

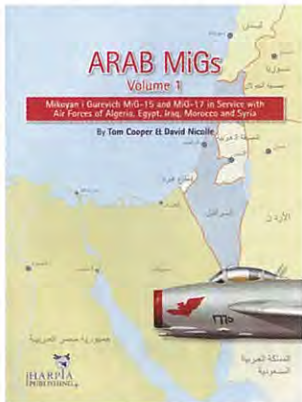
name archives and also narratives from dozens of participants and eyewitnesses. The South Vietnamese Air Force fought a series of ever larger air-land battles under circumstances for which it was not properly equipped or trained.

The heavily-illustrated book details these bitter battles and the collapse of South Vietnam in unprecedented detail. The author goes into detail regarding the captured aircraft flown by the North and the aircraft that escaped to Thailand.

★★★★★ JT

MIGS OVER THE MIDDLE EAST

Volume One of ARAB MiGs by Tom Cooper and David Nicolle (Harpia Publishing, ISBN 978-0-9825539-2-3, \$64.95) examines the MiG 15 and MiG 17 series of fighters that formed the backbone of several Arab air forces and played a prominent role in four major wars and numerous minor incidents. Illustrated with over 200 photographs



and color profiles, the book goes into the reasons why the Arab nations obtained Soviet fighters along with the operational histories of these aircraft with the five Arab nations that flew the type. Details about combat operations during three major wars between Arabs and Israel, as well as the war in Yemen during the 1960s, are reconstructed on the basis of primary evidence including original documents and recollections of participants.

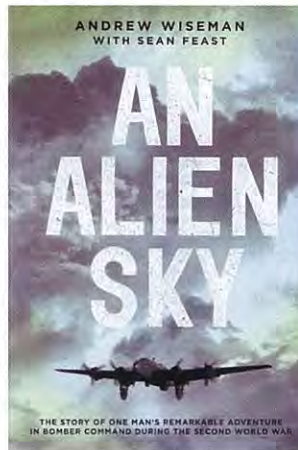
★★★★★ MW

AN AIRMAN'S TALE

An Alien Sky by Andy Wiseman

(Casemate, ISBN 978-1-909808-25-6, \$39.95) tells the author's story from growing up in Berlin as the only son of a Polish Jewish father and American mother as Hitler started his rise to power. As with many other Jews, the author's father at first found it hard to believe that a criminal like Hitler was able to capture the imagination of the German people. Almost too late, the author and his family fled Germany to Poland. As the Nazis moved to Poland, the author managed to get to Britain as a 16-year-old with no English and no parents.

He was able to enlist in the RAF and was trained as a bombardier in South Africa before returning to Britain to join 466 Squadron (Australia) and flying on the Handley Page Halifax. On the night of 18/19 April 1944, Wiseman and his crew



ventured out on what they thought would be a "milk run" but had the misfortune to run into Martin Drews, the commanding officer of III./NJG.1, who promptly shot down the Halifax. The author managed to escape his stricken bomber by parachute and attempted to head west but was captured and would spend the next year as a POW. His story serves as a reminder that the WWII generation is fast disappearing and that their tales of bravery need to be recorded and studied.

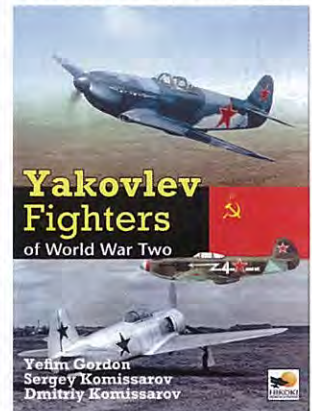
★★★★★ MW

THOSE FIGHTING YAKS

Yakovlev Fighters of World War Two by Yefin Gordon, Sergey Komissarov,

and Dmitriy Komissarov (Specialty Press, ISBN 978-190210946-6, \$56.95) is the definitive volume on the Soviet Union's famed Yak combat aircraft. Chief Designer Aleksandr Sereyevich Yakovlev created the Yak 1 fighter in close co-operation with aircraft engine designer Vladimir Yakovlevich Klimov and this proved to be the best Soviet fighter of the initial period of the war. The Yak 1 and its wartime successors were relatively simple, cheap, and well-adapted to mass production by unskilled labor, did not require scarce strategic materials and could be flown by pilots of modest abilities who had undergone hasty training.

Although not sophisticated, the Yaks were very well suited to the type



of war waged on the Soviet-German Front where the emphasis was on support of ground troops and aerial combat was at low and medium altitudes. Overall series production of the fighters (Yak 1, 7, 9, and 3) amounted to a stunning 35,735 aircraft produced by six factories.

This volume presents in unprecedented detail the development, history, and technical specifications of each type in this famous line of Soviet piston-engine fighters, plus projects, experimental versions, and those new-build replicas currently flying around the world. The extensive illustrations — around 540 photographs, more than 130 specially-commissioned color profiles, and an impressive array of line drawings, many from the design bureau's own original documents — are mostly from classified sources and the majority hitherto unseen.

★★★★★ HC

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