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F-51 Mustang Units Of The Korean War (Combat Aircraft)



Synopsis

By the time the Korean War erupted, the F-51 Mustang was seen as obsolete, but that view quickly changed when the USAF rushed 145 of them to the theatre in late 1950. They had the endurance to attack targets in Korea from bases in Japan, where the modern F-86 fighters and other jets did not. Rather than the interceptor and escort fighter roles the Mustang had performed during World War 2, in the Korean War they were assigned to ground attack missions - striking at communist troop columns advancing south. This is the chronicle of the Mustang units that fought in the Korean War, detailing the type's involvement in a series of intense actions, its successes and its considerable losses. Drawing on meticulous research and gripping first-hand accounts from aircrew, this book explains how the faithful Mustang was able to roll back the years, fight, and prove itself in a new era of aerial warfare.

Book Information

Series: Combat Aircraft (Book 113)

Paperback: 96 pages

Publisher: Osprey Publishing (December 22, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1472808665

ISBN-13: 978-1472808660

Product Dimensions: 7.3 x 0.2 x 9.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 11 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,157,186 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #53 in [Books > History > Military > Korean War > Aviation](#) #87 in [Books > History > Military > Korean War > Campaigns](#) #2421 in [Books > History > Military > Aviation](#)

Customer Reviews

Warren Thompson has had numerous books and magazine articles published over the past 30 years. His interest in the Korean War has spanned almost this entire length of time. Thompson has written books for Osprey since 1990, with his latest contribution being the Combat Aircraft volume on the F9F Panther In Korea. The author lives in Germantown, TN.

Interesting book on long overdue subject. I didn't think the profiles were quite as nice as usual, they seemed roughly done. I wish the author had included a chapter on F-82 Twin Mustang operations,

though I realize that would probably fall outside the scope of the book. I would recommend this title to any student of the Korean War or a collector of Osprey's Combat Aircraft series.

Great read about the plane and the F-51 squadron missions. Would have liked more information about how Tuskegee Airmen earned the recognition from other pilots as ace fighter pilots, squadron leaders and commanders flying their F-51 missions during the Korean war.

Very thorough, comprehensive coverage of F-51 operations during the Korean War. Of a minor note is the small type font making reading harder. But, on the bright side, it is a testimony to how much information is contained in this book

Great book as Osprey usually is!

Verry good book

An interesting collection of accounts for various missions. A major omission is a discussion of why the inferior Mustang was retained for ground attack, when the P-47D Thunderbolt was still available in ANG units and storage facilities. The Thunderbolt had 8 x .50 cal. mgs., more body armor and a less vulnerable radial engine. Evidently the higher-ranking fighter jocks in the newly independent USAF, wanted a plane to go higher and faster despite the emergence of the F-80 and F-84. Nostalgia won out over practicality; F-47s could have done the stellar ground support as did the USN's F4U and AD. Similarly, had the USAF retained the P-47, it would have been excellent for Viet Nam, during which was the USAF borrowed ADs from the USN.

Good read of Mustang action in that Unforgotten War.

A very good account of the F51's in Korea

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