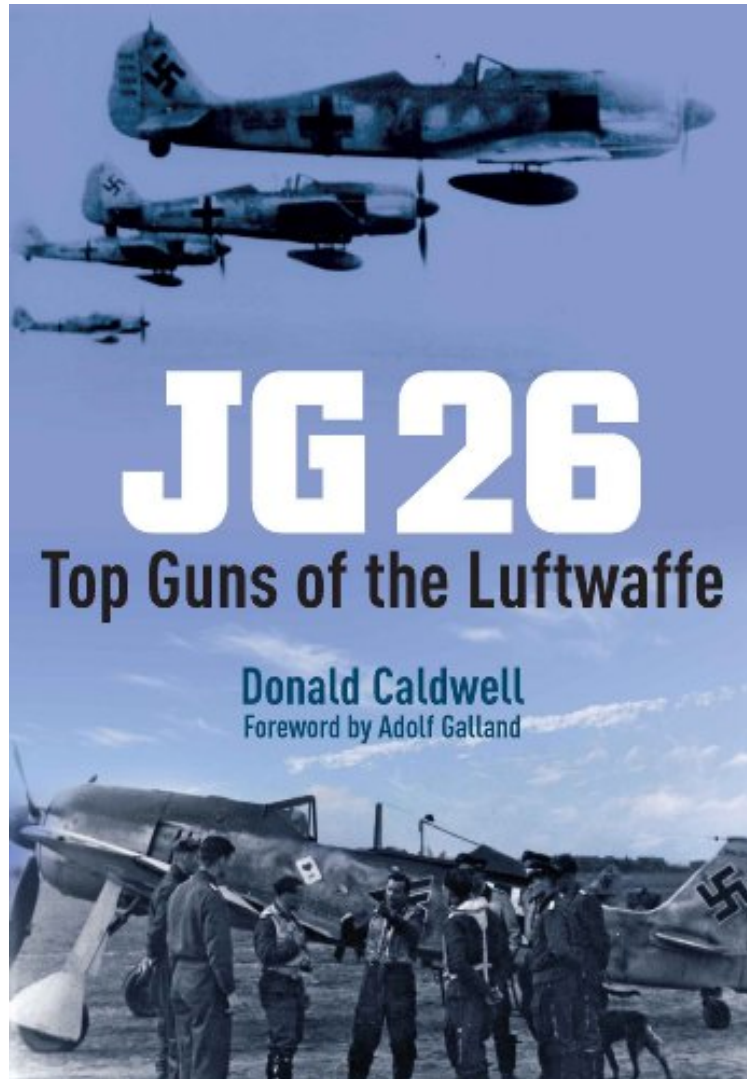


JG 26: Top Guns of the Luftwaffe

Donald Caldwell

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Donald Caldwell : JG 26: Top Guns of the Luftwaffe before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised JG 26: Top Guns of the Luftwaffe:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. If you are looking for a unique gift for a Fighter Plane enthusiast, this is it!By Suzanne MarcouxMy brother-in-law is a War enthusiast along with it's fighter planes and pilots. When I gave him another book for his birthday, 100 Missions North: A Fighter Pilot's Story of the Vietnam War, he asked me for this one specifically. Although I do not know what this book is about, I do know that he held this book in very high regard to ask for it specifically.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. It was clear that the author's sympathies lie with his subject unit but overall the book is an interesting insight to what it waBy CustomerI think the

author has managed to balance the facts with the personal interest. In places I was quite disturbed when one of the primary pilots was killed. It was clear that the author's sympathies lie with his subject unit but overall the book is an interesting insight to what it was like to fly for the Germans. If there had been some more detailed maps it would have helped in visualising the area of operation. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Good read, get it. By Gerald Balzer I am about three-quarters of the way through it and find it an excellent book. Seeing the war from a personal view by the enemy is quite interesting as many individual diaries are quoted giving it a life not usually found in aviation historical books.

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. A microcosm of World War II exists in the rise and fall of this famous fighter wing. For the first two years of the war it was an even match between the Spitfires and Hurricanes of the Royal Air Force and the Luftwaffe's Messerschmitts and Focke Wulfs; but the scales tipped in favor of the Allies in 1943 with the arrival of the Eighth US Air Force and its peerless P-51 Mustang. The book has been endorsed by the top fighter commanders of three air forces: the RAF (Johnnie Johnson), the USAAF (Hub Zemke), and the Luftwaffe (Adolf Galland) and is considered essential reading for anyone interested in the aerial war of 1941-45.

From Publishers Weekly Jagdgeschwader (Fighter Wing) 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 here assembles a superb day-to-day chronicle of JG26 operations, from its first air victory in 1939 to its final combat patrol in 1945. For the first two years of the war it was an even match between the Spitfires and Hurricanes of the Royal Air Force and the Luftwaffe's Messerschmitts and Focke Wulfs; but--as the author reveals in meticulous detail--the scales tipped in favor of the Allies in 1943 with the arrival of the Eighth U.S. Air Force and its peerless P-51 Mustang. In his first book, Caldwell, a research chemist, describes how the German pilots' morale remained high even after it was obvious to all but the youngest and most naive that the war was lost. seems obvious? The ultimate recommendation comes from Adolf Galland, legendary Messerschmitt pilot and commanding officer of Fighter Wing 26, who in the foreword calls JG26 "a profound book, written in full fairness." Photos. Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Jagschader 26 "Schlegeter," or JG26, was the premier Luftwaffe World War II fighter unit. The equivalent of an American or British "Wing," it controlled some 100 planes and many of the best, most experienced aces in the German Air Force. The JG26 fought on all fronts, but was primarily stationed in Northeastern Europe operating against the American and British bombers and fighters attacking in Germany. The yellow prop-spinners of the "Abbeville Kids" brought terror to many an Allied pilot. Commanded by two top German aces, Adolph Galland and Pripps Priller, the unit was responsible for the destruction of 2700 Allied planes from its inception in 1938 to its great victories in 1943 and up until its defeat by superior Allied forces in 1944-45. By focusing on the history of a small German Air Force unit, this unique, impressive study presents a history in microcosm of the entire Luftwaffe Fighter Corps. All aviation and World War II buffs will want this spellbinding work.- Stanley Itkin, Hillside P.L., New Hyde Park, N.Y. Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. From the Inside Flap This is the story of the JG 26 pilots, or "Abbeville Kids." A microcosm of World War II exists in the rise and fall of this famous fighter wing--whose slashing attacks always seemed to come from the best position--from its founding during Hitler's military buildup, through its glory days in the first years of the war--when its bases in northern France were to be avoided at all costs--right up to the grim, final hours of the Third Reich.