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Tail-End Charley: Stories From An American Fighter Pilot In World War II



Synopsis

On his nineteenth birthday, James E. Brown tries to fake to his flight instructor that he has flown before. On his twenty-first birthday, Brown is on his way home after logging eighty-five missions in a P-47 fighter over Italy, France, and Germany. Brown's stories surrounding his training and combat experiences in World War II reveal brushes with death, continuous peril and, ultimately, a coming of age for a young man whose freshman year in college becomes instead a heroic engagement with one of the fiercest enemies his country has ever encountered. Ever dutiful to the mother who tells him to "write it down, Jamie," Brown notes his experiences in the journal she provides and adds detail later to deliver a firsthand account of life as a pilot in the final months of combat within the European Theater. Serving as Tail-End Charley — the last man out — in most of the missions he flew, Brown's job was to record results for the interrogation officers afterward. But Brown offers much more insight in this memoir. Follow his triumphs and travails with colleagues who become lifelong compatriots during an indelible period in American history.

Book Information

File Size: 3885 KB

Print Length: 432 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 154296430X

Publication Date: March 28, 2017

Sold by: Amazon Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B06XXLLVMG

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #5,054 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #4 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical > Military & Wars > Branches > Army #4 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical > Military & Wars > Branches > Air Force #16 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Biographies & Memoirs >

Customer Reviews

This is a great detailed book about a young man joining the Army during WW2 and his experiences as a fighter pilot starting with boot camp and his time as an air cadet.

I, too, was a 19-year-old Aviation Cadet during the Korean War. And, I too became an Air Force fighter pilot. While reading this book I related closer to it than any flying book that I've read in the past. As I read page after page, I could feel myself back in the cockpit and flying tight formation, or flying combat spread whenever James Brown did so as described in his book. I almost feel myself straining and grunting to ward off the effects of G-forces while reading some of his passages. And, after all these years, I finally discovered why the P-47 was known endearingly as the "Jug." A big thanks to J.E. Brown for his military service, and also another big thanks for writing this book.

Highly detailed memoir. Well written and comprehensive, a mission by mission account of the author's time in the air (including training). I've read hundreds of memoirs, biographies and histories of WW2 air combat, and this one will take its place near the top of the list. I cant gush enough about how enjoyable this read is - if you like the subject matter, you'll love this book.

Excellent book. Well written and enjoyable the whole way through. Not a feel good story, but he told it like he thought it was and I found myself laughing and wiping tears all the way through.

I enjoyed this book, written from the author's wartime notes as a P-47 pilot in Italy. It was a factual recitation of his experiences from before his enlistment through training and then mission-by-mission as a wingman on bombing and strafing runs near the end of the war. Interesting was his attitude that his job was to attack things, rather than people. Pilots rarely see men on the ground and he talked about attacking a "car" or a "locomotive" or a building without reference to the enemy soldiers who might be inside. He even went out of his way to avoid hitting horses pulling supply wagons.

I highly recommend this book to purchase. Great stories and about this young man. Really interesting facts about becoming a pilot, and then serving in WWII. Great book!!!!

It's fortunate James Brown's mother gave him a blank book to chronicle his life as a fighter pilot. His experiences mirror those of so many of "the greatest generation". After winning the war, they returned to build the America we all cherish.

Kept me interested during the whole book. Well Written, took me along in his seat from his view and experiences. Enjoyable book. Worth reading, and I have read many others to compare this fine true story of his life & experiences. Thank y for your service Jim

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