



THE EIGHT BALLERS: EYES OF THE FIFTH AIR FORCE

The 8th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron in World War II

John Stanaway & Bob Rocker

Eight Ballers Eyes Of The Fifth Air Force

R Bogdan



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The Eight Ballers: Eyes of the Fifth Air Force John Stanaway, Bob Rocker, 1999-01 Beginning operations in April 1942 with a shoestring flight of four Lockheed F 4 Lightnings the photo recon version of the famed P 38 the 8th Photo Squadron gave the American Army Air Forces its only aerial reconnaissance coverage of the Southwest Pacific during the first part of the war From the first days over New Guinea until the final sweeps over Japan the squadron struggled with the world s most treacherous weather and faulty equipment as well as a resolute Japanese enemy to write an astounding record of keeping the 5th Air Force pictorially informed The 8th Photo Squadron participated in every campaign from Buna to Hollandia Lae to Rabaul the Philippines to the invasion of Okinawa The squadron played a part in such famous battles as the Coral Sea and Bismarck Sea Its first commander was Karl Polifka who went on to be listed in the first rank of American reconnaissance This book is comprised of over 500 photos most of which have never been published before many from the archives of squadron veterans Many new facts are added to the annotated squadron diary that was kept when the 8th operated almost singlehandedly during 1942 and 1943 *Air Force Magazine* ,1999-07 *United States Air Force and Its Antecedents* James T. Controvich, Martin Gordon, 2004-06-24 This bibliography lists published and printed unit histories for the United States Air Force and Its Antecedents including Air Divisions Wings Groups Squadrons Aviation Engineers and the Women s Army Corps *The P-38 Lightning and the Men Who Flew It* Wolfgang W. E. Samuel, 2025-04-15 The P 38 Lightning was one of the fastest operational fighters of World War II famous for its successes in North Africa and the Pacific In *The P 38 Lightning and the Men Who Flew It* Wolfgang W E Samuel shares the stories of the young men who climbed into the cockpits of the P 38 to fight for freedom and of those who created tested and deployed these fearsome machines The P 38 was the product of the Lockheed Corporation the first fighter they ever built principally conceptualized by Kelly Johnson whose design was to meet Air Corps specifications To do that he came up with a twin engine aircraft with a tricycle landing gear unlike any other military aircraft of the time But it was no easy plane to fly Many pilots died in training and routine flying before ever meeting an opponent in combat P 38 units were formed quickly once the United States entered World War II in December 1941 Training was rushed to get pilots and planes to Europe as quickly as possible to serve as bomber escorts Although the P 38 could fly at the high altitudes the bombers flew it was not the right aircraft for the mission Without an engine in front of the cockpit to keep the pilot warm the plane was frigid Pilots suffered and were sometimes so weakened by the brutal cold that they had to be lifted out of the cockpit upon landing and the bombers suffered severe losses In North Africa s warmer air however the P 38 came into its own With four 50 caliber machine guns and a 20mm cannon in its nose the P 38 was a formidable adversary With proven success in the Mediterranean P 38 squadrons were transferred to the Pacific Theater where they flourished Focusing on the men who flew this challenging aircraft and the men who designed and decided how to deploy it Samuel shares stories of bravery and ingenuity alongside an aviation history long neglected The P

P-38 deployment is covered in some detail including the actions of Richard Bong who became the US forces ace of aces in the Pacific skies. The P-38's pilots and designers made the heroic history captured here. *In Defense of Freedom* Wolfgang W. E. Samuel, 2015-04-30 The twenty-seven stories in this book serve as a graphic reminder of the selfless heroism of America's World War II Army Air Forces flyers and how necessary they were to achieve Allied victory. Wolfgang Samuel and the pilots he interviewed reveal the peril these men faced to achieve a daunting task impossible without their bravery. And their sacrifices were stunning. American bomber crews suffered the highest casualties: KIA, MIA, POW, wounded of all American armed services in World War II. The stories preserved in this book bear that grave danger out. A member of a heavy bomber crew in the 8th Air Force in the period from mid-1942 to spring 1944 was less likely to survive than a US Marine fighting on Iwo Jima or Okinawa. The stories in this unique book are about men who went face to face with their adversaries, who saw their buddies die, who crashed planes and who became prisoners of war. Many later went on to become the backbone of the postwar Air Force serving in Korea and Vietnam and during the Cold War. Young Ken Chilstrom led a flight of eight A-36 fighter bombers on a low-level foray in Italy. Only he and two others came home. Bob Hoover thought he could take on the entire German air force but on his first mission he was shot down, nearly perished and suffered the remainder of the war in a prisoner of war camp. Wolfgang Samuel's new book is all about men like Ken, Bob and the many friends they lost who saw World War II through to the end and gave freedom to so many others. *Spitfire Glory* Tor Idar Larsen, 2017-04-20 Major Leif Lundsten flew hundreds of Spitfires during the Second World War. As a fighter pilot with 331 Squadron and test pilot with Vickers Armstrong he strapped on as many as seven different marks of Spitfires. All the way from the early Mark II up to the rare brutal XII version. Following Lundsten's career as a fighter pilot through the War, all the Spitfires he flew are covered in this book along with descriptions of his sorties. Behind every Spitfire there is a story to be told. Stories of brave heroism, tragic deaths or determined resilience. Many of the Spitfires disappeared quickly, shot down by Luftwaffe fighters. Others lived longer than our hero did and still exist today, becoming legendary Spitfires on their own. The author pays tribute to a forgotten Spitfire hero, a gallant and brave man that did his country proud. Time and time again Leif Lundsten took a Spitfire to the air, whether it was an air test or to meet the Luftwaffe in a dogfight over the channel. He never lived to tell his story, but the stories of the Spitfires he flew remain. This is Leif Lundsten's legacy. *Lucky 666* Bob Drury, Tom Clavin, 2017-10-03 The untold story of friendship, heroism and survival in World War II. Book jacket **Smoky the Brave** Damien Lewis, 2018-12-04 The extraordinary, touching true story of Smoky, the smallest and arguably bravest dog of World War II. In February 1944, as Japanese military advances threatened to overwhelm New Guinea, a tiny four-pound Yorkshire Terrier was discovered hiding in the island's thick jungles. A total mystery as to her origins, she was adopted by US Army Air Force Corporal William Bill Wynne, an air crewman in a photo reconnaissance squadron, becoming an irreplaceable lucky charm for the unit. When Smoky saved Wynne's life by barking a warning of an incoming kamikaze attack, he nicknamed her the angel.

from a foxhole Smoky's exploits continued when she jumped for the unit in a specially designed parachute and famously joined the aircrews flying daring sorties in the war torn skies But her most heroic feat was running a cable through a seventy foot pipe no wider than four inches in places to enable critical communication lines to be run across an airbase which had just been seized from the enemy saving hundreds of ground crew from being exposed to enemy bombing In recognition of her efforts Smoky was awarded eight battle stars Smoky the Brave brings to vivid life the danger and excitement of the many missions of World War II's smallest hero Rocky Boyer's War Allen D Boyer,2017-05-15 In Rocky Boyer's War Allen Boyer offers a wry keen eyed and occasionally disgruntled counterpoint history of the hard fought brilliant campaign that won World War II in the Southwest Pacific Based in part on an unauthorized diary kept by the author's father 1st Lt Roscoe Rocky Boyer this narrative history offers the reader an account of Allied air commander Gen George Kenney's air blitz offensive as it was lived both in the cockpit and on the ground During 1944 as Gen Douglas MacArthur's forces fought their way from New Guinea to the Philippines Kenney discarding pre war doctrine planned and ran an air blitz offensive His 5th Air Force drove forward like a tank army crash landing in open country seizing terrain bulldozing new airfields winning air control and moving forward At airfields on the front line Rocky kept the radios working for the 71st Tactical Reconnaissance Group a fighter bomber unit Diaries were forbidden but Rocky kept one full of casualties accidents off duty shenanigans and rear area snafus He had friends killed when they shot it out with Japanese anti aircraft gunners or when their bombers vanished in bad weather He wrote about wartime camp life at Nadzab New Guinea the largest air base in the world part Scout camp and part frontier boomtown He knew characters worthy of Catch 22 combat flyers who played contract bridge military brass who played office politics black quartermasters and chaplains who stood up to colonels when a promotion party ended with drunken gunplay and dynamite This is a narrative of the war as airmen lived it Rocky's experience of life on the front line gives from the bottom up detail to the framework of Kenney's air blitz The author uses Rocky's story as a jumping off point from which to understand the daily life pranks mishaps and casualties of the men who in 1944 fought their way over the two thousand miles from New Guinea to the Philippines Forthcoming Books Rose Army,1999 Books In Print 2004-2005 Ed Bowker Staff,Staff Bowker, Ed,2004 **The Billboard Albums** Joel Whitburn,2006 A 50 year history of the rock era including every album that made The Billboard 200 chart over 25 000 This amazing reference source provides an artist by artist listing of every album that charted in Billboard from 1956 through December 31 2005 It includes all the chart data including peak chart position total weeks charted chart debut date total weeks at 1 2 or 3 positions original record label and number and more Also features many bonus sections including a top 500 artists ranking chronological listing of all 1 albums the top 100 albums of all time top artists by decade albums of longevity and more Includes album cover photos artist biographies and many other statistics **United Services and Empire Review** ,1924 **Rutgers Alumni Monthly** ,1943 **Radio Daily-television Daily** ,1961 The Compact Edition of the Oxford English Dictionary Sir James Augustus Henry

Murray,1971 Micrographic reproduction of the 13 volume Oxford English dictionary published in 1933 **Fifth Air Force Story ...in World War II** Kenn C. Rust,Sunshine House,1990-09-01 **Unarmed and Unafraid** Glenn B. Infield,1970
Reconnaissance pilots have brought home more secrets in less time than any other form of intelligence in the military They often changed the course of wars prevented some and perhaps precipitated others Here is the largely unsung but fascinating saga of aerial reconnaissance from its halting beginning in the Civil War to its intricate use in Vietnam where new tactics turned aerial reconnaissance into one of our most powerful weapons in brush fire conflicts On the Military Intelligence Branch History Reading List 2012 *Fifth Air Force* United States. USAF Historical Division,19?? **"Eyes of the Eighth"**
Patricia Fussell Keen,1996

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