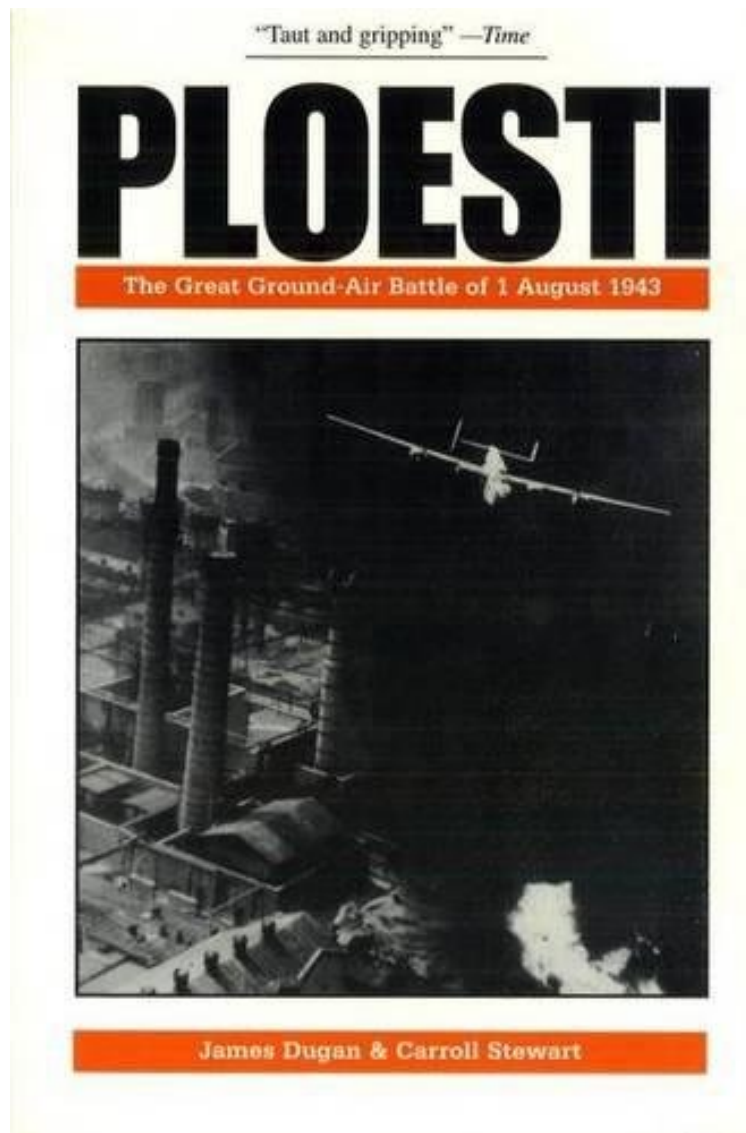


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Ploesti: The Great Ground-Air Battle of 1 August 1943, Revised Edition (Brassey's Aviation Classics (Paperback))

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0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. All You Want to Know about Tidal Wave over PloestiBy StratosCHaving an uncle who flew as waist gunner (Valient Virgin) on the Tidal Wave mission (93rd BG), this account has a special importance for me. It is carefully researched and well detailed. My uncle's pilot went on to fly in fighter groups before WW2 ended, what a pilot! Thanks to him my uncle survived not only Tidal Wave but the Weiner Neustadt mission 12 days later, with 25 missions completed on March 6th over Berlin.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Dugan takes great points to continuously reference back to the core elements ...By Big GumboThis is one of the top five books I have read covering military campaigns or battles, out of thousands. Outstanding writing, very engaging, well researched. Mr. Dugan takes great points to continuously reference back to the core elements of each squadron involved when describing the separate actions so the reader can easily track and have understanding of the intricacies of this complex action. At the end the reader can not help but feel awed at the dedication to duty and sheer bravery of the men who flew this mission.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A vivid and thorough classicBy Donald M. BishopFifty years since "Ploesti" was published, this aviation classic still stands head and shoulders above the many other books on the low-level attack by five American bomber groups against the Romanian oil refineries on August 1, 1943.The authors, who both served in the Eighth Air Force during World War II, devoted several years to gathering materials. They interviewed 164 of the men who flew the mission, and they drew on 128 accounts, diaries, and recollections, most unpublished. They met German, Romanian, and Bulgarian defenders."Ploesti" thus combines the documentary and photographic records with first-hand accounts of those who flew the mission. (If you have a choice, buy the Brassey's 2002 edition, with more photos.) The reader sees the battle from the attack and from the defense. All this gives the book real authenticity. Dugan and Stewart, moreover, use a bold and lively prose.Separate chapters on the attacks by the five bomber groups flesh out the story in satisfying detail. There are good maps and six dozen photos. The mission planning, the unraveling of the plan on the way to the target, the fatal early turn, the battle between the B-24s and the ground defenses, the terror of the bomb runs, air combat, the ragged return, and the experience of those who became POWs are well and thoroughly told. Some colorful stories -- the British gunner George Barwell, the flak train, the Catholic priest who had been drafted into the Luftwaffe who gave the last rites to dying Americans -- are told better here than in any other account.There are more recent and more analytical histories of the raid. Dugan and Stewart overestimated the results of the mission. But anyone studying the attack must read "Ploesti." More recent books are footnotes to Dugan and Stewart.-30-

On August 1, 1943, an enormous armada of America B-24 Liberator bombers roared at nearly treetop level over the peaceful farms and villages of Romania. This mission was Operation Tidal Wave. Its target?"the taproot of German might," Hitler's giant oil refineries at Ploesti. Hundreds of U.S. airmen had volunteered for the mission despite warnings that half might not return. In thirty minutes, more firepower was exchanged than in two Gettysburgs, and five men earned the Medal of Honor. Ploesti presents a vivid reconstruction of a dramatic and controversial mission.

"This is the very model of a war book."—New Yorker