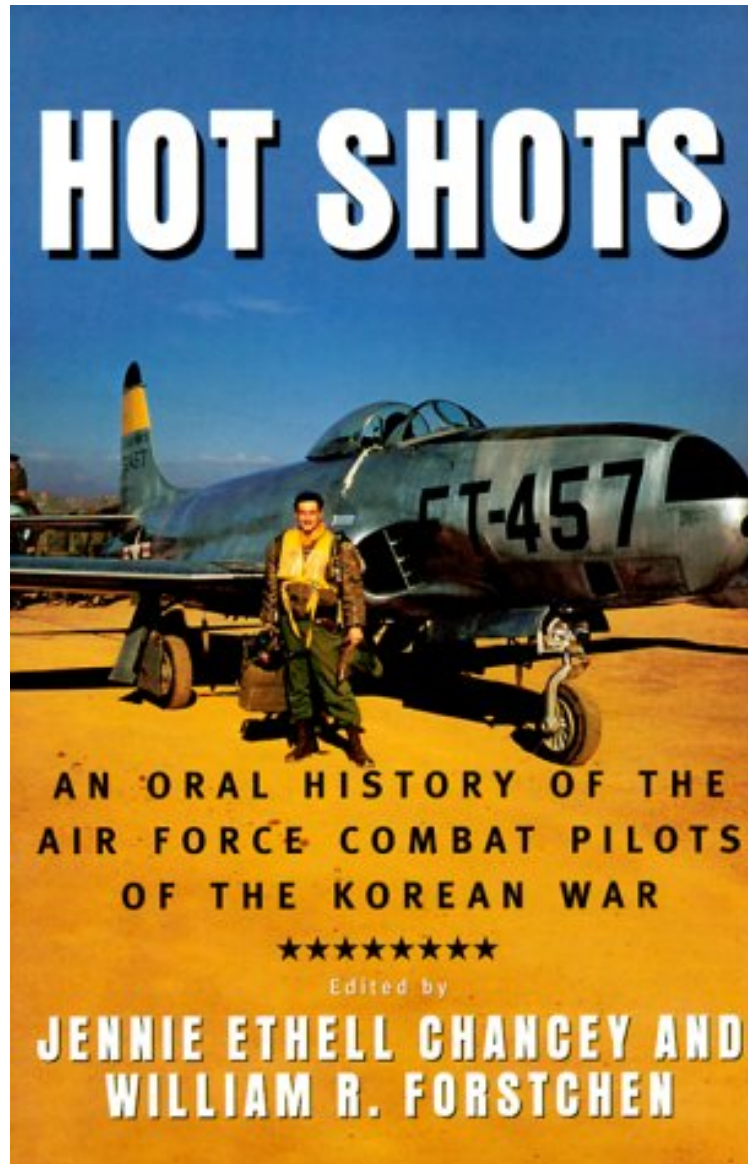


Hot Shots: An Oral History of the Air Force Combat Pilots of the Korean War

Jennie E. Chancey, William R. Forstchen
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Jennie E. Chancey, William R. Forstchen : Hot Shots: An Oral History of the Air Force Combat Pilots of the Korean War before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hot Shots: An Oral History of the Air Force Combat Pilots of the Korean War:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Ronald GreinReal good book.6 of 6 people found the

following review helpful. Not Enough "Hot Shots" By Dana A. Hess I was very disappointed in the coverage of the USAF role in Korea. This was the first time that jet battled jet in armed combat... and yet at least a third of the book centered on the P-51's role. F-84's were mentioned, but not one '84 pilot was included. And the final third of the book was focused on a pilot who was shot down and held captive 'til long after hostilities ended. It was a story of bravery and loneliness, but it wasn't the way to end the book and could have benefitted from a great deal of editing. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By MICHAEL A. MARRA Fascinating stories of first person accounts.

Known as the "Forgotten War," the Korean War heralded a new era of warfare--one where countries from around the world struggled over the fate of a relatively small peninsula jutting into the Sea of Japan. Between 1950 and 1953, more than fifty thousand Americans gave their lives in pursuit of democracy for the Korean people. The Korean War was also the proving ground for post-World War II aviation, when the first generation of jet aircraft took to the skies to tangle in deadly combat. It was the battlefield of Sabres and MiGs, American Hot Shots and Communist Honchos. And more than ever before, control of the skies meant victory or failure in the ground war raging below. Now, fifty years after the war's outbreak, Hot Shots captures the voices of the original top guns, the pilots who flew Mustangs, Sabres, and Shooting Stars and confronted a superior number of enemy aircraft. Among the men who tell their stories are Lieutenant Colonel Duane E. "Bud" Biteman, one of the first fliers in the war; Lieutenant General Frederick "Boots" Blesse, double ace who led efforts to refine tactical training for the new jet pilots; Colonel Cecil Foster, who fought in one of the longest-running air-to-air jet encounters; and Colonel Harold Fischer, a double-ace flier who was captured behind enemy lines and held as a POW until 1955, two years after the official end of the war. Editors Chancey and Forstchen combine these compelling firsthand accounts with dozens of never-before-published photographs of air force pilots at work, as well as a history of the major events of the war. Hot Shots brings to vivid life the risk, dedication, and bravery of these forgotten heroes. May their sacrifice not be in vain.

From Publishers Weekly The Korean War began 50 years ago this June. In this fine contribution to anniversary commemorations, Montreat College historian Forstchen and Chancey, the daughter of aviation historian Jeff Ethell, collate recollections from American pilots who saw combat over and around the 38th parallel. Military buffs will know that the air war in Korea was significant because it was the first time American aviators engaged in jet-to-jet dogfighting, thus ushering in the modern age of jet warfare. But few will be familiar with the dramatic tales of heroism, hardship and hope the coauthors have painstakingly gathered. Pilots discuss the evolution of air-combat tactics, the primitive field conditions, "the social caste system of the Air Force" and the incidental difficulties particular to the Korean War. But the absolute must-read section here is the riveting saga of Col. Harold Fischer, a "double ace" with 10 enemy kills to his credit, who relates his capture, transfer to China, harrowing escape, recapture and eventual release two years after Eisenhower's 1953 declaration that America's peacekeeping role was over. Anyone seeking to remember the Forgotten War will find the stories of Fischer and other pilots, along with the 40 bw photos, an excellent starting point. Agent, Bill Fawcett Associates. (Apr.) Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist These Korean War pilots' recollections are presented under two broad categories: ground-attack operations in the war's desperate first phase in 1950 and jet-to-jet dogfighting during the war's ensuing stalemate through 1953. Vividness of detail characterizes a pilot's memory of both types of combat, which in the case of the ground attackers consisted of flying their leftovers from World War II against enemy trains, tanks, and troops that nearly threw the UN forces into the sea. This crisis context gives one pilot's account contemporary currency with allegations that Americans killed Korean civilians during the retreat. Duane Biteman describes a "consensus," not outright orders, to stop them from crossing the last natural defense line, the Naktong River, and admits firing his plane's guns to deter such crossings--letting it hang whether or not he hit civilians. Among the dogfighters, the best story--incongruously in this fighting book--is Harold Fischer's account of becoming a POW and propaganda prop of the Chinese communists. Curiosities about bravery in the first jet war will be amply satisfied by these eyewitness anecdotes. Gilbert Taylor "Curiosities about bravery in the first jet war will be amply satisfied by these eyewitness anecdotes." (Booklist)