

Jg 26 Top Guns Of The Luftwaffe

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DONALD CALDWELL is a retired research chemist and veteran of the US Navy. For the past 25 years he has researched archival sources and interviewed veterans, primarily from the Luftwaffe. His first book, JG 26: Top Guns of the Luftwaffe, has been followed by seven others on the Luftwaffe: all have won critical and popular acclaim.

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Jagdgeschwader 26, the German elite fighter unit, was more feared by the Allies than any other Luftwaffe group. Based on extensive archival research in Europe, personal combat diaries and interviews with more than 50 surviving pilots, Caldwell has assembled a superb day-to-day chronicle of JG 26 operations, from its first air victory in 1939 to its final combat patrol in 1945.

JG 26: Top Guns of the Luftwaffe by Donald L. Caldwell ...

JG 26 claimed a first victory on 28 September, when a Curtiss P-36 Hawk from Groupe de Chasse II/5 encountered 2./JG 26 escorting a Henschel Hs 126 reconnaissance aircraft. The battle ended in the two Bf 109s being brought down with no loss to the French Air Force unit. By 30 September 1939, III.

Jagdgeschwader 26 - Wikipedia

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JG 26CaldwellSubtitled: Photographic History of the Luftwaffes Top Guns. The Luftwaffes best WWII fighter wing comes to life in this spectacular photographic journal of the units planes, pilots, and operations from 1937 to the last days of the war. Detailed captions describe the planes, units, markings, and events that have made JG 26 so popular with historians and enthusiasts. Sftbd., 8 1/4x 1 5-8, 168 pgs., 374 bandw ill., 48 color.

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"[These books give] a chronology of the unit's activities, using documentary sources, JG 26 archives and veteran's own stories. Volume one covers the period from 1939 to 1942 and contains interviews with the veterans of the JG26 unit, Allied records, radio intelligence, national archives of Germany, the UK and USAF Historical Research Agency and post-war research, to provide a daily account of the unit's activities-- as only two of the 30 volumes of the unit's official diary survived the war. Volume two takes the JG26 from the beginning of 1943, when the American 8th Air Force first began to make its presence felt over occupied Europe, until the end of the war"--Publisher's description.

The Luftwaffe over Germany tells the story of one of the longest and most intense air battles in history. The daylight air struggles over Germany during World War II involved thousands of aircraft, dozens of units, and hundreds of aerial engagements. Until now, there has been no single book that covers the complete story, from the highest levels of air strategy to the individual tales of Fw 190s, Bf 109s and Me 262s in air combat against the American bomber streams. This ground-breaking work explores the detrimental effect of Luftwaffe theory and doctrine on the German air arms ability to defend the homeland once the Allied Combined Bomber Offensive began in earnest. By mid-1944, they had lost the battle – but had exacted a terrible price from the Americans in the process. The product of a ten-year collaboration between two noted Luftwaffe historians, this work fills a major gap in the literature of World War II. The authors have examined original war diaries, logbooks, doctrine manuals, after-action reports, and interviews with many combat veterans to produce a richly detailed account. Illustrated with nearly two hundred photographs, as well as new maps and diagrams, this is the standard work on the subject.

In an evocatively written book that conjures the sights, sounds, and smells of battle in the Philippines, Donald Caldwell brings to life the short but consequential combat history of the Provisional Tank Group--the first American armored unit to do battle in WWII--and tells the stories of the men who did the fighting and endured the harsh consequences.

Day-by-day account of a German fighter squadron, one of only two Luftwaffe units to spend the entire war in the West Covers D-Day and the Normandy campaign, Operation Market Garden, the Battle of the Bulge, and more JG 26 was known as "The Abbeville Boys" and seen as an elite squadron Unit flew Messerschmitt Bf 109s and Focke-Wulf Fw 190s

The biography of perhaps the most famous Luftwaffe ace, a fighter pilot who fought against the Spanish, the British and Americans, the Russians, and even within the Nazi hierarchy itself! From the Condor Legion in Spain, to the first use of jet fighters over Germany at the end of World War Two, Adolf Galland was in the thick of the action as an outstanding fighter pilot and charismatic leader. Outspoken in his criticisms of the German leadership late in the war, he was demoted to hazardous front-line duties, but survived to build strong friendships with his former aerial opponents.

In this exciting book Mike Spick shows how the Luftwaffe's leading fighter pilots were able to outscore their allied counterparts so effectively and completely during the Second World War. When the records of the Jagdflieger pilots became available after the war, they were initially greeted with incredulity _ the highest claim was for 352 kills, and more than 100 pilots had recorded more than 100 victories. However postwar research proved that these claims had in fact been made in good faith and confirmation had only been given after rigorous checking. To discover the secret of this success, aviation history expert Mike Spick examines the exploits of these aces and sets out the context in which it took place. Every major theater is covered in detail including the conditions peculiar to each: climate, relative numerical and qualitative strengths, the presence or absence of radar and other measures, and the relative merits of the planes being flown. He focuses on the methods and tactics used by individual aces and uses firsthand sources wherever possible to put the reader right alongside the pilot in the cockpit.

Day Fighters in Defence of the Reich is a detailed, comprehensive daily reference to the air operations flown by the Luftwaffe. These operations were designed to combat the daylight strategic missions by the United States Army Air Force targeting the German Reich and the western zone occupied by Germany. This volume is a unique look at the German air defences as they struggled to cope with the threat posed by the American 8th and 15th Air Forces, which were charged with destroying Germany ' s critical war industries and wresting control of the air over the Reich from the Luftwaffe. The previous volume in this series, The Luftwaffe over Germany: Defence of the Reich is an award-winning narrative history published by Greenhill Books. This book extends the story in an unprecedented fashion and includes:

- A brief narrative and a table of statistics detailing every mission of every Luftwaffe unit defending the Greater German Reich or the western occupied zone against strategic raids by the USAAF.
- A summary of every 8th and 15th US Army Air Force strategic mission over this area in which the Luftwaffe was encountered.
- Tables of monthly sorties, losses and victory claims by the USAAF and the Luftwaffe over the Reich and the western occupied zone. The growth of the American juggernaut can be followed in detail, as can the ever more futile struggle by the Reich Defence Force. The data allow validity of USAAF and Luftwaffe victory claims to be estimated.
- Quarterly orders of battle and casualties for the Reich Defence Force, broken down by aircraft type. The unsuccessful struggle of the Luftwaffe to keep its fighter units up to strength while introducing superior types and the relative vulnerability of its various fighters can be seen at a glance.
- Maps for 32 major missions showing the tracks of the bombers and every defending Luftwaffe unit, including their points of attack on the bombers.
- 189 photographs of Luftwaffe personalities and aircraft, many previously unpublished.
- 72 combat accounts by Luftwaffe pilots, most previously unpublished and all readily available in English for the first time.

This unique and authoritative book is based on documents in the German, American and British government archives and German pilot logbooks and interviews from the author ' s extensive collection. Caldwell is well known for his balanced presentations and the clarity of his writing. This book is a must-have for anyone with a serious interest in World War II aviation history. This book completes the story begun by Caldwell and Dr. Richard Muller in The Luftwaffe over Germany: Defence of the Reich, which won the US Air Force Historical Foundation award for Best Air Power History Book of 2008. Critical praise for this book has been widespread.

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