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*Donald Nijboer*

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**Donald Nijboer : P-38 Lightning vs Ki-61 Tony: New Guinea 1943–44 (Duel)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised P-38 Lightning vs Ki-61 Tony: New Guinea 1943–44 (Duel):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The Lightning was superior, flown by better pilots with better tactics. By Stone Dog In this Osprey "Duel" title, author Donald Nijboer gives us a very good comparison of the American P-38 Lightning and the Japanese Ki-61 codenamed "Tony" by the allies. As any book in the Duel series, it is lavishly illustrated and has excellent period photos. The book itself is a very attractive package with color plates representing the aircraft from various angles, in action shots as well as views of each respective cockpit. Excellent period photos are sprinkled through the book. The text covers each aircraft's development, technical specifications and

introduction to service. The Lightning was a big, fast, powerful aircraft that, because of the turbo superchargers on each engine, could fly higher than any opponent. But, as a big aircraft, it wasn't very maneuverable. The "Tony" was a Japanese aircraft heavily influenced by German engine and aircraft design that included an in-line engine, armor, self-sealing fuel tanks and heavy cannon armament. But, even with these advantages, it had short range and since it was a new aircraft was mechanically unreliable. More than that, the author delves into the pilot training, tactics, lessons learned and logistics systems. There are a lot of first-person accounts - something I like to read. Pilots give the reader a rare view of how they flew their aircraft and worked with their fellows. As a matter of fact, the Americans developed much better "teamwork" while the Japanese were essentially all on their own, fighting personal duels - this is something Saburo Sakai, Japanese naval aviator, admits in his book Samurai!. The author also takes on the logistics side, noting that the Japanese couldn't repair their aircraft in the field and the HI-61's had to be flown back to Rabaul or Manilla for extensive repairs. If the book has a flaw, it is that author Donald Nijboer doesn't have as much in the way of first-person accounts and examples of tactics used by the Japanese as for the Americans. I have to defend the author to an extent simply because, as the author points out, so few "Tony" pilots or their accounts survived the war. There's simply not the same amount of material to draw from. Despite this flaw, "P-38 Lightning vs Ki-61 Tony: New Guinea 1943-1944" is a very good addition to the Osprey "Duel" series. I recommend it to those interested with four stars.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. P-38 Lightning VERSUS Ki-61 Tony By AC CRAIG CASEY Incredible information and photo's on these two aircraft , ----- > their pilots / their pilot training

The air war in the South Pacific was unique and very different from other major air operations undertaken during World War II. In no theater was air power more central to success than in the South Pacific. The objective of every major strategic move was to seize an air base. The air power employed was the most complex technology available, and, ironically, it was employed over some of the most brutal, primitive and largely unknown terrain in the world. Much has been written about the major battles such as Pearl Harbor, Midway, Iwo Jima and Okinawa, but very little focus has been paid to the vital battles that took place in New Guinea and the Solomons. When hostilities in New Guinea began, Japan possessed an advantage in air strength, but as American and Australian strength grew, the Japanese air arm suffered complete and utter defeat from which it would never recover. Two of the aircraft that would see frequent combat in the New Guinea campaign were the Ki-61 Tony and P-38 Lightning. The Ki-61 represented the rare occasion when Germany and Japan cooperated in a technical field. Using the license built German DB 601A engine, which powered the Bf 109E, production of the Ki-61 began in August 1942, and the plane first flew a few weeks after Pearl Harbor. On the other hand, the P-38 was already in service (albeit in small numbers). Its speed, firepower and range made it a formidable opponent, and one for which the Japanese never had an answer; the P-38 was ultimately credited with destroying more Japanese aircraft than any other USAAF fighter. While the Ki-61 was well armed with two heavy machine guns and two German 20mm cannons, it was not quite a match for the P-38, but the differences were slight and in a dogfight it often came down to the skill and even luck of the pilot at the controls. This title explores the design and development, technical specifications, strategies, combatants, and statistics of each of these two aircraft, complete with extensive photographs and specially commissioned artwork.

About the Author Donald Nijboer is a freelance writer who lives in Toronto, Canada. He teaches courses in radio broadcasting at Humber College of Technology and Advanced Learning. His four books, Cockpit: An Illustrated History of World War II Aircraft Interiors, Gunner: An Illustrated History of World War II Aircraft Turrets and Gun Positions, Cockpits of the Cold War and Graphic War - The Secret Aviation Drawings and Illustrations of World War Two have been published by the Boston Mills Press. He has also written articles for Flight Journal, Aviation History and Aeroplane Monthly. This is his second Duel title for Osprey. The author lives in Toronto, Ontario.