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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.

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Customer Reviews

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.

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

An interesting collection of accounts of 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.

Great book as Osprey usually is!

This was a gift

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