our understanding of clinical biochemistry while preserving the acknowledged strengths of previous editions: readability, a firm basis in the underlying science, and a clear focus on clinical applicability. The Sinners
Fighters of the Mighty Eighth, 1942-45
Korean War Aces
The Americans at D-Day
World War II Journal Volume 1 - Air Power in World War II Number 1

An American Fighter Pilot's Air War in Europe

In The Americans at D-Day, the first volume of this series, John C. McManus showed us the American experience in Operation Overlord. Now, in this succeeding volume, he does the same for the Battle of Normandy as a whole. Never before has the American involvement in Normandy been examined so thoroughly or exclusively as in The Americans at Normandy. For D-Day was only one part of the battle, and victory came from weeks of sustained effort and sacrifices made by Allied soldiers. Presented here is the American experience during that summer of 1944, from the aftermath of D-Day to the slaughter of the Falaise Gap, from the courageous, famed figures of Bradley, Patton, and Lightnin' Joe Collins to the lesser-known privates who toiled in torturous conditions for their country. What was this battle really like for these men? What drove them to fight against all sense and despite all obstacles? How and why did they triumph? Reminiscent of Cornelius Ryan's The Longest Day, The Americans at Normandy takes readers into the minds of the best American strategists, into the hearts of the infantry, into hell on earth. Engrossing, lightning-quick, and filled with real human sorrow and elation, The Americans at Normandy honors those Americans who lost their lives in foreign fields and those who survived. Here is their story, finally told with the depth, pathos, and historical perspective it deserves. At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold without Digital Rights Management Software (DRM) applied.

The breathtaking, never-before-told, true story of a historic air force bombing mission in 1943 Germany. On September 6, 1943, three hundred and thirty-eight B-17 "Flying Fortresses" of the American Eighth Air Force took off from England, bound for Stuttgart, Germany, to bomb Nazi weapons factories. Dense clouds obscured the targets, and one commander's critical decision to circle three times over the city—and its deadly flak—would prove disastrous. Forty-five planes went down that day, and hundreds of men were lost or missing. Focusing on first-person accounts of six of the B-17 airmen, award-winning author Robert Mrazek vividly recreates the fierce air battle—and reveals the astonishing valor of the airmen who survived being shot down, and the tragic fate of those who did not.

He began his career as a fighter in W.W.I who came back from defeat at the hands of German ace Max Immelmann. He went on to become a test pilot after the war.

This book charts the story of the lesser known aces who flew the mighty Republic aircraft as a tactical fighter-bomber with the Ninth Air Force, rather than as a long-range escort. It also details the exploits of the Mediterranean-based 325th FG, which was the only P-47 group within the strategic Fifteenth Air Force. Thunderbolt aces within the Ninth Air Force,

particularly, were rare, despite some 15 groups flying the fighter. Supporting troops on the ground rather than searching out aerial foes, was the name of the game for the men of the Ninth. However, with the Luftwaffe often opposing such sorties through to April 1945, more than 20 pilots had the opportunity to score five or more kills and 'make ace'.

The Mighty Eighth

To Kingdom Come

The Encyclopedia of the Korean War: A Political, Social, and Military History, 2nd Edition [3 volumes]

The Summer of 1944--The American War from the Normandy Beaches to Falaise A Political, Social, and Military History

479th Fighter Group

This volume focuses on the little known official Army Air Force report commissioned by the Eighth Air Force's VIII Fighter Command (FC) in May 1944. The detailed document chronicled the experiences of 24 pilots who had seen extensive service in the frontline escorting B-17s and B-24s on daylight raids deep into Germany. Briefed to provide a candid report on combat flying that could be used as a teaching 'manual' for potential fighter pilots, the VIII FC veterans openly discuss their secrets to success, and survival in the deadly skies over occupied Europe. Exactly half of those pilots who contributed to The Long Reach subsequently achieved ace status.

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.

Written by three esteemed baseball statisticians, The

Bookcontinues where the legendary Bill James's Baseball Abstractsand Palmer and Thorn's The Hidden Game of Baseballleft off more than twenty years ago. Continuing in the grand tradition of sabermetrics, the authors provide a revolutionary way to think about baseball with principles that can be applied at every level, from high school to the major leagues. Tom Tango, Mitchel Lichtman, and Andrew Dolphin cover topics such as batting and pitching matchups, platooning, the benefits and risks of intentional walks and sacrifices, the legitimacy of alleged clutch hitters, and many of baseball's other theories on hitting, fielding, pitching, and even baserunning. They analyze when a strategy is a good idea and when it's a bad idea, and how to more closely watch the inside game of baseball. Whenever you hear an announcer talk about the unwritten rule or say that soand-so is going by the book in bringing in a situational substitute, The Bookreviews the facts and determines what the real case is. If you want to know what the folks in baseball should be doing, find out in The Book.

"The most comprehensive, widely used, and evidence-based pharmacotherapy text available Hailed by Doody's Review Service as "one of the best in pharmacy" Pharmacotherapy: A Pathophysiologic Approach is unmatched in its ability to help students develop a mastery of evidence-based medicine for optimum patient outcomes. The eighth edition will feature the addition of SI units throughout and an increased number of global examples and clinical questions. Features Unparalleled guidance in the development of pharmaceutical care plans Fullcolor presentation Key Concepts in each chapter Critical Presentation boxes summarize common disease signs and symptoms Clinical Controversies boxes examin complicated issues you face when providing drug therapy NEW material added to the online learning center EXPANDED evidence-based recommendations EXPANDED coverage of timely issues such as palliative care and pain medicine Therapeutic recommendations in each disease-specific chapter"--Provided by publisher. To-day

World War 2 Journal
B-24 Liberator Units of the Eighth Air Force
Ace McCool

Mustang Aces of the 357th Fighter Group

The war of "Ace in a Day" Wayne "Blick" Blickenstaff in his own words. The 325th FG was activated under General Order number 50 on 30 July 1942 and set up training operations at Theodore F Greene Field in Providence, Rhode Island. By mid-December 1942 the group was considered ready for combat and the alert for overseas duty arrived on 2 January 1943. The pilots

and their P-40s departed on the carrier USS Ranger on 8 January and flew their aircraft off the vessel into Cazes airfield, near Casablanca, on 19 January 1943. After the remainder of the personnel arrived in late February, the group prepared for combat, and finally flew its first mission on 17 April 1943 as part of the Twelfth Air Force. During the next four months it participated in the North African campaign, and operations against enemyheld islands in the Mediterranean Sea. By the end of the Sicilian campaign on 17 August the 325th FG had scored 128 aerial victories, been the first P-40 unit to deliver 1,000-lb bombs against enemy targets and had escorted 1,100 bombers without losing a single one of them to enemy action. An Ace of the EighthAn American Fighter Pilot's Air War in EuropePresidio Press

The three most distinguished and best known US fighter aircraft of World War II were undoubtedly the P-38, the P-51 and the P-47. This title assesses the ralative strengths and weaknesses of each legondary aircraft, and uncovers the personalities and achievements of their greatest ace pilots. The daylight raids on the Third Reich, when the P-51 pilots went head to head with the cream of the Luftwaffe; the less-celebrated yet equally outstanding exploits of the P-38 over Germany's heartland and the evolving combat tactics that enabled the heavy P-47 to hold its own against more nimble German opponents are all detailed in this volume.

Spitfire Aces of Burma and the Pacific

The Book

Playing the Percentages in Baseball

The Memoirs of Legendary Ace Robin Olds

P-47 Thunderbolt Aces of the Eighth Air Force

P-47 Thunderbolt Aces of the Ninth and Fifteenth Air Forces

The 357th Fighter Group produced 42 aces, more than any other group within the USAAF. It was also the first group in the Eighth Air Force to be equipped with the P-51. Thanks to this fighter and the talented pilots assigned to the group (men such as Bud Anderson, Kit Carson, John England and Chuck Yeager) the 357th achieved a faster rate of aerial victories than any other Eighth Air Force group during the final year of the war. It also claimed the highest number of aerial kills - 56 - in a single mission. The group was awarded two Distinguished Unit Citations (the unit equivalent of the Medal of Honor). Written by Chris Bucholtz, this book is crammed full of first-hand accounts, superb photography and some of the most colorful profiles to be found in World War II aviation. Merriam Press World War II Journal 1 First Edition (2013) Fourteen articles on a variety of topics covering the air war in Europe during World War II. Contents: Legacy of the "Bloody Hundredth" (100th Bomb Group, USAAF) The Mighty Eighth Flies Again (movies about the Eighth Air Force) Bridge Busters: 490th Bomb Squadron, Tenth Air Force, USAAF The French Air Force in 1940: Was It Defeated by the Luftwaffe or by Politics? Camouflage of the Marcel Bloch MB.150 Series The Forgotten Allies: A French Family's Contribution French Aircraft in Regia Aeronautica Service, 1943 Airfields of the Eighth: Grafton Underwood "Old Grandpappy": Boeing XB-15 Super Flying Fortress Budd RB-1 Conestoga: American Cargo Plane 55th Fighter Group, USAAF D-Day Plus Three: First Air Force Men on Normandy (building forward airfields for American fighter aircraft) Fighter Pilots of 303 Squadron, RAF An Ace Called Gentile (Don Gentile, 4th Fighter Group, USAAF) 552 photos (510 B&W, 42 color), 1 three-view, 1 five-view, 1 map.

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The first virtually all-jet war, the conflict in Korea saw F-86 Sabres of the USAF take on MiG-15s of the North Korean and Chinese air forces. Although the Allied pilots were initially taken aback by the ability of the communist fighter in combat, sound training and skilful leadership soon enabled Sabre pilots to dominate the dogfights over the Yalu River. In all 39 F-86 pilots achieved ace status, and a number of these are profiled in this volume, as are notable pilots from the US Navy, Marine Corps and Royal Navy and, for the first time, the handful of MiG-15 aces.

Osprey's examination of the B-24 Liberator Units' participation in World War II (1939-1945). The B-24 Liberator was built in greater numbers than any other US warplane, yet its combat crews live, even today, in the shadow of the less plentiful, but better-known. B-17. Accounts of the 'Mighty Eighth' in Europe, and indeed many of the books and films that emerged from the greatest air campaign in history, often overlook the B-24, even though it was in action for as long as the Flying Fortress, and participated in just as many perilous daylight bombing missions.

The Memoir of an Eighth Air Force Fighter Pilot in World War II Clinical Biochemistry and Metabolic Medicine Eighth Edition The Eighth Realm Grade 8

A Fighter Pilot's Life

The Americans at Normandy

Ace McCool is an over-the-top spoof of the airline industry. It relates the hilarious misadventures of a fly-by-night, corner-cutting airline called Down East International, based in Moncton, New Brunswick. The stories start with Ace McCool, a World War II pilot, and the ragtag characters he picks up along the way as his airline progresses from DC-3s to a Boeing 727 over the years from just after the war to 1985. Dim-witted pilot Pete Braddock "who could have flown the crate the airplane came in." The Smarts, an insufferable Englishman but "a polemaster of the first water." Churchy Laflamme, "de bes' co-pilot of dem all." Cowboy McCloskey, a big Albertan dinosaur with oil wells on his ranch. He commutes to Moncton in a privately-owned CF-104. Red Starr, a hippie pilot and, on the side, lead of a rock group called Red Starr and the Commies. Those pilots and a few more, as well as stewardesses (as they were called) Mile-High Millie, Crazy Iris and Stew Jane, and a few other characters stumble their way from one impossible situation to another. These are the same stories that brought laughter to readers of Canadian Aviation magazine. They are assembled together in book form. Come fly and laugh with Ace McCool of Down East International.

An account of America's involvement in Normandy offers insight into the nation's best strategists and the firsthand experiences of its infantry, providing coverage of D-Day's aftermath, the Falaise Gap slaughter, and the contributions of such figures as Bradley, Patton, Collins, Rommel, and lesser-known soldiers. Reprint. 20,000 first printing.

Merriam Press World War 2 Journal Volume 2 (First Edition, 2015). 15

articles on American airpower in World War II: (1) AWPD-1: Targeting for Victory: The Rationale Behind Strategic Bombing Objectives in America's First Air War Plan; (2) An Ace Called Gentile; (3) "Old Grandpappy": Boeing XB-15 Super Flying Fortress; (4) 55th Fighter Group, USAAF; (5) The Air Force Spreads its Wings: A Report; (6) The Last One Downed; (7) "Fly Your Eggs Right Down Their Stacks": A Dauntless Pilot at the Battle of Midway; (8) With Five Focke-Wulfs on Her Tail; (9) Eighth Air Force, USAAF; (10) Camouflaging Lockheed's Burbank Aircraft Plant; (11) Flying PBYs with VP-61 in the Aleutians; (12) Budd RB-1 Conestoga; (13) USAAF Training; (14) Legacy of the "Bloody Hundredth"; (15) Airfields of the Eighth: Grafton Underwood. 520 B&W photos, 42 color photos, 1 map, 1 three-view.

SHIPS/CARS/TRAINS/PLANES

VIII Fighter Command at War

Mathematics

Fighter Pilot

An Ace of the Eighth

'Riddle's Raiders'

352nd Fighter Group

Robin Olds was many things to many people. To his West Point football coach he was an All American destined for the National College Football Hall of Fame. To his P-38 and P-51 wartime squadrons in WWII he was the aggressive fighter pilot who made double ace and became their commander in nine short months. For the pioneers of the jet age, he was the wingman on the first jet demo team, a racer in the Thompson Trophy race, and the only U.S. exchange officer to command an RAF squadron. In the tabloid press he was the dashing flying hero who married the glamorous movie star. For the current crop of fighter pilots he is best known as the leader of the F-4 Wolfpack battling over North Vietnam. For cadets at the Air Force Academy he was a role model and mentor. He was all of those things and more. Here's Robin's story in his own words and gleaned from the family and friends of his lifetime. Here's the talent and learning, the passion and leadership, the love and disappointments of his life. Few men have written on the tablets of aviation history with such a broad and indelible brush. Olds was a classic hero with vices as well as virtues, a life writ large that impacted many.

In this novel from New York Times-bestselling crime master Ace Atkins, violence comes in many forms...and this time it may be more than Quinn Colson can handle. The Pritchards had never been worth a damn--an evil. greedy family who made their living dealing drugs and committing mayhem. Years ago, Colson's late uncle had put the clan's patriarch in prison, but now he's getting out, with revenge, power, and family business on his mind. To make matters worse, a shady trucking firm with possible ties to the Gulf Coast syndicate has moved into Tibbehah, and they have their own methods of intimidation. With his longtime deputy Lillie Virgil

now working up in Memphis, Quinn Colson finds himself having to fall back on some brand-new deputies to help him out, but with Old West-style violence breaking out, and his own wedding on the horizon, this is without a doubt Colson's most trying time as sheriff. Cracks are opening up all over the county, and shadowy figures are crawling out through them--and they're all heading directly for him.

The three most distinguished and best known US fighter aircraft of World War II were undoubtedly the P-38, the P-51 and the P-47. This book assesses the relative strengths and weaknesses of each legendary aircraft, and uncovers the personalities and achievements of their greatest 'ace' pilots. The daylight raids on the Third Reich, when P-51 pilots went head to head with the cream of the Luftwaffe; the less-celebrated yet equally outstanding exploits of the P-38 over Germany's heartland, and the evolving combat tactics that enabled the heavy P-47 to hold its own against more nimble German opponents are all detailed in this volume.

The US aviation industry produced three great fighter designs to equip its burgeoning army air force during World War 2, and of this trio, Republic's P-47 Thunderbolt was easily the heaviest. Powered, crucially, by a turbocharged Pratt & Whitney R-2800 Double Wasp radial engine that produced 2000 hp, the first production fighters reached the 56th FG in June 1942, and six months later the group joined the Eight Air Force in Britain. The arrival of the first P-47Cs in mid-1943 addressed the problem of the aircraft's short combat radius, as this model could be fitted with an external tank. Slowly, as combat tactics evolved in units like the 56th and 78th FGs, pilots learnt how best to fly the Thunderbolt in order to effectively counter the more nimble Luftwaffe fighters.

Mustang Aces of the Eighth Air Force

High-Low-Split Poker, Seven-Card Stud and Omaha Eight-Or-Better for Advanced Players

The American Experience at the Normandy Invasion Pharmacotherapy: A Pathophysiologic Approach, Eighth Edition FOR A FIGHTER PILOT IN THE MIGHTY EIGHTH, DEATH WAS ALWAYS A HEARTBEAT AWAY. When the skies of Europe blazed with the fiercest air battles in history, fighter pilots like Norman "Bud" Fortier were in the thick of it, flying four hundred miles an hour at thirty thousand feet, dodging flak and dueling with Nazi aces. In their role as "escorts" to Flying Fortresses and Liberators, the fighter squadrons' ability to blast enemy aircraft from the sky was key to the success of pinpoint bombing raids on German oil refineries, communication and supply lines, and other crucial targets. Flying in formation with the bomber stream, Fortier and the rest of his squadron helped develop divebombing and strafing tactics for the Thunderbolts and Mustangs. As the war progressed, fighter squadrons began to carry out their own bombing missions. From blasting V-1 missile sites along France's "rocket coast" and the hell-torn action of D day

to the critical attacks on the Ruhr Valley and massive daylight raids on German industrial targets, Fortier was part of the Allies' bitter struggle to bring the Nazi war machine to a halt. In describing his own hundred-plus missions and by including the accounts of fellow fighter pilots, Fortier recaptures the excitement and fiery terror of the world's most dangerous catand-mouse game.

Formed in October 1943, the 479th FG claimed an impressive history against the Luftwaffe during the final year of the war. Originally flying P-38s, the 479th's pilots had a fierce pride of arms. They earned a Presidential Distinguished Unit Citation in the late summer of 1944 and were also credited with the USAAF's first German jet kill in July 1944. Eventually transitioning to the P-51D in September 1944, the 479th excelled with the Mustang. The 479th FG was credited with scoring the last aerial victory claimed by the Eighth Air Force's VIII Fighter Command, on 25 April 1945. By VE-Day, 29 pilots flying in the group had earned "acet? status.