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F4U Corsair Units Of The Korean War (Osprey Combat Aircraft 78)



Synopsis

The definitive account of F-4 Corsair Units deployed in the Korean War (1950-1953), this book tells the story of the 26 US Navy Squadrons, most of which were carrier based, and the 6 Marine Corps F-4 squadrons that flew combat missions against the North Koreans. Drawing from a vast repository of personal interviews with F-4 pilots, the author paints a harrowing picture of the deadly combat of this often forgotten air war. Included in this volume is the story of Lt Guy Bordelon, the US Navy's sole ace of the Korean War, who flew an F4U-5N night-fighter against the night raiders sent up by the Korean Air force. Backing up the text is a vast number of previously unpublished private photographs that bring the stories of these pilots to life. Finally the book contains extensive appendices that detail every unit deployment by carrier, air group, Corsair model and tail code. Also included is a detailed list noting every Corsair lost in the war, with tail number, pilot, date of loss and the unit.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“You would expect to have a lot of ‘There I was’ stories in the book and you’ll find them here. These add a great deal of interest and allow the reader to see what combat was like during the conflict. The images chosen are superb and as color photography was coming into more widespread use, many of the images are in full color. There is also the usual profiles section that we’ve come to expect in Osprey aviation books. Overall, it is an excellent addition to the series and a book that no Corsair or Korean War enthusiast should miss.”
—Scott Van Aken,

Warren Thompson has been an avid military aviation historian and editor for over 40 years and his personal reference collection includes thousands of photos and detailed interviews with over 2,000 pilots and aircrew members. He has had 25 books published including three books on the Korean War for Osprey. His book Korean War Aces in the Aircraft of the Aces series was a bestseller.

When the North Korea People's Army invaded South Korea on 25 June 1950, the only American military assets were the air squadrons stationed in Japan, Okinawa and the Philippines. The Essex-class carrier USS Valley Forge (CV-45), in a Western Pacific cruise since May, was rushed to the conflicted area, arriving and launching her first strikes on 3rd July. Her air group (CVG-5) was composed, among others squadrons, by the F4U-4B equipped VF53 and VF54. For the next 3 years, F4U-4/5/5N's operated in 11 Essex carriers and the USMC squadrons flying from six others CVE (light carriers). Starting with the defense of the Pusan Perimeter, then in the Inchon landings through the intervention of the Chinese Red Army forces, the Corsair supported the Allied forces in the see-saw actions in the Korean Peninsula. Those missions included not only ground support but also reconnaissance and night attack and night fighter. In this latter role it was in an F4U-5N that Lt. Guy P. "Lucky Pierre" Bordelon became the sole propeller-driven fighter ace, the night-fighter and only Navy ace. Included are never-published before color photos of the F4U actions in Korea, a roster of F4U losses by date and serial number, and a list of units which operated the airplane - Navy and USMC. A very enjoyable reading indeed.

A terrific abbreviated account of the many US Navy/Marine squadrons and pilots that flew 1,000s of sorties against the enemy flying the F4U Corsair in the Korean War in the 1950's. After you read this book you will be hooked on the exploits of the pilots and the airplane they flew during the war that changed our posture indelibly in the Far East.

Just asked my history buff son what he thought of the book, he said, "5 stars" "it was good". Nuff said.

Very little on aircraft from the USS Kearsarge. The Bitterbirds did their second tour on the Kearsarge and not the Boxer. Other than that it seems pretty accurate.

as advertised

Great book on Korean war F4U activities.

Very informative, High quality book. Most enjoyable read.

Much info - wish there was more. Pics great. One is of my bro-in-law, a pilot.

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