



»» BOOK REVIEW

BY JIM BUSH A

Hell Hawks: The Untold Story of the American Fliers Who Savaged Hitler's Wehrmacht



Hell Hawks is a Stephen Ambrose-style history of a “band of brothers with airplanes.” It’s a recounting in their words of the men who were there and the

untold war fought by Americans who were part of the 365th Fighter Group. This particular group of men represents the tens of thousands who served in similar groups throughout Europe.

Hell Hawks is a general-interest look at World War II aerial history. *Hell Hawks* is not technical or specialized: It’s a story that will interest anyone, especially those who appreciate our country’s history.

The brave men depicted in *Hell Hawks* went ashore at Normandy and fought across Europe, through the Battle of the Bulge, and on to victory. The P-47 Thunderbolt was built in greater numbers than any other American fighter, but it rarely receives the recognition it deserves. *Hell Hawks* is also about the men who supported, maintained, and flew the P-47 while slogging it out on the European continent while waging a grim, gritty, mostly air-to-ground war in which the enemy was personal and the fighting point-blank. The human spirit triumphed with a little help from the P-47.

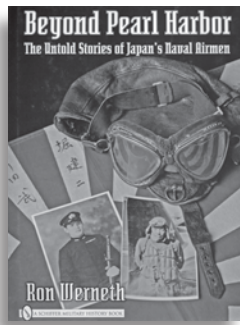
Hell Hawks uses never-before-published photos and firsthand personal accounts.

Co-authors Thomas D. (Tom) Jones and Robert F. Dorr spent five

years researching and interviewing 171 of these ordinary men who became heroes. Tom is an Air Force Academy distinguished graduate, a former B-52 pilot, and a former astronaut who flew four shuttle missions. Robert is an Air Force veteran, a retired U.S. diplomat, monthly contributor to *EAA Warbirds*, and an author. Tom and Robert worked diligently together to tell this story for the first time.

If you’d like a personalized copy, send a check for \$31 to Robert F. Dorr, 3411 Valewood Dr., Oakton, VA 22124 or e-mail him at robert.f.dorr@cox.net.

Beyond Pearl Harbor: The Untold Stories of Japan’s Naval Airmen



Much has been written about the attack on Pearl Harbor during that fateful day in December of 1941. But little has been known about

the men and machines that flew combat missions for the Japanese navy, until now. Author Ron Werneth takes us back in time with his in-depth research of the Japanese naval aviators from World War II. Ron not only was able to uncover firsthand recollections from many Japanese aviators and crewmen, but also was allowed to view and share with us many unpublished photographs from what many of us would refer to as the “other side of the war.” *Beyond Pearl Harbor* defiantly shows the reader what life and death was like for the men known as “Japan’s greatest generation.”

Some comments on Ron Werneth’s

Beyond Pearl Harbor: The Untold Stories of Japan’s Naval Airmen.

“Ron Werneth has done history a favor. At nearly the last minute he took upon himself the task of recording the recollections of an erstwhile elite: Japan’s naval aviators of the Second World War. In a nation that studiously suppresses discussion of that era, the interviews that Werneth conducted with men in their 80s and 90s will become even more valuable in the next decade.—

Barrett Tillman (longtime author and historian)

“There are war history books, and then there is Ron Werneth’s masterpiece *Beyond Pearl Harbor*. The Japanese veterans in the book talk to you in their own words. They tell you like it was, how they felt at the time, the horrors they experienced, and the lessons learned. Each of them has left a message to the reader at the end of their interview. Thanks to Ron, when these veterans depart, they will not take their unique stories with them. After reading this book, I was amazed to realize that there were many things I did not know, and I have been writing and researching Japanese combat aviation history for over 35 years!”—**Henry Sakaida (longtime historian and author)**

“By interviewing Japanese naval veterans and presenting their reminiscences in the proper context, Ron Werneth, one of the best of the young aviation historians, offers vital new information on the Pacific air war. He is preserving key insights from actual participants that otherwise would have been lost.”—**John B. Lundstrom, author of *The First Team* (and several other titles)** ✈