

Apache over Libya

Pen and Sword
Will Laidlaw
£19.99
Pages: 180
ISBN: 978-147-38676-2-8

THIS IS the story of how an elite group of Army Air Corps Apache pilots from 656 Squadron fought a war over Libya from the flight deck of HMS *Ocean* during Operation Ellamy in 2011. They flew ultra low-level night-time attacks along the coastline of Libya, well within the range of Colonel Gaddafi's highly capable air defence systems and army units. On completion of the missions the aircrews then had to fight their way back home to the deck of HMS *Ocean*.

Eight army and two Royal Navy pilots who played a significant role in the NATO-led campaign describe their successes, fears and the skills required when flying Britain's finest attack helicopter.

Facing one of the best-equipped armies in the Middle East, British Apache aircrews defied the odds and survived. The first-hand accounts vividly convey what it takes to be an attack helicopter pilot, which at the same time puts over the British view of what the AH-64 Apache can do – this is quite rare, given the MOD's security restrictions which prevent aircrews discussing recent operations.

In my opinion there are only two great books on British Army Apache operations – *Apache* by Ed Macy, and this one. **Glenn Sands**

BAe Hawk Mk.53

Sebuah Lintasan Sejarah di Langit Nusantara Keris Bambang Tri Sutrisno and Mayor Pnb Dharma 'Rotweil' Gultom
£39.99. Pages: 271. ISBN: 978-602-18879-2-9

THIS IS an Indonesian language book that focuses on the operational career of the BAe Hawk within the Indonesian Air Force (TNI-AU). Unfortunately, with no English translation provided for the extensive copy and captions, we were only able to review this as a picture book and in that respect alone, this is an impressive publication. In 1978 Indonesia ordered its first batch of Hawks designated Mk.53s – the differences between the RAF examples and the new jets is explained (in English) in technical specification panels taken from BAE's own handbook. There are plenty of personal images included within the early chapters, show-

ing Indonesian pilots training at RAF Valley and British Aerospace's Kingston-Borough production facility.

In addition, there are pictures of the delivery flight and the formation of the 15th Air Squadron Wing 3 at Iswahjudi Air Base, Madiun that would serve as the advanced pilot training unit for the TNI-AU.

A total of 20 Hawk Mk.53s were delivered – the last of which arrived in 1984. More than 20 years of operational service, modifications and changing camouflage schemes

are illustrated, as is the retirement ceremony of the Mk.53s in March 2015. They were replaced by the Korea Aerospace Industries T-50 Golden Eagles.

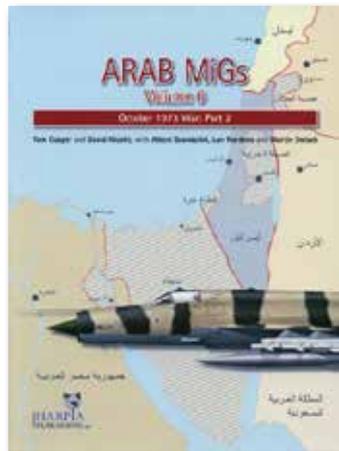
Don't be tempted to dismiss these books simply because there is practically no English text, the rare images are worth the cover price alone. **Glenn Sands**



Arab MiGs Volume 6 October 1973 War: Part 2

Harpia Publishing
Tom Cooper and David Nicolle, with Albert Grandolini, Lon Nordeen and Martin Smisek
£34.99
Pages: 255
ISBN: 978-0-9854554-6-0

NEW FROM Harpia Publishing comes part two of its detailed examination of the 1973 October War. The authors have corrected any errors in the previous Arab MiG volumes at the start of this book, thus demonstrating that facts about aerial battles in this region continue



to come to light from both official and unofficial sources.

During the latter half of the conflict, Israel rapidly mobilised its armed forces and was counter attacking the air assets of Egypt and Syria in the air and on the ground. Other Israeli jets were flying hundreds of ground-attack sorties every day in an attempt to regain territory lost early on.

Smartly broken down into the various phases of the war, the authors examine the blunders made by the Arab forces during the conflict. These allowed Israel to capitalise and attack military units left unprotected because Egypt's air force was too thinly stretched to provide adequate cover.

Some of the myths that have emerged from the October war are examined, such as the ferocious air attacks by Israeli jets on Port Said between October 7 and 14.

The authors conclude the Israeli claim that this was for 'testing purposes' was false. The strikes were flown to stop Egypt setting up launch sites for its *Scud* missiles that could have reached targets deep within Israel.

Throughout the book there are exceptionally accurate colour profiles – reflecting an extraordinary level of detailed research. This is a stunning piece of work and one recommended to any serious observer of Middle Eastern air wars. **Glenn Sands**

These titles are available from: The Aviation Bookshop, 31-33 Vale Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN11 1BS, United Kingdom. **Telephone:** +44(0)1892 539284 **Website:** www.aviation-bookshop.com