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Colonel Wolfgang W.E. Samuel

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Colonel Wolfgang W.E. Samuel : I Always Wanted to Fly: America's Cold War Airmen before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised I Always Wanted to Fly: America's Cold War Airmen:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Think You're Qualified to Fly? By STL3864 Excellent book (all of this author's books are excellent) about the challenges and the dangers faced by the flying men of the US armed forces during the Cold War. It takes great skill and knowledge to operate military aircraft. Most of us would wash out. And most Americans probably have no idea of the sacrifice in lives and equipment to train pilots and airmen to fight in the

air during WWII; to deliver food, coal and hope to the people of Berlin, to counter communist aggression in Korea and Vietnam; and to monitor the capabilities of our Cold War adversary, the Soviet Union. Think you're qualified to be a USAF or Navy pilot? First, you have to want to fly, and then you have to want to serve. Many well-deserved thanks go to these fliers and to their ground support personnel for stepping up and paying the price of freedom. If all you do is read the newspapers (or whatever passes for news these days), you are not getting more than a fraction of the story. This book answers some questions about my late uncle, a SAC RB-47 pilot, who was one of these stand up guys. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I always wanted to fly BookBy Paul F. Dolby Jr. Super Book , has a lot of details to the 55th wing I know 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. personal histories of cold war airmanBy Darrell Strasser Excellent anthology of cold war airman, starting with the Berlin Airlift. It fills a historical gap that much of which was classified, until recent years. It was also interesting to me personally that the stories somewhat paralleled my Brother-in-laws military history. He was an AAF WWII Pilot Instructor that left the service at the end of the War and then was recalled for the Korean War. Instead He was sent to Germany to supervise the installation of Radar Systems throughout Europe effectively surrounding the USSR. I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys stories about man's determination to fly, and the hardships they're willing to endure for that privilege.

This was the first book to cover all of Cold War air combat in the words of the men who waged it. In *I Always Wanted to Fly*, retired United States Air Force Colonel Wolfgang W. E. Samuel has gathered first-person memories from heroes of the cockpits and airstrips. Battling in dogfights when jets were novelties, saving lives in grueling airlifts, or flying covert and dangerous reconnaissance missions deep into Soviet and Chinese airspace, these flyers waged America's longest and most secretly conducted air war. Many of the pilots Samuel interviewed invoke the same sentiment when asked why they risked their lives in the air—"I always wanted to fly." While young, they were inspired by barnstormers, by World War I fighter legends, by the legendary Charles Lindbergh, and often just by seeing airplanes flying overhead. With the advent of World War II, many of these dreamers found themselves in cockpits soon after high school. Of those who survived World War II, many chose to continue following their dream, flying the Berlin Airlift, stopping the North Korean army during the "forgotten war" in Korea, and fighting in the Vietnam War. Told in personal narratives and reminiscences, *I Always Wanted to Fly* renders views from pilots' seats and flight decks during every air combat flashpoint from 1945 to 1968. Drawn from long exposure to the immense stress of warfare, the stories these warriors share are both heroic and historic. The author, a veteran of many secret reconnaissance missions, evokes individuals and scenes with authority and grace. He provides clear, concise historical context for each airman's memories. In *I Always Wanted to Fly*, he has produced both a thrilling and inspirational acknowledgment of personal heroism and a valuable addition to our documentation of the Cold War.

From Booklist Retired air force colonel Samuel was born in Germany, and the oral history he has assembled comes from fellow air force men of the generation that inspired him to immigrate and sign up. They were men who started flying during World War II and constituted the backbone of U.S. air power up to the early stages of the Vietnam War. Samuel's book covers the Berlin airlift, Korea, strategic reconnaissance, and Vietnam, and in each section even the fairly widely read aviation buff will learn something new. The airlift section includes material on the SAC backup and the ground crews. The Korean War segment has tales of the B-29s. The part concerned with strategic reconnaissance relays practically all new-to-the-public information because of the top secret status of such missions during the cold war (many were flights over Soviet territory). Even the Vietnam coverage opens up a few new perspectives. A valuable addition to any collection serving students of post-World War II military aviation. Roland Green Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved From the Author *I Always Wanted to Fly* is on the 2013 Air Force Chief of Staff's reading list. From the Inside Flap Pilots and crewmen remembering the Berlin Airlift, Korea, Vietnam, and secret flights over the Soviet Union