

Arab MiGs

Volume 5. October 1973 War: Part 1

Tom Cooper and David Nicolle, with Holger Müller, Lon Nordeen and Martin Smisek
Harpia Publishing
£32.99
ISBN 978-0-9854554-4-6

Harpia Publishing's latest title continues its in-depth look at MiGs operated by Arab nations during some of the heaviest fighting in the region. The publisher has a well-established reputation for unearthing previously unknown accounts of aerial combat between Israel, Syria and Egypt and this book is no exception. Looking at

the October War of 1973, the authors have taken the clever step of breaking the aerial clashes into chronological order and linked them with the changing political climate in the region at the time. With the addition of comprehensive maps, every aerial combat is explained in detail and there's pre- and post-analysis of the outcome. The myth of Israel's air superiority is uncovered, showing that while Egyptian MiGs may have operated at a capability disadvantage, the Arab pilots gave a good account of themselves, with a few claiming multiple kills while flying the MiG-21 *Fishbed* against Israeli Mirages and Phantoms.

War-time images throughout the book have been sourced from both official and private collections, with many never previously published. The addition of some excellent colourful profiles by Tom Cooper will certainly please the aircraft modellers out there as, where possible, specific paint reference numbers are provided for perfect colour scheme authenticity in scaled down versions.

This is a stunning piece of work and highly recommended for any serious observer of Middle East air wars. The level of detail is such that the authors even include accounts of US Navy EP-3As gathering intelligence in October 1973 of Israeli aircraft losses – it's that sort of book. Brilliant! Glenn Sands

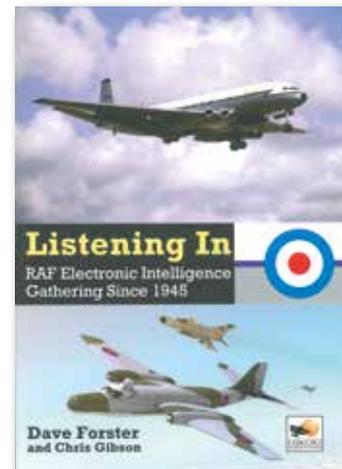
Listening In

RAF Electronic Intelligence Gathering Since 1945

Dave Forster and Chris Gibson
Crecy Publishing
£29.95
ISBN 978-190210-938-1

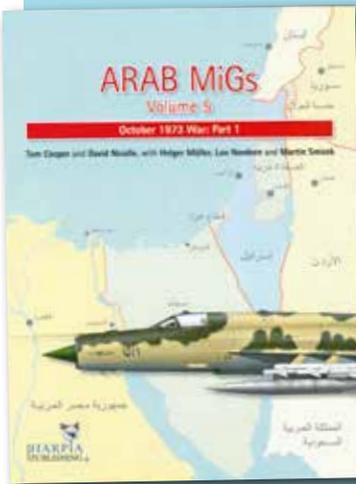
The shadowy world of electronic intelligence gathering (ELINT) has been hidden from the public for decades. Operations conducted against Russia and the Warsaw Pact during the early years of the Cold War are only now being released and the details are surprising and fascinating and demonstrate just how cunning Western air forces were in obtaining aerial intelligence of the Soviet Union. Beginning shortly after the end of World War Two the RAF and USAF utilised converted bombers to monitor Russia's military build-up. The authors have done a remarkable job obtaining images from the time and matched them with line drawings that illustrate the modifications made to the airframes. It certainly makes life easier for the reader to see where the plethora of bumps and blisters were added to an aircraft, each one containing highly classified reconnaissance gear of the period.

The chapters move through the decades to the 1960s when the USAF and RAF were probably at their most provocative with 'accidental intrusions' into



Warsaw Pact airspace. For those spy planes that stayed too long, retribution was swift, with a number of USAF aircraft shot down and RAF Canberras 'forced' from the area. These incidents are covered in an unbiased approach, with information sourced from Russia and the West. Where possible the fate of the aircrews is explained, with many USAF crews becoming prisoners in an undeclared secret war.

Along with the familiar Boeing RB-47H Stratojet, Lockheed U-2 and Canberra missions, this book delves into the lesser types involved in this covert war such as 51 Squadron's Comet 2R mission around Yemen and Oman. It is a terrific read and provides a previously unknown insight into a covert war of intelligence gathering that continues to this day. Glenn Sands



F-105 Thunderchief – MiG Killers of the Vietnam War

Peter E Davies
Osprey Publishing
£13.99
ISBN 978-1-78200-804-0

The air war over Vietnam witnessed Republic's F-105 Thunderchief become the backbone of America's air campaign against the 'North'. During the course of the war, more than half the entire production line of F-105s was lost to a combination of North Vietnamese MiGs, SAMs and AAA.

From the earliest strikes, the USAF pilots in their single-seat

cockpits knew that the chances of completing a 100-mission tour allowing them to return home to the US, were slim. Many pilots became legends due to their exploits of duelling with tight-turning MiGs over Hanoi, in a desperate bid to protect the bomber formations. The lessons learned during these dogfights are still practised today.

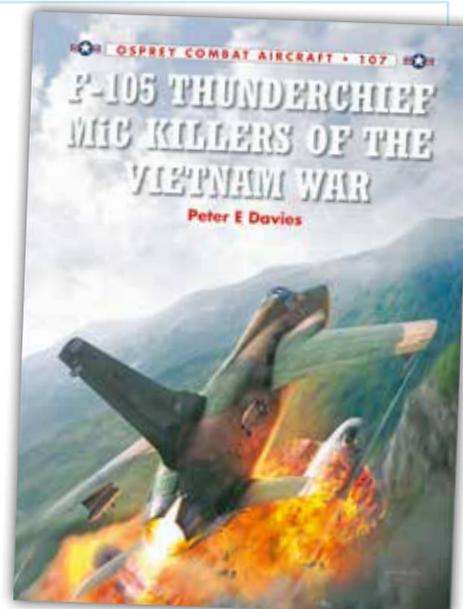
Beginning with early raids in 1965, which saw Thuds flying into combat with a polished silver finish and brightly coloured squadron markings, this new book from Osprey's Combat Aircraft series explains how their role changed. Pilots had to adapt from flying a nuclear bomber to a tactical strike aircraft in a limited war.

Accounts from pilots who

thought up innovative dogfighting tactics are told in extraordinary detail and supplemented with images from official USAF archives and personal collections. Specific MiG killing aircraft are included within the eight pages of side views with many depicting some rather risqué artwork on the nose.

Osprey have done it again with this new book.

An informative and fascinating look at the only aircraft in the early years of the Vietnam War that took the conflict 'up North'. Glenn Sands



These titles are available from: The Aviation Bookshop, 31-33 Vale Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 1BS, United Kingdom.
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